



Our Mission ~ Support Local Writers

Newsletter for Gold Country Writers, P.O. Box 5991 Auburn, CA 95604 December, 2015 Issue

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Gold Country Writers Moving to New Location for Meetings

The Bethel Lutheran Church, shown to the right is the new location where GCW will meet. It is located at 1279 High Street, close to the Gold Country Fair Grounds. The zip code is 95603; if you need a map go to Google Maps or Map Quest.



When December comes around Gold Country Writers will be meeting at its new locations at the Bethel Lutheran Church on High Street. December 2nd will be the first meeting at the new location. After careful consideration, several field trips, as well as

GCW Sets Membership Dues

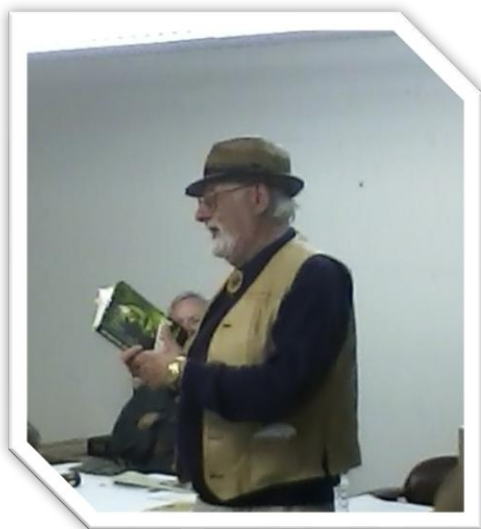
Gold Country Writers leaves the Placer Arts Council, with their move from the General Gomez Art Center. And they have decided on the yearly dues for club members. Starting January 1st, the dues will be \$48/year. If any writer wishing to join, is financially challenged, they can apply to the GCW Board of Directors for special consideration. The dues amount was decided upon after careful review of similar writing clubs and what they charge as member dues.

the use of a weighted matrix analysis, the subcommittee in charge of the relocation decided the Lutheran church met the needs of the growing club the best. There is a back entrance off of a large parking lot that comes right into the meeting room. There is a kitchen available for socials. And best of all the room is large enough that we can have multiple critique groups going at the same time with minimal interference with each other.

Visit us at our web site:

www.GoldCountryWriters.com

RON MONTANA



On November 18, 2015 Ron Montana and team, presented a seminar on turning books into Screen Plays. His team consisted of his wife Jan Montana-Executive Producer, Suzie McMinn-Senior Publicist (and equestrian expert), and Suzie (Last name unknown) Producer (Smart Blond Productions).

- ✚ Don't be afraid to collaborate when converting your book to a screen play – "Two heads are better than none."
- ✚ There are two kinds of movie scripts:
 - Story Script (the one writers can do easily)
 - Shooting Script (for when a movie is in production)
- ✚ Story script is around 90 – 100 pages.
- ✚ Options are good for writers – you are paid to not market your script for a negotiable length of time for a negotiable sum of money, which you get at the end even if the movie is not made.
- ✚ A book that is not internalized (lots of dialogue) is easiest to convert into a screen play.
- ✚ Formula for a successful screen play:
 - Act 1 – 10 pages, more or less
 - Act 2 – 30 pages, more or less
 - Act 3 – 30 pages, more or less
- ✚ Don't 3-hole punch your screen play.



Join the **Gold Country Writers** each Wednesday, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Bethel Lutheran Church at 1279 High St., Auburn 95604. Our regular monthly schedule is:

First Wednesday: Business meeting to discuss administrative issues for the club (all members are welcome to come and contribute). This is followed by a short meeting of the club Board of Directors.

Second & Forth Wednesday: Drop In Critique. This is the time when members present a maximum of five pages (double spaced) of their writing to the group and everyone gets to offer their critique.

Third Wednesday: Special Program of general interest to the club members. This changes each month. In Dec. it is our club Holiday Special. See Page 4 for the Speaker of the Month.

Fifth Wednesday: On the rare occasion that there is one, we meet at Mel's Diner (at corner of Hwy. 49 & Luther Rd.) for breakfast/lunch, and socializing with other club members.

Gold Country Writers Mentoring Program

Susan Korn is in charge of this recently started program. It pares writers who are looking for experience in specialty areas with other members who have had some experience in these areas. If you missed out on the first trial round, which will be up at the end of the year, contact Susan for another opportunity to join in as either a mentor or a mentee. Her phone number is 530/888-9971



Small Specialty Critique Groups

We currently have three small specialty critique groups in the following areas:

Religious: Contact-
Betsy Schwarzentraub
530/333-0852

Science Fiction/Fantasy
Contact- Hester Jones
805/905-9034

Memoirs: They meet at Depot Bay Wednesday's at noon, following the regular Gold Country Writers meeting.

CHRISTMAS HUMOR

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female deer (*Rangifer tarandus*) grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December.

Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring. Therefore, according to EVERY historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, EVERY single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be a girl.

We should have known... ONLY women would be able to drag a fat man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost.



Daniel aged 4, returned from Sunday school with a new perspective on the Christmas story. He had learned all about the wise men from the east who brought gifts to the baby Jesus. Daniel was so excited he just had to tell his parents, "I learned in Sunday School today all about the very first Christmas. There wasn't a Santa Claus way back then, so these three blokes on camels had to deliver all the toys. And Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer with his nose so bright wasn't there yet, so they had to have this big light in the sky to find their way around."

Prose



From the Pres

My family sends holidays greeting to all members.

Well, December is coming at us fast. Holiday times are busy times. Dinners have to be planned, gifts bought and wrapped, people notified, and there are always last minute changes.

For us here at GCW it's a time of change. We are moving to our new meeting place at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Hopefully it will be a pleasant change of a better place to meet, conduct our critiques, business, and general gatherings for planning events. There will undoubtedly be some bugs to work out but, overall, I believe it will be a change for the better. All of the elected officers, and the leadership team, are stepping forward to make our new home a great place to meet. I am looking forward to seeing all of our members celebrate this historical step in our clubs growth.

Our First meeting is on December 2, 2015. The times have not changed. 10 AM to Noon. Address: 1279 High Street. Park in the rear and enter via the rear door directly into the meeting room.

Skip Michael - President, GCW

Special Events

GCW Holiday Special December 16, 2015

Bring you favorite finger food and join club members celebrating the Christmas Season and a year of many changes at our new meeting location, the Bethel Lutheran Church, 1279 High Street, Auburn. 10 – Noon.

1st Annual Auburn DeLights of Christmas

"A Christmas Celebration" featuring Santa's Workshop and over 100,000 lights! Bring your entire family and your friends to the Gold Country Fairground Dec 05, 2015, 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Auburn Festival of Lights Parade

Saturday, December 5th (rain date Dec. 12). The parade will begin at the corner of Cherry and Lincoln Way at 5:30 p.m. Dec 05, 2015

Open Mike ~Story Telling

–Always the last Saturday of each month –Dec 26, Auburn Public Library 1 PM – 3 PM, 8 minute limits on stories.

Placer's Gold Toastmasters

Meets Tuesdays at 2929 Richardson Dr., Auburn, CA 95603 from noon to 1 pm. Placer Co. Justice Center, Visitors are welcome.

CLUB NEWSLETTER MATERIAL

Any club member can submit newsletter worthy material. Get it to D. Michael O'Haver at MrOHaver77@outlook.com by the 15th of each month. Call 530/268-2490 for more information.

Current Officers of Gold Country Writers

President:

Skip Michael
916/601-1044

Genre ~ Science Fiction

Vice President:

Betsy Schwarzentraub
530/333-0852 Genre
~Religious Teaching

Secretary:

Sharyn Matin
808/662-0432

Genre ~ Psycho Thriller

Treasurer:

Joy Hemp
650/799-5828

Genre ~ Self Help &
Inspirational

Publicity Coordinator:

Chery Anderson
530/613-1153

Genre ~Story Telling

Mentor Coordinator

Susan Korn
530/888-9971

Genre – Self -Help
Corporate Culture

Events & Fundraising Coordinator

Joyce Rule
916/409-0131

Marketing Coordinator

June Gillam
530/820-3020

Genre ~ Suspense
Thrillers & Poetry