

Special Guest Speaker Canceled for 12/15/16,
See Page 4 for GCW Christmas Party Details

Gold Country Writers Dispatch

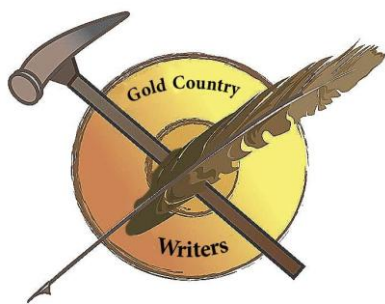
Dec
2016
Issue



Off the Wall

The Off the Wall Event was our 5th Wednesday Program for November, 30th. This event featured objects taken off club member's walls – art works, sculptures, paintings, whatever inspired some writing by the club member. Shown above is Hester Jones with a quilt she made. Quilting lets Hester express her creative side. Sixteen GCW members participated showing what a wide range of creative talents we have in our one little club.

Merry Christmas



Gold Country Writers is on Facebook page. **Check it out!**
Be sure to **like it** when you visit.

Our Mission:
Support
Local
Authors

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Periodic Resource People

The GCW Mentoring Program is a huge opportunity for our members to give and receive help on specific topics for a set period of time. But how can we mentor one another on a more limited, periodic basis at other times of the year?

The Lead Team is making a list of those willing to meet with another GCW member for one session, as needed and as works in their schedules. For example, these folks are willing to help out:

- + Skip Michael – computer concerns
- + Debbie Griffin – computer issues + historical fiction writing
- + Betsy Schwarzentraub – copy editing + Christian markets.

GCW Meeting Schedule

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

First Wednesday: Business Meeting to discuss club business. All members are welcome to come and contribute). This is followed by a closed meeting of the club's Board of Directors.

Writer's Quote

Anais Nin

"Age does not protect you from love. But love, to some extent, protects you from age."

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

Third Wednesday: Special program of general interest to the club members. Topics change each month. In December it is our club Holiday Party. See Page 4 for the Speaker of the Month.

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

PROS



FROM THE PRES

Well, December is upon us. This means the holiday season for many of us. It's a fun time with family, friends, gift giving and gift receiving, lots of good food (I like that) and for some, adult beverages. If December is anything like November, it's going to be a great month.

I would like to thank Margie Lee Webb, Pauline Nevins and Chery Anderson for making our 5th Wednesday event very successful. I was so impressed by our members who participated. What a diverse and impressive group of people we have in our association. We have very accomplished women and men who are full of surprises, and full of stories to write about. I feel lucky to be a part of this group of people who are so talented and willing to share their life stories with us. It proves the point... you can't judge a book by its cover. And you can't judge a person by his or her appearance.

I'm happy to report that Pauline Nevins has accepted an appointment to be the Specialty Critique Group Coordinator. Have a Happy Holiday Season.

Skip Michael

Susan M. Osborn 3 Ways to Stoke Your Creative Fires



Our November Special Guest Speaker was Susan M. Osborn. She gave a convincing presentation detailing three ways to fight writer's block and get creative with our writing.

Way No. 1 - Put yourself into a creative frame on mind: "Each act of creation is first an act of destruction." Six blocks to creative writing:

- Stick with what you know best
- Your work must be perfect
- Stay in one genre
- There is only one right way to write
- You're not a real writer unless you're published
- You're a failure if you're published but your book doesn't sell a lot of copies

Ways to tap into our Creative "Right Brain" –

✚ Instead of outlining your story, draw a flower with main idea in the center, surrounded by petals of supporting ideas.

- ✚ Walk backwards
- ✚ Open a book, point to a line and write about it
- ✚ Do yoga
- ✚ Initiate a conversation with a stranger

✚ Go to sleep with a spoon in your hand over a pail of water. When it drops into the water wake up and record your thoughts.

Way No. 2 – Imagine and Invent New Content – Exercises to do this:

✚ Close your eyes, and imagine holding a lemon in your hand. Imagine cutting into it. Smell the juice as it runs over your hand. Put the lemon slice into your mouth. Taste the juice and smell the aromas.

✚ Solve the riddle – there are two girls, Mary and Miriam, born the same day, month and year to the same parents, yet they are not twins.

✚ Take a washer on a 6- inch string. Suspend the washer from your pointing finger 2 inches from a table. Rest your elbow on the table. Holding your hand still, start the pendulum swinging. Increase the swing without moving your hand. Stop the swing and start it swinging the opposite direction.

✚ Describe all the ways you could get to the top of an oak tree without climbing it. All these exercises free your mind for more creative thoughts.

Way No. 3 – Experiment with innovative forms of writing:

- ✚ photos/poems;
- ✚ notebooks;
- ✚ cartoons;
- ✚ letter collections;
- ✚ graphic memoirs;
- ✚ graphic nonfiction;
- ✚ collection of vignettes;
- ✚ poems/drawings;
- ✚ memoir/travel log;
- ✚ fiction/nonfiction;
- ✚ etc.

Conclusion: The older you get the more creative you are.

"Burn like a bonfire in whatever you do."

Special Events



GCW Special Christmas Celebration

December 14, 2016, 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Potluck, special
member stories

Open Mic for the Spoken Word

4th Sat. of each month, noon, at Auburn Library Canceled for
November & December due to the holidays. Next one will be in
February. Contact: Taleteller2@gmail.com **Not a GCW Event**

Placer's Gold Toastmasters

Tuesdays Noon-1 PM at Placer Co. DeWitt Center Justice Center,
Richardson Dr. & B Ave. Auburn, Contact Michael O'Haver
Not a GCW Event

Auburn Faith Hospital Children's Christmas Fair

Dec. 8, 2016, at Gold Country Fairgrounds, Auburn, Sierra
Building 1:30 PM – 5:30 PM, Free Admission **Not a GCW Event**

Auburn Family Christmas Festival

Dec. 11, 2016, downtown Auburn, noon – 5:00 PM
Not a GCW Event

Specialty Critique Groups

Historical Fiction: NEW! Contact Kathleen Ward 209/704-0719. They meet
once a month on the 3rd Thursday, at 1:30 PM at The Daily Egg, 844 Lincoln
Way, Auburn

Children's Lit: NEW! Contact Norma Lehr 530/878-8421. They meet at
Norma's home on the 4th Thurs., 2-4 p.m.

Book: Contact Betsy Schwarzentraub 530/333-0852. They meet at Depoe
Bay, on 2nd & 4th Wed, 12-3 p.m.

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

Memoirs: Contact Linda Franklin 530/878-2138. They meet at Depoe Bay
on 3rd Wednesdays 12-3 p.m.

Novel: Contact Ann Reh 530/823-1870. They meet every other Monday,
2:30 – 5:00 p.m.

GCW Officers, Board Members & Committee Chairpersons

President : Skip Michael
916/601-1044 Genre ~ Sci. Fi.

Vice President - Internal
Affairs: Betsy Schwarzentraub
530/333-0852

Genre ~ Christian Nonfiction

Vice President - External

Affairs: Chery Anderson

530/613-1153 Genre ~
Storytelling

Treasurer: Joy Hemp

650/799-5828 Genre ~ Self
Help & Inspirational

Secretary: Michael O'Haver

530/268-2490 Genre ~
Christian Children's Books &
Poetry

Assistant Secretary:

Kathleen Ward 209/704-0719

Genre ~ Short Stories

Mentor Coordinator:

Susan Korn 530/888-9971

Genre ~ Self-Help & Corporate
Culture

Marketing GCW & Events Joyce

Rule 916/521-5177

Genre ~ Short Stories

Author Opportunities: June

Gillam 530/820-3020

Genre ~ Suspense Thrillers &
Poetry

Membership & Guest Speakers

Margie Yee Webb 916/213-

0798 Genre ~ Gift Books

Newsletter Editor: Michael

O'Haver 530/268-2490

Submit newsletter material by
the 15th of each month to
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