

December, 2020

GCW Dispatch

Our mission is to support local writers



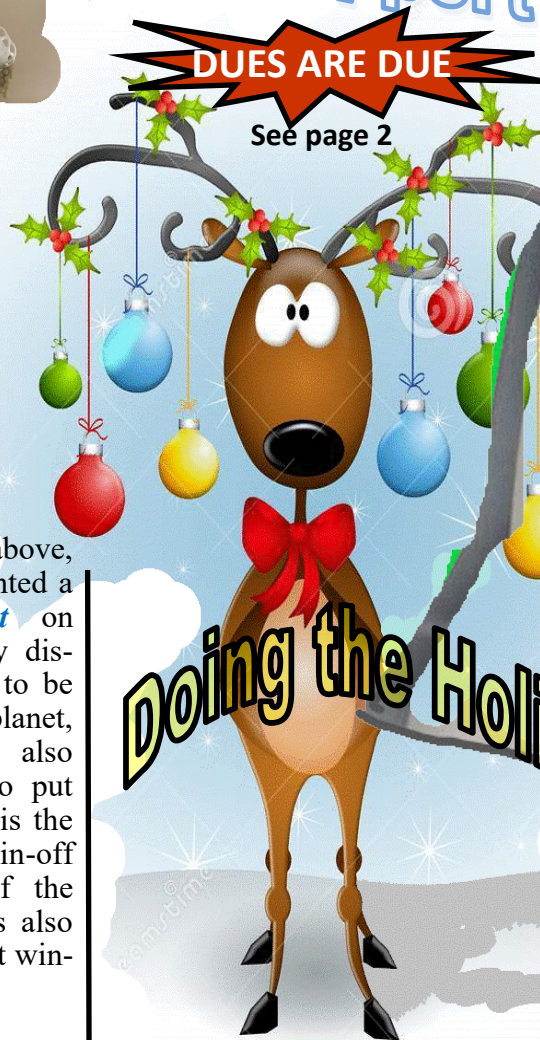
Randy Whitwell, shown above, along with three helpers presented a well-organized **Poetry Event** on Zoom, November 18th. Randy discussed, “Gilgamesh,” thought to be the oldest written story on the planet, written 5,000 years ago. He also listed ways to get inspired to put words down on paper. Randy is the chairperson for the Poetry Spin-off Group, and the organizer of the GCW Poetry Contest. He was also one of last year’s poetry contest winners.

David Anderson discussed iambic pentameter; the rhythm established in a line of poetry. Rhythm is measured in small groups of syllables - traditionally ten syllables. This is the form used famously by William Shakespeare. (Example) “Now is the winter of our discontent (10) made glorious summer by this sun of York.” (10)

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DUES ARE DUE

See page 2



Doing the Holidays Differently

GCW 2020 Poetry Contest

The 2nd Annual GCW Poetry Contest opened November 18th. Enter your best effort in one of the three categories: 1) I wish we’d have a pandemic every year; 2) Finding love, bitter or sweet; 3) Memories. Poems are due December 18th at midnight. See November’s *Dispatch* or Chery’s E-Blast for complete entry rules and guidelines.

December 2020

Pg 1-Randy Whitwell special guest speaker; Poetry Contest; “Staying Alive” Home for the Holidays

Pg 2-Prose from The Pres, Dues, CV-19 Meeting Schedule, December GCW Schedule of Activities

Pg 3-Spin-Off Critique Groups, Officers & Committee Chairs

Pg 4-Calif. CV-19 stories, Famous Writer’s Quote, Mish-Mash Poetry Bash, Member News

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Pg 6- Staying Alive Holiday Party

“Staying Alive”

Home for the Holidays

The annual Gold Country Writers holiday party is going virtual this year. It will be held on December 9th at 10:00 am—Noon. It will be held via Zoom. Look forward to sharing holiday beloved traditions, memories, Santa photos, stories, poems, tastes of holidays pasts, favorite recipes, holiday crafts ideas and a holiday sing-a-long.

See more details on Page 6

PROSE

FROM THE PRES



Well, Hello all GCW members, it is the Holiday Season for 2020. Our GCW Leadership Team has a new motto for the year, "Staying Alive in 2020 and Thrive." This year's GCW Holiday Party will be held via Zoom meeting and it will be "Home for the Holidays," the place we know and love.

Our GCW Holiday Party for "Staying Alive and Thrive" will be a sharing of beloved traditions for the season, and delightful fun activities. You will receive your Zoom Membership ID and Password Code to join us on December 9th at 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Our Publicity Director, Chery Anderson, will be sending out the information ASAP in an email. **We will have a prize for the Best Decorated Holiday Theme Room, and Holiday Outfit so dress up or down for the holiday spirit.**

Here is the Holiday Traditions venue:

- Stories and Poems: "A taste of the Past or Present," ... It was a dark and stormy night
- Share what you wanted as a child from the "Big Book of Wishes." (Sears/ Montgomery Wards)
- Share old photos of childhood visiting "Santa and Me."
- Savoring a Sweet Idea for Holiday Recipes and sharing.
- Sharing your holiday craft ideas
- Tidings of Joy... join GCW in a Holiday Sing-along

Let me know if you would like to participate in this fun-filled event. The sharing time is limited to 3-5 minutes for each member.

Susan

Dues are Due!

2021 Dues are half-price: Only \$24.

Pay online at Zelle to Gold Country Writers at (650) 595-8667 Or mail check to P.O. Box 5991, Auburn, CA 95604

CV-19 GCW Meeting Schedule

The Gold Country Writers are meeting by Zoom every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon. Just download the free Zoom App from the internet. To simplify things, we have arranged for a permanent ID: 88548554720 and the permanent password is 974226, for all the Club Zoom meetings.

FIRST WED.

Combined Business & Board Meeting

SECOND & FOURTH WED.

Drop-in Critique Meeting.

THIRD WED. - Guest Speaker

FIFTH WED. - (When Available)—Party Time

GCW Scheduled Activities

Dec. 2, 2020: Executive/Board of Directors Meeting 10 a.m.—Noon, Zoom, No Weeknight Critique Group at Round Table Pizza

Dec. 9, 2020: GCW "Staying Alive" Home for the Holidays

Dec. 26, 2020 No Open Mic in Dec or Jan

Jan. 1, 2021: NO MEETING: New Year's Day. No Weeknight Critique Group: New Year's Day.

Jan. 23, 2021: Auburn Storytelling Festival (see Pg 5)



Specialty Spin-off Critique Groups

Coordinator - Rebecca Inch-Partridge

Note: Contact group leaders to learn the current CV-19 schedule for your group.

Children's Lit: Contact Norma Lehr. Temporarily suspended due to the pandemic.

Science Fiction/Fantasy: Contact John Vester. Meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at 5:45 p.m. Temporarily suspended for Nov. & Dec. Will resume in Jan.

Memoir: Contact Susan Thompson. They meet at members' houses once a month for Dec. & Jan.

Novel: Contact Mary Helen Fein, meets via Zoom on 2nd & 4th Fridays from 2—4 p.m. Closed to new members.

Evening Mixed Genre: Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge. Meets 1st Wednesday each month, Drop-in suspended due to Covid-19, Pre-read meets in small social dist. groups 5:45 p.m. at Rebecca's. No new members. No meeting in Dec. Will resume in Jan.

Flash Fiction: Contact Chery Anderson. Suspended due to Covid.

Poetry: 4th Wed. Contact Randy Whitwell. Sharing poems online with members. Meeting 1:00 p.m. via Zoom, 4th Wed.

Spiritual/Inspirational: 2nd Wed., 12:30 p.m. Contact Betsy Schwarzentraub. No meeting in Dec. Will resume in Jan. via Zoom,

Mystery (New Group) Contact Robin DeLey, will meet 3rd Wed. at 1:00 p.m. in Dec. Call for info. on place & method.

For group leader contact information, consult your membership roster.



GCW Officers, Board Members & Committee Chairs

President: Susan Korn

Genre ~ Self-Help & Corporate Culture

V P - Internal Affairs: Karen Clay

Genre ~ Nonfiction & Memoir

V P - External Affairs, Marketing & Events:

Frank Nissen

Genre ~ Historical Fiction

Treasurer: Bill Baynes

Genre ~ Science Fiction, Children's Books

Secretary: Barbara Young

Genre ~ Photography, Nonfiction

Assistant Secretary and Author Opportunities:

Betsy Schwarzentraub

Genres ~ Christian Nonfiction, devotions,
book reviews

Guest Speakers: Margie Yee Webb

Genres ~ Gift Books & Flash Fiction

Membership: Jody Brady

Genres ~ Short Stories & Self-Help

Public Relations & Read & Review:

Chery Anderson

Genre ~ Short Stories

Web Master, Graphics & Cyber Security:

Skip Michael

Genre ~ Science Fiction

Spin-off Critique Groups Coordinator:

Rebecca Inch-Partridge

Genre ~ Science Fiction

Newsletter Editor: Michael O'Haver

Genres ~ Christian Children's, Memoir, Non Fiction,
Historical Fiction & Science Fiction

Submit newsletter material by the 15th of each
month to GodsScribeMike@gmail.com

For Contact Info. see GCW Roster



GCW Happenings & Events

California State Library Launches California COVID Diaries

"All Californians are welcome to submit typed or handwritten journals, letters, e-mail narratives and blog posts; photographs, videos and audio recordings; written or recorded interviews with family or friends; artwork and drawings; and other storytelling methods."

For more information:

<https://covididiaries.library.ca.gov/>

<https://www.library.ca.gov/Content/pdf/pressreleases/2020-06-11-CAcovidDiaries.pdf>

Famous Writer's Quote

The work never matches the dream of perfection the artist has to start with.
— William Faulkner

GCW MISH-MASH POETRY BASH

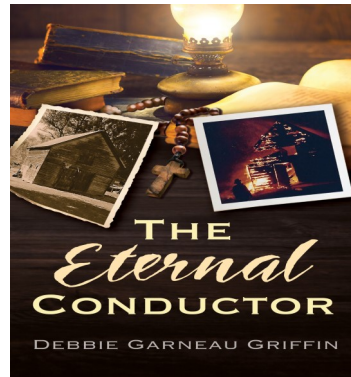
Please send **TWO** lines of Poetry
Holiday Theme, Rhyming or not
To be infused into

ONE GREAT POEM for the Holiday Party

E-mail to: JodyJoJody@aol.com - by Dec.4th



Member News



Hello Fellow Authors,

I'm excited to announce that both the Kindle and paperback versions of my historical fiction novel, *The Eternal Conductor*, are now published on Amazon. Yay!!

During my eight-year membership with Gold Country Writers, I have learned a tremendous amount from our writer's community. Attending the many seminars offered by members and guest speakers gave me much inspiration to self-publish my novel. I sincerely appreciate all the support and advice I've received from our published authors.

I wish to express my sincerest gratitude to my critique partners, Betsy Schwarzentraub and Peter Stafford. We had a wonderful four-year-run reviewing each other's writing. I can say that my novel was improved considerably as a result of their honest, detailed reviews. Thank you!

I look forward to continuing my membership with GCW, and hope we can meet face-to-face in the New Year.

I would love to have you share my book link on Amazon with friends and family to get the word out. And of course, an Amazon review is most welcome! Here is Betsy's review published on the back cover:

"I highly recommend this book! *The Eternal Conductor* gives a thrilling ride on the Underground Railroad from an unexpected angle, complete with ghosts, the ripple-out effect of unfulfilled lives, and a generations-long legacy. What happens when one's moral law confronts the official law of the land? Three-dimensional characters and the author's you-are-there way of writing bring it alive. 5 Stars!"

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and stay safe with your close loved ones.

My Best Regards,

Debbie Garneau Griffin

Randy's Poetry Presentation (continued)

Jody Brady displayed Free Style Poetry by reading her Halloween poem. Free style is free of rules. Writers are encouraged to let their imaginations run wild, visualize, and make a list of key terms they want to include in the poem. Since there is no need to rhyme, these words can be easily fitted into the poem.

Sheila Lopez presented Rhyming Poems, her method of choice. She read several of her charming poems written for friends and family and encourages writers to give poems as gifts – they are thoughtful and personal.

- J. Brady

Wanted: In-Depth Memoirs Spin - Off Critique Group Coordinator

We have had a Memoirs Spin-Off critique group for a long time, thanks to Susan Thompson, but there is a need for another group that is aiming toward publication, either self-publishing or via traditional publishing. Anyone interested in leading such a group contact Rebecca or any of the GCW Officers or Board members.

Gold Country Writers

T-Shirts

For ordering GCW T-Shirts fill out the order sheet below:

Send to:

Susan Korn

2501 Calle Fresca, Cool, CA 94614

Make checks payable to: **Gold Country Writers**

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Item Quantity _____ Size _____

Color (s): Forest Green, Red, White, Black, or Slate Grey (GCW Members Group selection)

Price: \$22.39 + \$1.62 tax + \$4.81 shpg. **Total: \$28.82**

(Price reduction if 12 shirts ordered at one time.)



AUBURN WINTER STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

On January 23, 2021, the Foothill Storytelling Guild will present the Auburn Winter Storytelling Festival in three zoom meeting events. From 11:00 to noon childhood development professor Ed Lewis will present a children's program of spoken stories. From 2:00 to 4:00 the event is Open Telling where anyone (beginner or experienced) can sign-up to tell a five-minute story without props or notes. In the evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. are four PROFESSIONAL tellers who have 20 minutes each to deliver a tale of their choice. These evening tellers in 2021 will include Noa Baum, BZ Smith, Cynthia Restivo, Eric Hurtt, and Linda Yemoto. Gold Country Writers has been a sponsor of the event the last few years along with the Arts Council of Placer County and Poets & Writers.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2021

Children Stories 11 am
Open Telling 2 to 4 pm
Featured Tellers 7 pm
Pacific Time
Virtual Meeting



*Sharing holiday... Beloved Traditions, Memories,
Santa Photos, Stories & Poems, and Taste of
Past sharing family recipes, Holiday Craft Ideas,
and Holiday Sing-Along...*

ANNUAL

Gold Country Writers

HOLIDAY
PARTY

WHERE: Zoom Meeting

Day of Event: check your e-mail, click on
Zoom meeting access link to access member-
ship ID & password.

WHEN: December 9, 2020

TIME: 10 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Special Note: Get your drive-by GCW Holi-
day Gifts at School Reserve Park Auburn, CA
12/9/2020 from 1:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m