

February, 2020

GCW Dispatch

Our mission is to support local writers



2020 Auburn Storytelling Fest

Pictured are some of the GCW members who participated in the Auburn Storytelling Fest held on January 25, 2020.

L-R back row are Michael O'Haver, Barbara Young, Janet Collins & Susan Osborn; front row—Joy Hemp & Rebecca Inch Partridge. Not shown was Skip Michael.

Participating in the Open Telling were Rebecca Inch Partridge, Susan Osborn, Kathryn Shields, and Margie Yee Webb.

Participating in the Liar's Contest were Chery Anderson and Michael O'Haver. Congratulations go to the winner of the Golden Shovel trophy: David Tarvin with a highly unlikely fish story. Susan Osborn was one of the judges.

Frank, Betsy & Chery would like to thank all who helped out by staffing the event, manning the GCW table and/or participating in the storytelling.

Next year the event will be held on February 22nd.



New GCW member, **Shelley Wagner**, wowed us all with a very interesting and useful writing workshop. She recently started her business *The Write Workshops*. Her business plan calls for four workshops a year—summer, fall, winter & spring. The workshop she gave at GCW was a good example. She started by giving instructions to write a description of a character we are writing about. We then exchanged the descriptions and critiqued them.

Tips on Critiquing:

- Criticize the writing not the author.

Continued on Page 2

Inside the February 2020 Issue:

- Pg 1** Storytelling Fest, Jan. Guest Speaker - Shelley Wagner, Poetry Contest Winners
Pg 2 Prose from The Pres, Tweaking Critiquing, Meeting Schedule, Special Events, January Guest Speaker (cont'd)
Pg 3 Spin-Off Critique Groups, Betsy's Book Study, Famous Writer's Quote, Officers & Committee Chairs
Pg 4 Literary Events & GCW Drawing
Pg 5 Drawing (cont'd), Free Workshop by Rebecca, Poetry Contest Winning Poems
Pg 6 Feb. Guest Speaker Linda J. Singleton



And the winners are, L-R Love: 1st place Darlene Kapur & 3rd Karen DeFoe. **Sports:** 1st place Cathy Cassady, 2nd Bill Baynes. Not pictured: **Love:** 2nd Place Randy Whitwell & **Sports:** 3rd Betsy Schwarzentraub.

PROSE



FROM THE PRES



Well, it is February already and almost Valentine's Day. Do not forget to tell that special someone or the love of your life how much you appreciate them. While we are on that thought, I would like to express my gratitude and love of our GCW newsletter, "The Dispatch." For the month of February I would like to highlight and thank Michael O'Haver, GCW Editor, and the 2019 Editorial Staff: Betsy Schwarzentraub, Cathy Cassady Sylvia, Margie Yee Webb, and Chery Anderson. Throughout the years our GCW newsletter staff has produced one of the best newsletters I have read. Our "Dispatch" has some of the best graphics I have ever seen in a newsletters. It is always so colorful and enjoyable to capture photos of all of our GCW events, activities, and community affairs. Our GCW newsletter is not only educational and informative, it provides all of us with important dates to all the GCW activities.

Michael O'Haver, GCW Editor, is an author of multiple children's picture and chapter books. *Sherlock the Peacock Mysteries* is a series featuring Sherlock and his sidekick Wat's son, who solve mysteries for their animal friends. *Uncle Michael's Parables* is a collection of short stories with moral lessons for children. He has also finished a full length young adult historical fiction novel, *Sierra Gold Fever*, and as well is currently working on the second volume of *2100-A Space Trilogy*. Michael is also the creator of an annual calendar he has published for over 20 years, the latest of which is the 2020 Leoni Meadows Calendar with original photos and poems by Michael published by O'Haver Lighthouse Beacon Press.

Tweaking Critiquing

During our regular meetings on Wednesday, February 12th and March 11th we will be hosting a special presentation and workshop entitled, "Tweaking Critiquing." Joan Griffin and Rebecca Inch-Partridge will give a short presentation about how to give and get great critiques. This will be followed by a Guided Critique Workshop for those who wish to participate. The second hour will be the regular drop-in critique.

2

GCW Meeting Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, our regular monthly schedule is:

First Wednesday: Business Meeting to discuss organizational business. All are welcome to attend. This is followed by a closed meeting of the Lead Team.

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

Third Wednesday: Special educational programs of general interest to all, open to the public. Topics change each month. See Page 6 for the Speaker of the Month.

Fifth Wednesday: On the rare occasion that there is one, we have a special program at the City Hall, or meet at a local restaurant for brunch. Join us for fun and socializing.

Special Events

Feb 4—Drawing for Free Passes to Poetry or Screenplay Summit at San Francisco Writers Conference during Business & Executive Meeting at City Hall 10 a.m. See Page 4

Feb 7—Paulene Nevins speaking at the Auburn Library Beecher Room, at Noon

Feb 11—Rebecca's "Get That Book Written" free workshop. Preregistration required. See page 5 for details

Feb 12—As well as Drop-in Critique—Tweaking Critiquing a workshop on how to critique by Rebecca & Joan

Feb 22—Open Mic. for the Spoken Word, Auburn Library, 1 p.m., Contact- Rebecca-Inch Partridge

January Guest Speaker (Continued from Page 1)

- Treat everything as fiction
- Distance yourself from the author

Keep in mind that: a writer is someone who writes, everyone has a strong voice, everyone is creative, writing is an art form, teaching of craft can be beneficial to the teacher if they participate too.

Shelley, then had us **Write Toward the Strange**. We chose the strangest characteristic of our character and expanded on that. Then we wrote a scene where our character interacted with our exchange partner's character. We then circled the characteristic that took us into the future, one that we can personally work on for our own writing.

For the last part we chose a picture that interested us from many provided, and wrote for ten minutes about that picture. All in all it was an interesting and beneficial workshop.

Specialty Spin-off Critique Groups

Coordinator - (Open)

Books: Contact Betsy Schwarzentraub by email. Five to 20 pages. When possible meet in person. Closed to new members at this time.

Children's Lit: Contact Norma Lehr. They meet the 4th Thursdays of each month, 2-4 p.m. Temporarily closed to new members.

Science Fiction/Fantasy: Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge. Meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at 5:45 PM. Temporarily closed to new members. Call Rebecca for current meeting place.

Memoir: Contact Susan Thompson. They meet at Northridge Restaurant, 21515 Higgins Rd, off Combie Road between Auburn and Grass Valley, the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at 2 p.m.

Memoir (monthly): Contact Theresa Cote. **Discontinued**

Novel: Contact Mary Helen Fein. Closed to new members. Email Mary Helen for more information.

Evening Mixed Genre: Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge. Meets 1st Wednesday each month at 5:45 p.m. at Round Table Pizza, in Elm & I-80 Center, Auburn, CA. Group One does five pages; Group Two does 15 pages emailed first.

Flash Fiction: Contact Chery Anderson. Meets 4th Tuesday of the month, 1 p.m. at Jeanine's house in Rocklin. Five members share feedback on one- to two-page stories, around 500 words. Temporarily closed to new members.

Poetry: Contact Kathy Ward. Meets 4th Wednesday of each month, following Drop-In-Critique, at the Rose Room of Auburn City Hall. Bring seven to eight copies of your poems.

Spiritual/Religious/Inspirational: Meets 2nd Wednesday after Drop-In Critique 12 Noon at the City Hall Rose Room, Contact Betsy Schwarzentraub.

For group leader contact information, consult your membership roster.



GCW Officers, Lead Team & Committee Chairs

President: Susan Korn

Genre ~ Self-Help & Corporate Culture

V P - Internal Affairs Karen Clay

Genre ~ Nonfiction & Memoirs

V P - External Affairs, Marketing & Events: Frank Nissen

Genre ~ Historical Fiction

Treasurer: Kate Luce

Genre ~ Memoir

Secretary: Kathleen Ward

Genre ~ Short Stories

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:

Open

Newsletter Editor: Michael O'Haver

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

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

For Contact Info. see GCW Roster

Free Book Study with Betsy

You're invited to a free workshop series using Betsy Schwarzentraub's latest book, *Growing Generous Souls!* We'll meet on Saturdays beginning Feb. 22nd, alternating between Foothills U.M. Church in Rescue (3301 Green Valley Rd.) and Pioneer U.M. Church, 1338 Lincoln Way, in Auburn. Each will meet from 9:30 a.m. through lunch (provided).

Topics for the workshops to be held in Auburn are:

Feb. 29th – Practicing Being Present to God and What is a Soul?

Mar. 14 – Scarcity and the Lure of More, the Ethic of Enough, and Generosity and Money

Mar. 28 – Generosity as a Way of Living: Care for the Earth, Honoring Ourselves, and Forgiveness.

A copy of the book is in our Read & Review Library, but you don't need the book to participate.

Famous Writer's Quote

Half my life is an act of revision.

– **John Irving**

Gold Country Writers is a nonpartisan, nonprofit group whose mission is to support local writers. As such it does not endorse or support the policies or philosophy espoused by any other organization or entity. Contests or events sponsored by other organizations are listed for information only, and rely on individual discretion.

Literary Events and Conferences

Compiled by Margie Yee Webb

San Miguel Writers' Conference

February 12-16, 2020, San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico

<https://sanmiguelwritersconference.org>

15th Anniversary of the San Miguel Writers' Conference & Literary Festival

San Francisco Writers Conference

February 13-16, 2020, San Francisco CA

<https://www.sfwriters.org/>

"17th Celebration of Craft, Commerce and Community"
PLUS **Optional Pre/Post Event Master Classes (register for individual classes)**

PLUS **Hollywood Screenwriting Summit and Poetry Summit (included with conference registration or register for stand-alone one-day summit)**

***Optional Pre-Event Master Classes Open to the Public**
Thursday, February 13, 2020, San Francisco CA

Register for individual session with Brooke Warner, Jonathan Maberry, Kathryn Sands, Jordan Rosenfeld, or Rusty Shelton.

<https://www.sfwriters.org/master-classes/>

***Hollywood Screenwriting Summit**

Saturday, February 15, 2020, San Francisco CA

<https://www.sfwriters.org/screenwriting-hollywood-summit/>

Summit included with SFWC registration, or register for stand-alone one-day summit – packed with informative sessions for every aspect of the entertainment industry.

***Poetry Summit**

Saturday, February 15, 2020, San Francisco CA

<https://www.sfwriters.org/poetry-summit/>

Summit included with SFWC registration, or register for stand-alone one-day summit – get inspired, improve your craft, shape your work for publication, learn how to navigate the multitude of pathways to publication and cultivate your market.

***Optional Post-Event Master Classes Open to the Public**
Sunday, February 16, 2020, San Francisco CA

Register for individual session with Susanne Lakin, Kevin Tumlinson, Victoria Zackheim & Anne Perry, or Linda Lee; and Connie Hale, Carla King, Jennifer March Soloway, or Suzette Standing.

<https://www.sfwriters.org/master-classes/>

Left Coast Crime 2020: Murder's a Beach

March 12-15, 2020, San Diego CA

<http://www.leftcoastcrime.org/2020/>

Left Coast Crime is an annual mystery convention for fans of the mystery/crime genre: readers, authors, librarians, bloggers, publishers, editors, agents, and booksellers.

Belize Writers' Conference

April 25-30, 2020, Jaguar Reef Resort, Belize

<https://www.joeygarcia.com/events/>

"Breathe new life into your writing while building friendships with literary agents, authors, and writers at the third annual Belize Writers' Conference."

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR GCW ONLY
Free Passes

SFWC Poetry Summit and Writing for Hollywood Summit

2020 Gold Country Writers members can win FREE pass to SFWC POETRY SUMMIT or WRITING FOR HOLLYWOOD SUMMIT for Saturday, February 15.

Thanks to Laurie McLean, San Francisco Writers Conference Director!

The Summits — one-day registration, \$249-Hollywood, \$195-Poetry — are included in registration for 2020 SFWC (February 13-16), at Hyatt Regency SF. Visit <https://www.sfwriters.org> and <https://www.sfwriters.org/screenwriting-hollywood-summit/> and <https://www.sfwriters.org/poetry-summit/>.

Cont. on Page 5

Special GCW Opportunity (continued from Page 4)

Each prize Summit Registration includes full day of classes. “Ask A Pro” session, and evening “Poetry & Jazz” event. Does NOT include accommodations, travel, food at event, or fee-based sessions outside of track.

Contact Margie Yee Webb. Sign up at meeting, or email mywebb@sbcglobal.net. Send name, email address, cell number; indicate “SFWC Summit Poetry” or “SFWC Summit Hollywood” in subject line.

Drawings for winners and alternates during Wednesday, February 5, Business Meeting. Must be current member. Prize — no cash value, not transferable

Get that Book Written Workshop

Rebecca Inch-Partridge once again is presenting her free workshop for anyone interested in getting that book out of their head and onto the page. It will help you create a plan, find the time to write, and find an accountability buddy. Anyone planning to take the nine-week *Write That Book* class Rebecca is teaching should plan on attending. The free class is Tuesday February 11, 2020 10-11 a.m.. You must preregister at Auburn Parks & Recreation: www.auburnrec.com

POETRY CONTEST WINNERS

SPORTS: 1st Place - Cathy Cassady

Senior Softball from a fan's point of view

Batters comin', batters goin'
Runnin', catchin', slidin' by.

Lights are hummin', fans are screamin'
“What's the score? Don't hit a fly!”

Blue keeps watchin', balls keep zoomin'
Hits and fouls and outs abound.



Though the players try to catch 'em
Some flies end up on the ground.

From the dugout player's whistlin'
Coaches yellin', “Hustle! Run!”

Though it seems like they're disgusted
In the end, it's all for fun.

This is just the perfect hobby,
Smilin', laughin', jokin' all.

Nothin' beats the rush that's given
Those who play SENIOR SOFTBALL!

LOVE: 1st Place-Darlene Kapur

A House I Love

On a street that I know
There's a two story house
With a pool and a swing
To the sky

A creek runs below
Where the deer come
To feed and the fairies
Dance on the dew

Two little girls reside
In this house, with a K
And a C in their names

When summer arrives
They swim in the pool,
And if magic was magic,
They'd dance on the dew
By the house with
A swing to the sky

Angels sit on the roof,
Keeping all that's below
Safe in their reverent hands

Sam loves her girls,
Oh, just times a
billion grains of sand

Love fills the rooms
Of this house that I know
So much that it holds off the rain

A great love arrives by a road
Through the woods and he
Helps to lessen the strain

His love surrounds the
Girls and their mom, it's
Magic you all ought to
Know, for however hard
Life sends down the rain,
It simply makes all
Their love grow.



Gold Country Writers

Third Wednesday Meeting
Wednesday, February 19, 2020
10 a.m. to 12 noon

~ Gold Country Writers proudly presents ~

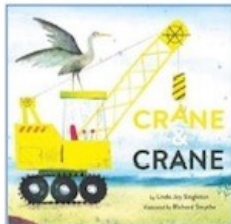
Linda Joy Singleton

Tips and Techniques for Selling Children's Books

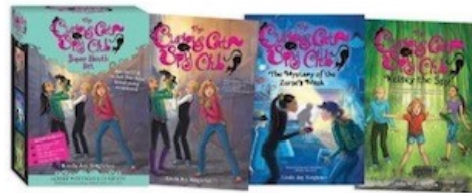


Linda Joy Singleton, author of over 50 books for kids, will discuss the changing market of picture books, middle-grade, and YA novels. She will also offer advice for getting an agent and submitting to publishers.

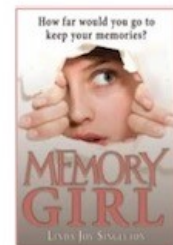
Linda Joy Singleton is the author of over 50 books, which consist of picture books, middle-grade and YA series. Her 2019 picture book, *Crane & Crane*, was inspired by her husband's construction career. And her *Curious Cat Spy Club* middle-grade mystery series is based on a club she had as a child. She is a long-time member of Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) and Sisters in Crime; and a frequent speaker at schools, libraries and writing conferences. She grew up in Sacramento and now lives in the foothills surrounded by horses, cats, dogs, peacocks, and pigs. For news, free stories, and writing advice, visit her website: <https://lindajoyingleton.com/>.



Picture Books – *Crane & Crane*; plus *Lucy Loves Goosey*; *A Cat is Better*; *Cash Kat*; and *Snow Dog, Sand Dog*.



Middle-Grade Books – *Curious Cat Spy Club* Series (six books); plus *Strange Encounter* Series (three books), and three other series that are out of print (four books, six books, and three books).



Young Adult Novels – *Memory Girl*; plus *The Seer* Series (six books); and *Dead Girl* Series (three books).

Join us! Meetings are free and open to the public.

Auburn City Hall – Rose Room, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn CA 95603
(park and enter in back – Rose Room is downstairs)

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**Gold Country Writers: “Writers Working Together To Promote and Improve Their Work”**  
~ A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization ~

Meetings are held every Wednesday of the month. **Third Wednesdays:** guest speaker presentation. **First Wednesdays:** business meeting. **Second and Fourth Wednesdays:** “Drop-In Critique” for members to get feedback on their work. For months with **Fifth Wednesdays:** social event. See website for details.

<https://goldcountrywriters.com/>

