



Our Mission ~ Support Local Writers

Newsletter for Gold Country Writers, P.O. Box 5991 Auburn, CA 95604 *March, 2016 Issue*

Inside this Issue:

Page 1- My journey as A Writer

Page 2-59 Word Contest

Page 3- Prose from the Pres,
Small Critique Groups, **How to Write** Humor

Page 4- Special Events, Club
Officers

My Journey as a Writer Nancy Woody

Visit us at our web site:
www.GoldCountryWriters.com



Nancy Woody gave a compelling and inspirational presentation on her journey as a writer that culminated in winning the 2014 Independent Publishers (IPPY) Book Awards Contest. Over 2,750 independent authors and publishers participated in the 18th annual event. Her book - *Tears and Trombones*, is the life story of her husband Paul, and his rise from poverty to become a classical trombone artist. She did it all without the benefit of an agent or an editor. She performed her own edits after attending numerous writing conventions and submitting her drafts for numerous critiques. Her publisher is Sandhill Press and her book is available in E-Book and Hard Copy formats from Amazon.

GCW 59 Word Contest



On March 30, 2016, Gold Country Writers will hold a special meeting at the Sizzler Restaurant, 13570 Lincoln Way, in Bowman, see page 4 for details. At that meeting the winners of the 59 Word Contest will be announced. This contest is open to all GCW members, with the exception of the judges,

Rules of the Contest:

- Up to 3 entries per member
- Entries must be anonymous, submit entry to Skip with your name but he will forward them to the judges anonymously. You can use a nom de plume name if you like.
- Each entry should have a unity of effect, create a mood and have a minimum of characters.
- Each entry must be 59 words or less in length.
- Entries must be submitted by March 23, 2016
- Hyphenated words count as one word.
- Entries must be e-mailed to Skip Michaels at gcw5991@gmail.com
- The first place winner will earn a small prize and big bragging rights.

Writer's Quote



"If you don't have time to read, you don't have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that."

— Stephen King

Join the **Gold Country Writers** each Wednesday, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Bethlehem 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.



How to Write Humor

What are good comedy writing techniques?

Humor isn't one-size-fits-all, but there are several techniques you can use to drag a smile out of almost anyone.

Tip #1: Be the joke.

There's only one way to make fun of something without offending anyone else, and that's if you're making fun of yourself. Your readers will welcome the invitation to laugh with you. This applies to poking fun at your accoutrements as well – parents, spouses, siblings, children, dogs, hamsters and fish. Never make fun of the cat.

Tip #2: Be specific.

Generalizations can be funny, but specificity is better. For example, a story about squirrels would be funnier if it were about nine beady-eyed squirrels that stuck to the side of my deck in formation, reminding me of the time my little brother glued his G.I. Joe's to the kitchen wall and declared war against all things legume.

Tip #3: Use comedic timing.

This can be as simple as applying the funny word, phrase or sentence at the last possible moment. You can force a pause before the punch line by starting a new paragraph. If you're telling a story, you can use this technique to apply the element of surprise, taking the reader in an entirely unexpected (and funny) direction. This method works 100% of the time. Unless it doesn't.

Tip #4: Use a thesaurus.

A single word can be really, really funny. It may be the way they sound or even how they're spelled that gets the laugh. You'll know immediately when you see one, which is why your thesaurus is essential. For example, destroy is routine but pulverize is hilarious. Yellow is conventional but chartreuse is witty. Surprise is ordinary but flabbergasted is priceless.

Author: Annie Binns

Small Specialty Critique Groups

We currently have 4 small specialty critique groups in the following areas:

Book: Contact Betsy Schwarzentraub 530/333-0852, they meet at Depot Bay, on 2nd & 4th Wed, 12-3:00 PM

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

Memoirs: Contact-Linda Franklin 530/878-2138, they meet at Depot Bay on 3rd Wednesday's 12-3 PM

Novel: Contact Ann Reh 530/823-1870, they meet every other Monday, 2:30 PM – 5:00 PM

From the Pres

The month of March is going to be very interesting for our club. We have a lot going on. We are Sponsoring an event around Ernest Hemingway at the Auburn library. We are have a most interesting speaker on March 16th, Mr. Paul Landes. We are having a 59 word essay contest, which I encourage all of you to try out. It will be fun. Be sure to send your essay to me via e-mail. (GCW5991@gmail.com). Pick an alias or I will pick one for you. This contest is only open to GCW members.

In March we are having an experiment of a luncheon meeting at the Auburn Sizzler. The cost is \$15.00 which includes the tip. The money will be collected at the back door. If you bring a guest, make sure you explain that it is a luncheon meeting that cost \$15.00. If you have gone to Sizzler you know that the "all you can eat salad bar" is about \$12 and a three-dollar tip makes it about \$15.00

With our regular meeting events and our special events, March is going to be exciting month. One final thing. We need more members. Talk to you friends that have a writing interest bring them as a guest. Skip Michael

Special Events

GCW Special Program March 16, 2016

Paul Landes – *Wet Your Creative Whittle*

10 -12 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1279 High St., Auburn

GCW 5th Wednesday Event, March 30, 2016

59 Word Contest & Club Social

Sizzler Restaurant, 13570 Lincoln Way, in Bowman, \$15 for the Salad Bar Buffet Lunch, 10-12. Chery Anderson will be reading the entries in the 59 Word Contest and announcing the winner.

Friends of the Auburn Library

March 4, 2016 - David Meeker – *A Bookseller Looks at Hemingway*, Noon (Not a GCW Event)

March 18, 2016 – Babette Donaldson – *The Everything Tea Party*, Noon (Not a GCW Event)

April 1, 2016 – Jennifer Basye Sander- *Could Hemmingway Get Published Today?* Noon (Not a CGW Event)

California Writers Club

March 4, 2016 –Breakfast & guest speaker Jenifer Novak Landers, 9 AM, (Not a GCW Event)

March 11, 2016, Open Mic, Barnes & Noble, Birdcage Center, 6111 Sunrise Blvd., Citrus Heights 7 PM (Not a GCW Event)

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