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Allen Pierleoni – Feb GCW Guest Speaker

Tips for authors being interviewed:

- Have a prepared presentation
- Be funny
- Be ready to talk about your writing process
- Have a favorite author to talk about
- Have a list of your secrets to writing success
- Have a list of your literary credits

The top errors made by “wanna be” authors:

- Thinking everything has to have a happy ending
- Leaving loose ends not tied up
- Not asking the experts

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100-Word Contest

Guidelines: Darlene Cooke is Coordinating

- **March 7** – Kick Off Date
- **May 2nd will be the due date** for submissions.
- One entry per member.
- E-mail entries to GCW5991@gmail.com
- Entrants must be a GCW member in good standing
- Hyphenated words count as ONE word
- Title and pen names NOT included in the word count
- Send entry in the BODY of an EMAIL, NO ATTACHMENTS!
- NOTE: this is BLIND judging, there will be 3 mystery judges
- DO NOT INDICATE YOUR REAL NAME in the body or in the subject line
- The Examiner will delete your email information and forward your story with pen name only to judges for consideration
- Entry should have:
 - Title
 - PEN NAME ONLY
 - EXACTLY 100 words
 - “100-Word Story Contest” in the SUBJECT LINE
 - Your story or entry
- Celebration will be May 30 at a site to be chosen

PROSE



FROM THE PRES

Julia Cameron's book *The Right to Write* is packed with inspiring nuggets! But her first point is essential: not waiting to be hit by a muse. "It's a luxury to be in the mood to write," she says. "Writing is like breathing . . . do it no matter what." Writing goes much better when we don't work at it so much. We can just allow ourselves to chase anything with words.

"The act of writing, the aiming at getting it right, is pure thrill," she states, "but the chase itself, the things you catch out of the corner of your eye, that's worth something too. I love it when I write well, but I love it when I write, period."

Even as we write, we are never alone. We have more opportunities this year to reach out to our communities as Gold Country Writers, such as with Open Mic, Face in a Book, and all the rest. Take advantage of the Drop-In Critiques, bookstore and reading events, and more.

But don't forget: keep on writing!

Betsy

Tips on Style Manuals

They are the rule books used by publications. Fiction and general writing - Chicago, APA-Psychologists, and MLA - Liberal arts and humanities papers. Purdue offers free access to all three. This link takes you straight to the Chicago Manual.

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/>

Style manuals specify things like when to write out a number in words vs. when to write it out in numerals, when to use commas, the proper form for listing references or citing a reference, etc.

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 95603. Our regular monthly schedule is:

First Wednesday: Business Meeting to discuss organizational business. All are welcome to come. 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 church, or meet at a local restaurant for brunch. Join us for fun and socializing with members and guests.

KUDOS

Rebecca Inch-Partridge has started her own editing business. Contact her at 530/889-1520, for editing.

Rebecca Inch-Partridge had over 100 entries in her Youth Science Fiction Story contest

Kathryn Shields had a photo published in the *Auburn Journal*

The Auburn Winter Storytelling Fest had a great write-up in the *Auburn Journal*

Margie Yee Webb got to read her Dear Friend letter at Face in a Book

Joan Stafford was commended for finding an alternate meeting site for the January guest speaker's presentation

Special Events



GCW Special Guest Program

March 21, 2018, at the church. 10 AM – 12, Stephanie Chandler,
“Build Your Online Book Marketing Plan”

Open Mic for the Spoken Word

March 24, 2018, Auburn Library, 1 PM, Rebecca is the Coordinator
This is now a GCW Event

6-Author Event GCW at Face in a Book

Sunday March 25, 1-4 PM, El Dorado Hills (see page 4 for details)

Monthly Meeting for GCW Read & Review

March 28, 2018, 11:30 AM, or after guest speaker

Pitch O Rama

March 31, 2018, 8 AM – 1 PM, at 3543-18th St., San Francisco, CA, put
on by the Women’s National Book Association, San Francisco Chapter.

Cost \$75 Public, \$65 WNBA Members

This is not a GCW Event

Specialty Spin-off Critique Groups

Coordinator - Pauline Nevins -530/637-9163

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

Historical Fiction: Contact Kathy Ward, 209/704-0719. They are back to meeting on the 4th Thursday, of each month at 11 a.m. **The New location is Chevys, located on Highway 49 & Old Airport Road.**

Children’s Lit: Contact Norma Lehr 530/878-8421. They meet at the restaurant at the Ridge Golf Course on Bell Rd. on the 4th Thurs., 2-4 p.m.

Science Fiction/Fantasy: Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge 530/889-1520.

Memoirs: Contact Susan Thompson 530/941-3778. 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.

Novel: Contact Ann Reh 530/823-1870. They meet every other Monday, 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. at a member’s office. Call for directions.

Evening Mixed Genre: Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge, 530/889-1520, 6 PM, 1st Wed. of each month, March 7, **at a New Place - Mountain Mike’s Pizza, Safeway Cross Roads Center, Bell Road & Quarts Drive, Auburn, CA 95603**

GCW Officers, Board Members & Committee Chairs

President: Betsy Schwarzentraub
530/333-0852 Genre ~ Christian
Nonfiction, Book Reviews

V P - Internal Affairs: Susan Korn 530/888-9971 Genre ~ Self-Help & Corporate Culture

V P – External Affairs: Joyce Rule 916/521-5177
Genre ~ Short Stories

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

Marketing GCW & Events: Joyce Rule 916/521-5177

Author Opportunities: June Gillam 530/820-3020

Genre ~ Suspense Thrillers & Poetry

Membership & Guest Speakers:
Margie Yee Webb 916/213-0798
Genre ~ Gift Books

Public Relations: Chery Anderson 530/613-1153
Genre ~ Short Stories

Web Master, Graphics & Cyber Security: Skip Michael: 916/601-1044 Genre ~ Science Fiction

Spin-off Critique Groups

Coordinator: Pauline Nevins:
530/637-9163 Genre ~ Memoirs

Newsletter Editor: Michael O’Haver 530/268-2490

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

Storytelling Tips

By Kathryn Shields

“Tips For Memorizing A Story” given by author/teacher Marianna de Croes at the Storytelling Festival workshop on Jan 27, 2018.

- Read the Story
- Very briefly (using as few words as possible), write down an outline of what the story is about, in the order of events.
- Then, draw a brief map of the story. Draw a picture for each major event so you can visualize where an episode occurs in time and space. For example, your map may be set up something like this:

Lion + lamb Lion eats lamb Lion + deer Lion
eats deer Lion + fox Fox runs

Fox was not deceived

The map is also meant to give you a visual of where in space each event is located. This is helpful for when you are on stage telling the story... you won't point to an object or character in different places because you forgot where you had them located in space. The map gives you your action direction.

- Next, tell the whole story to someone.
- Lastly, tell the story to someone as if you were gossiping about it.

“Did you hear about the lion who lured the lamb into his den, then ate it? Oh my gosh!!! The lion was sick and knew he couldn't go out to hunt food. So the fiend asked the lamb for help...and what did he go and do!!!!” Etc.

We spent about a half hour in the workshop doing this exercise with a story, and by the end everyone had it memorized. And likely everyone still remembers their story!

DUES ARE DUE

There are many benefits of Gold Country Writers membership – one-on-one mentoring, (guest speakers open to all), networking, Bio Page on our website, community outreach, workshops, Gold Country Writers Read and Review, authors' selling opportunities, Spin-Off Critique Groups, and monthly newsletter.

All non-renewals will be dropped from the newsletter mailing list after this March issue!

Bring your check to the next meeting, or mail it to: GCW, P.O. Box 5991, Auburn, CA 95603.



**Six Author Event
with Gold Country
Writers!**

Sunday, March 25th, 1:00-4:00 pm

Meet talented local authors and find out about the Gold Country Writers! An organization dedicated to offering education, resources, and networking opportunities, Gold Country Writers empowers its members to reach writing and publishing goals. Meet some of their friendly and talented members, including: Suzanne Blaney (*The Little Book About Pastel*), Jo Chandler (*This Side of Forever*), Sheri McGuinn (*Running Away*), Michael O'Haver (*Recovering from Back Injury*), Dr. Virginia Simpson (*The Space Between*) and Margie Yee Webb (*Cat Mulan's Mindful Musings*).

4359 Town Center Blvd.
El Dorado Hills 95762
916-941-9401
getyourfaceinabook.com
facebook.com/getyourfaceinabook
twitter.com/faceinbooks

FACE IN A BOOK
BOOKSTORE & GIFTS

Gold Country Writers Critique Guidelines

Group Leader:

Initial guidance to the group:

"This is a safe place. People will likely be writing in different genres and have different views on cursing, religion, etc. Our role here is to listen, to learn and not to judge. There won't be any negative consequences for your writing fumbles. You won't be rejected. No one will attack your work. We will be direct and honest, but never confrontational."

Receiving Feedback:

- Provide a clean copy of your writing sample. The group should not spend their time proofreading.
- Provide a brief summary of your writing project and the context of the writing piece.
- Tell the group what kind of feedback you want ("I'm having trouble keeping the voice consistent. There might be some places where it sounds too stilted.")
- Do not defend or provide clarification. Be receptive, rather than defensive. No arguing. No explaining. No buts.

After members have shared their feedback, the writer may ask for clarification about any comments she didn't understand. This is not an opportunity to explain your intent, but to help you understand what's behind the comments.

The writer may, if they wish, also ask for brainstorming solutions to plot problems. (Group members responses should begin with suggestions You could...")

Giving Feedback:

Let the author know if this is not your favorite type of story. This may help them better understand your viewpoint. Things you do not like in the story may very well appeal to a fan of that genre.

- No "you should." No "I would."
- Share reaction to the work not your opinion.
Example: "The villain didn't really scare me that

much" (reaction), rather than "You should make the villain scarier" (opinion and a should)

- Avoid value judgments ("I thought this scene was weak"). Focus on what confused you, what distracted you from the story. ("I'm confused; I thought the woman broke up with her boyfriend. Did she change her mind?")
- Never criticize the author personally. Discuss the writing, not the material's content. The writer's premise, logic and opinions should not be part of the discussion.
- Honor confidentiality within the group, and return all writing to the author at the end of your time together.
- Include specific positive comments: "That description of the mist-enshrouded forest seemed really vivid to me." Describe your feelings: "When she was walking alone through the parking garage, I could really feel the suspense. I didn't want her to get hurt."

Allen Pierleoni Continued From Page 1

Tips for being successful:

- Work with social media
- Start and keep a blog
- Do book signings
- Go digital
- Try syndicates (newspapers are all syndicating nowadays)
- Get a good agent who believes in you
- Know the right people
- Hire a teenager to do your social media

Insights from interviewing bestselling authors:

- Write every day!
- Think of real people when you create main characters
- Consider your own characteristics, with some improvements
- Bring your "A" game, but have fun too
- Hang out with publishing people
- Don't be afraid to go to the experts
- Interview authors you have heard in person.



Gold Country Writers

Third Wednesday Meeting

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

10 a.m. to 12 noon

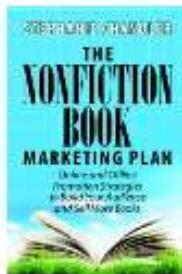
~ Gold Country Writers proudly presents ~

Stephanie Chandler

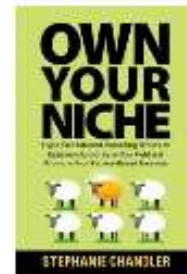
*Build Your Online Book Marketing Plan:
Simple Strategies to Increase Website Traffic,
Build Buzz and Sell More Books*



Before self-publishing her first book, Stephanie Chandler decided to build an audience online. The success of that effort led to corporate sponsorships, major media coverage, product sales, and a variety of other opportunities. In this content-rich presentation, she shares strategies that authors can use to develop a marketing plan focused on building an audience online.



You will learn how to: Build an effective book marketing plan ~ Identify and attract your ideal audience online ~ Leverage blogging to increase site traffic and sales ~ Conduct interviews with internet media sources ~ Use articles, podcasts, videos, and content marketing tactics to boost traffic ~ Expand revenues with information products ~ Utilize Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Pinterest—all without a big time commitment (really!)



Stephanie Chandler is the author of nine books including *The Nonfiction Book Marketing Plan: Online and Offline Promotion Strategies to Build Your Audience and Sell More Books* and *Own Your Niche*. Stephanie is also founder and CEO of NonfictionAuthorsAssociation.com, a vibrant educational community for experienced and aspiring writers and NonfictionWritersConference.com, an annual event conducted entirely online. A frequent speaker at business events and on the radio, she has been featured in *Entrepreneur Magazine*, *BusinessWeek*, *Inc.com*, and *Wired* magazine. <http://StephanieChandler.com/>

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1279 High Street, Auburn CA 95603

(enter and park in back)

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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.

<http://GoldCountryWriters.com/>