

March, 2020

GCW Dispatch

Our mission is to support local writers

Newsletter material due
the 15th of each month

100 word HATS OFF! Contest

The 100-Word Story Contest celebration will be held at Sizzler, 13570 Lincoln Way, on May 29, starting at 11:00 a.m. People can get in line and order, before gathering in the back room.

The cost for meals should be under \$20

Contest Dates & Rules:

- **March 4** – Kick Off Date
- **April 8 will be the due date** for submissions.
- One entry per member.
- E-mail entries to Skip Michael: GCW5991@gmail.com
- Entrants must be GCW members in good standing
- Hyphenated words count as ONE word
- Title and pen names are NOT included in the word count
- Send entry in the BODY of an E-MAIL, **NO ATTACHMENTS!**
- NOTE: this is BLIND judging, there will be 3 mystery judges

How you will be judged on Page 2



Linda Joy Singleton (above) special guest speaker for February was a wealth of knowledge on all genres of writing within Children Books.

If you Write Picture Books-

- ✓ author splits advances and royalties with illustrator
- ✓ short word count required
- ✓ longer publication dates
- ✓ trust your artist and editor
- ✓ rhyming text is not popular
- ✓ parents buy the books

If You Write Middle Grade-

- ✓ publishers want award winning books
- ✓ series are popular
- ✓ with series it's hard to sell all titles
- ✓ cover needs to be strong
- ✓ kids buy with their parents
- ✓ the 1st page has to grab you
- ✓ create characters kids love
- ✓ avoid slang, stay current, respect your audience
- ✓ usually no violence, sex or swearing

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Inside the March 2020 Issue:

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SFWC Poetry Summit

Summary by Michael O'Haver

The SFWC Poetry Summit was split into four sessions: Breaking Out of the Box/Finding Your Voice/Beating Writers Block; Editing for You & Your Readers; Pathways to Publication; and Marketing

Session 1-Breaking Out of the Box/Finding Your Voice/Beating Writers Block

Breaking Out of the Box-Writing in a different form uses a different part of your brain. Think of some way unusual (for you) to write, like writing in bed, if you can't think of anything to write you can always nap. Or write in a different color pen or font. Or write in a journal starting from the back, not the front. Or write on a paper plate in a circle.

Continued on page 5

PROSE



FROM THE PRES



Well, spring is in the air. We, at GCW, are busy learning more about the effective way to critiquing others written work. The Facilitators of this 1st informative session were Joan Griffin, Educator, and Rebecca Inch-Partridge, GCW Critique Group Director. Both Joan and Rebecca shared a wealth of knowledge when it comes to professionally critiquing a written review. Rebecca, is a Freelance Editor and the leader of GCW Evening Critique sessions. Thanks for sharing your expertise with us. The 2nd and last session will be on March 11.

Wow, I cannot believe, two weeks ago I lost my diamond to my wedding ring. Upset but certain I lost it in the bed covers or in the bedroom rug or possibly in my car while traveling. Well, just after Rebecca and Joan completed their presentation I was chatting with a fellow member. While sitting down my eyes were drawn to a little something “shining” brightly from the red part of the carpet. Lo, and behold, it was a diamond! Yes, it was approximately the same size as mine. The clarity and the cut of the diamond looks identical. I could not wait to drive home, and see if it fit. Yes, we have a match. It is my diamond! The unbelievable happens and this time is was at GCW Meeting



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 res-

Special Events

March 4—General & Board meetings 10 a.m. at City Hall

March 11—Drop-in Critique and Tweaking Critiquing – 2nd workshop on how to critique by Rebecca & Joan

March 18—Guest Speaker Joan M. Griffin at City Hall

March 28—Open Mic. for the Spoken Word, Auburn Library, 1 p.m., Contact- Rebecca Inch-Partridge

Tweaking Critiquing

During our regular meeting on Wednesday, 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.

100-Word Contest Continued

1. Judging will be on-Idea/Impact/and most important—is it a Good Story
2. Unity of Effect/Good Beginning, Middle, and End
3. Mood (created via emotion, setting, or story telling voice)
4. Characters (minimal or significant)
5. Format and Mechanics (structure, grammar, etc.)

Specialty Spin-off Critique Groups

Coordinator - Rebecca Inch Partridge

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 2nd 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 Depoe Bay, 893 High St., Auburn, the 1st Thursday of each month at 2 p.m.

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

For group leader contact information, consult your membership roster.

Famous Writer's Quote

Words are a lens to focus one's mind.

– Ayn Rand



GCW Officers Board Members & 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:

Rebecca Inch Partridge

Genre ~ Science Fiction

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

Literary Events and Conferences

Compiled by Margie Yee Webb

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.

WNBA SF Pitch-O-Rama PLUS 2020

March 21, 2020, San Francisco CA

<https://wnba-sfchapter.org/pitch-o-rama-2020/>

Women's National Book Association—San Francisco Chapter presents Pitch-O-Rama PLUS. Pitch to agents and editors. Includes pre-pitch coaching.

The Author Website: Building a Site That Works with Linda Lee

March 21, 2020, San Francisco CA

<https://www.milibrary.org/events/author-website-building-site-works-mar-21-2020>

Class co-sponsored by Mechanics Institute and San Francisco Writers Conference/San Francisco Writers Foundation.

WordPress Bootcamp: Creating a WordPress Website and How to Use It with Linda Lee

March 21, 2020, San Francisco CA

<https://www.milibrary.org/events/wordpress-bootcamp-creating-wordpress-website-and-how-use-it-mar-21-2020>

Class co-sponsored by Mechanics Institute and San Francisco Writers Conference/San Francisco Writers Foundation.

Novel Craft Intensive: Fear, Courage and Coming of Age

March 28, 2020, Corte Madera CA

<https://sfnortheastbay.scbwi.org/events/novel-craft-intensive-fear-courage-and-coming-of-age/>

Presented by Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators – California: San Francisco North and East Bay.

Note: Sign up in advance. No one will be admitted at the door.

Sacramento Poetry Center Spring Writing Conference

April 4, 2020, Sacramento CA

<http://www.sacramentopoetrycenter.com/>

Our Life Stories Writers' Conference

Note: Registration required by **April 8, 2020**

April 18, 2020, Sacramento CA

<https://ourlifestories.org/>

"Envisioning Our Lives 20/20 Conference" – a cross-generational memoir conference. The focus of the annual event is the collection and writing of family stories and memoirs.

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."

SCBWI Spring Spirit 2020

Note: Deadline to register is **April 15, 2020**

May 2, 2020, Citrus Heights CA

<https://canorthcentral.scbwi.org/events/spring-spirit-2020/>

16th Annual Spring Spirit Conference presented by Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators – California: North/Central

Poetry Workshop

Application Deadline: March 28, 2020

June 20-27, 2020, Squaw Valley

<https://communityofwriters.org/workshops/poetry-workshop/>

"The Poetry Program . . . is founded on the belief that when poets gather in a community to write new poems, each poet may well break through old habits and write something stronger and truer than before."

The Writers Workshops in Fiction, Non-fiction and Memoir

Community of Writers in Squaw Valley

Application Deadline: March 28, 2020

July 6-13, 2020, Squaw Valley

<https://communityofwriters.org/workshops/writers-workshops/>

"These workshops assist serious writers by exploring the art and craft as well as the business of writing."

POETRY CONTEST COORDINATORS



Kudos to the GCW Poetry Contest Coordinators, L-R above, Front Row, Terry Wicks & Kathy Ward, Back Row, Skip Michael & Michael O'Haver, for a job well done for the 1st Annual event. Terry did an outstanding job on the decorations and award baskets, Kathy coordinated the judges and proofed the chap book, Skip received the entries and kept poems and poets coordinated, Michael did the chap book and also helped with awards.

Guest Speaker Linda Joy Singleton Continued If You Write For Young Adult-

- ✓ a wider readership
- ✓ teens buy their own books
- ✓ teens aren't shy about e-mailing authors with critiques
- ✓ you hear "edgy" and "voice"
- ✓ sex, violence, swearing are allowed
- ✓ strong seller of e-books

If You Write Non Fiction (can be within any previous genre)

- ✓ usually requires proposals & sample chapters
- ✓ facts must be accurate
- ✓ deadlines are short
- ✓ authors often supply photos
- ✓ you get smaller advances
- ✓ if one book sells it can lead to publisher taking another

Additional Notes:

- ∞ Picture Books open the doors to school talks
- ∞ Small & medium publishers usually prefer nonagents
- ∞ Agents get all advances and royalties, then pay authors
- ∞ You are married to an agent when you sell a book
- ∞ Ask questions before signing with an agent:
 - ~Do they have editing experience
 - ~Switching agents
 - ~Advances & Royalties

Poetry Summit Continued From Page 1

Write standing up. **Beating Writers Block**-try writing nursery rhymes or limericks, or writing non-stop for 20 minutes, or write in a different place or environment, write on a traffic island. Go to a museum or art gallery for inspiration. Go to poetry reading even if you don't think you will like the type of poems, you can still get inspiration from them. Writers Block happens to the best of us, remember we only live once in a while.

Finding Your Voice-Do free reading to find your voice. Use dreams for inspiration. You grow by trying something different. Truisms are truisms because they are based on the truth. Try writing exercise books like *Bird by Bird*. Remember writing poetry is an art form.

Session 2-Editing for You and Your Readers-Know your goal as a poet. There are 2 things self-publishers shouldn't do themselves – Editing and Book Covers. Revising is writing. Let a piece rest a while before revising it. Writing several versions of the same idea isn't revising. When it's time to revise, remember - make the last line you wrote the first line of the revision. Double space between lines then write between the lines. Experiment with different line breaks. Have others read it out loud. Review your original goal in writing it. First thought – best thought. Revise with a trusted writing buddy. Good poets have multiple projects going at once. Work on one while letting the other rest. Nothing looses more in revision except puns.

Session 3-Pathways to Publication-The **advantages** to self-publishing: You make your own deadlines. No hard sell when cultivating readers. You only need to outsource what you're not good at. You pick your subject. It is a lot of hard work but doing it all yourself is less expensive.

The **disadvantages** to self-publishing: marketing, distribution, contacts within the industry.

Finding your readers-start at least a year before publication. Keep your readers engaged with your progress, what you are doing, be positive, no excuses, people will leave a brand but not a community. Don't take rejection personally. Writing poems for yourself and/or family and friends is personal. When you decide to publish it is business. It's easy writing poems that speak to yourself. It's harder to write poems that speak to others.

Continued next month



Gold Country Writers

Third Wednesday Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

10 a.m. to 12 noon

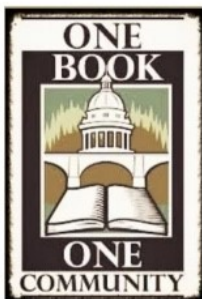
~ Gold Country Writers proudly presents ~

Joan M. Griffin

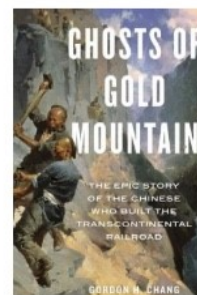
*Reading in Community: Auburn One Book
One Community 2020 Selection –
Ghosts of Gold Mountain*



Joan M. Griffin, writer, teacher and editor, will discuss the Auburn One Book One Community 2020 selection, *Ghosts of Gold Mountain: The Epic Story of the Chinese Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad* by Gordon H. Chang, and the accompanying community events during March and April. <https://auburnoboc.com/>



Professor Gordon H. Chang wrote *Ghosts of Gold Mountain* in time to honor the 150th Anniversary of the 1869 completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. The book specifically focuses on the Chinese laborers central role in accomplishing that near miraculous feat. The Transcontinental Railroad runs right through our Sierra Foothills communities—through Rocklin and Newcastle, Auburn and Colfax, all the way to Donner and Truckee—before crossing the desert to Utah, where the Golden Spike ceremony was held. The book highlights significant historical events that took place right in our own backyards.



Joan M. Griffin found her passion in teaching and taught writing and literature to middle-school students for 25 years. Joan earned a BA in Psychobiology from UCLA and MA in Contemplative Education from Naropa University. A dedicated lifelong-learner, when Joan retired, she immediately enrolled in classes offered by OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) at Sierra College. Inspired by the fascinating courses and instructors, Joan began teaching women's history, writing, and literature classes there in 2017 and is currently a member of the OLLI-Sierra Advisory Council. In the spring, she teaches an OLLI literature course that coordinates with the Auburn OBOC selection and community events. This year she will teach a course on *Ghosts of Gold Mountain*.

Joan is currently working to prepare her memoir, *Force of Nature*, for publication submission. It is the tale of her month-long trek on the John Muir Trail. <http://itsdawningonme.blogspot.com/>

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/>

