



Our Mission ~ Support Local Writers

Newsletter for Gold Country Writers, P.O. Box 5991 Auburn, CA 95604

April, 2016 Issue

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March Club Social Sizzles

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



Above, our Fearless
Leader Skip Michael
showing off his hat. At
the right are Barbara
Murphy and Diane
Adams



The Gold Country Writers met at the Sizzler on March 30, 2016 for their 5th Wednesday of the month social. In addition to the good food, the highlight of the meeting was to announce the winners of the 59 Word Contest (See page 2 for that). Above are some photos of this fun event.

GCW 59 Word Contest Winners



The winners of the 1st Annual GCW 59 Word Contest were L-R: **Margie Yee Web (3rd)** *The Walk*~

The leaves crunching underfoot shook her from daydreaming. It had been months since their last morning walk there. Now here she is. Alone. At their park. Glancing up, she is startled by a figure ambling towards her. *Max*? She squinted over her sunglasses. No, just his doppelganger. From behind a woman crooned, “Bud-dy!” Suddenly he turned, wagging his tail.

Hester Jones (1st) *The Poet’s Stone, a Cautionary Tale*~

Two men, blinded by a moonless night, pass on a narrow cliff-side path. One is a starving vagrant, the other a cursed victim. Which is which? A flashing knife rips flesh; screams dwindle into silent death. Flint sparks bring cursed light a gasp, the wails of grief as the killer leaps toward hungry boulders far below...two dead brothers.

Pauline Nevins (2nd) *A New Life*~

The fingers wet from the icy sea spray clasp the rusted rail. Wispy strands sting grey eyes narrowed against the piercing morning light. She was leaving the granite soil where seeds die. She was leaving the black-robed, the pious, whose holy waters dare not flow. Her frozen hand slipped inside her grey wool coat to caress the new life.



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 & Fourth 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.

Prose



From the Pres

March has been a very busy month with not only the weekly meetings but the special event of the 59 Word Contest. Right now April looks just as busy. This brings me to a situation. The club is in desperate need of a secretary to replace Sharyn Martin.

So this is an appeal for a volunteer to come forth and contact me or any of the officers (Betsy, Joy or Chery). Your job will be mostly taking notes at Executive Board meetings and Board Business meetings, where votes are taken. In the month of March many of our members have been ill with sickness or medical problems, everything from colds to strokes. I have had a sinus operation removing polyps, but I, like many others, am on the road to mending. April is going to be a good month. Besides our regular meeting, we are sponsoring a "Write with Hemingway" program at the Auburn Library by our own Cathy MacHold. Let's support her and show the community we are here to promote both young and old (like me) Auburn-area writers. Our speaker in April is Sue Clark. Her talk will be on "Understanding Poetry." Let's all be there.

Skip Michael



Paul Landes Delivers the Goods

On March 16, 2016 Paul Landes spoke to Gold Country Writers about "Overcoming Stumbling Blocks:"

- 1) **Money:** have a day job
 - 2) **Time:** if you're retired, good but get organized
 - 3) **Fear:** get over writers block by changing your venue, going to a movie, taking a walk and having a dialogue with your main character
 - 4) **Deadlines:** don't set them
 - 5) **Perfectionism:** you can't please everyone all the time
 - 6) **Quotas:** if it works for you fine but don't sweat it if you miss one day, just make it up the next day
- ❖ Write what's on your mind
 - ❖ Start with Beta readers as soon as possible
 - ❖ Start with an editor when you think you're done writing
 - ❖ Get an agent only if you are doing traditional publishing
 - ❖ Show, don't tell
 - ❖ Self publish with Smash Words or Create space

Small Specialty Critique Groups

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, 12:30 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

Special Events

Friends of the Auburn Library

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

April 16, 2016 – Cathy MacHold-9:30-11:30 *Write with Hemingway- Writing Workshop* (Not a GCW Event)

Now – April 15, 2016 –Exhibit of Hemingway Photos in the Beecher Room of Auburn Public Library – Free to the public

GCW Special Program April 20, 2016

Sue Clark – *Understanding Poetry*

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

Friends of the Roseville Public Library

Poetry Contest

Basic Rules:

- Poems can be rhyming or non-rhyming
- Writers must be age 19 or older
- Fee of \$15/3- poems, due upon entry
- Entry deadline Post Marked or delivered by April 16, 2016
- Maximum of 32 lines/poem
- Poems must be in Times New Roman typeface, 12 Point
- Not a GCW Event

Go to Web Site for complete rules: www.rosevillefriendsofthelibrary.org

May 4, 2016 GCW Meeting, It is STAR WARS DAY as in "May the 4th be with you." We should all come as aliens, or Star Wars Characters. (Definitely a GCW Event!!)

Current Officers & Board Members of Gold Country Writers

President:

Skip Michael

916/601-1044

Genre ~ Science Fiction

Vice President:

Betsy Schwarzentraub

530/333-0852

Genre ~Christian nonfiction

Secretary:

Currently Open; Call Skip if you are interested

Treasurer:

Joy Hemp

650/799-5828

Genre ~ Self Help and Inspirational

Publicity Coordinator:

Chery Anderson

530/613-1153

Genre ~Storytelling

Mentor Coordinator:

Susan Korn

530/888-9971

Genre ~ Self-Help and Corporate Culture

Events & Fundraising Coordinator:

Joyce Rule

916/409-0131

Marketing Coordinator:

June Gillam

530/820-3020

Genre ~ Suspense Thrillers and Poetry

Newsletter Editor:

Michael O'Haver

530/268-2490

Genre ~ Christian Children's Books