

Gold Country Writers Dispatch

Our Mission is to Support Local Writers

April
2017
Issue

Coming April 12th
Drop-In Resource People
See Page 4 for Details

100-Word Story Contest

And the Winners are:

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The competition was fierce but the mystery judges made their decisions. The winners of the 2017 Gold Country Writer's 100-Word Story Contest are shown to the right. Close to 35 club members attended the festivities at the Sizzler, March 29th.



On the right, 2nd Place **Nanci Lee Woody** with the story-*Down the Drain*. In the middle 1st Place **Rebecca Inch-Partridge**, with the story-*Wallet*. On the left, 3rd Place **Jerry Scribner** with the story-*Coming Home*.

1st - *Wallet*, by Rebecca Inch-Partridge: “Hey lady, give me your wallet. “Okay. Relax. I’m not going to get myself killed over forty bucks. But I need my driver’s license, I’m flying out to see my dying mother.” “I don’t give a damn about your driver’s license.” “Of course you don’t. You must be in a bad situation to risk going to prison for armed robbery. Here’s my wallet and business card. I’m a social worker.” “I’m pointing a damn gun at your head and you want to help me?” “I believe God sent you to me for a reason.” “You can keep your damn wallet.”

2nd - *Down the Drain*, by Nanci Lee Woody: Roger, I’m making a chocolate cake for your birthday party tonight.” Tap tap, tap. “I could use some help here.” “Uh huh.” “Are you listening to me?” Tap, tap. Roger! You’re like a teenager. What can be so important on Facebook right now?” “Right away, Hon.” “I read that cell phones are addictive.” Tap tap, tap. “And they damage the brain.” Tap tap. “Destroy relationships.” “Uh huh.” “CNN just reported a tornado descending on our neighborhood.” Tap, tap, tap. “Roger, I’m pouring your cake batter down the drain.” Tap tap. “I’m leaving now. Text me if you notice. Happy 80th.”

3rd - *Coming Home*, by Jerry Scribner: He came home late. The house was dark except for one lamp. She sat in the living room wearing a negligee not seen in years. Her affair had sent him away. Now she knew he had someone too. “You don’t find me attractive, do you,” she said. “Of course I do.” His voice was flat. She stood and moved toward him, eyes downcast. The loss was unbearable. He wrapped his arms around her as he kissed her tears. His face was kind. Their eyes met, then their lips. A child’s voice called, “Daddy? Are you home?” “Yes” they answered together.

Celebrating Achieving 501(c) (3) Status



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 club business. All members are welcome to come and contribute. This is followed by a closed meeting of the club's Board of Directors.

Second & Fourth Wednesday: Drop-In Critique. This is the time when members

present samples (a maximum of five pages, double-spaced) of their writing to the group and everyone gets to offer his or her critique.

Third Wednesday: Special program of general interest to the club members. Topics change each month. See Page 4 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 other club members. See Special Events, page 5 for details.

Writing Contests

Amazon UK Kindle Storyteller Writing Competition

Amazon UK has announced The Kindle Storyteller Award, a new literary prize recognizing newly published works in the English language across any genre. The prize is open to all authors who publish their books through Kindle Direct Publishing on Amazon.co.uk between February 20 and May 19, 2017.

Titles must be previously unpublished, a minimum of 5,000 words with no upper word limit and be available as both an eBook and in print. Books must be published using Kindle Direct Publishing Select.

Writer's Quote

Anne Rice

"Evil is always possible. Goodness is a difficulty."



Gina L. Mulligan - Writing Historical Fiction in a Modern World

Definition of Historical Fiction-Writing with elements and the story line that take place in your historical era.

Explaining by Context: If you don't want to use footnotes or author's notes to explain historical terms, explain them in context. **Handcuffs** example

Don't use old words that sound modern, **Unfriend**, example.

Pick an era to write about that isn't well known to avoid being called out on details.

Arizona Mystery Writers Jim Martin Memorial Story Contest

The annual story contest for 2017 runs from January 1 to June 1, 2017! Anyone can enter – and anyone can win! Send in your short story in mystery, suspense, or thriller style. Entries may be up to 2500 words. **Prizes:** \$200 for First, \$100 for Second, and \$75 for Third. Winners will be officially announced on Sept. 9, 2017.

The entry fee is **\$15** per story, and you can submit more than one story if you like. Entries are judged "blind:" without the judges knowing who wrote the stories.

For entry form, judging criteria & past winners, go to the AMW website - http://www.arizonamysterywriters.com/?page_id=1449

Writer's Platform Group starts April 19, after Guest Speaker

Do you have an online presence to attract people to your writing? Some of us have a strong "writer's platform" from which to reach potential readers, and others are just beginning to build one. No matter where you are in the process, join us for some encouragement and accountability to strengthen your platform. Contact Betsy S.

Remember modern readers read differently than old-time readers.

When using colloquial dialogue, use just a word or two, not the whole dialogue.

Other Useful Tips:

- ✚ The best historical research sources are still books.
- ✚ Beware of too much wrong information on the Internet.
- ✚ Publishers will want to know your sources, so keep track of them.
- ✚ Read books written in the era you are writing for. Continued on Page 4



FROM THE PRES

GCW has had excellent speakers in the past. But our speaker for March, Gina Mulligan, was excellent. She was inspiring, informative and funny. Thank you, Margie Yee Webb, our chairperson in charge of speakers, for bringing her to GCW.

Many members are divided between self-publishing their book and using an agent and traditional publishing. The speaker for the month of April is Jennifer Chen Tran. She is a literary associate agent for Fuse Literary, located in the Silicon Valley. Hopefully she will shed some light on how literary agents and traditional publishers work, and what services they have to offer those who want to go the traditional publishing route.

The thoughts of spring:

Spring has sprung upon us, bringing all the flowers, bees and birds, and sometimes humans, in full pursuit to promulgate the species. But let's not forget the greenish yellow pollen, which torments most of us. Happy Spring....Achoo. Don't forget to take your allergy medicine.

Skip Michael

Gina L. Mulligan - Historical Fiction Continued



- ✚ After finishing a work, put it aside for a few weeks, and then read it again to see if it's complete.
- ✚ Editors work in layers.
- ✚ Foreign words should be in italics.
- ✚ End paragraphs and chapters with lines that draw the reader to the next line.
- ✚ Try moving your last line up to the first line of the next section.
- ✚ If using real people in your story, be careful to maintain authenticity in character.
- ✚ If you use real places, still around be extra accurate.
- ✚ When in doubt about places or persons, fictionalize them.
- ✚ The "Why" is often unknown, but it is what makes or breaks your story.
- ✚ *Jstor.org* – good historical Internet site.

Mulligan's 10 Hist. Fict. Rules

1. **Sweat the small stuff.** It's good for general knowledge.
2. **Keep your conscience clean.** when in doubt, fictionalize
3. **Resist judging your characters.** Research the moral standards of the era.

4. **Watch out for first person** – Many agents & editors don't like it.
5. **Don't get bogged down with backstory.** Pick out just what's necessary to move your story along.
6. **Anticipate a long process.** Her first book took 8 years to write.
7. **Edit out the history** – not necessary for the story.
8. **Watch for Language.** Especially watch the dialogue. Different terms should be explained in context.
9. **Pacing, Pacing, Pacing** Hold backstory down. Keep the story moving by ending chapters with a leading sentence.
10. **Enjoy** Whatever you do, enjoy your writing.

Drop-In Resource People

Starting on April 12, and continuing each Drop-In Critique day we will have club members set up at a secluded spot for members to receive help on specific topics. April 12th will be Susan Korn on Mentoring. April 26th will be Skip Michael on Computer Formatting. May 10th will be Michael O'Haver on Computer Graphics. If you are willing to volunteer, see a club officer.

Special Events

GCW Special Guest Program

April 19, 2017, 10-Noon at the church, **Jennifer Chen Tran**
2 Truths and a Lie - Common Myths and Facts in Publishing

Open Mic for the Spoken Word

4th Sat. of each month, 1:00 PM, at Auburn Library, April 22, 2017.
 Contact: Taleteller2@gmail.com **Not a GCW Event**

Art Bistro, Rocklin Open Mic Night

for storytelling, singers, poets, comedians - 3rd Tuesday of each month-
 April 18, 2017, 6 PM, 6848 Five Star Blvd. Suite 6 Rocklin, CA
 95677 **Not a GCW Event**

Placer's Gold Toastmasters

Every Tuesdays Noon-1 PM at Placer Co. DeWitt Justice Center,
 Richardson Dr. & B Ave. Auburn, **April 25 is a Special Open House Membership Meeting**, Contact: Michael O'Haver, **Not a GCW Event**

Our Life Stories Writer's Conference

Consumes River College, Sacramento, April 22, 2017
 1:00 – 5:00 PM, fee is \$25, Reservations Required **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., 2-4 p.m.

Historical Fiction: Contact Michael O'Haver – 530/268-2490. They meet once a month on the 4th Thursday, at 11:30 a.m. at The Daily Egg, 844 Lincoln Way, Auburn

Children's Lit: Contact Norma Lehr 530/878-8421. They meet at Norma's home on the 4th Thurs., 2-4 p.m.

Science Fiction/Fantasy: Contact Skip Michael 916/601-1044

Memoirs: Contact Susan Thompson 530/941-3778, call Susan for meeting times and places, they like to change it up.

Novel: Contact Ann Reh 530/823-1870. They meet every other Monday, 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. at La Bou



GCW Officers, Board Members & Committee Chairs

President : Skip Michael

916/601-1044 Genre ~ Sci. Fi.

Vice President - Internal

Affairs: Betsy Schwarzentraub
 530/333-0852

Genre ~ Christian Nonfiction

Vice President - External

Affairs: Chery Anderson
 530/613-1153 Genre ~
 Storytelling

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
 Genre ~ Self-Help & Corporate
 Culture

Marketing GCW & Events

Joyce Rule 916/521-5177
 Genre ~ Short Stories

Author Opportunities: June

Gillam 530/820-3020
 Genre ~ Suspense Thrillers &
 Poetry

Membership & Guest Speakers

Margie Yee Webb 916/213-
 0798 Genre ~ Gift Books

Newsletter Editor: Michael

O'Haver 530/268-2490
 Submit newsletter material by
 the 15th of each month to
GodsScribeMike@aol.com



Gold Country Writers

Third Wednesday Meeting

Wednesday April 19, 2017

10 a.m. to 12 Noon

~ Gold Country Writers proudly presents ~

Jennifer Chen Tran

*Two Truths and a Lie: Common Myths
and Facts in Publishing*



Join your fellow writers for an enlightening morning with Jennifer Chen Tran, Associate Agent at Fuse Literary acquiring both fiction and non-fiction, as she reveals myths and facts in publishing.

Jennifer is a lifelong reader, New York native, and experienced member of the publishing industry. Prior to joining Fuse Literary—a full-service, hybrid literary agency (<http://www.fuseliterary.com>), Jennifer was principal and owner of Penumbra Literary LLC, and served as Of Counsel at The New Press. She has also interned at Zachary Shuster Harmsworth literary agency, was an editorial and publicity intern at Hunter House Publishers (since acquired by Turner Publishing), and editorial intern at Terrain Magazine.

Jennifer obtained her Juris Doctor from Northeastern School of Law in Boston, MA, and a Bachelors of Arts in English Literature from Washington University in St. Louis, with a minor in Legal Studies. Originally a visual arts major turned English major, Jennifer appreciates creativity in all its incarnations. She was also Managing Editor of Student Life, Washington University's Independent Student Paper.

With a legal background, Jennifer understands the importance of negotiation when securing and retaining author rights. She counsels each client on building or expanding her platform, improving on craft, and works collaboratively with her clients to obtain the best deal for each writer's creative investment. She believes in building fulfilling and life-long writing careers and is honored to work with her client-writers.

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"**

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/>