

Gold Country Writers Digest

Our Mission is to Support Local Authors



Donna Levin

On March 20, GCW welcomed guest speaker Donna Levin, who spoke on how writers can handle "The Mid-Novel Blues." The author of two books on the craft, *Get That Novel Started* and *Get That Novel Written*, Donna offered several insights and suggestions for dealing with the common problem of getting stuck for ideas in the middle of a story.

"The Mid-Novel Blues," Donna explained, are all those negative messages we hear from ourselves and others. They make the author feel as if we can't go on, that our book will never work. The Blues often set in because writing *is* a very difficult process. It's work! Authors often get frustrated because the beginning of a book tends to come easily, and the middle of the book is much harder to develop.

So, what to do when those Blues set in? Donna advised that first of all, writers need to acknowledge that there *is* a problem, then:

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Self-Publishing 101
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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 "seniors" (people age 60 and over) for the salad bar will be \$15, including the tip, the costs for people under age 60 will be \$17. With a \$2 tip, it comes to \$19.

- **March 6** – Kick Off Date
- **May 1 will be the due date** for submissions.
- One entry per member.
- E-mail entries to GCW5991@gmail.com
- Entrants must be GCW members 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

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PROSE



FROM THE PRES

It can be a lonely world out there, especially for writers. But thankfully we have the gift of a writers' community! One benefit of Gold Country Writers is how we can learn from one another.

For example:

- Our Sunday, **April 7 Sharon Darrow workshop** on publishing is not only an opportunity to invite the public, but also to gain knowledge and contacts from her and from one another. It's from 1:00 to 5:30 p.m. at the General Gomez Arts and Events Center on Lincoln Way. Sign up in advance with Kate Luce (just \$15, including workbook) for a reserved spot at a table. Seating is limited.
- Finding out about **services for writers**, such as the description of different types of editors in the BookBaby booklet Margie Yee Webb brought from the San Francisco Writers Conference.
- Presenters at our Third Wednesday speakers' meetings, including **Indigo Moor on April 17**. As the Sacramento Poet Laureate, author and scriptwriter, he'll have a lot to share.
- Getting great marketing ideas, including the **Authors' Marketing Brainstorming Session on May 11** at 2 p.m. (Location TBD), guided by Pauline Nevins, Shelley Buck, and Mary West.

Such opportunities strengthen our skills, enlarge our contacts, and encourage us along the way!

Betsy

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.

Donna Levin, "The Mid-Novel Blues," Continued

- ◇Don't quit. Take that story and "wrestle it to the ground."
- ◇Get the story finished, even if it's a beginning effort.
- ◇Don't let your writing time disappear by getting distracted with other activities. Take a break if you absolutely must, but get back to work right away.
- ◇Write a scene that comes later in the book.
- ◇Write scenes you know won't be in the book, such as the backstory for various characters.
- ◇Work on a rival novel that you've been thinking about, but don't discard the current one. Get back to it quickly ASAP.
- ◇Do NOT go back and rewrite the beginning of the novel. This is a trap that can create all sorts of problems.
- ◇Join a better, more supportive writing group, but don't blame a group for your novel's shortcomings.
- ◇Take care to keep the tension high in the middle of your book. Don't pad it with scenes that contain lots of facts but no new information. Keep your characters growing.

Special Events

GCW Business & Executive Board Meetings

April 3, 2019, Starts at 10 a.m. at the church

Sharon Darrow Workshop – Self Publishing 101

April 7, 2019, General Gomez Arts and Events Center, 1-5:30 p.m. See Page 5

Guest Speaker Indigo Moor, Poet Laureate of Sacramento, April 17, 2019, 10 a.m. at the church, "Writing to History and Culture," followed by Read and Review: *Meditating Murder*, a mystery novel by Ann Reh

Open Mic. For the Spoken Word

April 20, 2019, 1 p.m., Auburn Library, Contact-Rebecca Partridge 530/889-1520

Local Author Expo

April 27, 2019, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Folsom Public Library, 411 Stafford St., Folsom, CA

Specialty Spin-off Critique Groups

Coordinator – Pauline Nevins -530/637-9163

Books: Contact Betsy Schwarzenraub 530/333-0852. By E-Mail, 5-20 pages, when possible meet in person, closed for new members at this time.

Children's Lit: Contact Norma Lehr 530/878-8421. They meet the 4th Thursday of each month, 2-4 p.m., Temporarily closed to new members.

Science Fiction/Fantasy: Contact Rebecca Inch Partridge 530/889-1520, Meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month, 5:45 p.m. Call Rebecca for location. Temporarily closed to new members.

Memoirs: Contact Susan Thompson 530/941-3778. They meet at Northridge Restaurant, 21515 Higgins Rd, off of 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. Closed to new members, e-mail Ann – allreh@yahoo.com for more information.

Evening Mixed Genre: Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge, 530/889-1520. Meet 1st Wed. each month 5:45 p.m., at Round Table Pizza, in Elm & I-80 Center, Auburn, CA 95603, group 1 does 5 pages; group 2 does 15 pages E-Mailed first.

Flash Fiction: Contact Chery Anderson, 530/613-1153. Meets 4th Tuesday of the month, 1 p.m. at Jeaninne's house in Rocklin. Five members share feedback on 1-2 page stories, around 500 words. Temporarily closed to new members.

Poetry: Contact Kathy Ward 209/704-0719, meets 4th Wed. of each month, following Drop-In-Critique, at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1279 High St., Auburn, bring 7-8 copies of your poems.



GCW Officers, Lead Team & Committee Chairs

President: Betsy Schwarzenraub
530/333-0852 Genre ~ Christian,
Concert & Book Reviews

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

V P – External Affairs, Marketing & Events: Frank Nissen 530/885-8873
Historical Fiction

Treasurer: Kate Luce
530/263-6112 Genre ~ Memoir

Secretary: Kathleen Ward
209/704-0719 Genre ~ Short Stories

Assistant Secretary:
Susan Thompson 530/941-3778
Genre ~ Memoir

Author Opportunities OPEN

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

Public Relations & Read & Review:
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,
Personal Essay & Fiction

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

Gold Country Writers is a nonpartisan, nonprofit group whose mission is to support local writers. As such it does not endorse or support the policies or philosophy espoused by any other organization or entity. Contests or events sponsored by other organizations are listed for information only, and rely on individual discretion.

Literary Events and Conferences

Compiled by Margie Yee Webb

Pitch a Publisher! Insider Secrets to Getting a Book Deal with Brenda Knight

April 5, 2019, San Francisco CA

<https://www.milibrary.org/events/pitch-publisher-insider-secrets-getting-book-deal-apr-05-2019>

<https://sfwriters.org/mil-classes>

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

Our Life Stories Writers' Conference

Note: Registration required by April 5, 2019

April 13, 2019, Sacramento CA

<https://ourlifestories.org/>

"Revealing the Tapestry of Our Life Stories" – a cross-generational memoir conference

Tri-Valley Writers Conference 2019

April 13, 2019, Pleasanton CA

<https://www.trivalleywriters.org/conferences/tri-valley-writers-conference-2019/>

3rd Annual Conference of Tri-Valley Writers

Independent Bookstore Day

April 27, 2019

<http://www.indiebookstoreday.com>

"Independent Bookstore Day is a one-day national party that takes place at indie bookstores across the country on the last Saturday in April. Every store is unique and independent, and every party is different."

2019 Sierra Poetry Festival

April 27, 2019, Grass Valley CA

<https://www.sierrapoetryfestival.org>

Nevada County Arts Council presents its 3rd Annual Sierra Poetry Festival at Sierra College in Grass Valley.

Gold Rush Writers Conference

May 3-5, 2019, Mokelumne Hill CA

<http://www.goldrushwriters.com>

14th Annual Gold Rush Writers Conference

Spring Spirit 2019

May 4, 2019, Citrus Heights CA

<https://canorthcentral.scbwi.org/events/spring-spirit-2019/>

Presented by Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators -- California: North/Central region

Bay Area Book Festival

May 4-5, 2019, Berkeley CA

<https://www.baybookfest.org>

5th Annual Bay Area Book Festival -- "Tens of thousands of book lovers meet hundreds of acclaimed authors over an exciting weekend in downtown Berkeley, California."

Nonfiction Writers Conference

May 8-10, 2019, Online

<http://nonfictionwritersconference.com>

The 9th Annual Nonfiction Writers Conference presented by the Nonfiction Authors Association.

Creative Writing Conference at UOP

May 17-19, 2019, Stockton CA

<https://www.writersconferenceatpacific.com>

Annual Conference on Creative Writing at the University of Pacific

One Book, One Community

The book chosen for One Book, One Community this year is *The Far Away Brothers*, by Lauren Markham.

There are several community events planned in April in conjunction with this:

April 3, 2019 – Panel discussion: "Immigration in our Community:" free event, 7:00 p.m., Placer High School Auditorium

April 10, 2019 – Evening With The Author, Placer High School Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

April 11, 2019 – Conversation with author at Sierra College Library second-floor coffee shop, 11:00 a.m.

100 word HATS OFF! Contest

(Continued)

- Then Skip Michael will send the stories with pen names only to judges for rating
- Entry should have:
 - Title
 - PEN NAME ONLY
 - EXACTLY 100 words
 - "100-Word Story Contest" in the SUBJECT LINE
 - Your story or entry

Sharon S. Darrow Workshop

April 7, 2019, 1 -5:30 p.m.

"Navigating the Publishing Maze:

Self-Publishing 101"

\$20 – General, \$15 – GCW

Price includes Workbook

Traditional, vs. Indie, vs. Hybrid,
vs. Self-Publishers

General Gomez Arts and Events
Center, 808 Lincoln Way, Auburn,
CA 95603

Register early, seating is limited

Send check made out to: Gold
Country Writers

To P. O. Box 5991 Auburn, CA
95604

Gold Country Writers at 2019 Local Author Expo

The Folsom Public Library's 2019 Local Author Expo – featuring over 40 local authors and writing groups – is on Saturday, April 27. Gold Country Writers will participate and a few slots are available for members to staff a table to promote our group and also sell their books. Please contact Margie Yee Webb if interested. Participating authors will be asked to donate a copy of their book to the library.

The event, scheduled from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 411 Stafford Street, Folsom, CA, will include panel presentations. All are welcome to attend.

12:30 p.m. – Paths to Publication

1:40 p.m. – On Memoir

2:10 p.m. – Writing a Book to Grow Your Business

What is there to a writer's life?

 *Eat*

 *Write*

 *Sleep*

Member News:

1. Kathryn Shields gave an outstanding presentation on Haiku to the Poetry Critique Group at their first meeting on Feb. 27
2. Betsy Schwarzentraub finished her book and had it formatted by John Reinhold. The book is now at IngramSparks for publication
3. Kathleen Ward has finished her young adult historical fiction book and is currently shopping for an agent.



Gold Country Writers

Third Wednesday Meeting

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

10 a.m. to 12 noon

Gold Country Writers proudly presents

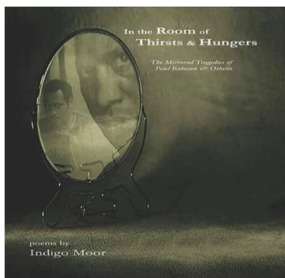
Indigo Moor

*Writing to History and
Culture:*

*Using the Tools of the Present
to Illuminate the Past*



For all writers invested in writing about culture and history, whether their own or someone else's. How do we transport the reader to the emotional moment of the writing and keep them there? We will examine seven effective elements that trap the reader in the event, anchoring the work. The objective of the seminar is to instill the writer's arsenal with tools that build authenticity of emotional place and time. We will use contemporary examples of poetry, fiction, and memoir. The seminar contains an optional exercise. (**Note:** Anyone attending may receive an emailed copy of the handout ahead of time. Email Margie Yee Webb—with subject line “GCW Indigo Moor”—at mywebb@sbcglobal.net. Margie will provide names to Indigo two weeks before seminar.)



Poet Laureate of Sacramento, **Indigo Moor** is also a scriptwriter and author. His first book, *Tap-Root*, was published as part of Main Street Rag's Editor's Select Poetry Series. His second book of poetry, *Through the Stonecutter's Window*, won Northwestern University Press's *Cave Canem* prize. As with *Tap-Root*, Indigo's 2017 release, *In the Room of Thirsts & Hungers*, is an Editor's Select choice from Main Street Rag.

Three of his short plays, *Harvest*, *Shuffling*, and *The Red and Yellow Quartet*, debuted at the 60 Million Plus Theatre's Spring Playwright's festival. His full-length stageplay, *Live! at the Excelsior*, was a finalist for the *Images Theatre Playwright Award* and has been optioned for a full-length film.

Indigo teaches at the Stonecoast MFA Program, where he graduated in 2012 with an MFA in poetry, fiction, and scriptwriting. He is on the advisory board for the Sacramento Poetry Center, a *Cave Canem* fellow, the resident artist at *916 ink*, and a graduate member of the Artist's Residency Institute for Teaching Artists. Indigo spends his days cleverly disguised as a mild-mannered Physical Design Engineer for computer companies. <https://www.indigomoor.org/>

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/>