

April, 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, Date & time to be announced. 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 your entry as an **ATTACHMENT! (Not in the body of the e-mail)**
- NOTE: this is BLIND judging, there will be 3 mystery judges

How you will be judged on Page 2



Coronavirus Cancels GCW Meetings

The Coronavirus has hampered our activities causing the cancellation of the GCW meetings for the rest of March and first half of April. But don't despair, there are still opportunities for members to practice their craft.

Chery Anderson is conducting a 100-Word writing exercise, not to be confused with our 100-word Hat's Off contest currently running. Betsy is inviting critiques of her study guides for her book *Growing Generous Souls*. Contact either one of those if you are interested.

Many of us are always looking for more opportunities to actually write. Well, this is our chance, without any interruptions, so I hope you take full advantage.

Inside the April 2020 Issue:

Pg 1 Hats Off 100-Word Contest, Corona-virus, SFWC Screen Writing Summit

Pg 2-Prose from The Pres, Meeting Schedule, Special Events, 100-Word Contest (Continued)

Pg 3-Spin-Off Critique Groups, Famous Writer's Quote, Officers & Committee Chairs

Pg 4-Literary Events & Conferences, SFWC Screen Writers Summit (Continued)

Pg 5-Member News, SFWC Poetry & Screen Writers Summits (Continued), Cartoon

Pg 6-No Guest Speaker for April

SFWC Screen Writing Summit

Summary by Barbara Young

The 2020 San Francisco Writers Conference in February was exciting, informative and inspirational. This single day summit was open to all interested writers to learn about writing for the entertainment industry.

The candid Q&A format offered attendees access to the creativity, experience, and wisdom of a best-selling and award-winning seven-expert panel. Their local, regional and national collective talent as artists, educators, speakers, historians, actors, authors, screen and play writers, journalists, illustrators, designers, photographers, producers, directors, broadcasters and even online content writers exemplified

PROSE



FROM THE PRES

Dear friends in GCW

I am writing on behalf of Susan Korn, our GCW President, since her recent shoulder surgery makes it painful for her to do much typing. She wants us to know:

We are still very much a community! Even though we can't meet in person right now, we are colleagues in writing and in life. Although so much of our lives doesn't feel normal now, thanks to the Coronavirus threat, much of our life together still goes on.

Some of our Spin-Off Critique Groups are continuing to "meet" through email, sharing as they would if we were physically together. The Poetry Group and the Spiritual/Inspirational Group are doing this, and perhaps others. If you are part of a critique group, we hope you'll connect with your Linking Person and start sharing by email, if you can. (The Linking People are listed in each GCW newsletter; you have their emails and phone numbers in your GCW Membership Roster.) It's a great way to care for one another, and also to encourage us all to keep writing.

If you're not in a critique group but would like to connect to someone else in GCW, by all means use your roster and send them an email. Connecting with you might be the highlight of their day.

The Hats Off! 100-Word Contest is still on! The only thing "To Be Announced" is the time and place for the awards celebration. It will happen, when we all know that it is safe to gather to celebrate. Susan and the officers will review the possible date for that on or around April 15.

At this point our third-Wednesday Speakers are cancelled for the time being. As soon as the Officers have an end date for this health concern, they will notify everyone with an E-Blast, also, the officers have a phone list of us all, so they will be able to notify us immediately whenever there are any changes.

Thank you for your trust and caring relationships with one another. Gold Country Writers is very much alive! We hold each one of you in our hearts.

Keep on writing!



Betsy

GCW Meeting Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, our regular monthly schedule is:

First Wednesday: Business Meeting to discuss organizational business. All members 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

CHANGED BY CORONAVIRUS

Special Events

April 1—Board Meeting Canceled

April 8—Drop-In Critique Canceled

April 15—Guest Speaker Canceled

April 22—Drop-In Critique????? Stay tuned for information

April 25—Open Mic. for the Spoken Word, ????? Stay tuned for more information.

100-Word Hats-Off Contest Judging Criteria

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

Science fiction writers, I am sorry to say, really do not know anything.

— Philip K. Dick



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

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.

Note: The following cancelations were as of 3/20/20, please check website before registering

Literary Events and Conferences

Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference
April 3-7, 2020, <https://writers.mounthermon.org/>

Pre-Conference Clinics April 1-3, speaker: Charles Martin, 8 Literary Agents, 6 Acquisition Editors, 9 Best Selling Authors on Faculty,

Sacramento Poetry Center Spring Writing Conference
April 4, 2020, Sacramento

CA
<http://www.sacramentopoetrycenter.com/>
Sacramento Poetry Center presents their annual conference.

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.”

WordSpring Creative Writing Conference

April 25, 2020, Oroville CA

<https://buttewordspring.org>
9th Annual WordSpring Creative Writing 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

Gold Rush Writers Conference

May 1-3, 2020, Mokelumne Hill CA

www.goldrushwriters.com

15th Annual Gold Rush Writers Conference

Sonoma County Writers Conference

May 2, 2020, Santa Rosa CA

<https://redwoodwriters.org>

11th Redwood Writers Conference

Nonfiction Writers Conference

May 6-8, 2020, Online

<https://nonfictionwritersconference.com>

10th Annual Nonfiction Writers Conference



Barbara Young & Michael O'Haver

San Francisco Writers Conference

The most prevalent questions at the Screen Writers Summit were around breaking into the entertainment industry and selling a screenplay or funding the filming of your movie..

The following are a few key summary points:

The entertainment industry is about networking and relationships. People work with and refer people they like.

You must love writing for the genre and the process of putting your screenplay out there for the sake of doing it, create compelling works and stick with it, until you are successful. **Continued on Page 5**

Member News

Patricia Dove Miller 2020 Workshops and Events

Ripples on a Silent Pond: A Yoga and Writing Practice Workshop. Learn to integrate yoga with a meditative “Writing Practice.” For all levels of students. Taught by Tracy Lease and Patricia Dove Miller at the Full Life Yoga Studio in Nevada City this summer. For more details, please contact Tracy at tracy@fulllifeyogastudio.com or (907) 687-2168.

New! Moon-Song Daylong Workshop. Teaches basic “Writing Practice” (based on Natalie Goldberg’s Writing Down the Bones). For all levels of writers. Held at a private home in Nevada City. Exact date to be arranged. For more details, please contact Barrett Briske at barrett.briske@gmail.com or (530) 277-7982.

Joyous Expression: A Day of Meditation and Writing Practice. “Writing Practice” will be integrated with sitting and walking meditation. For all levels of writers and meditators. Held at a private home in Auburn on May 23, 2020, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fee: \$50. **Please register by April 23** by contacting Mary Helen Fein at maryhelen@maryhelenfein.com or (530) 852-2260.

New! Creative Writing Daylong Workshop: Advanced Craft Techniques. Learn craft techniques to improve your writing, and give and receive structured, detailed feedback. For intermediate and advanced students. Held at a private home in Nevada City. Exact date to be arranged. For more details, please contact Barrett Briske at barrett.briske@gmail.com or (530) 277-7982.

Women’s Weekend Writing Retreat. Experience a peaceful weekend focused on your writing with a small group of women. For intermediate and advanced students. To be held at a nearby retreat location. Exact date to be arranged. For more details, please contact Barrett Briske at barrett.briske@gmail.com or (530) 277-7982.

Patricia is also available for private lessons, editing, coaching, and manuscript consultation.

For more details or to register for **private lessons**, please contact **Patricia Dove Miller** at pat@patriciadovemiller.com or (619) 300-1265 or visit her website: www.patriciadovemiller.com.

CANCELED

Janet Collins will be a presenter at the Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference April 3-7, 2020.



Keep on Writing!

5

SFWC Screen Writing Summit

Everyone is busy in the industry. Time and attention are valuable and limited.

You need an exceptional logline that will snag one's attention. This is a single sentence that states the who, what, when, where, how and why about the screenplay, with an emotional hook.

Unlike writing fiction in a screenplay, you don't show. Telling is done through narration and conversation. It must evoke the creativity of the director, producer, photographer, actor and wardrobe designer.

SFWC Poetry Summit Cont. From March

Traditional publishing-show your editor you are engaged and willing to do some of the leg work, like book signings and talks at book clubs. Show them publishing your work is a symbiotic relationship. Build up your publishing history. The minimum poetry book is 50 **good** poems. What matters most is what you do after publishing. Poems used on a blog are not considered published. Rhyming poetry in children's books are not in.

Session 4 Marketing-That you can participate in – open mic, readers review, speaking at book clubs, (it can be done with others or by yourself, or even with all in your audience participating), writing reviews, get reviews of your book (Amazon does not care if reviews are from friends and relatives, most others do). Do a one sheet summary of your book. Make postcards with your book cover on one side and a summary of the book on the other. Make bookmarks. Send post cards to all book fairs and book shows. Doing reviews will get your name out there. You learn a lot by doing reviews. Send review copies of your book to trusted friends for reviews at least 6 months prior to publication.

Snapshots at jasonlove.com



No Guest Speaker scheduled for April Due to the ban on group meetings

