

May, 2020

GCW Dispatch



100 word HATS OFF! Contest

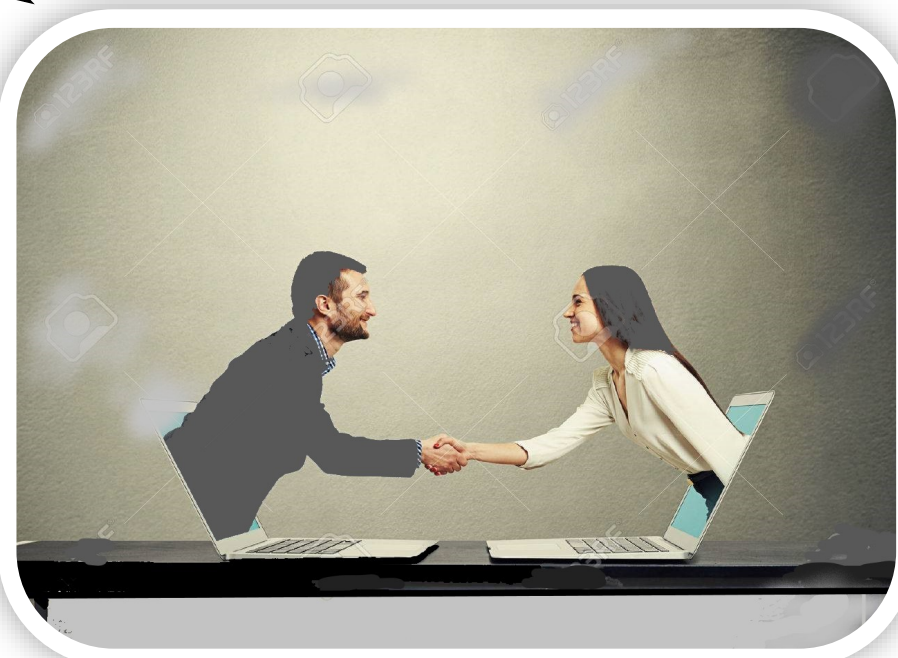
The 100-Word Story Contest deadline for submissions has been extended until May 10.

The awards celebration is still pending. It will depend on if we can gather in person by then or not. You will be notified by E-Blast when we know.

Contest Dates & Rules:

- **March 4** – Kick Off Date
- **May 10 is the new 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 three mystery judges

How you will be judged on Page 2



Virtual Meetings

The precautions due to the Coronavirus have led us to hold our club meetings via Zoom. Zoom is a free app that can be downloaded to either your smart phone or your computer. If you have any difficulty doing so, contact Skip Michael for assistance.

Inside the May 2020 Issue:

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PROSE



FROM THE PRES

Well, it's May 2020, and most of us have yet to enjoy the spring days with our family and friends.

What happened to life as we knew it? Somehow, that old song comes to mind, "I'm so lonesome I could cry..." I had a right shoulder replacement surgery on March 5, 2020 and am now just entering the physical therapy recovery period. It is not for the faint of heart because some of those reaching exercises are brutal and leave you exhausted. But enough about me—how about all of you?

I'm very proud of my Executive Officers and Board of Directors for holding our 10:00 a.m. Wednesday meetings via Zoom. Many thanks to Skip for setting up this process so we can all see each other and express our feelings about living in the day of "Corona." Now that we have all experienced "social distancing," we at GCW will be creating a process to prepare for another epidemic virus that requires quarantine standards. If we meet this goal, GCW will continue to function on a weekly basis using the media.

Please hold onto your hats until we celebrate again in physical form as a wonderful group membership. It is with a full heart that I wish all of you to take good care of yourselves, wear masks in public, wash hands, and remember, when all else fails, write a book.

Respecting Government Recommendations,

Susan

GET THAT BOOK TO A PUBLISHER DURING DOWN TIME

"With so many people temporarily at home and turning to books for relief from boredom, we foresee huge increases in book sales down the road. People are tearing through their "must read" lists now and will have nothing left to read when things get back to normal. There may be no better time to get your book in the queue for publication, as we predict very robust future book sales."

Christian Faith Publishing



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 education-al programs of general interest to all, open to the public. Topics

CHANGED BY CORONAVIRUS

Special Events

May 6—Business/Board Meeting 10 a.m. on Zoom

May 13—Drop-In Critique 10 a.m. on Zoom

May 20—Guest Speaker (Maybe) 10 a.m. on Zoom

May 27—Drop-In Critique 10 a.m. on Zoom

Watch for new news in Chery's E-Blasts

100-Word Contest (Continued from page 1)

Judging will be based on -

1. 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)

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 Thursday of each month, 2-4 p.m. Temporarily closed to new members.

Science Fiction/Fantasy: Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge. Meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at 5:45 p.m. Temporarily closed to new members. Currently meeting on Zoom.

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. Sharing poems online to members. Will resume regular meeting soon.

Spiritual/Religious/Inspirational: Contact Betsy Schwarzentraub. Meets by e-mail until further notice.

For group leader contact information, consult your membership roster.

Note: Contact group leaders to learn the current schedule for your group.



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

Famous Writer's Quote

*"A word is dead
When it is said,
Some say.
I say it just begins
to live that day."*

– Emily Dickinson

2020

VOICES OF LINCOLN POETRY CONTEST

1st, 2nd & 3rd prizes awarded in each contest category; choose your categories, up to three, one poem for each:

Categories:

- ◇ What do I see when I look in the mirror?
- ◇ I see you in my dreams
- ◇ You should have seen what I saw today
- ◇ I see a world with many opportunities
- ◇ See if I can make you laugh
- ◆ Poems can be rhyme, free verse, haiku, or other accepted poetry form, maximum of 60 lines.
- ◆ Young poets, 18 and under have their own category.
- ◆ Contest Deadline: July 18, 2020
- ◆ Questions: Alan Lowe at slolowe@icloud.com

For entry forms & rules go to: <https://friendsofthelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/Voices-of-Lincoln.pdf>



The Shelter in Place mandate seems to be working—somewhat



On April 15, 2020, Joan Griffin, shown above, gave a wonderful informative presentation on [Creative Nonfiction](#) writing. Via Zoom, she used as an example the 2020 One Book One Community book selection, *Ghosts of Gold Mountain* to illustrate the new genre of Creative Nonfiction writing.

This genre bridges the gap between strict history and historical fiction. It can utilize dramatization and interpretation, if a disclaimer is included. For instance, the author can visit the scene where an incident took place and say something like, “if you were here you could have felt the icy wind that blows frequently...”

Ghosts of Gold Mountain is the story of the Chinese who built the transcontinental railroad. They comprised 90 percent of the work force who worked for the Central Pacific RR, which went from Auburn over the Sierras to Promontory Point, Utah where it joined with the Union Pacific, coming east.

The book’s author, Gordan Chang is a professor at Stanford University, an expert on the history of the Chinese in the U. S. He led a research project that searched far and wide to document how the Chinese, who fought discrimination and prejudice, emerged as the driving force that was responsible for completing the most difficult section of the transcontinental railroad through the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Continued on Page 6

Literary Podcasts, Webinars and Blogs

Compiled by Margie Yee Webb

Spotlight on San Francisco Writers Conference 2020!

(held in February)

Podcasts — San Francisco Writers Conference

<https://www.sfwriters.org/category/podcasts/>

Free podcasts include —

Podcast: Memoirist, Linda Joy Myers, How to Write a Memorable Memoir — San Francisco Writers Conference
Hosted by Carla King

<https://www.sfwriters.org/podcast-three-questions-about-memoir-writing-with-linda-joy-myers/>

Blog — San Francisco Writers Conference

<https://www.sfwriters.org/blog/>

Blog posts include —

Motivation Monday: The Technology That Binds Us — San Francisco Writers Conference

By Carla King

<https://www.sfwriters.org/motivation-monday-the-technology-that-binds-us/>

SFWC 2020 Presenter Handouts

For SFWC 2020 sessions with presenter handouts, some are available via links on this page.

SFWC Presenter Handouts 2020 — San Francisco Writers Conference

<https://www.sfwriters.org/sfwc-presenter-handouts-2020/>

SFWC 2020 MP3 Recordings

FREE MP3 recordings for two SFWC 2020 sessions from VWTapes! “Pick your favorite sessions from the 2020 San Francisco Writers Conference. Hear Jonathan Maberry, Brooke Warner, or Walter Mosley...over 100 sessions to choose from.” See the “SFWC April Newsletter” for details. Offer good through July 1, 2020.

San Francisco Writers Conference Newsletter

<https://archive.aweber.com/sfwcnewsletter>

SF Writing for Change 2019 Audio

Writing for Change Conference Audio 2019- FREE to download! — San Francisco Writers Conference

<https://www.sfwriters.org/product/writing-for-change-conference-audio-2019-free-to-download/>

Free Webinars on Writing

<https://writingforyourlife.com/webinars/>

Book-to-Movie Pipeline Contest

[Book Pipeline](#) connects writers worldwide with publishers, agents, and the film industry. Through two submissions platforms—Unpublished and Adaptation—the company seeks both new and established authors and playwrights.

Previous winners include M Dressler’s acclaimed novel *The Last to See Me*, the true story *Veteran’s Day* from whistleblower Paula Pedene, and the award-winning play *Application Pending* by Tony Award Winner Andy Sandberg and Greg Edwards.

For 20 years, [Script Pipeline](#) has bridged the gap between up-and-coming writers and the industry through a unique, long-term, hands-on facilitation process. The result thus far has been \$7 million in scripts sold to studios and networks since 1999. In total, across both Book and Script Pipeline, **over 20,000 pieces of creative material** are reviewed annually, with over 1,800 entries submitted to Book Pipeline in 2018.

Learn more about [Script Pipeline](#) and [Pipeline Media Group](#) (PMG) at www.pipelinemediagroup.com

Entry Deadline for Adaptation changed to May 20, 2020

For more information go to:

<https://bookpipeline.com/?msclkid=a3fbff5ed50d18f9321da1c5e6eda0d0>

PersoniFest 2020

April 23, 2020 / 9:30 a.m. EST / 8:30 a.m. CST
<https://www.personifest.com/pfest2020/Public/Enter.aspx>

Formerly paid, now a free event

Each year, we look forward to hosting our clients, partners and employees from around the world at PersoniFest to talk about the future of the constituent experience, unveil the latest product and platform innovations, and get inspired together as a community.



The keynote, NASA Astronaut, Mike Massimino, joins PersoniFest Virtual to share his perspective on this moment in history and the parallels with his space career. After two missions to the Hubble Telescope and four space walks, Mike is now the Senior Adviser for Space Programs at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, a frequent guest on *The Big Bang Theory*, and a **New York Times bestselling author**. See this down to earth spaceman share his insight into conquering new horizons, the isolation of space and the ambition, ingenuity and teamwork of a "Moonshot."

Creative Nonfiction (continued from pg 4)

Creative Nonfiction is likened to jazz. It combines the elements of several genres. It is a rich mixture of techniques, some newly invented, and others as old as writing itself.

This book is a well-researched historical account that examines the clashing of cultures. As Creative Nonfiction, it is an engaging piece of literature that is well written with intriguing characters, conflicts, obstacles, and an epic climax that holds the reader's interest.

James Sturbridge, the Central Pacific Supervisor was converted from hating the Chinese to loving them because they took the hard jobs that the white men turned down and proved to be reliable hard workers. The role of the Chinese in this project has been downplayed and this book finally gives them the credit they so richly deserve.

Developing a Book Marketing Strategy

By Michael O'Haver

During this down time caused by the Coronavirus Pandemic, I have been working on some neglected projects that I have been putting off, for more interesting ones. One of these is sending my book *Sierra Gold Fever* out to traditional publishers to see if it creates enough interest to get published. Using my most recent Sally Stuart Christian Writers' Market Guide, I have sent it out to a half dozen publishers in the following categories: historical fiction, historical fiction romance, western fiction, fiction young adult, frontier fiction, and frontier fiction romance. So far I have received two offers to publish but they both turned out to be vanity presses. The moral here is to do your due diligence when researching websites. So I am continuing to send query letters out.

From the questions asked by publishers today I have come to realize I need to have a good marketing plan in order to get a full-ride publisher. The same is true if you are self-publishing as well. So using my book as an example, and some help from Betsy, this is the marketing strategy I came up with:

- ◇ Identify your target audience (see categories above)
- ◇ Determine the best ways to reach these markets
- ◇ Set up your website (one for each book genre)
- ◇ Develop a mailing list (start with friends, family, club members, book reviewers in your genre, etc.)
- ◇ Start a blog in conjunction with your website
- ◇ Schedule interviews with various media
- ◇ Consider podcasts and webinars
- ◇ Run contests offering your book as prizes (great for adding to your mailing list as well)
- ◇ Develop a speaking tour using topics associated with your book (California history, westward expansion, 49er gold strike)
- ◇ Seek out reviews for your book (use good ones as endorsements on back cover)
- ◇ Take advantage of Google Analytics on website
- ◇ Plan a book launching
- ◇ Schedule book signings
- ◇ Embrace social media, they're not going away, pick two or three and concentrate on them
- ◇ Write a press release and send it out
- ◇ Have an elevator speech pitching your book prepared
- ◇ Make a commitment to do two or three of these things each week and follow through
- ◇ Have a "Commitment Buddy" check on you frequently to see if you are doing what you've planned.