



Our Mission ~ Support Local Writers

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

June, 2016 Issue

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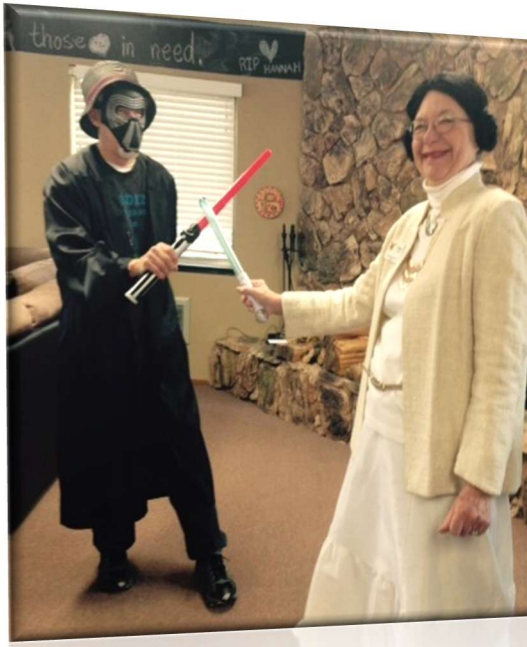
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From left to right - Darth Vader (AKA Michael) battles Princess Leia (AKA Chery) on May 4th, Star Wars Day – *May the Force be With You*

What is a 501(c)(3)?

A 501(c) organization, also known colloquially as a 501(c), is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization in the United States. Section 501(c) of the United States Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. § 501(c)) provides that 29 types of nonprofit organizations are exempt from some federal income taxes. Sections 503 through 505 set out the requirements for attaining such exemptions. Many states refer to Section 501(c) for definitions of organizations exempt from state taxation, as well. 501(c) organizations can receive unlimited contributions from individuals, corporations, and unions. The most common



type of tax-exempt nonprofit organization falls under category 501(c)(3), whereby a nonprofit organization is exempt from federal income tax if its activities have the following purposes: charitable, religious, educational, scientific, **literary**, testing for public safety, fostering amateur sports competition, or preventing cruelty to children or animals. The Lead Team of Gold Country Writers has been pursuing obtaining 501(c)(3) status. Our former club secretary Sharyn Matin has been the person spearheading this effort. The process has not stopped with her absence. Joy Hemp knows the new Executive Director for the El Dorado Vision Coalition. Joy is their bookkeeper. It turns out she helps organizations file their 501 (c) (3) paperwork. She will do ours for \$30. So the process is still underway and should be completed soon.

Visit us at our web site:

www.GoldCountryWriters.com

Character Development

From Literature Structure,
Sound, and Sense
By Laurence Perrine &
Thomas R. Arp

Less experienced writers have characters that are clearly either good or bad. Their main characters are always attractive, decent, honest, and good-hearted, so that the reader can identify with them. If the hero or heroine has vices or bad qualities, they must be such as the readers themselves would not mind or would enjoy having.

Experienced writers use interpretive fiction. This is where their characters seem more human. That is they have a great variety of personality traits.

Authors present their characters through two types of writing – direct presentation or indirect presentation. It's the old "show and tell" concept. For example, direct is: Joe is an upstanding honest fellow. Indirect presentation is the show. Here the author defines the character by their actions or by dialogue. The direct method must be supported by the indirect in order to be emotionally convincing.

Continued on page 3

Jerry Elmer gives Tips on Free Internet Software



- ✚ Always back up your work. Use an external hard drive, flash drive or disc image backup. Keep them in a fire-proof box.
- ✚ Have a good firewall-keeps bad stuff out of computers.
- ✚ Don't download "toolbars"
- ✚ Get a 3rd party web browser. Hackers can't access your computer. Have 2 or 3 browsers, for backups.
- ✚ Have a good anti-virus system
- ✚ Inforview – good photo editing system, good for digitally resizing photos
- ✚ Kindle Preview is good for seeing how your e-books look.
- ✚ Jutoh – good e-book maker, costs \$39 but worth it.
- ✚ thegimp – good photo editing system.

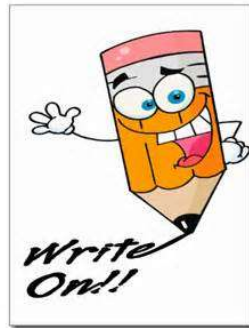
Ask Jerry for his handout with all the Internet links.

Writer's Quote



"Harper Lee

"Real courage is you know you're licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what."
(thinkexist.com)



Chery Anderson also took us for a driving tour of our club website. It was very educational for all. Those who aren't taking advantage of the member profile section were urged to do so.



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 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 their critique.

Third Wednesday: Special program of general interest to the club members. This changes each month. In Dec. it is our club Holiday Party. 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.



Character Development, continued

Characters can be characterized by one or two traits: often summed up in one sentence. Round characters live by their roundness, by the many points at which they touch life.

In good fiction, characters are characterized fully enough to justify their roles in the story and make them convincing. Inexperienced writers use special flat characters called stock characters. These are stereotype characters that appear so often in fiction that readers immediately know them.

For instance, we recognize the strong silent sheriff or the brilliant detective. Good writers have a minimum of stock characters in their stories. They may also take a conventional type and by adding individualizing touches, create a new and memorable figure, such as Sherlock Holmes.

Characters can be either static or developing. That is, they can stay the same at the end as they were at the beginning or they can change. The developing character undergoes a permanent change in some aspect of their personality or outlook in life.

In any one work of fiction all the characters cannot be developing. This must be reserved for the main characters.

A convincing change meets three conditions:

- 1) It is within the possibility of the character who makes it.
- 2) It is sufficiently motivated by the circumstances.
- 3) It is allowed sufficient time for a change of its magnitude to believably take place.

“Human life began we are told, when God breathed life into a handful of dust and created Adam. Fictional life begins when an author breathes life into characters and convinces us of their reality.” Though all characters in fiction need not be fully characterized, soundness of characterization is a test by which an author sinks or swims. The good fiction writer creates a world where the initial act of creation is repeated again and again by the miracle of their imagination.

Summarized by Michael O’Haver

“Human life began, we are told, when God breathed life into a handful of dust and created Adam. Fictional life begins when an author breathes life into characters and convinces us of their reality.”

From the Pres

This is a personal note to those members who showed up for the business meeting. Thank you for being there and voting for the “slate”. This will allow us to move forward in setting up our 503 (c3) status for the club. At the executive board meeting that followed the business meeting, I was selected to be you President for another year. I am looking forward to the challenges the next year will bring. I have a great team that work tirelessly and thoughtfully to make our club what it is today. This is going to be a good year; we have many interesting speakers and events planned.

A special thanks to Michael O’Haver and Kathy Ward. Michael was selected to be the club Secretary and Kathy the assistant Secretary. Two people who step forward to help make the club a success. Anybody who would like to help, please talk to me, or any of the officers and let us know. Help is always needed and appreciated.

Skip Michael

Special Events

June 15, 2106 GCW Guest Speakers

Maryellen Burns & Lawrence Fox

Promoting Your Darlings

at Bethlehem Lutheran Church,

1279 High St., Auburn

Open Mike for the Spoken Word

3rd Sat. of each Month– 1:00 – 3:00 PM at

Placer County Auburn Library, Beecher

Room, Contact: Chery Anderson

Taleteller2@gmail.com

(Not a GCW Event)

Placer's Gold Toastmasters

Meets each Tuesday from Noon – 1, at 2929

Richardson Dr. at the Placer County Justice

Center, Community Meeting Room,

Visitors are always welcome, Contact

Michael O'Haver (Not a GCW Event)

Shut Up and Write

1st – 4th Tuesdays of each Month

at Bake & Brew Coffee Shop, 958

Lincoln Way, Auburn

you must register in advance through

Meet-Up Website (Not a GCW Event)

July 16, 2016

Betsy Schwarzentraub's Writer's Retreat

at her home, details to follow next month.



Specialty Critique Groups

Four small specialty critique groups in the following areas:

Book: Contact Betsy Schwarzentraub 530/333-0852, they meet at Depot Bay, on 2nd & 4th Wed, 12-3:00 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

The GCW Lead Team is clarifying our structure to fit our current and future growth. So you'll notice a few new titles.

The "VP of External Affairs" does publicity and strengthens our community relationships. The "VP of Internal Affairs" supports the chairs of all internal groups and events.

The Assistant Secretary does the duties of the Secretary when they are absent.

NEW as of 7-1-16

Officers & Board Members of GCW

President

Skip Michael

916/601-1044

Genre ~ Science Fiction

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 Coordinator:

Joyce Rule

916/521-5177

Genre ~ Short Stories

Author Opportunities

(Book Mama):

June Gillam

530/820-3020

Genre ~ Suspense

Thrillers & Poetry

Newsletter Editor:

Michael O'Haver

530/268-2490

Submit Newsletter Material by

the 15th of each month to

GodsScribeMike@aol.com