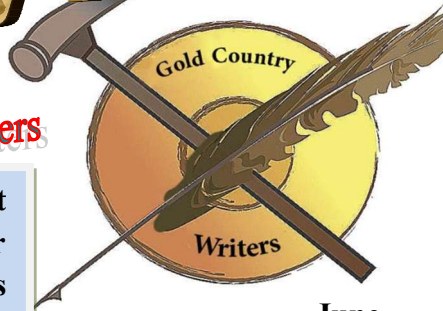


Gold Country Writers Dispatch

Our Mission is to Support Local Writers

Gold Country Writers does not support any particular ideological, political or religious viewpoint, and encourages writers to explore multiple avenues for their writing.



June
2017
Issue

Inside the June 2017 Issue:

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Writers Equipped and Inspired at Mount Hermon

By Betsy Schwarzentraub

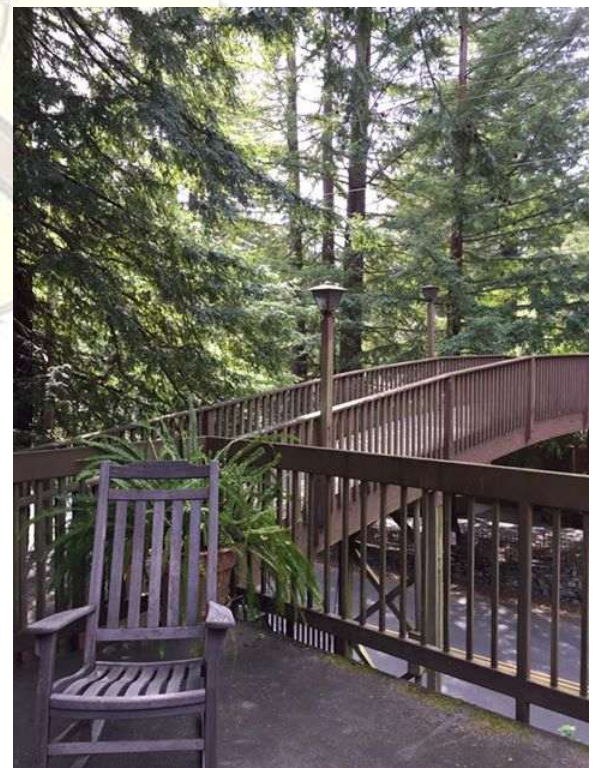
I attended the Christian Writers Conference this April at Mount Hermon, in the beautiful redwoods of Felton, CA. Best-selling authors, agents, and editors from publishing houses came from across the U.S. to teach, and offered priceless fifteen-minute sessions with individuals to critique and hear pitches. The conference overflowed with resources to equip and inspire writers for an amazing range of genres! I drank in every resource I could – and bought a thumb drive of all the workshops, to learn and share with interested GCW members over the months ahead.

Workshops were the heart and life of the five-day experience. We chose from the following eight-hour Major Morning Track options: getting started or restarted as a published author; writing your best nonfiction book now; a Christian approach to writing; using humor; writing for children; creating stand-out fiction; and lifestyle marketing, which I attended.

Afternoons offered a stunning 42 one-hour workshops, from which we could choose six, on various topics:

- Fiction – from Sci. fi. and Romance novels to Flash fiction and Writing fight scenes;
- Writing for children – from Picture books to Beginning readers;
- The business of writing – from Use of time to Funding our passion;
- Nonfiction – from Travel writing to Creative nonfiction;
- The writing process – from Historical research to How to title your book and carry its theme;
- Specialty markets – from Screenwriting to Christian cards;
- Book promotion – from Writing a winning one-sheet for your book to Secrets for writing a great book proposal.
- Writer's platform - with workshops from Starting your platform to Doing an online presence makeover.

I look forward to presenting some highlights about this topic at 10:00 on July 19, when Gold Writers meets in the Rose Room at City Hall.



The Writer's Chair beckons writers to sit and write.

PROSE



FROM THE PRES

Dear members.

This will be my last Pres message for the newsletter. My term as president will end on July 1st and the new president will lead you. This is my time to say it has been a pleasure serving and leading the GCW for the past two years. We have come a long way. I remember just a few of us meeting at the Depoe Bay coffee shop. I guess it can be said that Chery Anderson and I are the founders of Gold Country Writers since we were always there and led the meetings. We have seen many, many changes since those sparse meetings at Depoe Bay. I can still remember the meeting where she and I pondered if we should have dues or not. We settled on asking the people attending to donate \$3.00 to help pay for some of the things we needed to buy for "the club." The club grew in size and reputation. We grew so fast we had to move from Depoe Bay. We found a place at the Placer Arts Center on Lincoln Way, Auburn. We used a small meeting room on the main floor; it was adequate and suited us well. It was later decided by Chery and me to join Placer Arts as an affiliate. After being relegated to the basement and for other reasons, we separated from Placer Arts. By this time Joyce Rule was a member. Her sharp mind and past expertise as an event coordinator became invaluable. She drew up a matrix and guidelines for the ideal place to meet. After several months of searching, the Lutheran church we now meet in was found. And we grew and are still growing. We seem to get a new member every time we meet.

I have enjoyed talking to each and every one of you. I find all of you funny, fascinating and serious in your quest to fulfill your goals. Thanks again for allowing me to be your president.

Skip Michael

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 of their writing to the group (a maximum of five pages, double-spaced), 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 5 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.

Writer's Quote

Painting is silent poetry,

Poetry is painting that speaks.

Author Unknown

All Authors With Books on Amazon

June Gillam reports that all books that receive 50-plus reviews get kicked up to a higher level, where they get better marketing. So all who can, please review other club member's books.

Writing Contests

Voices of Lincoln is holding a poetry contest. Entries can be in traditional rhyme, free verse, Haiku or other accepted poetry form.

Select up to 3 of the following categories and submit one of each: *Love is all around us*, *Dreams do come true*, *On the street where I live*, *Gone but not forgotten*, **or** *A second chance*.

Youth 18 and under have a separate category. Submission deadline is July 22, 2017. 1st, 2nd & 3rd place awards in each category will be presented. Go to www.libraryatlincoln.org for entry form and complete rules.

Kudos

Michael O'Haver submitted an article to the Pacific Union Recorder Magazine entitled *Auburn Expands its Outreach*. It was chosen to be published in the June, 2017 Issue. Following is a note sent by the Editor: "Thank you for sharing one church's successful ministries! I'm incredibly impressed with Auburn's outreach. This is exactly the kind of church I would like to attend. You should really send this to the Northern California Conference Communications Office. Church members need to see this."

101 Reasons Not to Write



EXCUSE #18

I'm installing my new ACME Voice Activated Novel Builder software.

Travel Writing for Profit & Other Insane Reasons



Ken & Dahlynn McKowen

The husband & wife McKowen team have parlayed Ken's career as a Forest Service Ranger into a writing career with 25 books to their credit. They are retired now, but they have done nonfiction, historical fiction, ghostwriting, editing and publishing. Their advice if you want to be a travel writer is:

- o Love doing research
- o Map out your route
- o Be equipment-savvy
- o Be detail-oriented
- o Know your audience
- o Back up your work
- o Don't overuse "I"
- o Have a backup camera
- o Document the people
- o Be different
- o Don't depend on electronics
- o Expect the unexpected; follow your hunches
- o No armchair writing (visit your sites)
- o Look for multiple uses of your research
- o Look for and document your facts
- o Primary sources for historical fiction:
 - ◇Diaries, ◇Journals, ◇Newspaper articles
- o Be highly organized
- o Use monopods
- o Be an expert
- o Find your niche
- o Keep good records
- o Keep a photo log
- o Author's Platform
- o Promote yourself
- o Work your sources

Their website: Publishingsyndicate.com

Good books on Travel Writing:

Guide to Travel Writing by Don George,

Travel Writing by Louise Peat O'Neil

Web search for trademark titles – uspto.gov

Special Events

GCW Special Guest Program

June 21, 2017, 10-Noon at the church, Donna Levin, on

Too Many Writers are Buried in Plots

Open Mic for the Spoken Word

4th Sat. of each month, 1:00 PM, at Auburn Library, June 24, 2017.

Contact: Taleteller2@gmail.com Not a GCW Event

Placer's Gold Toastmasters

Every Tuesday, Noon-1 PM at Placer Co. DeWitt Justice Center,
Richardson Dr. & B Ave. Auburn, Contact: Michael O'Haver,

Not a GCW Event

Conference on Creative Writing at Pacific

June 23-25, 2017, University of the Pacific-Stockton

Campus, Contest-\$500 for best unpublished novel, Cost varies

For details visit: <http://writersconferenceatpacific.com/>

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., 12-3 p.m.

Historical Fiction: Contact Michael O'Haver – 530/268-2490. They meet once a month on the 4th Thursday, at 11:00 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



GCW Book Club

At the May 24 GCW meeting Nanci Woody and Reene Abbott of the *Auburn Journal* told the club about their plans underway for an Auburn Book Club. Reene reads our books and writes the outstanding reviews that appear in the *Auburn Journal*. Carol Guild, whom many of you know, has been promoted to the position of Editor at the Auburn Journal.

The idea of the Book Club is to promote local authors. The *Auburn Journal* will cooperate by publishing an article about the book club with all the details (which we don't yet have). The *Auburn Journal* will follow up with the book selection for the period, and a review. The article will invite readers of the *Auburn Journal* to join the club, read the book, and meet with the author on a designated date.

- 1) We will start the Book Club with the *Auburn Journal* and its readers with an eye to expanding to other Gold Country Media audiences in the future.
- 2) We will feature books by local authors, members of GCW.
- 3) We will feature one book at a time, every month or every other month.
- 4) The *Auburn Journal* will begin the Book Club with articles setting out the parameters of the book club and inviting people to join. Email addresses will be collected so that the readers of the featured book can be contacted. The featured author will meet with readers at the end of the time period at a place to be determined. This will be promoted by the *Auburn Journal* and GCW.
- 5) A person(s) will be chosen to coordinate the book to be featured with the *Auburn Journal* reviewer, Reene Abbott.
- 6) Criteria will be developed by GCW and the *Auburn Journal* for selection of the book for the period. It will be reviewed by Reene, and the review will be posted in the *Auburn Journal*.
- 7) *Auburn Journal* will invite people to buy the book at a local bookstore, or check it out at the local library. Information will be given, too, on how to get an Amazon copy - Kindle or paperback.
The featured author will be responsible for making sure the bookstore and the library have the book available.
- 8) Reene will post a review of the selected book at the same time the *Auburn Journal* announces that it is the "book of the month."
- 9) The local author featured for the month will meet with readers at the end of the period. A designated space for the meeting is to be determined.
- 10) Shall we give our book club a name?
- 12) We will encourage all members of GCW to read the books selected for the period, as well as other books written by our members.

People Needed:

- 1) Overall coordinator from GCW
- 2) Reviewer at *Auburn Journal*, publicity articles to *Auburn Journal*, keep email list of members of book club, KAHN radio, Capital Public Radio, etc.

This is just a start. Nanci Woody



Gold Country Writers

Third Wednesday Meeting

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

10 a.m. to 12 noon

~ Gold Country Writers proudly presents ~

Donna Levin

Too Many Writers Are Buried in Plots



No matter how interesting the characters, no matter how lyrical the prose, readers turn the pages because *they want to know what happens next*.

For many writers, however, plotting is a serious challenge.

Donna Levin will talk not about the importance of well-thought-out plotting in a novel, because you already know how important it is. Instead she'll discuss how to create that plot—ideally before you write 500 pages and can only conclude the story by cramming all your characters into a space shuttle that will never be heard from again.

Donna Levin is the author of two novels, *Extraordinary Means* (William Morrow) and *California Street* (Simon and Schuster), as well as two books on the craft of writing, *Get That Novel Started* and *Get That Novel Written*. On May 1st of this year, Chickadee Prince Books published her latest novel, *There's More Than One Way Home*.

She has been a longtime writing instructor at UC Berkeley Extension and other venues. Her papers are part of the Howard Gottlieb Archival Research Center at Boston University and her novels are part of the "California novels" collection in the California State Library. Visit her at www.DonnaLevin.com.



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/>