

Hats Off

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Cathy MacHold

Our own Cathy MacHold was May's GCW featured guest speaker. She took a rather daunting topic – “What aspiring writers can learn from Hemingway's clothes” and brought it to life with vivid descriptions and numerous examples.

For example in a *Soldier's Home*, Hemingway's descriptions of the soldier's uniforms imparted to readers that all soldiers are equal, while the fact that some of the uniforms were ill fitting, said how much war changed the soldiers.

Another example in *The Old Man and the Sea*, the white shirt symbolized purity and virtue, while the mast of the ship, which the old man struggled with at the end was symbolic of the power or guiding force of his efforts to catch the big fish.

Continued on Page 4



Hats Off to the 2018 100-Word Story Contest Winners. From Left to Right above are shown 1st – Chery Anderson, a tie for 2nd between Frank Nissen and Del Dozier (on the far right) and 3rd, our 2nd time around, winner Nanci Lee Woody (she also won 2nd last year). Pauline Nevins also won for the best hat. **See page 5 for the top 4 complete winning stories.**

PROSE



FROM THE PRES

Thanks to all who are leading GCW as I recover from hip replacement surgery. I'm sure the gatherings are going well, and am grateful for your commitment!

I promised to share more from the writers' conference at Mount Hermon. Here are some notes about the second layer of editing:

Line editing includes checking verbs and description, choosing the correct word, matching sensate images, and dealing with redundant concepts or actions. Use action verbs (subject-verb-object). Replace adverbs with stronger verbs. Make your writing simple and strong, so the reader feels the emotion the words evoke. Don't spell out common actions ("She pointed ~~her finger~~").

Some of the most common words to clarify are *farther* vs. *further*, *myriad*, and *affect* vs. *effect*. Pair auditory or visual images, and check for overused words (check "word frequency"). Watch out for saying the same thing more than once, and have repeated actions no more than twice in the book (e.g., *pausing at the door*).

This was daunting to all of us in the class, and certainly to my own writing! We're not alone in this endeavor. It helped to know we're all on a learning curve!

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.

KUDOS

Chery Anderson, will be teaching a class on storytelling for the Auburn Arts Commission.

Joy Hemp wrote a "Letter to the Editor" that was published in the Georgetown Gazette.

Rebecca Partridge had a Science Fiction Short Story published.



Write On!

Special Events



GCW Business & Executive Board Meeting,

June 6, 2018, at Bethlehem Church, 10 AM – Noon. Will include election of 2 of the club officers – Secretary & Treasurer

GCW Special Guest Program

June 20, 2018, at Bethlehem Church, 10 AM – Noon, Geri Spieler, "From Reluctant Author to Movie Deal – How did I get Here?"

Monthly Meeting for GCW Read & Review

June 20, 2018, Noon, or after the Guest Speaker

Open Mic for the Spoken Word

June 30, 2018, Auburn Library, 1 PM, Rebecca is the Coordinator

Specialty Spin-off Critique Groups

Coordinator – Pauline Nevins -530/637-9163

Call Pauline if you want to start another group

Books: Contact Betsy Schwarzentraub 530/333-0852. By e-mail the 2nd and 4th Wed., 5-20 Pages, e-mail 1st, when possible, Depoe Bay

Historical Fiction: Contact Kathy Ward, 209/704-0719. Meet the 4th Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. at Chevys, located on Highway 49 & Old Airport Road. E-mail 1 chapter 2 weeks before meeting.

Children's Lit: Contact Norma Lehr, 530/878-8421. They meet at the Ridge Golf Course Restaurant on Bell Rd. the 4th Thurs., 2-4 p.m. 5 Pgs.

Science Fiction/Fantasy: Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge 530/889-1520.

Memoirs: Contact Susan Thompson, 530/941-3778. They meet at Northridge Restaurant, 21515 Higgins Rd, off Combie Road between Auburn and Grass Valley, the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at 2 p.m.

Novel & Book Length Projects: Contact Ann Reh 530/823-1870. They meet Tuesdays, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at a member's office. Call for directions. Approximately 5 Pages to read aloud (Flexible on the page number)

Evening Mixed Genre: Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge, 530/889-1520, 5:45 p.m., 1st Wed. of each month, at Round Table Pizza, in Elm & I-80 Center, Auburn, CA 95603, 1st group-5 Pages, 2nd group-15 Pages, e-mailed first.

GCW Officers, Board Members & Committee Chairs

President: Betsy Schwarzentraub
530/333-0852 Genre ~ Christian
Nonfiction, Book Reviews

V P - Internal

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

V P – External Affairs: Joyce Rule
916/521-5177

Genre ~ Short Stories

Treasurer: Joy Hemp
650/799-5828 Genre ~ Self- Help
& Inspirational

Secretary/Newsletter: Michael O'Haver
530/268-2490 Genres ~
Christian Children's, Hist. Fiction,
Memoirs, Self-Help & Poetry

Assistant Secretary:

Kathleen Ward 209/704-0719
Genre ~ Short Stories

Marketing GCW & Events: Joyce Rule
916/521-5177

Author Opportunities: June Gillam
530/820-3020

Genre ~ Suspense Thrillers &
Poetry

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

**Public Relations/GCW 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

THE BEST LAND UNDER HEAVEN

BY MICHAEL WALLIS

This book was the 2018 “One Book One Community” book in Auburn, California.

Wallis spoke about the need of the Donner Party to resort to cannibalism at his talk. His comment: “Think of the mothers looking in the faces of their dying children and know those mothers would do anything to keep their children alive.” In the end 43 of the 81 people survived and the largest percentage were the women and children.

The Donner Party makes a fateful decision to take a trail that wagon trains have never traveled. Days turn into weeks as the men are forced to build a road. That road the Donner party carved out over the Hastings Cutoff trail allowed thousands of gold seekers and settlers to cross into California in the next years. Today the Donner Party road is paved and labeled Interstate 80.

Reviewers often speak of the last line of a book as being the summation of the story. In *Best Land* the last line is from a letter by Virginia Reed “never take no cutoffs and hurry along as fast as you can.” I particularly like the last sentence of the first chapter as summing up the story “They had a touch of gambler in their blood.”

Hemingway’s Clothes Continued from Page 1

Another example was the green pants in *Death in the Afternoon*, symbolized virility and the power the matador had over the bull.

Perhaps the most interesting part of Cathy’s presentation was the questions and answers at the end. Cathy explained how she got interested in Hemingway in the first place - **Thank You Chery Anderson!** She related the adventures she has experienced, and possibly will experience, in the future chasing Hemingway and exploring the legacy left by this award winning author.

When asked what is it about Ernest Hemingway’s writing that makes it so unique? She answered – it is many things, like just the way he describes scenes, like the paintings he loved to study. He described the foreground, then the middleground, and finally the background.

Cathy will be giving this same presentation July 22-28, in Paris, France at the 18th Annual International Hemingway Conference. July 21, 2018 would have been Hemingway’s 119th birthday.

She has met some of Hemingway’s relatives, visited many of the places he lived, and will be staying in the hotel in Paris where he honeymooned with one of his wives, in the Hemingway Suite, of course.

Cathy summed up her experiences so far with – “My Hemingway journey has been magical.”



Cathy MacHold

To produce a mighty book, you must choose a mighty theme.
– Herman Melville

100-Word Story Contest Winners

1st Place Winner – *Hospital Games*, by Chery Anderson, AKA Maisie Moore

The nurse adjusts the IV drip, then leaves the room. “Want to play a game?” My daughter’s feverish eyes sparkle. Smiling, I nod. “I’m thinking of something green.” “Pond slime from Greenland?” “Nope.” “A green alien?” “Nope.” “I need a clue.” “It has seeds that make you fart. Everyone in second grade knows to scrape out dill pickle seeds.”

She didn’t notice she’d given the game away. “Humm. Could the answer be dill pickles?” “Yes! When I grow up I’m going to be as smart as you.”

“Smarter!” I kiss her baldhead. Please God, make it so. I pray silently.

2nd Place Tie Winner – *The Man on the Elevator*, by Dell Dozier, AKA Dana Julian

The elevator swept to a stop after the ding, a jolting reminder of my upcoming job interview with Halo.

The strikingly handsome man I’d been flirting with said, “Good luck on your interview. I’m Jeff Wagner. I hope to see you around,” then gave me a wink and strode off the elevator.

Straight ahead, I saw a large Halo Group logo on the wall. As I stepped off the elevator, I realized that Halo was the only company on the floor. I walked toward the receptionist as I dug through my purse for the name of my interviewer: Jeff Wagner.

2nd Place Tie Winner – *The Bargain*, by Frank Nissan, AKA Jeremia h Nijinsky

The foreign minister appraised his guest - a bumpkin, from one of the colonies. The foreign minister listened patiently to the envoy’s proposal. “I will take your request before the emperor. Please wait.” He disappeared into the next room. Inside the emperor was supervising his war. “It’s the American, Sire,” said the minister. “They want to buy Louisiana for three million dollars.” “*Merde!*” cried the emperor. “It’s worth twice that.” “Indeed,” replied the minister. “But it will buy a lot of cannon.” The emperor sighed, “Well, we may as well sell it to them. They’re going to overrun it, anyway.”

3rd Place Winner – *A Plan for Josh*, by Nanci Lee Woody, AKA Jerry Attrick

Mom, Dad. You’re approaching 90. Shouldn’t we make a plan for after you pass. “Look at this email, Myrt.”

“Our Josh is so efficient. I can’t see the big hurry myself.” “We probably should talk options. Six feet

under?” “In a suffocating casket covered with dirt? I’m claustrophobic, Henry! And we wouldn’t be

together.” “We can’t have that, Love. Let’s combine our ashes, scatter them in the Pacific.” “I hate cold

water. Can’t swim! Let Josh strew our ashes in the woods. “That’s illegal, Myrt.” “Let them arrest us.”

“Ha! Can’t wait to tell Josh we have a plan.”



On the left
Paulene
Nevins
sporting the
winning hat
at the “Hats-
Off
Celebration.”



Gold Country Writers

Third Wednesday Meeting

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

10 a.m. to 12 noon

~ Gold Country Writers proudly presents ~

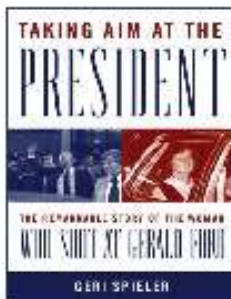
Geri Spieler

*From Reluctant Author to Movie Deal –
How Did I Get Here?*



Award-winning author of *Taking Aim at the President: The Remarkable Story of the Woman Who Shot at Gerald Ford*, Geri Spieler tells the story of her journey as a reluctant author to landing a movie deal.

Just over 40 years ago, one American woman nearly brought the country to its knees. In 1975, Sara Jane Moore fired a shot at President Gerald Ford, and missed his head by a mere six inches. The first woman to ever fire a bullet at an American President, Sara Jane had built a life for herself that is both profoundly disquieting and complicated. Released from prison in December of 2007, Sara Jane is now a free member of society again.



Investigative journalist and award-winning speaker Geri Spieler established a professional relationship with Sara Jane Moore that lasted for thirty years. This unique access to her enigmatic subject, combined with her diligent independent research, makes her authorship of *Taking Aim at the President* particularly significant. *Taking Aim* has been optioned for a movie by award-winning screenwriters Andrew Logan and Taylor Allen.

Geri has written articles for the *Los Angeles Times*, was a featured correspondent for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and was published in *Westways* magazine and *Forbes*. She founded and edited *Electronic Commerce News*, a technology journal published by Phillips Business Information, which led to a six-year assignment as a Research Director and Analyst for the Gartner Group, an international technology advising company.

Geri's newspaper reporting focused on business, crime, and politics. Her feature writing focused on human-interest stories about wildlife, water rights and mining in the Sierra foothills. She has written numerous news stories, authored weekly columns, penned magazine features, and published over 150 research documents. Geri lives in Palo Alto with her husband Rick, her seven chickens and 13 fruit trees. <http://www.gerispieler.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"

~ 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/>