

Gold Country Writers' Digest

Our Mission is to Support Local Authors



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John Lescroart

Our special guest speaker for May was John Lescroart, *New York Times* bestselling author with 29 novels, including his new legal thriller, *The Rule of Law*, his 18th Dismas Hardy novel. His topic, "20 Years to Overnight Success," educated and entertained his audience. Unlike most writers, he was an English major who started out writing songs and leading a band for his first 30 years. Then he decided to become a writer, but he kept his day job. He advised new writers looking to make money to get a good agent and publish traditionally. His keys to success are:

- ❖ Know your genre, for fiction:
 - make your characters come alive,
 - develop a plot,
 - have a complete story,
 - have a theme for the book.

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100-Word Hats Off Story Contest Celebration

The 100-Word Hat's Off Story Contest awards were celebrated at the Sizzler on May 29, 2019. The winners were:

1st Place (R) – Donna Brown, 2nd Place (L) – Chery Anderson, 3rd Place – Grace Bourke, not shown. Terry Wicks won for the best hat (Picture on Page 4). There were 26 entries in all. The judges, Betsy Schwarzentraub and Ann Reh, comment they were all so good they were very hard to judge.

100-Word Hats Off Story Contest -1st Place – *My Turn Now*
Tipped her ladder over. She fell into those blackberry bushes she'd been pickin' at. Screamed out for me to help 'cause she didn't know I'd done it to her. Winced a lot. Tried to get free. On her back, ladder on top, impenetrable thicket underneath. Thorns scraping parts of her she didn't know. She managed to flip the ladder aside. Turned herself over. Made it worse. Face and palms bleeding. She, sinking deeper, tangled in bramble, ground six feet under, sun shining. Took me a big scoop out of her berry bucket, sweetness soothing parts of me I didn't know.

PROSE



FROM THE PRES

I can't believe this is my last President's message for *The Dispatch*. These two years have gone by so fast! No doubt that's because you're such a fun group of people and we're such an active organization, continually learning from one another and supporting each other's efforts.

One example was the "Brainstorming Your Natural Markets" workshop last month. The ideas flowed, people shared their experiences and questions, and we left with a lot of options to consider, if not overwhelmed by the possibilities.

Other examples include having *New York Times* bestselling author John Lescroart as our May presenter, speaking to a full house at City Hall. Then there was our "Hats Off!" celebration of the winners and all 26 entrants in our 100-word hats off story contest! And this month our beloved Cathy MacHold is speaking on "Hemingway: A Taste for Life."

I'm honored to participate in such a talented group of creative people! Here's a last word, from Stephen King's *Guide to Marketing*: "Writing isn't about making money, getting famous, getting dates, getting laid, or making friends. In the end, it's about enriching the lives of those who will read your work, and enriching your own life, as well."

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.

Special Events

GCW Business & Executive Board Meetings
June 5, 2019. Starts at 10 a.m. at the church

Guest Speaker Cathy MacHold, June 19, 2019, 10 a.m.,
"Hemingway: A Taste for Life," at the church

GCW Six-Author Event, June 9, 2019, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Face In A Book, 4359 Town Center Blvd., El Dorado Hills

Open Mic. For the Spoken Word
June 22, 2019, 1 p.m., Auburn Library. Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge

Specialty Spin-off Critique Groups

Coordinator - Pauline Nevins

Books: Contact Betsy Schwarzentraub by email. Five to 20 pages. When possible meet in person. Closed for 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 & 4th Wednesdays of each month, 5:45 p.m. Call Rebecca for location. Temporarily closed to new members.

Memoir: Contact Susan Thompson. 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.

Memoir (monthly): Contact Theresa Cote. Meets 4th Thursday of each month from 1-3p.m., at 600 Auburn Ravine Road--Library of apartment building on the frontage road parallel to Auburn Ravine. Members share longer works. Email, Dropbox, and other Internet sharing platforms being considered. Skype may also be an option. **Note: Not a drop-in group.**

Novel: Contact Ann Reh. Closed to new members. Email Ann 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 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1279 High St., Auburn. Bring seven to eight copies of your poems.

For group leader contact information, consult your club roster.

If any member is interested in beginning a Nonfiction Spin-off Critique Group, please contact Pauline Nevins.

If any are interested in forming a Suspense/Thriller Spin-Off Critique Group, please contact Robin Deley.



GCW Officers, Lead Team & Committee Chairs

President: Betsy Schwarzentraub
Genre ~ Christian, Nonfiction & Book Reviews

V P - Internal Affairs & Mentoring:
Susan Korn Genre ~ Self-Help & Corporate Culture

V P - External Affairs, Marketing & Events: Frank Nissen Historical Fiction

Treasurer: Kate Luce
Genre ~ Memoir

Secretary: Kathleen Ward
Genre ~ Short Stories

Assistant Secretary: *OPEN*

Author Opportunities: *OPEN*

Membership & Guest Speakers:
Margie Yee Webb Genre ~ Gift Books & Flash Fiction

Public Relations & Read & Review:
Chery Anderson Genre ~ Short Stories

Web Master, Graphics & Cyber Security: Skip Michael Genre ~ Science Fiction

Spin-off Critique Groups
Coordinator: Pauline Nevins Genre ~ Memoirs, Personal Essay & Fiction

Newsletter Editor: Michael O'Haver
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.

Literary Events and Conferences

Compiled by Margie Yee Webb

Santa Barbara Writers Conference

June 16-21, 2019, Santa Barbara CA

<https://www.sbwriters.com>

47th Anniversary Santa Barbara Writers Conference

2019 Berrett-Koehler Book Marketing Conference

July 11-12, 2019, San Diego CA

<https://bkauthors.org/category/events/marketing-conference/>

Author Stephanie Chandler said:

"You can receive \$100 off the conference fee.

Just register and use the code:

SENTBYASPEAKER."

Sierra Storytelling Festival

July 19-21, 2019, Nevada City CA

<http://sierrastorytellingfestival.org>

"Celebrating 34 Years of Artfully Told Tales!"

Voices of Lincoln Poetry Contest

Five (5) categories include: **Who Is The Most Important Person In My Life? What Treasure Would I Like To Discover? What Don't I Know About You That I Should? What Would I Do If I Ruled The World? Should We Be Thinking About Today Or Tomorrow?**

- **Entry Forms and Contest Rules** are available from the following website: www.libraryatlincoln.org
- **Contest** **Deadline** **7-20-2019**
Questions—contact Alan Lowe at slo Lowe@icloud.com

Shown to the right Terry Wicks sports her winning hat in the 100-Word Hats Off Story Contest.



Gold Country Writers at Local Author Expo 2019

Shown above, Right-Left are Gold Country Writers president Betsy Schwarzentraub and members Cathy Cassady Sylvia, Phawnda Moore, and Margie Yee Webb. They staffed the GCW table at the Folsom Public Library's Local Author Expo 2019 on April 27th. They enjoyed networking with other authors and greeting visitors to talk about GCW as well as their books.

Face in a Book Six-Author Event

Face In A Book is hosting the Gold Country Writers Six-Author Event on Sunday, June 9, 2019, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. featuring Shelley Buck (*East: A Woman on the Road to Kathmandu*), Wendy Coles-Littlepage (*Disfigured: A Gothic Romance*), Susan M. Osborn (*Awful Bosses Coloring Book*), Ann Saxton Reh (*Meditating Murder*), Betsy Schwarzentraub (*Growing Generous Souls: Becoming Grace-Filled Stewards*), and Margie Yee Webb (*Cat Mulan's Mindful Musings: Insight and Inspiration for a Wonderful Life*) for a brief panel discussion and booksigning.

Everyone is invited to the event. Carpool and make it a fun road trip! Face In A Book Bookstore & Gifts, a hub of community literary events, is at 4359 Town Center Boulevard in El Dorado Hills Town Center, where there is a beautiful man-made lake.

John Lescroart Cont. Page 1

- ❖ If you get a response with suggestions for improvement, request what they will do if you make the changes.
- ❖ Options are easy money: The writer gets paid to do a script for TV or movies, even if it is not used.
- ❖ Agents and publishers are looking for *narrative voice*. They can tell if you have it in the first five pages or less.
- ❖ Sell your character's name for charity. People bid, and you put their name into your script for a character.
- ❖ One bad word on your first page or query letter can get your book thrown out.
- ❖ Write organically, and your characters will write the story themselves.

Member News:

Cathy Cassady Sylvia will present a slideshow describing the life and work of her mother, Carolyn Cassady, wife of Beat icon, Neal Cassady, lover of Jack Kerouac and friend of Allen Ginsberg. June 18, 2019, 7 pm at Kilaga Presentation Hall, Sun City Lincoln Hills.

Rebecca Inch-Partridge sold a short story to *Nova*, a science fiction magazine. She was also a presenter at the Davis Storyteller Festival, where she got a standing ovation.

Phawnda Moore was asked to interview a calligraphy professor for the premier calligraphy publication in the U.S.

Kudos To all who attended and represented GCW at the Folsom Local Authors Expo.

Chery Anderson donated a rose bush to Winston Smith Bookstore in recognition of Independent Bookstore Day.

The Next Generation INDIE judges selected Phawnda More's book *Lettering From A to Z* as the best entry in Gift, Specialty, Novelty books, one of 70 categories.



Thanks to Gold Country Writers

Betsy Schwarzentraub, above center, has finished her third book: *Growing Generous Souls: Becoming Grace-Filled Stewards*. At her book launch on May 8, 2019, she credited her mentor June Gilliam, above left, and her critique partner Debra Griffin, above right, as instrumental for her success in this self-publishing venture. She also thanked all her GCW Drop-In Critique partners who helped shape and improve the book. It is available through Amazon.com or ask Betsy at the next CGW meeting.

100-Word Hats Off Story Contest 2nd Place -- *Kinfolks All*

Mother always hated Tuesday. After the funeral, the police question us, the five brothers. Sunday, the eldest, says it is God's will. But, isn't everything? Monday, the second eldest, suggests a lapse of common sense in the female personality. Thursday says he knows nothing about anything. Which is his usual excuse. And Friday, too young to guard his tongue, declares anyone can fall down the stairs. Our brother, Saturday, the unborn baby, offers no opinion. I, Wednesday, and I alone, understand the motive. I stay silent because it no longer matters. Mother always hated Tuesday, but Father dearly loved her.

100-Word Hats Off Story Contest 3rd Place -- *Shadow of Doubt*

Blackness fades to confusion...

Intense pain. I'm lying in the street? The car? Smashed! Where is he? He's trapped. Fire! It's too late. I crawl away.

I remember, now. He'd been drinking. We argued. He hit me, again. I pressed the accelerator instead of the brake. The car sped out of control. Just before we crashed, I jumped out. Why wasn't my seatbelt fastened? I'm sure I yelled, "Jump!" Why didn't he? What just happened? As a lawyer, I know I'm innocent until proven guilty beyond reasonable doubt. It was an accident. Wasn't it? Tears stream down my face, unchecked.



Gold Country Writers

Third Wednesday Meeting

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

10 a.m. to 12 noon

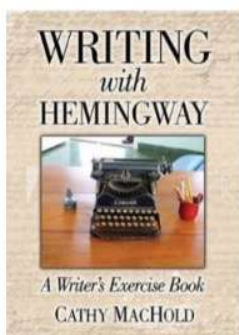
~ Gold Country Writers proudly presents ~

Cathy MacHold

Hemingway: A Taste for Life



When we love Hemingway, we want a piece of him, we want to be where he has been, we want to drink what he drank and eat what he ate. We want a taste of his life. His name is not the only Hemingway name in the world but some have used *the* Hemingway influence for restaurants, menus, recipes and for the names of drinks. They have captured his spirit, his zest for life. Cathy will share examples of Hemingway recipes, places in the world that capitalize from them with interesting photos, recipes and tidbits of fun information.



Cathy MacHold, author of *Writing with Hemingway: A Writer's Exercise Book*, is an Independent Hemingway Scholar and a presenter at two Hemingway Society conferences—including the XVIII International Hemingway Conference in Paris where she presented her paper “Oh, Those Hemingway Clothes” at The American University last July. She is the co-curator of “*The Veneto Photos*” collection. For a list of scheduled exhibits, see “Hemingway’s 120th Birthday Commemoration” on Facebook.

She teaches two education writing classes for Placer Unified School District during Spring and Fall semesters. Cathy designed a series of pathway Culinary 101 classes to help adult students “Get Hired” and also teaches other creative culinary classes.

When not writing, Cathy can be found reading stories to her grandchildren, caring for her small vineyard, and traveling where she follows Hemingway destinations with her husband. For more on Cathy, see <http://cathymachold.com>. *Writing with Hemingway: A Writer's Exercise Book* is available on Amazon.com. For information about the Hemingway Society, visit <https://www.hemingwaysociety.org/>.

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/>