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**Betsy's Writers
Retreat**

August 22, 2019

9 a.m.—4 p.m.

Gold Country Writers is
a club for writers of all
genres. We meet regu-
larly each Wednesday
from 10 a.m. to noon in
the **Auburn City Hall
Rose Room**, 1225 Lin-
coln Way, Auburn, CA
95603, unless otherwise
noted. To contact us:

e-mail: goldcountrywriters.com

Website: GCW5991@gmail.com

Facebook: Gold Country Writers



Frances H. Kakugawa

Our GCW guest speaker for
July 17, 2019 was Frances H.
Kakugawa. She had some
great tips on writing and pub-
lishing children's books:

- ⇒ Be picky about your pub-
lisher.
- ⇒ When writing, be aware of
the cognitive level of your
target audience.
- ⇒ Make the characters tell the
story.
- ⇒ Take the adult teacher role
out of the way.
- ⇒ Let the readers figure
things out for themselves.
- ⇒ Don't dumb down the sto-
ry.
- ⇒ Write about one blade of
grass, not the whole forest.

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NEW LEADERS TAKE OFFICE

At the July 10, 2019 meeting the newly elect-
ed GCW Officers and Lead Team Members
formally took office. There was a ceremony
and a small celebration to commemorate the
event.

Shown above from left to right:

Theresa Cote our new *VP - Internal Affairs*

Susan Korn our new *President*

Kate Luce our existing *Treasurer*

Kathy Ward who took over as our *Secretary*

Karen Clay our new *Membership Chair*

Betsy Schwarzentraub outgoing *President*
and our new *Assistant Secretary* and
Author's Opportunity Chair



Prose from the Pres

The celebration for my installation as GCW President, was fun and exciting for me, as I hope it was for others. The cake was delicious, and my handmade crown by fabric artist Hester Jones, GCW member, is beautiful. I will wear it proudly and always think of the time, love, and skill which made it so perfect for the installation. Thank you all who were at the GCW July Business meeting for supporting our past Presidents, Leadership Team, and myself.

This is a busy time for Gold Country Writers as we participate in events for August and September. We will be rolling out the GCW Mentor Program; Writers Retreat at Betsy's home, and then will be present at The Gold Country Fair in September. The Fair is always a fun place to connect and network with other GCW members and the public. Our goal is to promote GCW and to sell our books.

As President, my vision for GCW is to continue all the successful growth, provide educational opportunities for our communities, support our membership, and build on our resources by empowering all members to reach their writing and publishing goals.

See you soon.

Susan

GCW Meeting Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, 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, or meet at a local restaurant for brunch. Join us for fun and socializing.

Special Events

Aug 7—Business & Executive Meeting in the Auburn City Hall Rose Room, 1225 Lincoln Way, 10 a.m.

Aug 21—Mentor Program Kick Off in the Auburn City Hall Rose Room, 10 a.m.

Aug 22—GCW Betsy's Writers Retreat, at her home in Garden Valley, 9 a.m.—4 p.m.

Aug 24—Open Mic. for the Spoken Word, Auburn Library, 1 p.m. Contact- Rebecca Inch-Partridge

Francis H. Kakugawa Continued

- ⇒ To have your books used in classrooms, use:
 - ⇒ metaphors, synonyms, reiteration, etc.
- ⇒ Children don't like to be told what to do.
- ⇒ Leave something for the reader to finish.
- ⇒ Make your books "literature," not just stories.
- ⇒ Children can use poetry to express feelings.
- ⇒ Different editors will say different things. You are the writer; write what resonates with you.
- ⇒ Hold onto who you truly are.

Kakugawa's character was chosen to be the mascot for the Alzheimer's Association in Hawaii.

Specialty Spin-off Critique Groups

Coordinator – Pauline Nevins

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 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 (drop-in): 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 the 4th Thursday of each month from 1-p.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 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. Meets 4th Wednesday of each month, following Drop-In-Critique, in the Auburn City Hall Rose Room, 1225 Lincoln Way, 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: Susan Korn

Genre ~ Self-Help & Corporate Culture

V P - Internal Affairs Theresa Cote

Genre ~ 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: Karen Clay

Genres ~ Nonfiction & Memoir

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:

Genres ~ Memoirs,
Personal Essay & Fiction

Newsletter Editor: Michael O'Haver

Genres ~ Christian Children's, Memoirs, Nonfiction, Historical Fiction & Science Fiction.

Submit newsletter material by the 15th of each month to GodsScribeMike@aol.com

Famous Writer's Quote

My own experience is that once a story has been written, one has to cross out the beginning and the end. It is there that we authors do most of our lying.

– Anton Chekhov

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

The Author Website: Building a Site That Works with Linda Lee

August 17, 2019, San Francisco CA

<https://www.milibrary.org/events/author-website-building-site-works-aug-17-2019>

-and-

WordPress Bootcamp: Creating a WordPress Website and How to Use It with Linda Lee

August 17, 2019, San Francisco CA

<https://www.milibrary.org/events/wordpress-bootcamp-creating-wordpress-website-and-how-use-it-aug-17-2019>

<https://www.sfwriters.org/mil-classes/>

Classes co-sponsored by Mechanics Institute and San Francisco Writers Conference/ San Francisco Writers Foundation

Book Passage Mystery Writers Conference

August 22-25, 2019, Corte Madera CA

<https://www.bookpassage.com/mystery>

"The four-day Book Passage Mystery Writers Conference has a strong tradition of great authors and teachers. It covers everything mystery writers need—from developing ideas and writing skills to finding a publisher."

San Francisco Writing for Change Conference

September 14, 2019, San Francisco CA

<http://sfwritingforchange.org/>

"At the 11th San Francisco Writing for Change Conference you will discover how what you write can change the world . . . and how to get your writing published."

Intro to Memoir with Brooke Warner

September 6, 2019, San Francisco CA

<https://www.milibrary.org/events/intro-memoir-sep-06-2019>

-and-

Advanced Memoir - Craft and Techniques with Brooke Warner

September 6, 2019, San Francisco CA

<https://www.milibrary.org/events/advanced-memoir-craft-and-techniques-sep-06-2019>

<https://www.sfwriters.org/mil-classes/>

Classes co-sponsored by Mechanics Institute and San Francisco Writers Conference, San Francisco.



"Hemingway Photos and Memorabilia Exhibit" at Auburn City Hall Gallery

Gold Country Writers members Chery Anderson (event organizer) and Cathy MacHold (Independent Hemingway scholar and photo co-curator) hosted the "Hemingway Photos and Memorabilia Exhibit" and chatted with visitors at the Auburn City Hall gallery during July's Auburn Art Walk. As part of Hemingway's 120th birthday commemoration events, the exhibit will be on display through August 30, 2019 during business hours Monday to Friday at the Auburn City Hall gallery, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn CA. Admission is Free.

Cathy MacHold and Chery Anderson have arranged for the 2013 documentary *Cooper & Hemingway: The True Gen*, which followed the 40 year friendship of the two men, to screen on August 8, 2019, at the historic Auburn State Theatre, 985 Lincoln Way, at 7 p.m. Admission is \$8. (Not a GCW-sponsored event.)



Sell Your Books at the Gold Country Fair!

Sept. 5-8 are the dates for our GCW booth at the Gold Country Fair! Sign up to staff the booth for two hours or more, bring all the books you want for when you're there, and leave three copies for us to sell the rest of the time. Contact Betsy at GCW meetings or by phone (530/333-0852). This is a great chance to connect with writers and readers!



Get your own writing projects done at

Betsy's home in Garden Valley! Join GCW members "plus one" on Thursday, **Aug. 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Or come at 9:00 through lunch, or noon to 4:00. She'll provide a main dish; you bring a side dish to share. Spouses/partners are welcome. Get directions at GCW meetings, or phone Betsy for address.

(Photo from Betsy's home.)

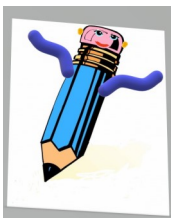
Member News:

Rebecca Inch-Partridge attended a conference of the National Science Fiction Writers, where she sat down with an editor who has requested the first pages of her book. She will also be hosting a nine-week workshop, "Get That Novel Done!" beginning in mid-October.

Skip Michael is five pages from completing his third novel.

Shelley Buck launched her new book, *India Bound*, at The Open Book in Grass Valley.

Betsy Schwarzentraub had an ad for her new book, *Growing Generous Souls*, in the July 17 issue of *Christian Century*.



Write On!

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Linda Franklin invites you to a Book Presentation and Movie Event—Friday, September 13, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

At St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 124 Orange Street, Auburn, CA

Her book, *I'll Always Carry You*, will be introduced.

Her powerful true mother's story of adoption loss, grief, and healing will be followed by a reading and a book signing.

After wine and snacks, Linda will show the film, *Unlocking the Heart of Adoption*, by Sheila Ganz.

This is a story of a birthmother interwoven with diverse personal stories of adoptees, birthparents, and adoptive parents, in both same-race and transracial adoptions.

GCW Mentor Program Workshop

Becoming a GCW Mentor/Mentee

Date: August 21, 2019

Time: 10 a.m.—12 noon

Location: **Auburn City Hall Rose Room,**
1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn



Gold Country Writers Mentor Program, 2019

Expect to Learn:

- What is a Mentor & a Mentee
- Creating Realistic Goals
- The Evaluation Process
- Other Helpful Hints

Introduction to the Process:

- ♦ Introduction of Mentors and Mentees available
- ♦ Mentee: Select a Mentor Partner and Make a Connection
- ♦ Schedule time to talk, and determine length of time per session

Mentor/Mentee Initial Conversations:

- ⇒ Start with getting-to-know-you questions
- ⇒ Discuss possible goals and complete goals worksheet
- ⇒ Both sign GCW mentoring agreement
- ⇒ **The GCW Mentor Program is a benefit offered to our members.**

The annual Off-Site Planning meeting was held July 25, 2019 at our new president's home in Cool. There were about fifteen members present, including Lead Team members and guests.

After Susan welcomed all of the GCW leaders, Theresa Cote led the group in an Ice Breaker to get things rolling.

Then former president Betsy invited all present to identify their future goals for themselves and for our club.

Next came a discussion of options for our future location. We affirmed continuing to meet in the Auburn City Hall Rose Room, and were delighted when the City Hall confirmed our stay through the end of this year.

After a pizza and potluck lunch, breakout groups brainstormed the following topics:

Off-Site Planning Meeting



1. Developing GCW podcasts. Skip Michael and Jody Brady will work on software and set-up.

2. Launching a club poetry contest in October. Look for more details in the September *Dispatch*.

3. Setting up a private area for library time during Drop-In Critiques.

4. Five people volunteered to be on a panel at the Mentor Kick-Off. See Theresa Cote.

After confirming the GCW Calendar through 2020, they ended the meeting by 2 p.m.

