

August, 2020

GCW Dispatch

Our mission is to support local writers



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## Review of "Writing to Inspire"

By Barbara Young

On July 15, 2020, our/the GCW speaker, Betsy Schwarzentraub, via an online presentation, spoke about how writing in any genre can be inspirational. She enthusiastically says, "Inspirational writing is any kind of writing that ends with a lump in your throat."

Betsy began by asking us/her audience to consider their answers to three important questions.

1) What "little things" can inspire you the most?

Participants revealed that nature, animals/pets and special people in their lives were inspirational. Betsy added, "Positive self-talk."

2) What inspires you as a person?

Common answers centered on having mental stimulation to do something, especially if it's creative.

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## Terry's Writer's Retreat

A few of GCW's members took advantage of Terry Wicks' hospitality on July 29, 2020. She hosted the second annual writer's retreat at her Penryn home. Blame it on the weather—hot, hot, hot. Blame it on the pandemic. Blame it on what you will. You who missed it missed out on a little bit of gold rush history and some home-grown vegetables from Terry's large garden. Although not much actual writing was accomplished, the opportunity for such was what you missed. Well—maybe next year!



## PROSE



### FROM THE PRES

The month of August will be a busy time for forming new relationships, as we welcome Barbara Young, RN, and Bill Baynes, as the two new GCW Executive Officers. Barbara is replacing Kathleen Ward as GCW Secretary. Bill Baynes is replacing Kate Luce as GCW Treasurer. It is with mixed feelings that I will truly miss Kathleen and Kate for being such efficient officers and such a great support system. The wonderful connection I have with GCW is that I feel we are somewhat like family. Many different personalities, but all have the same interests and passion for writing and telling stories. I have made some wonderful lifelong friends since I joined GCW some eight years ago.

August will find the GCW Mentor Program with a few new changes regarding when the time frame will be for connecting with others and joining a mentoring partnership. The basic instructions of the policies and procedures will remain the same but the time will surprise you. Therefore, join GCW on August 19, 2020, for the roll-out of our new GCW Mentor Program. Until we get back to the Rose Room in City Hall, all GCW presentations will be held in the School Reserve Pack on College Avenue, Auburn, CA.

Another event for GCW in August will be the GCW Off-Site Leadership Conference which will be held at my home in Cool, CA. All GCW Executive Officers and Board of Directors are invited. I have a medical background so we will be practicing Social Distancing; using hand-sanitizer, and wearing masks. There will be 4-5 different seating locations so we can seat apart from each other. The GCW Leadership Conference offers group planning and decision-making for setting the 2020-2021 GCW Calendar.

## Member News

**Chery Anderson** had a story published in the Summer issue of *October Magazine*.

**John Vesper** has a publisher, Thurston Howl Pub., interested in publishing the second volume of his *Well-don the Lion* children's book series.

**Nanci Woody** wrote a song—*The Corona Virus Blues*, listen to it on You Tube <https://www.facebook.com/nanci.woody/videos/10220426743611639/>



## cv-19 GCW Meeting Schedule

The Gold Country Writers are meeting by Zoom every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon. Just download the free Zoom App from the internet. To simplify things, we have arranged for a permanent ID: 88585547204 and the permanent password is 974226, for all the Club Zoom meetings.

### FIRST WED.

Combined Business & Board Meeting

### SECOND & FOURTH WED.

Drop-in Critique Meeting.

**THIRD WED.** - Guest Speaker

**FIFTH WED.** - Party Time

## Special Events

Watch for changes and new news in Chery's E-Blasts.

**Aug 5: GCW Annual Meeting & Party** Bus./Exec. Meeting via Zoom & at School Park, 10 a.m. Call Susan. Also evening Spin-Off Critique at Round Table Pizza, 5:45 p.m. Call Rebecca.

**Aug 12:** Drop In Critique via Zoom & at School Park 10 a.m. Call Susan. (Meeting ID & PW, see above.)

**Aug. 15:** Off-Site Meeting of leadership, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Susan's, to plan through 2021.

**Aug 19:** Roll Out of 2020 Mentor Program, School Park, 10 a.m.

**Aug 26:** Drop-in Critique 10 a.m. via Zoom. Call Chery. (Meeting ID & PW, see above.)

**Aug 29:** The Open Mic via Zoom at 1 p.m. Call Rebecca for time and place.

### Mentor Kick-off



## Specialty Spin-off Critique Groups

Coordinator - Rebecca Inch-Partridge

**Note:** Contact group leaders to learn the current CV-19 schedule for your group.

**Children's Lit:** Contact Norma Lehr. They meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month, 2-4 p.m. Temporarily closed to new members.

**Science Fiction/Fantasy:** Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge. Meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at 5:45 p.m. Temporarily closed to new members. Currently meeting with social distancing.

**Memoir:** Contact Susan Thompson. They meet at Depoe Bay, 893 High St., Auburn, the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 2 p.m.

**Evening Mixed Genre:** Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge. Meets 1<sup>st</sup> 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, e-mailed first.

**Flash Fiction:** Contact Chery Anderson. Meets 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Randy Whitwell. Sharing poems online to members. Meeting with Zoom.

**Spiritual/Religious/Inspirational:** Contact Betsy Schwarzentraub. Meets by e-mail until further notice.

For group leader contact information, consult your membership roster.



## **GCW Officers, Board Members & Committee Chairs**

**President:** Susan Korn

Genre ~ Self-Help & Corporate Culture

**V P - Internal Affairs:** Karen Clay

Genre ~ Nonfiction & Memoir

**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:** Jody Brady

Genres ~ Short Stories & Self-Help

**Public Relations & Read & Review:**

Chery Anderson

Genre ~ Short Stories

**Web Master, Graphics & Cyber Security:**

Skip Michael

Genre ~ Science Fiction

**Spin-off Critique Groups Coordinator:**

Rebecca Inch-Partridge

Genre ~ Science Fiction

**Newsletter Editor:** Michael O'Haver

Genres ~ Christian Children's, Memoir, Non Fiction,  
Historical Fiction & Science Fiction

Submit newsletter material by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each  
month to [GodsScribeMike@gmail.com](mailto:GodsScribeMike@gmail.com)

For Contact Info. see GCW Roster

## California State Library Launches California COVID Diaries

"Californians can share the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on their lives through a new community-based archive sponsored by the California State Library and public libraries across the state. The aim of California COVID Diaries is to collect, preserve and make available to the public an archive of materials created by Californians, documenting their personal experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic."

"All Californians are welcome to submit typed or hand-written journals, letters, e-mail narratives and blog posts; photographs, videos and audio recordings; written or recorded interviews with family or friends; artwork and drawings; and other storytelling methods."

For more information, see:

<https://covididiaries.library.ca.gov/>

and

<https://www.library.ca.gov/Content/pdf/pressreleases/2020-06-11-CACovidDiaries.pdf>

### Famous Writer's Quote

*"Begin with an individual, and before you know it you have created a type; begin with a type, and you find you have created – nothing."*

– F. Scott Fitzgerald



## Write On!

### Betsy's Writing to Inspire, Cont. from Pg. 1

- Stories
  - Fiction
- Magazines - print or online
- Devotions – print or online
  - Church, spiritual organization or magazine
- Religious Newspaper
- Greeting Cards
  - Poetry
- Song writing
- Examples of licensing agents: Hope Publishing, CCMi

#### Her tips are:

- Put real-life examples into your book, article or story so it is not so esoteric or theoretical.
- Share a story to bring a point home.
- Add a story to make the writing more relatable.
- Stories can bring the writing to life.
- Wonder and awe help your reader be inspired without the noise of the intellect.
- Words, events and people can be inspiring.
- Stories can show an example of how to solve a problem.

#### When submitting your writing, keep in mind the following things:

- The format of the publication that you are writing for.
- Follow the accepted tone and style for your content.
- If you want to use your writing in multiple publications, mention it in your query letter, but most do not want this. They expect "First North American Serial Rights."
- Emphasize a single idea.
- Fewer words give more clarity.
- Write with passion, enthusiasm and sincerity.

#### Suggested resources:

*The Artist's Way*  
*Writing to Inspire*

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Consider for yourself, her closing question: "Who are you meant to inspire?"

She offers copies of "The Devotional" format and a list of "Sayings to Inspire Us to Write for Others." Email her at [betsy@generousstewards.com](mailto:betsy@generousstewards.com) with requests.

Thank you for an inspiring and educational presentation, Betsy

## Panic During the Pandemic

“Shelter in Place” was the order of the day. But one can take just so much sheltering and remain sane. So, I decided to trim a tree in my front yard. This resulted in a fall from a step ladder which in turn resulted in 12 cracked ribs, a fractured jaw and a five-day stay in the Trauma Unit of Sutter Roseville Hospital.

The panic started when my wife delivered my cell phone and my computer to the hospital, along with my glasses. Getting bored lying on my back all day and night I decided to take a selfie and post it on my Facebook page.

This generated a good deal of sympathy from my Facebook followers most of them amazed that I was still alive after suffering that fall.

The panic continues whenever my wife catches me heading down our rather steep driveway to take our dog Tippy for a walk without my cane and my back brace on.

The decisions I have to make now-a-days—to attend my follow-up doctor’s visits in person or opt for virtual visits. And should I attempt to make my regularly scheduled doctor’s visits or put them off to a more opportune time? When can I start my physical therapy? How soon can I start my regular workouts of running and weight lifting?

I surprised the nurses at the Trauma Unit at the hospital. They remarked it was very unusual for one of their patients to be working on a laptop computer while in their care.

I have no recollection of how I got from trimming the tree on top of the ladder to landing in the yard face-first. The doctor’s say it’s not unusual for someone suffering such a fall to not remember the details. I’m not sure I want to remember the details.

I suppose I could very easily join the ranks of doctors, nurses, the EMTs and my wife suffering the panic during the pandemic if I could remember the details.

Michael



## FREE ISBM WEBINAR

**Discover which best-selling authors you write like and you’ll find a ready-made audience for your book – readers who enjoy your storytelling style**

Thur. August 6, 2020 4 p.m., Eastern Time, and

Fri. August 7, 2020, 1 p.m. Eastern Time

Here's what you'll learn at the webinar:

- How a ScoreIt!™ manuscript analysis shows you which best-selling authors you write like – and how to target their audience
- How to identify keywords and descriptive phrases you can use to attract readers who enjoy your storytelling style – a prime audience for your book
- How to use this marketing intelligence to develop an effective promotional plan
- The story behind the science: how ScoreIt!™ algorithms examine grammar, tonal quality, vocabulary and other features of your writing

How ScoreIt!™ technology actually works – a live demonstration

Register today:

**Thur, 8/6** <https://myidentifiers.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=eb496e17420b3d21c01ab57556&id=05ab946a88&e=134675b0c2>

**Fri, 8/7** <https://myidentifiers.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=eb496e17420b3d21c01ab57556&id=ca34cf04a7&e=134675b0c2>

