

Gold Country Writers Dispatch

Our Mission is to Support Local Writers



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**August
2017
Issue**



Above, GCW Lead Team holds their annual Off-Site Planning Session at Susan Korn's home, July 13, 2017. Club activities were planned out for the next eighteen months. The food was delicious, the schedule rigorous, but the Lead Team got a lot accomplished in a few short hours.

The three newly elected officers showed they have hit the road running, as they presented key elements of GCW advance plans for the near future.

Betsy spoke about the club's mission and vision statements. She then presented outgoing President Skip Michael and outgoing VP of External Affairs Chery Anderson gifts, thanking them for their outstanding service to the club. She then went over the revised 2017-18 Organizational Chart.

Susan led those gathered in several exercises, the most noteworthy being the determination of each member's leadership style and their personal goal or mission for the club. She then had everyone divide into teams to work on various problem-solving items.

Joyce led them through the What Cha Got form and the 2017-18 Club Action Plan. It looks like GCW is in good hands for the next few years.

GCW Writing Retreat

The 2017 edition of the Gold Country Writers Writing Retreat held at Betsy's Garden Valley home, on July 27, 2017 was a resounding success. Eight club members, beside Betsy attended. Some even actually worked on their writing.

All that undertook the long trip got to talk about their current project and share what was happening in their writing lives. The group, which is shown below, enjoyed Betsy & Ken's gracious hospitality and enjoyed the writing conducive ambiance of Betsy's country home among the oak and pine trees. Thank you Betsy & Ken for hosting us.



PROSE



FROM THE PRES

Who do you imagine as your reader when you're writing? Is it a woman or man, child or teen? What does she do for work and for play? What experiences has he had? What passions and needs motivate her? What subjects peak his interest?

I was surprised to hear at conference this spring how important your "ideal reader" is to potential agents and editors! They want specifics, down to a ten-year age spread. There are demographics behind this: no matter how small a "niche" our writing is for, there are thousands of ideal readers out there! This does not preclude all the rest of the potential readers; it just gives our writing focus.

August is the time to think seriously about our GCW Mentoring Program. What experiences do you have in some aspect of writing? How about laying out plots, using software, marketing, promotion, or encouragement? You don't have to know everything, just share your experience as a Mentor. Likewise, what do you want to learn, to strengthen your writing or publisher relationships? Consider being a Mentee. You can be both! Contact Susan Korn, and then come to the Mentor Program Orientation at 10 a.m. on August 30, 2017

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 club business. All are welcome to come. This is followed by a closed meeting of the Lead Team.

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 educational programs of general interest to the club members. Topics change each month. See Page 6 for the Speaker of the Month. These are open to the public.

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 members and guests.

Writer's Quote

Who is wise? He that learns from everyone. Who is powerful? He that governs his passions. Who is rich? He that is content. Who is that? Nobody.

- **Benjamin Franklin**

Writing Contests/Awards

Baton Rouge Area Foundation

Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence

Deadline: August 15, 2017

Cash Prize: \$10,000

E-mail address: gainesaward@braf.org

Website:

<http://www.ernestjgainesaward.org>

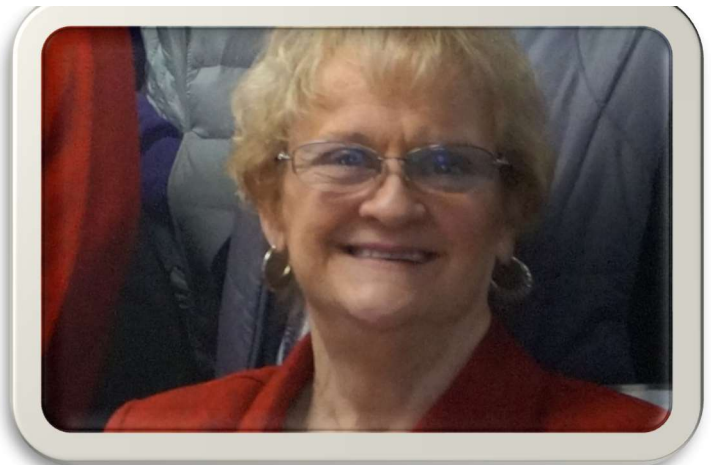
A prize of \$10,000 is given annually to an emerging African American writer for a short story collection or novel published in the current year. The winner will also receive travel and lodging expenses to attend an awards ceremony in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in January 2018. Anthony Grooms, Elizabeth Nunez, Francine Prose, and Patricia Towers will judge. Submit eight copies of a short story collection or a novel (or bound galley) published in 2017 by August 15. There is no entry fee. Visit the website for the required entry form and complete guidelines.

Let's eat kids.

Let's eat, kids.

The use of a comma saves lives.

Developing Your Writer's Platform



Betsy Schwarzentraub, July's Gold Country Writer's Guest Speaker

- ❖ Making your name findable on the web:
 - Facebook, with or without author's page
 - Website, with or without online bookstore
 - Twitter
 - Blogging
 - Instagram
- ❖ Develop one medium to the fullest before going on to the next.
- ❖ Priority list, First Things First:
 - Post your Bio to the GCW website (It's Free for members)
 - Secure your website domain name
 - Develop e-mail distribution lists
 - Develop an e-newsletter, or blog site
- ❖ Offer a free gift (self published short book) on your website in exchange for e-mail addresses to add to your distribution list.
- ❖ Develop a platform statement
- ❖ Create a Mission Statement
- ❖ Identify your tag: key words that lead people to your website
- ❖ Comment on other people's blogs & websites

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Special Events



GCW Special Guest Program

Aug 16, 2017, 10-noon at the church, Fredrick Foote, writing and publishing short stories and flash fiction

Open Mic for the Spoken Word

4th Sat. of each month, 1pm, at Auburn Library, **Aug 26, 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

Mentoring Kick-Off Meeting

August 30, 2017, 5th Wednesday Event, 10-noon at the church

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. at Depoe Bay.

Historical Fiction: Contact Michael O'Haver – 530/268-2490. They meet once a month on the 4th Thursday, 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 Thursday, 2-4 p.m.

Science Fiction/Fantasy: Contact Skip Michael 916/601-1044.

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

Novel: Contact Ann Reh 530/823-1870. They meet every other Monday, 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. at a member's office. Call for directions.

GCW Officers, Board Members & Committee Chairs

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

V P - Internal Affairs: : 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: 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 Genre ~ Historical Fiction & Memoirs
Submit newsletter material by the 15th of each month to
GodsScribeMike@aol.com

Betsy's Writers Platform, Continued

- ❖ Write book reviews.

Ways Not to Go Crazy:

- Use a virtual assistant like Fiverr or CoSchedule
- Know where your audience is – online or social media - and then go there.
- Create and use systems like www.tweetdec.com for help on Twitter, or www.hootsuite.com
- ❖ Make your website Mobile Responsive – readable on i-Phones, tablets & laptops.
- ❖ On your Bio page, list links to other websites.
- ❖ Buy your own ISBN numbers to retain all your rights.

Things every webpage should have:

- ❖ Your value statement
- ❖ Newsletter Sign-up form
- ❖ A great giveaway
- ❖ Your Bio
- ❖ Endorsements (Speaking, writing, art)
- ❖ List of your books
- ❖ All the different ways to contact you

Why blogging is important:

- ❖ Gives you material to share
- ❖ Acts as platform for your books, art & message
- ❖ Creates an archive for your readers
- ❖ Can drive traffic to your website
- ❖ Can host your book launch
- ❖ Blogs can be your poems

If you blog, share it on Google Plus; it does a lot with it!

Awards, Continued

New York Public Library

Young Lions Fiction Award

Deadline: September 2, 2017

Cash Prize: \$10,000

E-mail address: younglions@nypl.org

Website: <http://www.nypl.org/y1fa>

Five prizes of \$10,000 each are given annually for a novel or short story collection published in the current year by a writer age 35 or younger. Publishers may submit ten copies of a book (or bound galleys) published in 2017 by September 2. There is no entry fee. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction

Honoring the best work of fiction published by an American author in a single calendar year, this award has been given to the likes of John Updike, Philip Roth, and Ann Patchett.

The winner receives \$15,000 and an invitation to read at the award ceremony in Washington, D.C. Four finalists also each receive a \$5,000 award.

Deadline: Annually on October 31 for books published that calendar year.

L. Ron Hubbard Writers of the Future Contest

Whatever your feelings about L. Ron Hubbard's work and philosophy, the prizes for this regular contest are nothing to sneeze at. Every three months, winners earn \$1,000, \$750 and \$500, or an additional annual grand prize worth \$5,000.

Submissions must be short stories or novelettes (up to 17,000 words) in the genre of science fiction or fantasy, and new and amateur writers are welcome to apply.

Deadlines: Quarterly on January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1.



Gold Country Writers

Third Wednesday Meeting

Wednesday, August 16, 2017

10 a.m. to 12 noon

~ Gold Country Writers proudly presents ~

Frederick Foote

*Writing and Publishing Short Stories
and Flash Fiction*



One way to develop your writer's resume is to have some of your work—short stories or excerpts of your story—published in literary journals and magazines, print and online. Fred will share his experiences in writing and publishing short stories and flash fiction, as well as getting his short story collection books published.

Frederick K. Foote, Jr. was born in Sacramento, California and educated in Vienna, Virginia, and northern California. He started writing short stories and poetry in 2013.



Since 2014, he has published over one hundred-fifty stories and poems including literary, science fiction, fables, and horror genres. He is the author of two short story collections, *For the Sake of Soul* (2015) and *Crossroads Encounters* (2016).

His work has been published in various publications—anthologies, print publications and online—including *Piker Press*, *Dime Show Review*, *Literally Stories*, *Across the Margin*, and *Pink Litter*. To see a list of Fred's publications, go to <https://fkfoote.wordpress.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/>