

September, 2020

GCW Dispatch



New GCW Officers Take Office

On August 5, 2020 new GCW Officers were installed. Barbara Young took over as our new club secretary. Bill Baynes took over as the new club Treasurer. Barbara is shown above sporting our new club T-Shirts. Shown below is Bill Baynes



Inside the September 2020 Issue:

Pg 1-New Club Officers, GCW Leadership Conference

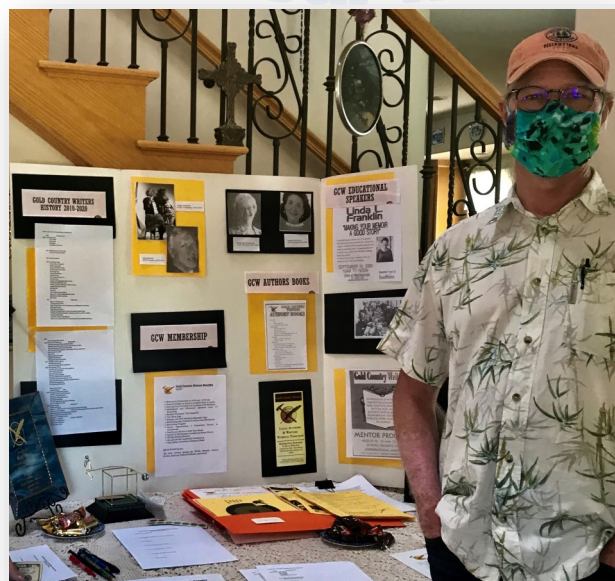
Pg 2-Prose from The Pres, CV-19 Meeting Schedule, Member News

Pg 3-Spin-Off Critique Groups, Officers & Committee Chairs

Pg 4-California COVID Diaries, Famous Writer's Quote, Leadership Conf. (cont'd)

Pg 5-Mentor Kick-Off, GCW Sept. & Oct. Schedule of Activities,

Pg 6-Aug. 19 Meeting Report



GCW Leadership Conference

Seven dedicated GCW leaders met at President Susan's home on August 15, 2020 to plan the next year's activities for the club. There was also one who zoomed in. Shown above with Susan's Storyboard is Randy Whitwell.

We started off with an ice breaker. We each answered the question —"What age would you most like to be and why?"

Next we each voted on what qualities of the club we most valued. The top three were 1) Creativity, 2) Diversity, and 3) Openness

We then reviewed the calendar of activities for the club for the next year.

The final activity was to divide up into two teams and brainstorm the issues of:

- 1) What will make the biggest difference or improvement to the club.
- 2) How can we retain and recruit members

Continued on Page 4

PROSE



FROM THE PRES

Hello,

Our GCW Leadership conference was a successful event held on August 15, 2020.

We were able to read and review the answers and responses from about 16 GCW Members who sent in their opinions: of What Works in GCW?, What Does Not Work? And If you Could Make a Difference what would it be? Well, some of the results were loud and clear. Most everyone loves the Newsletter, "The Dispatch." Congratulations, we heard the most comments on how they so enjoy the Newspaper. Speakers, were another area of "high marks," and the request for more Speakers and Work Shops were noted. We will be sending out the results of all the questions and answers. This process was held in "confidentiality" and all names were withheld.

"Staying Alive Thrive" 2020 is our new motto which came out of the Leadership Conference. We have identified (3) ways in which to continue to communicate and connect with each other during the pandemic time frame. GCW will be sending out an updated calendar for 2020-2021 to announce all activities.

The options for connecting with GCW Members are: 1.) School Reserve Park, Auburn CA, on Wednesdays from 10:00 am-12:00 pm. 2.) Zoom meetings which connect to your home computer/ laptop and/ or I-phone are offered to those who are in "High Risk" environment. The GCW Critique Groups which are genre specific use Zoom meetings successfully. and 3) 1st Wednesday Evening Critique Group also connects in Round Table Pizza in Auburn, CA. Do not forget to stay in touch with our Newsletter, and Facebook Page. For our new members GCW is updating the Welcome Packets for everyone. Our GCW Website is in the process of revision. Poetry, and Spiritual Groups meetings are scheduled on Wednesday from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. Poetry meets at School Reserve Park and Spiritual meets in a private home grounds of Rebecca Partridge, Critique Director.

We are working on a "surprise package" for all the Members who have not been able to connect with us due to the virus. Your in our hearts...we have not forgot about you.

Stay Strong, Susan



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: 8854855-4720 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. - (When Available)—Party Time

Member News

Jody Brady -- Five books, self-published, one for each of her grandchildren!

Betsy Schwarzentraub -- Article, "Transformational Giving," for the July issue of *Giving* online publication (by subscription, U.S. and Canada)

Book review of *Stewardshift* for the same online publication, July issue

Asked and accepted "work for hire" week of devotions for the *2023 Upper Room Disciplines*

Bill Baynes—A mistake in the latest newsletter under Member News. The item about John Vesper is incorrect. Thurston Howl Publications has offered Bill (not John) an agreement to publish a book of short stories entitled *Of Ballparks and Birds*, which follows some of the same characters from Bill's earlier Thurston Howl book, *The Coyote Who Braved Baseball*.

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 4th 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 1st Thursday of each month at 2 p.m.

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, e-mailed first.

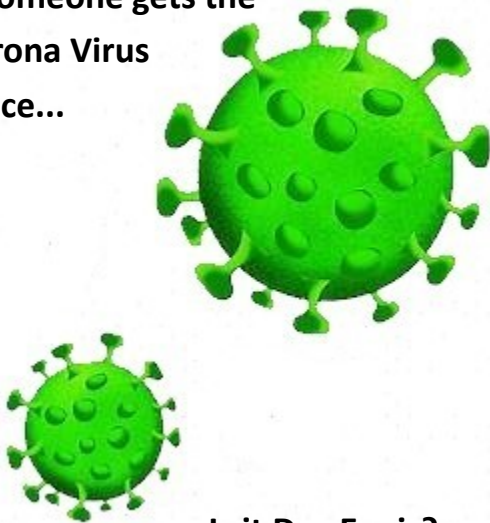
Flash Fiction: Contact Chery Anderson. Meets 4th Tuesday of the month, 1 p.m. at Jeanine's house in Rocklin. Five members share feedback on one- to two-page stories, around 500 words. Temporarily closed to new members.

Poetry: Contact 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.

If someone gets the
Corona Virus
twice...



Is it Dos Equis?



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: Bill Baynes

Genre ~ Science Fiction, Children's Books

Secretary: Barbara Young

Genre ~ Photography, Nonfiction

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 15th of each
month to 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

"Get it down. Take chances. It may be bad, but it's the only way you can do anything really good."

– William Faulkner



**Write
On!**

2020 Leadership Conference Continued

1) Suggestions to improvement the club?

- ♦ Have a suggestion box at club guest speaker presentations
- ♦ Have presentations that addresses all levels of writing expertise
- ♦ Improve communication
- ♦ No large Drop-In Critiques via Zoon
- ♦ More education on online marketing
- ♦ Have written education on how to Zoon
- ♦ Educate on the different rolls of critiquing

2) Suggestions to retain and/or recruit members?

- ♦ Renewal dues (cut them in half as a gift for now) A good faith gesture TBD
- ♦ Have guest presentations on evenings or weekends to attract working writers
- ♦ Have podcasts of special presentation on the club website
- ♦ Have presentations on the business of writing
- ♦ Have e-book versions of members books available to check out on club website (members only)
- ♦ Explore ways to get member's books in libraries
- ♦ Plan car caravan and drop off book" to the members who are at High Risk and are shut in
- ♦ Need to develop an effective process for "Critique Zoom meetings".
- ♦ Increase Hat's Off Contests More Words
- ♦ On line marketing to present members for retention

Words of Wisdom: The human spirit does not survive via Zoom or Facebook. It only survives in person.

More on Page 7

GCW Scheduled Activities

**SEPT
& OCT
2020**

NOTE: Programs going forward will be in person if possible, and/or by Zoom if necessary. All members of GCW shall receive email notice of Zoom and in-person events.

Sept. 2, 2020 Combined Business and Exec./BOD Meeting
Weeknight Critique Group, 5:45 p.m., Round Table Pizza

Sept. 9, 2020 Drop-in Critique
12:30 Spiritual / Inspirational Group meets in Rebecca Inch-Partridge's yard + Zoom

Sept. 11, 2020 NO Gold Country Fair due to COVID-19

Sept. 15, 2020 Questionnaire sent to all members related to Sept. 30 event

Sept. 16, 2020 Speaker Meeting: Linda Franklin: "Memoir, Part 2" (Zoom or In-person)

Sept. 23, 2020 Drop-in Critique
12:00 Poetry Group

Sept. 30, 2020 5th Wednesday SPECIAL EVENT: "Staying Alive with Gold Country Writers" (connecting with one another)

Oct. 7, 2020 Business Meeting
Executive/Board of Directors Meeting
Weeknight Critique Group, 5:45 p.m., Round Table Pizza

Oct. 14, 2020 Drop-in Critique
12:30 Spiritual / Inspirational Group meets in Rebecca Inch-Partridge's yard + Zoom

Oct. 17, 2020 Saturday "Online Marketing" workshop, 2 to 4 p.m., by Betsy Schwarzentraub; place TBD

Oct. 21, 2020 Speaker Meeting:
Rebecca Inch-Partridge: "NaNoWriMo"

Oct. 28, 2020 Drop-in Critique
12:00 Poetry Group

Mentor Kick-off



The Gold Country Writer's kicked off the Mentor Program in the School Preserve Park in Auburn on August 19, 2020.

A description of the mentor program from GCW brochure: *"Professional one-to-one mentoring program to help improve members writing skills, and achieve writing goals. Experienced members helping others to succeed."*

Our organization president, Susan Korn, also introduced some innovative modifications to this valuable program* available to GCW members.

- There is no cost per member.
- It will now be available year-round.*
- Signed agreement for both Mentor & Mentee is a 3 month period.
- All participants are to fill out an evaluation form in the end and forward to Susan Korn for assessment and rating scores.

Please contact Susan: susankorn130@yahoo.com

Until further notice : Susan Korn will be available on Wednesdays for Critiques Meetings, Poetry, Spiritual (held at an individual residence), and Special Events in the School Reserve Park in Auburn from 10:00 am-12:00 pm if you would like to pick up your GCW Mentor Program packet and to discuss the program.

- To participate to volunteer as a Mentor
- To request be a Mentee



GCW Meeting of August 19, 2020

In support of the GCW's slogan, "Local Authors & Writers Working Together", three members presented a brief summary of lessons from their journey with writing and publishing. A few tips and resources are shared below from each:

Jody Brady, shared her recent children's book series, *Traveling with Grandma*.

- KDP on Amazon is helpful if you just want to print a few books

- Ingram Spark

- If you are going to sell your book you need numbers!

- o Bowker at www.myidentifiers.com

- § ISBN– (International Standard Book Number) one for each format- more cost effective to buy in bulk

- § Bar Codes - for book stores to scan

- o Library of Congress – www.loc.gov–get LCCN (Library of Congress Control Number) prior to printing and send in your book

- Pictures – www.pixabay.com and www.shutterstock.com

- Formatting & Illustration & Covers – www.fiverr.com

Barbara Young, has published several photography books and a non-fiction book, *The Heart that Rocks Health Care*, currently being revised for the second edition.

- Know your market and write to your ideal reader. Write specific to appeal to more. It is more effective than writing generally or to the many.

- Know your goal and that will help you choose path for writing and publishing. There are paths that are

simple, expensive, competitive and totally DIY (do-it-yourself)

- Your book is your creation, message and gift, hold that in your heart and let it be your compass.

Writing, Formatting and Editing Tips & resources:

- o NanoWrimo-- www.nanowrimo.org–free, write 50,000 in thirty days

- o Word-type software -- use grammar & spell checks

- o Scrivener – <https://www.literatureandlatte.com> is a writing and organization software

- o ProWriting Aid-- www.prowritingaid.com

- o Fictionary-- for fiction story writing and development <https://fictionary.co>

- o Reedsy www.reedsy.com– find an editor, marketer, designer agents to find where your work may fit in.

Bill Baynes, is a writer, producer and director. His most recent book is *The Coyote Who Braved Baseball*. Methods of publishing:

Traditional -- most competitive; nearly impossible to track the NYC houses without an agent; agents usually not interested in people in their sixties or seventies because they won't be around to keep writing

Self – the most work but make the most money per sale IF you sell any

Indie – cheaper & easier but takes longer & you get less money

The goal is to get the book published.

How to find Indies:

Submishmash -- a weekly newsletter write to newsletter@submittable.com

www.duotroupe.com – has an industry bulletin and you can do sophisticated searches for publishers and agents to find where your work may fit in.

