

Gold Country Writers Dispatch

Our Mission is to Support Local Writers

September 2017 Issue



GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS MENTORING PROGRAM



Successful People Never Reach Their Goals Alone

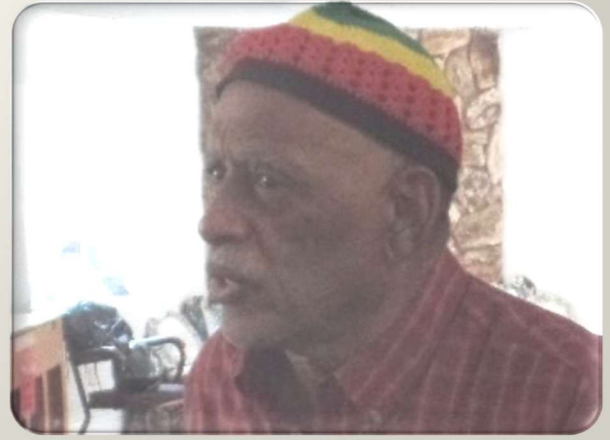


The 2017 GCW Mentoring Program had its Kickoff August 30th. Shown above from left to right are this year's Mentors – Frank Nissen, Pauline Nevins, Skip Michael, Kathryn Shields and Rebecca Inch-Partridge. This is free One-on-One mentoring for all club members, started by Susan Korn, our new VP of Internal Affairs, two years ago.

Skip Michael offers expertise in computer formatting, software and video editing and mentors via Skype. **Frank Nissen** offers story editing, determining basic reasons for writing and plot clarification. **Pauline Nevins** offers expertise in Memoirs, audio books, newspaper columns and editing. **Rebecca Inch-Partridge** offers Speculative Fiction, editing, critiquing and traditional publishing. **Kathryn Shields** can help with anything medical or musical or making a video trailer for your book.

Inside the September 2017 Issue:

- 1-Mentoring Program Kick off, Foote on Flash Fiction
- 2- GCW Meeting Schedule, Prose from the Pres, Famous Writer's Quote
- 3 -Writing Contests & Awards, Kudos
- 4 –Special Events, Specialty Spin-Off Critique Groups, Club Officers
- 5- Foote & Contests Continued, Kudos
- 6-Sept. Guest Speaker, Joey Garcia on Writing about Love, Sex & Relationships



August 16 GCW was proud to host Fredrick Foote, shown above, as our monthly guest speaker. His topic was “Writing and Publish Short Stories & Flash Fiction Online”. His definition of Flash Fiction was a short story of 1,000 words or less.

Fredrick Foote's strategies to get published:

- ✓ Research fast responding publishers.
- ✓ The oftener they publish the better.
- ✓ Choose ones that publish on line.
- ✓ Look at their track record.
- ✓ Look how they look on line.
- ✓ Have a thick skin, everyone gets rejections sometimes.
- ✓ Look for ones in your genre.

Continued on page 5

PROSE



FROM THE PRES

Those who write as a primary passion have one idea of what is normal, in contrast to those who do not. For writers, it's normal to wake up at night to jot down a line of poetry, or ideas on how to develop a character, resolve a plot difficulty, or move our books forward. It's normal to want quiet time for thinking, or to zone out of what is going on around us. It's normal to write everything at least four times – once to get the idea down, a second time to form coherent sentences, a third time to wordsmith and polish it, and a fourth time to make it sound fresh and vibrant. Connecting with one another as writers helps us remember being a writer is normal!

This month we'll have an exciting, interactive booth at the Gold Country Fair, in the Arts Building, on Sept. 7-10. We will help visitors write name anagram poems or short stories, both to take home, and also contribute to a group story on a poster by adding a sentence to advance the plot. It will be fun! Be sure to come by and join us.

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.

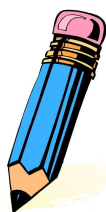
Third Wednesday: Special educational programs of general interest to the club members. Topics change each month. See Page 6 for the Speaker of the Month. These are open to the public.

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.

Famous Writer's Quote

If you can tell stories, create characters, devise incidents, and have sincerity and passion, it doesn't matter a damn how you write.

– Somerset Maugham



Writing Contests/Awards

Dogwood Literary Prizes

Deadline: September 5, 2017
Entry Fee: \$10 Cash Prize: \$1,000

E-mail address:

cdavis13@fairfield.edu

Website:

<http://www.dogwoodliterary.com>

Three prizes of \$1,000 each and publication in *Dogwood* are given annually for a poem, a short story, or an essay. Submit up to 3 poems totaling no more than 10 pages or up to 22 pages of prose with a \$10 entry fee Fairfield University, English Department, 1073 North Benson Road, Fairfield, CT 06824. (203) 254-4000, ext. 2565. Carol Ann Davis, Editor.

Dzanc Books

Prize for Fiction

Deadline: September 15, 2017
Entry Fee: \$25 Cash Prize: \$10,000

Website:

<http://www.dzancbooks.org>

A prize of \$10,000 and publication by Dzanc Books is given annually for a novel. Lindsey Drager, Daniel A. Hoyt, and Chrissy Kolaya will judge. Using the online submission system, submit a manuscript of any length and a brief synopsis Dzanc Books, Prize for Fiction, 5220 Dexter Ann Arbor Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

Hippocampus Magazine

Remember in November Contest

Deadline: September 15, 2017
Entry Fee: \$12 Cash Prize: \$1,000

E-mail address:

info@hippocampusmagazine.com

Website:

<http://hippocampusmagazine.com>

A prize of \$1,000 and publication in *Hippocampus Magazine* is given annually for an essay. The winner will also receive free admission to the annual HippoCamp Conference for creative nonfiction writers in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in Summer 2018. Using the online submission system, submit an essay of up to 4,000 words to *Hippocampus Magazine*, Remember in November Contest, 210 West Grant Street, #210, Lancaster, PA 17603. (717) 295-2524. Donna Talarico, Founder.

Continued on Page 5



KUDOS

Michael O'Haver entered his latest Children's Picture Book into the Nevada County Fair. *The Mystery of Nico's Missing Tail* won a Blue Ribbon for an original, prose, children's story.

Following is a quote from the judge:

"I think my kids would love this. Made me smile and chuckle. Nice work!"

Special Events



Gold Country Fair Author's Booth

Sept. 7-10, See June Gillam for sign up hours, 916/599-9047

GCW Special Guest Program

Sept 20, 2017, 10-noon at the church, **Joey Garcia**, Writing about love, sex and relationships

Placer's Gold Toastmasters

Every Tuesday, Noon-1 pm at Placer Co. DeWitt Justice Center, Richardson Dr. & B Ave., Auburn, Contact: Michael O'Haver, GodsScribeMike@aol.com **Not a GCW Event**

Open Mic for the Spoken Word

4th Sat. of each month, 1 PM, at Auburn Library, **Sept. 23, 2017**.
Contact: Chery Anderson, Taleteller2@gmail.com
Not a GCW Event

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, 10:30 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

Footnote on Writing Flash Fiction Continued

- ✓ Be wary of contest, they often want to retain rights if you win.
- ✓ Listen to editors even when they are rejecting you.
- ✓ Don't shy away from no fee sites, they will help build your reputation.
- ✓ You won't get rich but you will build your reputation.

Good websites:

- Dime show review
- <https://notalwaysright.com/doesnt-take-it-lite-ly/29006/>
- Duotrop.com – an on line data base that keeps track of your submissions.
- Submittable.com – on line clearing house for submissions.
- Across the margin – does topical fiction.
- Creative writers opportunity list – gives genres accepting work
- If you do multiple submissions, let other publishers know when you get accepted.

Other tips to consider:

- ❖ Take excerpts from a novel in progress and submit them as short stories. It will help when you are ready to publish your novel.
- ❖ Calif. Writer's Clubs–Free speakers.
- ❖ The Art Farm – you get free seminars-trade for work on their farm.
- ❖ Sacramento Poets & Writers-good critique meet-up group.

Contests & 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/ylfa>

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.

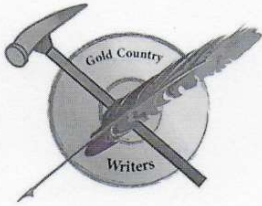
Report by Cathy MacHold

Four of our Kid's Lit Lovers, Norma Lehr, Chery Anderson, Hester Jones, and Cathy MacHold attended the **Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators critique** in Fair Oaks in mid-July.

The event was attended by well-known published authors. Lori Mortensen, the author of numerous beloved children's books including, *Cindy Moo*, *Cowpoke Clyde Rides the Range* offered this advice:

- Your story pattern must include the introduction of the main character and story setting.
- You must have three progressive problems and half-way through, a big surprise.
- Include a peculiar character.
- You have a child facing a problem and taking action to solve it.

"Mortensen joined our table during the last half of the critique session." Cathy said. "Lori has several publishers. Her books include vivid graphics. I learned that you don't necessarily show a publisher your story with the graphics included. Often times the publishing house hires their own graphic artists."



Gold Country Writers

Third Wednesday Meeting

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

10 a.m. to 12 noon

~ Gold Country Writers proudly presents ~

Joey Garcia

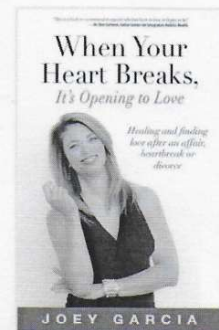
Writing About Love, Sex and Relationships



Publications seek good writing about love and relationships because readers are hungry for it. So from service pieces to confessionals, there are plenty of ways to spin your personal experiences into profit. Learn how to write realistic and emotionally-driven love and sex scenes. We will also discuss how to manage the fear of revealing personal details about yourself or your friends, how to recognize and capitalize on relationship trends, how to find markets for your writing, and more.

Joey Garcia has written the "Ask Joey" relationship advice column for the *Sacramento News & Review* for over 20 years. She is a talk show host with NewsRadio KFBK and the on-air Relationship Expert for Fox 40 Morning News. Joey is also the author of the award-winning book, *When Your Heart Breaks, It's Opening to Love: Healing and finding love after an affair, heartbreak or divorce*.

Originally from Belize, Joey is launching the first-ever Belize Writers' Conference, April 23-28, 2018, featuring two New York literary agents along with a writing coach/author at Ak'bol Yoga Retreat & Eco-lodge on the white sand beach of Ambergris Caye, Belize. Conference is limited to 30 people. Details: www.joeygarcia.com/events.



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/>