



Gold Country Writers

Forging Better Writers

July 2026 Dispatch Newsletter

About Us

Gold Country Writers is a 501(c)(3) non-profit volunteer organization of writers that meets every Wednesday at the Auburn City Hall Rose Room from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Email gcmembership@gmail.com to join or find out more.

Website: goldcountrywriters.com

Facebook: Gold Country Writers

Mailing address: P.O. Box 5991, Auburn, CA 95604.



President's Message

The first half of 2026 is gone (shock!) Are you half way to meeting your writing goals for this year? July is half way through my two-year term as President. Each month, I'm even more grateful to our team of volunteers. When we meet on July 1, we'll be recognizing the entire leadership team, especially our recently elected or appointed leaders: Second-VP Phyllis Kalbach, Treasurer Sarah Michie Pressler, Director of Communications Dan Araujo, and Mentor Program Manager Mary Jones. We'll also show some volunteer appreciation, celebrate our 15th anniversary, and enjoy a potluck lunch with plenty of time for socializing. Yes, there will be cake! 😊

In the Rose Room immediately after the potluck lunch, Rebecca Inch-Partridge will hold an organizational meeting for all members interested in staffing the GCW booth and selling their own books at the Gold Country Fair.

July has five Wednesdays, so plan to come to our Writer's Retreat at Terry Wicks' ranch in Penryn on July 30 at 10 a.m. Heads up, there is no GCW meeting in the Rose Room that day. I went to The Ranch last year for the first time and very much enjoyed the relaxed setting and conversations. I sat with my laptop under a willow tree by the pond and got some writing done. But you don't have to write; some people prefer to hang out by the pool and chat. It would be nice to see you there.

Keep Writing,
Nicolle Goldman



Calendar of Meetings July 2026

**All meetings take place at the Rose Room, Auburn City Hall, 1226 Lincoln Way, Auburn, unless otherwise indicated.*

First Wednesday, July 1	
GCW 15th Anniversary Celebration and Officer Installation	10:00 a.m. - 1:00 pm
Evening Mixed Genre Critique	5:30 p.m. Round Table Restaurant, Auburn
First Tuesday, July 7	
Memoir Critique	Atwood Business Park 11768 Atwood Road, Auburn Currently full
Second Wednesday, July 8	
Drop-in Critique	10:00 a.m. - noon
Poetry Group	noon - 2:00 p.m.
Children's Lit/Young Adult	noon - 2:00 p.m.
Second Friday, July 10	
Mystery and Thriller	4:00 p.m. In person and on Zoom Contact Rebecca Partridge: rebeccapartridge@att.net
Third Wednesday, July 15	
Speaker Presentation: Rebecca Inch-Partridge	10:00 a.m. - noon
Third Tuesday, July 21	
Memoir Critique	Atwood Business Park 11768 Atwood Road, Auburn Currently full
Fourth Wednesday, July 22	
Drop-in Critique	10:00 a.m. - noon
Poetry Group	noon - 2:00 p.m.
Children's Lit/Young Adult	noon - 2:00 p.m.

Fifth Wednesday, July 29	
Writer's Retreat Bring sack lunch and swimwear	10:00 a.m. - noon Terry Wicks' ranch 8035 Rock Springs Road, Penryn

Specialty Spin-Off Groups

Children's Lit & Young Adult: Contact Sarah Pressler. Meets at noon at the Rose Room, Auburn City Hall, on the 2nd Wednesday. New members welcome.

Evening Mixed Genre Critique: Contact Rebecca Partridge. Meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at 5:30 at Round Table Restaurant. Open to new members.

Memoir Critique (Words without Borders): Contact Philip Jacques, philipjacques@gmail.com. The group meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month in Atwood Business Park, 11768 Atwood Rd. Auburn. Currently full.

Memoir Share: Contact Terry Wicks, terryshenhouse@gmail.com. Meets 4th Wednesday each month at noon at the Rose Room, Auburn City Hall. Emphasizes sharing & caring, not in-depth critiquing. Open to new members.

Mystery and Thriller: contact Rebecca Partridge: rebeccapartridge@att.net. Meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 4:00 p.m. Meetings are hybrid: both in person and zoom.

Poetry: Contact David Anderson: dcajla80@gmail.com. Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday from noon to 2:00 p.m. Sharing poems after the Drop-In Critique. Open to new members.

Science Fiction & Fantasy: Contact Bill Baynes, bbaynes303@aol.com or Frank Nissen, f.j.nissen@icloud.com. Meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at 2:30 p.m. Meet at Flames Restaurant and Tap Room.

New Memoir Critique Group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. The meeting is at a private home. Contact Gina Calderone gmcalderson@gmail.com for more information.

Specialty Spin-off Group information can also be accessed on the GCW website:
<https://goldcountrywriters.com/genre-specific-critique-groups/>

Specialty Spin-off Groups Coordinator: Rebecca Inch-Partridge

Snap Your Critique Group

Critique group leaders and participants: Please send photos of your critique groups in action to our newsletter editor Marla Mion at: marlamion2100@gmail.com. Also, you can visit the GCW Facebook page, like the posts, and generate more traffic and interest in Gold Country Writers.

GCW August Programs and Party August 19

by Lisa Schliff

Our program for Wednesday, August 19 will consist of two presentations of Gold Country Writers programs and a Social Mixer to follow. This will take place in the Rose Room at City Hall from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Rebecca Inch-Partridge will discuss the Spin-off and Drop-in Critique Groups. This will be an opportunity to ask questions about the groups, how to critique, how to listen to critiques, and whatever else you would like to know about this program.

Mary Jones will inform us about the newly revived Mentor Program that she will be coordinating. She will answer your questions about being a mentor and/or being mentored. This will be an excellent time to sign up for mentoring if you are interested.

Afterwards, we will have a Social Mixer to welcome new members, network, and shmooze. Light refreshments and beverages will be provided. See you there!

Upcoming Events: Save The Dates!

by Margie Yee Webb

The Speaker Programs, scheduled on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (except in August and December), are free and open to the public. Writers, readers, and guests are invited! Join in these engaging events!

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

GCW 15th Anniversary Celebration and Officer Installation

<https://goldcountrywriters.com/event/special-event-15th-anniversary-celebration-officer-installation/>

Friday, July 10, 2026

Read and Review — *Sidelined No Longer: The Untold Story of Women's College Sports* by **Karen S. Rudolph**, and *Exploring the Sacred Mystery: A Quest for the Divine* by **Mary Mohs**

<https://goldcountrywriters.com/event/read-review-6/>

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Author and Editor **Rebecca Inch-Partridge**

"The Trilogy Survival Guide: Do's and Don'ts for Writers"

<https://goldcountrywriters.com/upcoming-events/>

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

GCW 5th Wednesday Social — **Writers Retreat** at "The Ranch" in Penryn, hosted by Terry Wicks

<https://goldcountrywriters.com/event/writers-retreat-at-the-ranch-in-penryn/>

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Special Program on our "Mentor Program and Critique Groups"

Mary Jones, Mentor Program Manager; and **Rebecca Inch-Partridge**, Director of Spin-off Critique Groups

<https://goldcountrywriters.com/august-19th-mentoring-program-critique-groups/>

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Story-theme Consultant and Platform-building Coach **Teresa Jade LeYung**

“Attract ATTENTION Before and After Publication with Ease”

<https://goldcountrywriters.com/upcoming-events/>

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Author and Writing Mentor **Lisa Frenkel Riddiough**

“I Am the Story” (Workshop)

<https://goldcountrywriters.com/upcoming-events/>

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

Author **Dan Hanel**

“History, Mystery and Murder – In the Shadow of Diablo Series”

<https://goldcountrywriters.com/upcoming-events/>

GCW Speaker for July by Margie Yee Webb

Tips and Tools for Writing a Trilogy

We are pleased to welcome Rebecca Inch-Partridge for a presentation to Gold Country Writers. On Wednesday, July 15, 2026, she will present “The Trilogy Survival Guide: Do’s and Don’ts for Writers.”

“Trilogies are big in the publishing world,” says Rebecca. Among the questions she raises — Does that mean every novel has series potential? Should you draft all three books before trying to publish book one? How do you keep all your character, plot, and setting details straight? How can you have a satisfying plot arc in each book and yet have a story arc that spans all three novels?

She adds, “Answering these questions will help writers avoid common mistakes that can cause hours of frustration and wasted writing.” She will also cover the do’s and don’ts of trilogy writing from the perspective of developmental and acquisition editors.

Rebecca Inch-Partridge is the author of the Paraxous Star Cluster trilogy, with “Escaping the Dashia” (2023); and “Hunting the Dashia” (2026). The third book in the science fiction trilogy is scheduled for Fall of 2027 by Water Dragon Publishing. She is co-author of “Abby’s Fire”, which won a Northern California Publishers and Authors (NCPA) award in 2024.

Rebecca has worked as a freelance editor, author manager, and writing coach for nine years, and teaches writing workshops through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) program at Sierra College. She has served as a first reader for Amazing Stories, the world’s oldest science fiction magazine. For more information, visit <https://www.ripartridge.com/>.

GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS



THE TRILOGY SURVIVAL GUIDE: DO'S AND DON'TS FOR WRITERS

Rebecca Inch-Partridge



Trilogies are big in the publishing world. Does that mean every novel has series potential? Should you draft all three books before trying to publish book one? How do you keep all your character, plot, and setting details straight? How can you have a satisfying plot arc in each book and yet have a story arc that spans all three novels?

Answering these questions will help writers avoid common mistakes that can cause hours of frustration and wasted writing. Also, a look at the do's and don'ts of trilogy writing from the perspective of developmental and acquisition editors.

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JULY 15, 2026
10 AM TO NOON
Auburn City Hall
Rose Room
1225 Lincoln Way
Auburn, CA 95603
PUBLIC INVITED - FREE



www.goldcountrywriters.com

Nuggets

by Randy Landenberger

Audiobook News: The Gorilla is Shifting Its Weight

A few quick definitions before we dive in:
Rights Holder (RH): that's you, if you own the intellectual property behind your book. **ACX** is the production and publishing arm of Audible, where audiobooks are recorded, released, and payments to the RH are made. **Audible** is where listeners go to buy or rent audiobooks. Both are Amazon's domain.



If you've published an audiobook, you've probably been operating in Audible's house. They're the undisputed gorilla in the audiobook room. That's starting to shift. Surprise, surprise — they've changed the rules... again. This December, Audible is overhauling its royalty structure. Whether this turns out to be good news depends largely on which side of the transaction you're on.

Here's the short version: Audible is moving to a streaming model, much like Spotify. Listeners pay a flat monthly fee and can stream as much as they want — no credits, no limits. Great news for voracious listeners. The math for authors is murkier. At month's end, Audible pools the subscriber revenue, takes out their cut (the size of which remains conveniently unspecified), runs the remainder through what I can only describe as a 'magic formula,' and distributes royalties based on how much your audiobook was streamed. Think Kindle Unlimited, but for audio.

For a sense of what that looks like in practice, consider Spotify's model: a song, or audiobook, needs to be streamed somewhere between 20,000 and 33,000 times to earn \$100. If you're Taylor Swift, that happens before breakfast — on a slow day. If you're a mid-list musician with 19,000 streams, you've earned diddly-squat. The Audible equivalent remains to be seen, but the analogy isn't comforting. One important note: if you're an existing ACX author, you'll need to opt into the new model by December — or your audiobooks will be removed from the platform. Not a suggestion. A deadline.

Dave Chesson of *Kindlepreneur* has written an excellent, well-researched breakdown of the changes: kindlepreneur.com/audible-royalty-changes Dave is well-respected in the indie publishing world and offers a wealth of free tools alongside his articles. Worth bookmarking if you haven't already.

The Bottom Line

Read the article. Then seriously consider *going wide* — distributing your audiobook beyond Audible's exclusive ecosystem. They may be the dominant player in the U.S., but there's a whole world of listeners on other platforms. And think about your audience. Baby Boomers and Gen X readers are more likely Audible loyalists. Younger listeners? They're probably already on Spotify. If your readers are, your audiobook should be too.

Going wide will reduce your Audible royalty rate. Staying exclusive keeps that rate higher — but only matters if your audience is actually there. It's not a one-size answer. It's a *know your reader* answer. As always: the map is changing. Better to navigate it intentionally than discover you've been left off it entirely.

One final, unrelated to audiobooks, word: Here's a follow-up to our April speaker, Geri Spieler, and her book about the 2nd attempted assassination of President Gerald Ford, [Housewife Assassin](#), for our May presentation. (*Squeaky Fromme was the first to attempt). **Radio Lab**, a long-running, well-respected, NPR quality podcast released an episode titled 'Oliver Sipple,' on June 5, '26. The show begins with a short snippet interview with Sara Jane Moore — the failed assassin. It goes on to document the unintended consequences that followed the attempt on the president's life. It's an eye-opener!

Now go write something brilliant!
-Randy L

Read and Review 2026 Book Lineup

Upcoming Books for Read and Review

Did you know Read and Review is our very own Book Club? It's an open forum for all members where books written by our very own authors are discussed. Most books are available on Amazon, and all can be checked-out from our own GCW library. Come even if you haven't read the book and join in on our lively discussions.

Join us July 10 from 10 to noon at Depoe Bay in downtown Auburn for our next Read and Review get-together featuring books by two of our own GCW authors.

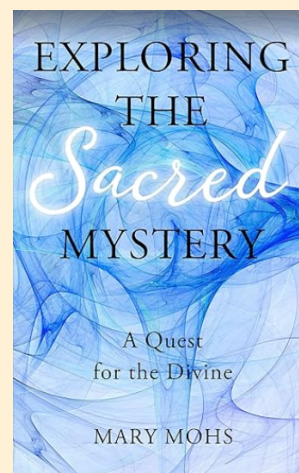
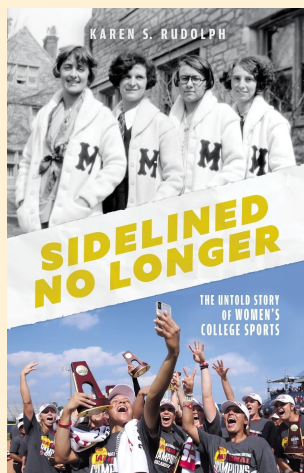
LINEUP CHANGE!

Due to scheduling issues, we will not be reviewing "Desert Places" at our July meeting.

We will review "Sidelined No Longer: The Untold Story of Women's College Sports" by Karen Rudolph. Karen's book can be purchased on Amazon and is also available for check out in our GCW library.

Karen's book traces the rise of women's college athletics through the experiences of early leaders, including Jean Cerra, a former Stephens instructor and coach. Karen used her book to highlight the "hidden figures" behind today's explosion in women's sports. Focusing on the stories of 11 women, Rudolph shares their struggles, triumphs and the work it took to build college athletics, including the monumental passing of Title IX.

In our non-fiction selection, "Exploring the Sacred Mystery: A Quest for the Divine," author Mary Mohs explores many subjects not often found in Christian literature, such as the history and application of the rosary, the miracles of the Eucharist, and how the Holy Spirit speaks to us through intuition and dreams.



October Read And Review:

October 9: "The Rain in Spain" by Lisa Schliff; "Discovery: Book One of the Tav-Yah Chronicles" by Kathleen Ward writing as Kaydee Landry

Kelly Lardner, Coordinator

lrdsn@yahoo.com

2026 Gold Country Writers Story Contest

by Margie Yee Webb

Congratulations to the Story Contest Winners!

First Place — “The Great Escape” by Judith Brooks

I thought my life was over. I could feel the fangs pressing into my neck. His breath was hot and wet. Then he dropped me. I was stunned as my head hit the floor hard.

Then ... escape. I rolled under the doorway, caught my breath, and ran for my life. I ducked into a dark space where I couldn't be seen.

Time passed. The room was dark, quiet. I eased out. I saw water and gulped it greedily. A cupboard was open. I found some snacks. Sound. I quickly dashed under the sofa again before the cat came back.

Second Place (Tie) — “Night Window” by Gina Calderone

When we coast into the motel lot, it's past midnight and Mom is wrecked. The vacancy sign is all the place has going for it, but that's enough.

“Duck down,” she says.

Mom leaves the station wagon running and staggers to the night window. She hammers her fists on it, then her head, tears and spit spraying the glass.

The window opens to a chubby face framed by pink foam rollers. She squints at Mom and considers our car before pushing a key across the ledge.

“Number five, honey. Don't let them kids jump on the bed. It's a squeaker.”

Second Place (Tie) — “Overheard” by Mac Daly

“She's black and one of her kids is pure white!”

I really didn't mean to eavesdrop, the speaker sounded so scandalized.

“All the kids have different fathers.”

So judgmental!

“And she's pregnant again!”

I glanced. Two middle aged women gossiping. Figures!

“I can't take care of any more. So, we took her to the clinic and took care of it. She was *not* happy.”

Unbelievable!

“I'll try to find good homes for the kids. They're really sweet.”

I jumped. “I can't believe you!”

Then I saw her phone.

Kittens. Kits not kids.

And that's how I got my buddy Whiskers.

Third Place — “Chasing Squirrels” by Charleta Spinks

He's 15, all skin and bones. Muzzle white, fur all patchy. In the dark of the night, at the foot of my bed I feel him twitch, hear a faint “humph,” and low growl as he chases a squirrel in his dream. I don't wake him for all he has left is his dreams and the memories of younger days when his legs ran strong and swift, of open fields, chasing squirrels up trees. He was my rescued pup long ago, or did he rescue me when needed most. He will be missed but not forgotten when I see squirrels.

GCW 2026 Poetry Contest Celebration

Congratulations to the Poetry Contest Winners!

First Place — “The Stature of an Owl” by Sue McMahon

The black bear was busy eating his way through summer and fall
feasting on berries, grass roots, fish and the occasional mole
his presence in the forest was well known and seen;
While coyotes, stags, elk and squirrels alike
steered clear of the black bear's path
not wanting to excite this scary shaggy beast,
Stags ran freely about the forest floor
and even climbed up a mountain or two,
they headbutted and fought just to mate,
while their does slept quietly in the shadows;
Coyotes circled and panted after any type of meat
their howls and cries echoed in the canyons
stirring up the animals and causing much ado;
The rabbits scurried, and squirrels climbed high
Hopping into their dens of food, their hearts
pumped hard and even skipped a few beats
fear drove them into this windy night
the trees were stirred and limbs held on tight;
a yellow eyed owl swooped down
into her stealthy mode of flight
and swiftly caught a little gray mouse
before it dove underground,
her talons locked tight and
the mouse's tail coiled in pain
the owl would not go hungry this forenight
her wisdom and silent hunting skills
were known throughout the woodlands and towns
she was thankful for the tiny rodent she had found
her wings stretched out wide for a moment or two,
then were neatly tucked into her breast,
meticulously folded yet ready to expand
and defend against any enemy at hand,
the forest settled down on this dark moonless night,
she closed one eye in an unihemispheric state
while the other eye watched out for her very own fate

Second Place — “An Ode to Elephants” by Susan M. Osborn

There once was a Gold Country writer
Who wanted her work to be lighter.
She searched for a way
To introduce play
And found an approach that was brighter.
The key to her breakthrough in writing
Was due to an elephant sighting.
From that moment on
All tension was gone.
And her project was fun and exciting.
Now, elephants are constantly near.
She laughs when they decide to appear.

They add magic to life
Which mitigates strife.
Their presence brings joy and good cheer.

Third Place — “Winter Lights” by Georgette Unis

Sunset burnishes
bare crepe myrtles
along the boulevard
in a visual fire
recalls how
countrysides burn

Cold air hovers across
acres of grass
blades bend
in a burst of wind
curl and wave under
an unseen hand

Rain descends when night
brings roiling clouds
moon fades
into thickening mist
disappears behind
the laden sky

Frogs celebrate
a cappella
their volume increases
until they greet
the glistening droplets
in an unencumbered morning

Honorable Mention — “Circe” by Catharine Bramkamp

what if Circe had a book club, instead of pigs
served her friends bread & wine debating
gods and legends while weaving
truth into dresses & parachutes

what if her sisters Medusa and Charybdis, weren't
what legends insist. Why she asked, why
are we beautiful or monsters
cannot beauty be more than selfish touch?

grand halls cluttered with naked statues
invitations to fondle smooth curves
of course the pigs insist
because marble means art

the winter's tale,
one statue warms to life but
this time to accuse, you
wasted years admiring frozen perfection

I secretly wove wings

do drop your gaze for one second
so I can escape.

June Speaker: James L'Etoile

Multi-award winning author James L'Etoile uses his twenty-nine years behind bars as an influence in his award-winning novels, short stories, and screenplays. He is a former associate warden in a maximum-security prison, a hostage negotiator, and director of California's state parole system.

On Wednesday, June 17, 2026, he presented "The Author's Toolkit: Building a Successful Book."



James encouraged the audience to think of a woodworking project as a metaphor for crafting a book - both examples need a good design (the "before writing" step), some rough carpentry (the "during writing" step), and finish work (the "after writing" step.) Using a "What if...?" question can help writers spark ideas for their stories. James also addressed the common writer's dilemma of plotting vs. "flying blind". He believes there is no one correct way to write, as long as the writer is aware of which system works best for them personally.

James also stressed that good fiction writers spend time on character development. As writers, we need to know which characters are going to carry the story. Characters need to be well- rounded and developed, and they need to have a purpose. He suggested that as writers, we ask ourselves what makes our characters who they are. What do they want and how far are they willing to go?

Preparing a "writer's workshop" is similar to a woodworking workshop. Location matters so that writers can eliminate excuses, establish productive writing routines, and finish the "rough cut", aka the first draft. According to James, the purpose of that rough cut/first draft is not to get it right, but to get it written. As writers, we can't revise what's not on the page yet.

When working on the first draft, it's important to remember that the opening pages must engage the reader and move the story forward. James used the phrase "banish the backstory" when starting a story. He also warned about the "Info Dump" - using too many details and not enough action. Instead, James suggests keeping the action on the page. For example, in a thriller, have the main character find the body rather than hearing about it. He also warned against annoying the reader by using hard to pronounce names, cliches, an uneven timeline, plot holes, unkept promises, and what author Alex Finley eloquently calls the "yuck factor."

James talked about the editing process, including the role of critique groups and developmental editors. He also encouraged writers to get a social media platform together during the editing process to develop a brand and presence to help with sales.

For more information or to watch the presentation, please see the link below:

James L'Etoile, "The Author's Toolkit: Building a Successful Book," June 17, 2026
<https://youtu.be/29v4nZxEkvo>

James serves as the Executive Vice President of Mystery Writers of America, and he is a member of International Thriller Writers and Sisters in Crime. Additionally, he facilitates the Writers Coffeehouse meetings. For more info, visit <https://jamesletoile.com/>



GCW Speaker James L'Etoile encourages writers to find what works for them with regard to "Plotting vs. Flying Blind"
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)



James L'Etoile during booksigning with Ann-Marie (seated), Phyllis Kalbach, Mac Daly, and Karen Thompson (standing)
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)



Fun lunch at Old Town Grill after an engaging and informative presentation — "The Author's Toolkit: Building a Successful Book"
From left: Barbara Young, Susan M. Osborn, Cathy Cassady Sylvia, Linda Thompson, James L'Etoile, Ann-Marie L'Etoile, Nicolle Goldman, Margie Yee Webb, Mac Daly, Jody Brady, Susan Korn, Terry Wicks, Trudi York Gardner
(photo by Nissreen, Old Town Grill)

Kudos to Our Members!

To Our New Members:

Drew Tkac - He found us through his friend Dick Reese and joined in person in June. He has published one book titled, "No Business With Mushrooms".

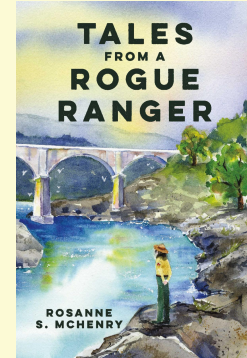
Gayle Lewis - She found us through Barbara Young. She is unpublished.

Kudos to 2026 Award Winners!

Congratulations To Rosanne McHenry!

Rosanne's latest book "Tales from a Rogue Ranger" won two first place awards and two gold finalist awards in the American Legacy Book Awards. In addition, the book won four gold finalist awards with the International Book Awards. "Tales from a Rogue Ranger" is about Rosanne's life as a California State Park Ranger.

Rosanne feels incredibly honored to be recognized with these very prestigious awards.



As she notes, "To win in any single one of these categories is a tremendous honor, but to win multiple categories in each award program is a major accomplishment! These award programs get thousands of applicants each year."

Rosanne's first book, "Trip Tales: From Family Camping to Life as a Ranger" also won first place and gold finalist in both awards programs in 2023.

If you have already launched a book in 2026 or you have an upcoming launch to announce, please let us know. We want to celebrate you!

Kudos to 2026 Book Launches!

Hours of hard work. Gallons of caffeine. Sleepless nights. Too many rounds of edits to count. Finally publishing a book is no small feat. Our members deserve a special corner of our Kudos section for the awesome accomplishment of publishing a new book!

If you have already launched a book in 2026 or you have an upcoming launch to announce, please let us know. We want to celebrate you!

Newsletter Submission Deadlines

Please submit all kudos, articles, images, and news to Marla Mion at marlamion2100@gmail.com.

All submissions are due by midnight on the 26th of the month. Late submissions may not be included until the following month. Thank you!

Share Your Milestones!

Please send news of your writing milestones and accomplishments to Dispatch Editor Marla Mion at marlamion2100@gmail.com. Your news will be posted in the Kudos column. We want to read about you!

Newsletter Errors (Yikes!)

Mistakes - we all make them! Sometimes in the rush to meet deadlines, your humble newsletter editor goofs up and needs your help. If you find an error, please help me out and let me know how to remedy any scheduling snafus for members. Need an email sent out with the correction? I'm on it! Just communicate with me what you need me to say and when you need it.

Your patience, kindness, and assistance is greatly appreciated!



Speaker Programs on ACTV

Click on the blue link to view the Guest Speaker's presentation on youtube.com. Auburn Community Television (ACTV) Studio Manager **Phil Jacques**, a member of Gold Country Writers, has been filming the Speaker Programs since March 2022 when his schedule permits. Much appreciation to Phil!

To view past Guest Speaker videos, visit the GCW website:

<https://goldcountrywriters.com/gcw-videos/>

James L'Etoile, "The Author's Toolkit: Building a Successful Book," June 17, 2026

<https://youtu.be/29v4nZxEkvo>

Karen A. Phillips, "Using Tropes to Strengthen Your Story," April 15, 2026

<https://youtu.be/G3kAmvJIE38>

William O'Daly, "Imagination and Community: Translating Our Lives Into Poetry" February 18, 2026

Out of Town Literary Events

by Margie Yee Webb

Poets and Writers Workshop — Tuesday, July 7, and Thursday, July 16, 2026 - 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Workshop led by El Dorado County Poet Laureate Emeritus Lara Gularte and author Beverly Parayno — held on the first Tuesday and third Thursday of every month. “We offer an encouraging space for writers and poets to gather in community. Bring one or two poems or six pages of prose, double-spaced. Read, discuss, critique.”

Cameron Park Library, 2500 Country Club Drive, Cameron Park, CA 95682

Writers Coffeehouse — Saturday, July 26, 2026 - 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

NEW location and NEW day for July’s Writers Coffeehouse — “a group open to writers of all levels and interests! Meet like-minded people and share writing tips, industry info, and a bit of what you’re working on. There are no fees, no registration, and no publishing requirements. All writers are welcome!” Questions? Contact James L’Etoile:

jamesletoilebooks(at)gmail(dot)com.

Raley’s ONE Market - Community Meeting Room, 3935 Park Drive, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

Also of Interest

Great Valley Bookfest - Saturday October 10th - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Great Valley Bookfest attracts people from across California. It is free to attend, an excellent opportunity to network with fellow authors, and learn about the latest publication opportunities. Seating assignments to promote your books are on a first-come, first-served basis, so signing up early is paramount. GCW will **not** have a booth at the event, but members can sign up on their own.

For more information: <https://gvbookfest.org/>

*The Promenade Shops at Orchard Valley, Highway 120 at Union Rd exit,
280 Lifestyle Road, Manteca, CA 95337*

Become a Member of Gold Country Writers!



It's easy to join!

Email your name, address, and telephone number to:

GCWmembership@gmail.com.

Please put 'GCW Membership' in the subject line. We will mail you a more comprehensive membership questionnaire.

Gold Country Writers is here to support and encourage writers of all levels and all genres — whether Novels, Poetry, Science Fiction, Fiction, Memoirs, or your own creative genre. Whether you are a beginner or an established writer — WELCOME.

Membership gives you: Critique groups, monthly speakers, networking, mentor program, Read and Review quarterly book club, monthly newsletter, website with your bio, social events, and much more!

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