

Gold Country Writers

Forging Better Writers

November 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 gcwmembership@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



As Thanksgiving approaches, we may have to step back from our projects more often. That's okay. It's the real people and events in our lives that help create the characters and shape the stories in our writing.

On November 11, Veterans' Day, we will be in the Rose Room from 10am to noon as usual, but come through the side door (the one directly to the outside). City Hall will be closed but we have a key to access the Rose Room.

GCW events shift a little from our regular schedule as we enter the holiday period, so come to meetings for updates, read the newsletter, and check the website.
Let's give thanks—for our craft, for people, and for the stories unfolding around us. If you find yourself alone without wanting to be, reach out. We are all connected to through our community.

Keep Writing,
Nicolle Goldman

Calendar of Meetings November 2026

**All meetings take place at the Rose Room, Auburn City Hall, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn, unless otherwise indicated.*

First Tuesday,
November 3
Memoir Critique
Atwood Business Park
11768 Atwood Road, Auburn
Currently full

First Wednesday,
November 4
Business Meeting
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Evening Mixed Genre Critique
5:30 p.m. Pizza Factory Restaurant, Auburn. Contact Rebecca Partridge. Open to new members.

Second Wednesday, November 11
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 Thursday,
November 12
Nevada County Critique Group
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Marilyn Helling Library, Gold Rush Study Room in Nevada City
Contact Catharine Bramkamp: Cbramkamp@gmail.com

Third Tuesday,
November 17
Memoir Critique
Atwood Business Park
11768 Atwood Road, Auburn
Currently full

Third Wednesday,
November 18
Speaker Presentation:
Dan Hanel on "History, Mystery and Murder - In the Shadow of Diablo Series"
10:00 a.m. - noon

Fourth Wednesday,
November 25
No Drop-in Critique
Enjoy your Thanksgiving prep!

Poetry Group cancelled



Specialty Spin-Off Groups

Children's Lit And Young Adult: Contact Mary Boyle, Maryboyle212121@gmail.com. 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 Pizza Factory 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.

Poetry: Contact David Anderson: dcajla80@gmail.com, or Bill Baynes: bbaynes303@aol.com. Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday from noon to 2:00 p.m. Sharing poems after the Drop-In Critique. Open to new members.

Nevada County Critique: Contact Catharine Bramkamp at Cbramkamp@gmail.com. Meets on the second Thursday of the month at 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Marilyn Helling Library, Gold Rush Study Room in Nevada City.
Members welcome and guests are encouraged. Bring no more than three pages of your fiction, poetry or non fiction to share and receive feedback. We will be offering only positive, helpful comments during our critique sessions.

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.

Who Needs a Spare GCW Name Badge? You Do!

Starting October 1st, the price of a Gold Country Writers name badge will go from $11.00 dollars to $15.00.

Get your orders in now,
while you can, for the lower rate!

Please contact Sarah Pressler for more information. **sarahpressler2@gmail.com**



Volunteer Opportunities: Critique Group Coordinator Newsletter Editor

by Lisa Schliff

GCW is one of the most amazing volunteer organizations in the area for writers! Our members consistently step up to organize, facilitate, and make connections. If you haven't had a chance to be more involved in our group, now is your chance. Contributing to GCW is a meaningful way

to keep our group thriving and make new friends. Please consider sharing your time and talents!

GCW must find a new volunteer to replace Rebecca Inch-Partridge, our Spin-Off Critique Group Coordinator, as she will be stepping down in March 2027. The spin-off groups run themselves for the most part. The Coordinator will check in with them monthly to see if anything has changed: leader, contact information, times or locations, or if the group has reached its desired maximum of participants and is currently full.

We will also need a new Newsletter Editor. Marla Mion, our present editor, will be stepping down in July 2027. This volunteer position involves some graphic design and computer skills. Marla and Lisa Schliff, past editor, will assist the new editor during the transition.

If you would like to support Gold Country Writers in this way, please contact LIsa Schliff: **onthebeamlisa@gmail.com**, or text me at 530-559-2550.

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, November 18, 2026
Author **Dan Hanel**
“History, Mystery and Murder – In the Shadow of Diablo Series”
https://goldcountrywriters.com/upcoming-events/

Wednesday, December 9, 2026
GCW Holiday Party — “Treasures To Tell” with Potluck, Holiday Fashion Show, and Books to Donate to Toys for Tots. Bring an ornament, decoration or holiday tale to tell.
https://goldcountrywriters.com/december-program/

Wednesday, January 20, 2027
Author and Former Writing Teacher **Joan Griffin**
“Submission Guidelines” and “Literary Citizenship” for Successful Writers
https://goldcountrywriters.com/upcoming-events/

Wednesday, February 17, 2027
Former Poet Laureate of El Dorado County **Stephen Meadows**
“For The Living: Poetry Reading and Inspiration”
https://goldcountrywriters.com/upcoming-events/

2027 Upcoming Events: Save The Dates!

by Catharine Bramkamp

It's never too early to plan ahead! There are two amazing events coming up in 2027 that we think you'll be excited to attend. As an added bonus, Gold Country Writers are invited to show off our club benefits as well as individually sell our current books. Mark your calendars now and tell your friends!

Sierra WordFest - (Sierra Writers Conference)
Saturday February 27, 2027
Sierra College Nevada County Campus

Speakers include: Josh Weil, Grant Faulkner, Kim Culbertson, Shirley Dickard, and GCW's own Catharine Bramkamp

GCW Members are invited to come and manage a table in the Book Fair (we are emphasizing book reading as well as book writing!) and display both your books as well as the Club's information.Volunteers are free to take part in workshops and lectures.

Sierra Poetry Festival
April 24, 2027
Center for the Arts in Grass Valley

GCW Members are invited to come and manage a table in the vendor fair (called Poetry Place) and display both your books as well as the Club's information.
Volunteers are free to take part in workshops and lectures.

We will post more information about both events as it comes in! To volunteer or for questions: Catharine Bramkamp- ***Cbramkamp@gmail.com***



GCW Speaker for November

by Margie Yee Webb

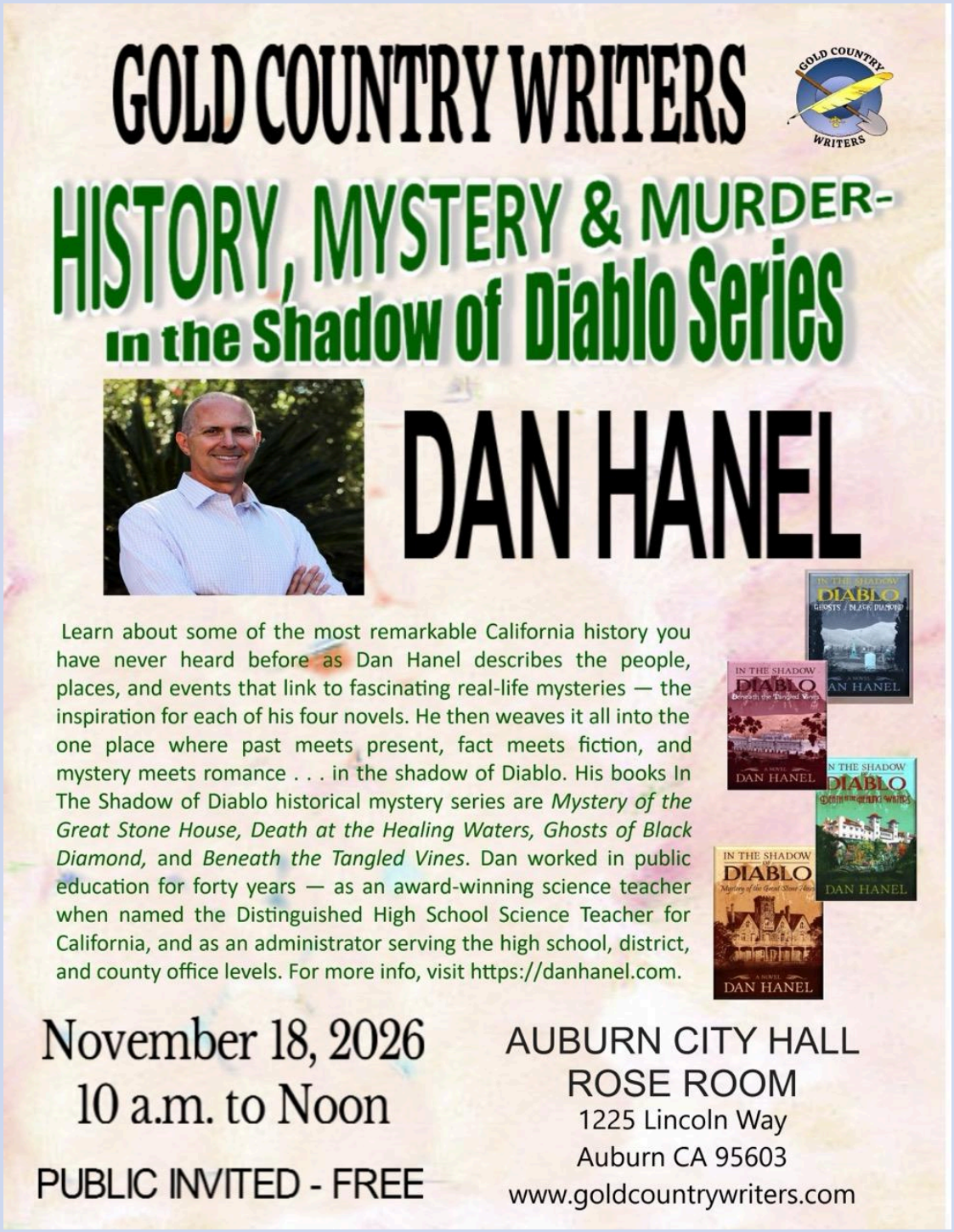
California History and Fascinating Real-life Mysteries

We are pleased to welcome Dan Hanel for a presentation to Gold Country Writers. On Wednesday, November 18, 2026, he will present “History, Mystery, and Murder – In the Shadow of Diablo Series Inspirations.”

Dan Hanel will share a multimedia presentation about the inspiration for each of his four novels. Learn about some of the most remarkable California history you have never heard before as he describes the people, places, and events that link to fascinating real-life

mysteries. He then weaves it all into the one place where past meets present, fact meets fiction, and mystery meets romance . . . in the shadow of Diablo.

Dan is author of the *In The Shadow of Diablo* historical mystery series — *Mystery of the Great Stone House, Death at the Healing Waters, Ghosts of Black Diamond,* and *Beneath the Tangled Vines*. He worked in public education for forty years — as an award-winning science teacher who was named the Distinguished High School Science Teacher for California, and as an administrator serving the high school, district, and county office levels. Raised in Richmond, California and living in Sacramento, Dan holds a Biology degree from UC Berkeley and a Master's in Education from CSU, East Bay. His novels blend past and present, fact and fiction, mystery and romance, into stories that both entertain and educate about extraordinary Bay Area history. For more information, visit **https://danhanel.com**.



October Speaker: Lisa Frenkel Riddiough

by Marla Mion and Margie Yee Webb



On Wednesday, October 21, 2026, author Lisa Frenkel Riddiough presented an interactive workshop to GCW titled, "I Am the Story."

Drawing on her background as a children's author, Lisa encouraged us to "drop down into a childlike space" to find creative inspiration for our work, regardless of our audience demographic, genre, or writing style.

Lisa facilitated several exercises in which the attendees were asked to reflect on their own character traits, and then "dig deeper" into more introspective traits. Lisa then encouraged us to complete the same exercise for our book characters.

She challenged us to identify our own personal "roadblocks to creativity" and made the connection between those roadblocks and the ever-present Imposter Syndrome that many writers face. One exercise involved "Takiing the IMP Out of Imposter Syndrome" by tasking us with drawing a cartoon figure of our IMP/inner critic and then giving it a name. She then encouraged us to identify ways in which we would be able to silence that inner critic's voice.

Lisa provided the following strategies for dealing with imposter syndrome: Keeping a Kindness File, talking to and connecting with other writers, feeling grateful for the work of writing itself. She also recommended "Lowering The Bar" - being able to celebrate small victories of writing along the way of completing an entire work.

Lisa Frenkel Riddiough is the author of a middle grade novel — *Elvis and the World as It Stands* (Amulet Books 2021), which earned a Kirkus starred review. She has also written several picture books — *Letters to Live By: An Alphabet Book with Intention* (Running Press Kids 2022), which earned a School Library Journal starred review; *Pie-Rats!* (Viking Children's Books 2024); *Embarrassed Ferret* (Disney Hyperion 2025); and *Furious Turtle* (Disney Hyperion 2026). Her forthcoming books are *Heartfelt* (Workman Kids November 2026), and *Blabbermouse* (Penguin/Flamingo 2028).

Lisa earned her MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Hamline University in 2018, and is a writing mentor for Society of Young Inklings. She is a former sales executive, an avid squirrel watcher, and a frequent baker of chocolate pound cake. For more information, visit **https://lisariddiough.com/**.

Additionally, Lisa talks about the inspiration for her writing and the workshop for Gold Country Writers in her interview with GCW's Dan Araujo on “Work in Progress” on ACTV. Watch the program — **https://youtu.be/83hyQBigOG4**.

We were so pleased that owner Ryan Hoyt from Old Haunts Bookshop was on site to sell Lisa’s books.



GCW Speaker Lisa Frenkel Riddiough talks about “The Return to Self”
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)



Group photo —
Ryan Hoyt of Old Haunts Bookshop and Lisa Frenkel Riddiough with (standing, from left) Randy Whitwell, Margie Yee Webb, Nicolle Goldman, Chery Anderson, Lisa Schliff, Susan Osborn, Barbara Young, and Frank Nissen (photo by Kim Brown)

Below: Fun lunch at Old Town Grill after an engaging and inspiring workshop presentation “I Am the Story” — by Lisa Frenkel Riddiough to Gold Country Writers!
(photos by Nissreen, Old Town Grill)



Trudi York Gardner, Margie Yee Webb, Nicolle Goldman, Jody Brady, Randy Whitwell



Susan Korn, Susan Osborn, Barbara Young, Lisa Frenkel Riddiough, Linda Thompson

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September Book Social

by Margie Yee Webb

Fun Brunch and Book Discussion at Awful Annie's for the GCW 5th Wednesday Social on September 30, 2026. We showed our favorite books and talked about their significance.

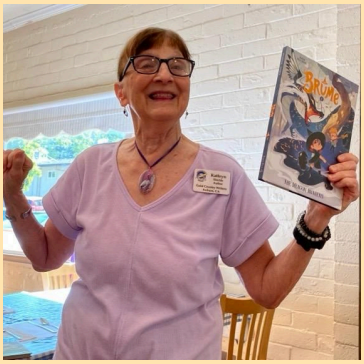
Group photos by Bryan, Awful Annie's. Individual photos — Terry Wicks, Joan Griffin, and Kathryn Shields — by Margie Yee Webb.











Nuggets

by Randy Landenberger

Check back next month for more words of wisdom from Randy!



Read and Review October 2026

by Margie Yee Webb

Fun GCW Read and Review in October 2026

Discovery: Book One of the Tav-Yah Chronicles by Kathleen Ward (writing as Kaydee Landry); and *The Rain in Spain: Life, Love, and Heartbreak in a Military Dictatorship* by Lisa Schliff.

Each revealed “behind-the-scenes” details in writing their sci-fi book and memoir, respectively. (Photos by Margie Yee Webb)





Read and Review 2027 Book Lineup

by Kelly Lardner

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

Read and Review 2027
January is Female Sleuths month!

On tap for review are two recently published fiction books currently availabe in our GCW library:
Fallen Kings: Unholy Secrets - a Hillary Broome Crime Novel by Joan Gillam

Double Talk - a Simone Donovan Mystery by Kelly Lardner (writing as Ké Ridolfi)
Watch for more info in the December Dispatch!

Kudos to Our Members!

Kudos to Rosanne McHenry for giving an author talk at the Old Haunts Bookshop in Granite Bay on November 15 (RSVP required if you plan to attend).

Kudos to New Members:
Shannon Grissom - She found us through Marla Mion's "Shut up and Write" group and joined via email. She has published two books: *Sock Monkey Oracle* and *Monkey Made of Sockies*.

Connor Stuart Mann - He found us through JoJo Cooke and joined in person. He is unpublished.

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!*

Kudos to Award Winners!

If you have earned awards for your recent published work, please let us know. We want to celebrate you!



Kudos to 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!

Newsletter Errors (Yikes!)

CORRECTION to October 2026 newsletter: "September Speaker: Teresa Jade LeYung" article is by Marla Mion.

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/

Lisa Frenkel Riddiough, “I Am the Story,” October 21, 2026
https://youtu.be/C71b9BSglqs

Rebecca Inch-Partridge, “The Trilogy Survival Guide: Do’s and Don’ts for Writers,” July 15, 2026
https://youtu.be/B2cGDS0f4RM

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” Februrary 18, 2026
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UiWYzlsv7Vw

Matthew Minson, “Similarities in Writing Comedy and Horror,” January 21, 2026
https://youtu.be/VUHYbJIpgLg

Out of Town Literary Events

by Margie Yee Webb

Poets and Writers Workshop — Tuesday, November 3, and Thursday, November 19, 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**

Local Author Showcase — Saturday, November 14, 2026 - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
2026 Local Author Showcase — “the Madelyn Helling Library will be converted into a bazaar, allowing local authors to showcase and sell their work. This free event will include a scheduled panel during which local authors will discuss the publishing process.”
https://www.nevadacountyca.gov/3320/Local-Author-Showcase
Madelyn Helling Library, **980 Helling Way, Nevada City, CA 95959**

Writers Coffeehouse — Saturday, November 28, 2026 - 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
NEW location and NEW day and time for the November 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!” [NOTE: Starting September, meetings will be at the El Dorado Hills Library (instead of Raley’s ONE Market).]
Questions? Contact James L’Etoile: jamesletoilebooks(at)gmail(dot)com.
El Dorado Hills Library, **7455 Silva Valley Parkway, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762**

Also of Interest

by Lisa Schliff

The Sacramento Book Festival will accept applications for book vendors starting on October 9th at 8:00 a.m. The festival itself will be held on June 5, 2027, at Sacramento State University. To sign up and for more information, visit **sacramentobookfestival.com.**

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!

Printable PDF of This Newsletter!

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Gold Country Writers Leadership Team

Executive Committee

President (2025-2027).....Nicolle Goldman
Vice President (2025-2027).....Lisa Schliff
Second Vice President (2026-2028).....Phyllis Kalbach
Secretary (2025-2027).....Annie Hendrix
Treasurer (2026-2028).....Sarah Pressler

Directors

Director of Membership.....Joan Griffin
Director of Communications.....Dan Araujo
Director of Speaker Programs.....Margie Yee Webb
Director of Spin-off Critique Groups.....Rebecca Inch-Partridge

Other Leaders & Coordinators

Promotional Materials Manager.....Chery Anderson
Mentor Program Manager.....Mary Jones
Newsletter Editor.....Marla Mion
Website Manager.....Karen Clay
Read & Review Coordinator.....Kelly Lardner
Librarian.....Kathryn Shields
Social Media Coordinator.....Michael O'Haver
Audio-Visual Tech.....Randy Landenberger/Phil Jacques
Drop-In Critique Coordinator.....Frank Nissen
Historian.....Barbara Young
Security Manager.....Terry Wicks
Greeters.....Kathryn Shields/Terry Wicks

www.goldcountrywriters.com

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