

February 2014

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day



# Suburban Scribe

*Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club*

*On February 10th, our guest speaker is  
Jennifer B. Sander*

Jennifer B. Sander began creating her line of successful book products since May 3, 1983, the day she created her first book, her way of escaping a sinking career in California politics. Formerly senior editor of the Prima division of Random House, Jennifer operates a consulting and book development firm, Big City Books Group. Big City Books has created more than 50 different titles.



Jennifer has authored or co-authored more than 30 books in the areas of lifestyle, inspiration, small business, and personal finance, including *The Martini Diet: The Self-Indulgent Way to a Thinner, More Fabulous You* (Fairwinds Press) and *Hot Flash Haiku* (Adams Media). She teaches nonfiction writing and publishing for UC Davis Extension and leads popular writers' retreats in Lake Tahoe ([writebythelake.com](http://writebythelake.com)) and Washington's Skagit Valley. [writeatthefarm.com](http://writeatthefarm.com).

**Anthology:** Don't tarry! Don't SLEEP. Submissions for the SSWC 2014 Anthology are due by the March general meeting (March 10). If you haven't done so already, your work should be in review by your critique group. Reminder that you can turn in your work earlier for an earlier return; we already received some of them. Contact Tom Hessler at [txhessler@comcast.net](mailto:txhessler@comcast.net)

## **CALLING MEMBERS for Author Event Locations.**

*From Andrea Roth:* Do any one of you belong to the CWC (California Writers Club) or groups we can network with for events? Also, if any of you are Church members, does your Church have a yearly Craft Fair? If so, please contact Andrea Roth, 916- 396-3414 or you can email me at [mydiabeticsoul.com](mailto:mydiabeticsoul.com). Thank you.

### **From the Prez:**

Critique groups are an integral part of our club and one of the best benefits of belonging to such a studious group dedicated to fine tuning our writing. Visiting a critique group one time prior to membership allows you to see that you will be a great fit (or not). To remain in your critique group, we only ask that you pay the club dues, which are competitive — \$40 for regular membership and price breaks for our couples, seniors, and students.



### **ELECTIONS are Fast Approaching!**

Don't miss a meeting when elections are scheduled. Next meeting will be elections! We finally twisted arms hard enough to get a few names on the ballot for Secretary and Treasurer. No one wants to be prez badly enough to say anything, and Brittany has agreed to keep going as VP. If anyone is interested in any of these offices or in helping with any of the chores, please email ([mledsonanderson@yahoo.com](mailto:mledsonanderson@yahoo.com)) and put SSWC in the subject line). *Signed, Mary Lou A.*

**WEBSITES:** [Sactowriters.com](http://Sactowriters.com) & [Facebook.com/sactowriters](https://Facebook.com/sactowriters)

**MEETINGS:** February 10th. Meetings are on the 2nd Monday of each month.

**LOCATION:** [Crossroads Christian Fellowship](http://Crossroads Christian Fellowship), 5501 Dewey Dr., Fair Oaks 7:00 - 9:00 PM

## NANOWRIMO, by Tammy Andrews

Do you know what Nanowrimo is? Well, I didn't either until Brit told me about it last October, so it's all her fault, you see. She's probably turned me into a Nano-dweeb. She explained that Nanowrimo is writing a 50,000-word brand new story, and that you had to begin it on November 1st and end it by November 30<sup>th</sup>. The goal was to simply write a fictional story from beginning to end, without editing it as you go, or having it critiqued. (I know I write long sentences. J I talk a lot too.)

First I have to digress a bit to give you the picture, ok? You see, last year a member of SSWC (not Bert) was kind enough to take me to the Folsom Renaissance Faire. I had just gotten my eyesight back and was able to see about 100 feet and was so excited to have someone take me.

I got to see hundreds of costumes of the Renaissance era, from the rich aristocrats to the peasants, and many pirates from that era as well. I took my movie camera and was filming every wonderful costume around us. Looking through the viewfinder, I spotted the most audacious pirate, standing with his back to me at the brew stand, one boot propped up while he waited for his Meade. The leather boots were up to his knee with wide, floppy, fold-down tops. His black, tri-cornered hat jauntily brandished several long colorful ostrich feathers. He wore a black leather tailored coat, with a fancy sword hanging on his side. When he turned around, it was a woman! I was so surprised, I started laughing and went over, introduced myself, told her I had at first thought her a man, and that I loved her outfit. She introduced me to her husband and he said, "Well if you like her outfit, you should see our daughter's," and pointed across the way to another extraordinary female pirate costume. Once they introduced me to their 17 year-old daughter, I laughed some more, and told them that I wanted to write a story about a pirate mother and daughter. And that's just what I did. Though it is yet unfinished, it is the story excerpt that is in our SSWC Anthology, titled *Dames with Swords*.



Now, back to the Nanowrimo thing. You all know Bert, right? Well, I was lucky enough to get into a critique group she's in, and she's been dragging me around to every Renaissance, Pirate, and Scottish Festival in Northern California, since, (much to my delight.) For months, we had been admiring the same Scottish swordsman at the different events. We had both spoke of using this man's looks and character in a book someday. (Big, good looking, sexy, and an honorable gentleman to boot, why not?) I had thought to use him as my next inspiration for a Scottish Highlander story. But because I was already writing a pirate story, and a crime story, I had decided to wait on the highlander story until next year. Then of course, along came Brittany with her suggestion about doing Nanowrimo. OMGAWD! So, I had to take a couple of days to think about whether I could, or should do it or not. I had been lollygagging for a couple of months, for one reason or another. Once I made the decision, I buried myself in research.

I had no idea there were over 3,300 castles in that little country of Scotland, and that there were at least that many, if not more clans, who all hated each other for almost that many different reasons. But I was convinced I could figure out the logistics later, if I could just decide on some plot ideas for my Scotsman friend (along with his girlfriend, whom I had also met at the faires.) I decided to call them and ask them, since he's truly Scottish, to tell me a little about his Scottish beliefs. He was very helpful. So, with only a brief sketch of my male and female character and several castles, I started to make up one sentence scene and character ideas for the story. I thought there needed to be a best friend or two, an aunt and uncle, and a bad guy to hate, and a couple of action scenes or major plot ideas. That's the skimpy one page outline I started with.

50,000 words sounded very big. But I'd read somewhere that the best way to reach your goal was to write with no concern for punctuation or capitals or typos. You only have to type 20 words per minute to type 1,200 words per hour. So when I started the story, writing wrote madly as I went. I found that if I just wrote the scenes, as I thought them up, the writing went very fast, averaging three hours of hastily written scenes a day. Twice, I wrote around 5,000 words a day.

At the end of the day, I'd write myself three or four sentences suggesting what should happen next. I just used those short notes to begin writing the next day and I was already three-quarters done, when I realized I was getting myself confused about where the plot should be going next, so I had to write up a through-line or storyline to clarify my path. I had been making little one sentence notes to myself about what ever I noticed was wrong. When I found I couldn't do "this", because I had already done "that" and things didn't add up, I knew I would have to correct those mistakes, but I did not go back. I just wrote a note to myself, to insert whatever scene I had left out, or mixed up chronologically, into the right place, and went on. (Ya know it all comes out in the wash, when you re-edit, anyways, right?)

### NANOWRIMO (Continued)

I never believed that I needed an outline and complete character profiles before the story, but I think I was wrong. I'd done just a smidgen of that previously. But I do believe that you can start, then stop, and begin your profiles and storyline after you've stepped into your story a bit. My thinker works best writing the story as it pops up in my mind, then stopping for a few seconds to decide which step or direction to take next. I made a lot of mistakes, but knew I had the basics of a good story, maybe too much of a story, and have a great deal of rewriting and research to do to make this a well-written book, eons from now. So I learned two or three valuable lessons that I'd never before utilized. I definitely needed to develop my characters, research my story locations done, and outline the events. Having most of that done prior to starting a novel helps make it much easier to write, but the concept of thinking that much of a novel though is still daunting.

I reached 52,000 words in 18 days. I actually stopped writing on the 10<sup>th</sup> day, and almost quit because I didn't know how to download my story to Nanowrimo. You see, I'm not too computer savvy. I only knew that I couldn't hold my finger down on the mouse button, to highlight 52,000 words. So I decided not to quit, and the next day began again. Luckily, a librarian at the Sacramento Public Library taught me how to download my story on the day I finished, and how to use the "edit" and "select all" whatchamagoody's. (Geesh, all this time, I'd never known what that "select all" was for. But I do now. Thank God! Yes, I'm afraid my genius cells may have croaked and no longer synapse or fire correctly, rather like a really old Chevy whose engine doesn't hum like it once did. Doggone it!) I was technically finished on November 19<sup>th</sup> and stopped. Because I made a lot of little plot notes to myself, and filled out the character profiles as I thought them up, I decided to over compensate and turned in 50,000 words of an actual story, I added another 5,000 words to make a total of over 57,000 words on November 29, 2013.

So to end this convoluted story, this is what I have to say. I had more fun going to those Ren. Faires than anything I've done in years, and the opportunity to research costumes and story ideas are everywhere there, even the vendors are story worthy, and I want all of you to consider going, dressed or not. You decide what that means. J Let's see, what era *was* Lady Godiva?

Participating in Nanowrimo taught me things I did not think I needed to learn, or to do. You know, all those preconceived notions we get, from God only knows where, that are quite wrong sometimes, due to lack of experience. Those notions can hinder our

growth. And I want all of you to participate in Nanowrimo next year. You don't have to show anyone. I think it would be a great SSWC learning and writing lesson, and you all might enjoy having accomplished it. It does make you realize you could write a lot more when the pressure's on, so long as you don't go off whimsically cavorting away your time, like people tend to do.

*Tammy Andrews, B.A. (Budding Author)  
(Aspiring writer in the making)*

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### **Personal Marketing Updates! January 16, 2014.**

I have bragging rights which are also available ideas for each of you to market your books!! Marketing is Sharing, Networking, Encouraging, Giving, All good stuff .... Not only have I participated in two live on-air radio programs through KAHN 950AM to date in 2014, but I have donated copies of my books to *Brenda Novak's On-line Auction for Diabetes Research* to take place on **May 1, 2014** AND the *Auction at the Presentation Church Crab Feed* taking place on **March 1, 2014**. A *blog-talk radio* host in Montana contacted me for a live interview, date TBA. All this work is *using my resources* as I have **always** encouraged each of you.

Another prospective children's book launch will be forthcoming in Folsom, CA; a children's book review to The New York Times is in process; a Placer Library event is upcoming and will host two of my books. AND an ACTV (Auburn TV Cable Channels 19 & 20) Show Host opportunity is being planned. Also, publication of "Me & My Money Too...a child's story with diabetes" is expected and will be introduced. Stay tuned to fur updates at [www.mydiabeticsoul.com](http://www.mydiabeticsoul.com).

Share what you have been doing, plus all some good ideas and feedback. I certainly enjoy hearing – learning - from each of you.

*Andrea Roth (aka: A. K. Buckroth), MA, CA Notary Public, Author, Speaker, Member of SSWC and Gold Country Writers*

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**Critique Groups:** Note: Check the website for an updated listing of all our critique groups, their genres, meeting times and location.

We've identified an interest in forming a critique group based on poetry, with more discussion at the Feb meeting. Andrea Roth is taking names of those interested.

**New Sci-Fi group, Finally!** We are meeting on the fourth Saturday of the month at 1pm in the [Panera](#) at Sunrise and Greenback. For more info, email Bert at [dragonscribert@gmail.com](mailto:dragonscribert@gmail.com)

**OFFICERS**

**Elected Officers:**

President	Mary Lou Anderson
Vice President	Brittany Lord
Secretary	<i>in work Tammy A.</i>
Treasurer	Tom Hessler

**Chairs:**

Achievements	Mary Lou Anderson
Anthology CC	Tom Hessler
Chairs Chair	Westley Turner
Coffee/Treats	Rotates
Conferences	John Powell
Critique Groups	Tom Hessler
Directory	Westley Turner
Historian	Roberta "Bert" D
Librarian	Ron Smith
Membership	Jeannie Turner
Newsletter	Bert & crit team
Nominations	Westley Turner
Program/Event	Andrea Roth
Publicity	Therese Crutcher-M
Raffle	Mort Rumberg
Sunshine	<i>Need Someone!</i>
Speaker Coord.	Therese Crutcher-M
Facebook	Bert (and ? help!)
Web Masters	Wes, Bert, & Brit
Workshops	Eve Wise

MEMBERSHIP may be **prorated if you join/rejoin after Jan 1<sup>st</sup>**

Individual	\$40.00/yr	Couple	\$55.00/yr
Full-Time Student	\$30.00/yr	Platinum Senior (70+)	\$30.00/yr

Membership is not required for attending meetings *but is* needed for: 1) publication in newsletter, 2) club author events, 3) participation in critique groups, 4) grants for conferences, & other perks. More info @ [sactowriters.com](http://sactowriters.com).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Genres: \_\_\_\_\_ Published? Y/N  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Website/other info/address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

*Your name & email is needed to receive the digital newsletter.*

**From the Pres: Dues are due.** The Board decided last year to charge a "late fee" for those who do not pay by the end of February. Many benefits come with membership. If you want to publish in the anthology or in the newsletter, you must be a paid member. Other members' benefits include use of the club's extensive library, up to \$100 for conferences and discounted banquet prices (as money is available), critique groups, reading and book sales events, achievement program, and more.

**Author Event!** *From Jeannie T.* Bestselling author Christina Baker Kline discusses *Orphan Train: An In-Depth Look at a Neglected Corner of American History.*

**Date & Time:** Friday Feb 14th, from 1 - 2:30 **Location:** [Folsom Public Library](#), 411 Stafford St, Folsom, CA. 916-355-7374. Books will be available & it's free!

AD: Andrea K. Roth, CA Notary Public, Member of the National Notary Association since 1996. Need a notarized affidavit to travel with your kids? Buying real property, transferring a vehicle? Who to ask how to do this stuff? Call Andrea at (916) 396-3414 or (916) 489-1599 OR [mydiabeticsoul.com](http://mydiabeticsoul.com)

**SSWC Member Book publishings!**

The Deceiver, Thriller (Books), (9/10/13),  
 Broken Seed, Supernatural (12/10/2013),  
 by R.J. Machado De Quevedo. She was  
 also interviewed Oct 2013 by about her  
 books by TV show "Gooday Sacramento."

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**Humor from Tony Marcolongo:**  
 \* There we were, drinking. I pointed to two old farts across the bar  
 \* from us and told my friend Charlie, "That'll be us in ten years."  
 \* He turned to me and said, "That's a mirror, you dummy!"  
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**Sacramento Suburban Writers Club**

**M.L. Anderson**  
**8020 Alma Mesa Way**  
**Citrus Heights, CA 95610**

**MEETING INFORMATION:**

February 10th  
 2nd Monday

**Crossroads Christian Fellowship**

**5501 Dewey Drive, Fair Oaks**  
**7:00 - 9:00 PM**

Writers, musicians, artists, & guests are welcome to attend. You do not have to be published. Membership is not mandatory but brings privileges.

For membership info, call or message Jeannie Turner  
 At 916-635-5797  
[turnerjeannie@yahoo.com](mailto:turnerjeannie@yahoo.com)  
 Or see the Websites:

[Sactowriters.com](http://Sactowriters.com)  
[Facebook.com/sactowriters](http://Facebook.com/sactowriters)

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