



Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club



*On March 10th, our guest speakers are club members
Tom Hessler and Suzanne Shephard*

Suzanne Shephard and Tom Hessler will demonstrate a writing technique called storyboarding. This technique is used to craft scene sequences and descriptions to wring the most out of audience reaction for cartoons and full-length films, and can be adapted to provide a similar function for writers. The writing world holds numerous variations on this theme. The techniques offered in this presentation will involve means of providing a visual sequencing of the writing elements (as in scenes for a novel) and focusing on what is to be accomplished in the element (scene). This would include moving the plot forward, increasing tension, introducing characters, visual descriptions and establishing reader attitude towards a character.

For some writers, use of the storyboarding technique would provide a means of approaching what is called "a well-crafted" novel or non-fiction work. If you want to avoid dead-ends in your writing, create more realistic plotting, manage the tension in your story and provide episodes that move the reader, storyboarding can help.

About Suzanne: Two of her short stories were published in the last SSWC anthology, and she is submitting another short story for the 2014 anthology. Currently, Suzanne is editing the first draft of a romantic suspense novel with the assistance of my SSWC critique group! By day, she has been an estate planner and estate administration attorney here in Sacramento for over twenty years.

About Tom: Thomas Hessler writes, plays jazz piano, and hikes with the Hangtown Hikers. He has been writing for twenty years. His novels cover plots from developing a computer-based approach to blackjack gaming (based on his experience at White Sands Missile Range), spy operations in Alaska (inspired by his assignment in Fairbanks), and the Caucasus: a Novel, his first work published, motivated by trips to Iran, Turkey and Washington D.C.

Tom's work in process is a historical novel depicting the building of an aqueduct in Roman Times—the Pont du Gard. He also has written a number of short stories including Rhino Revenge (humor) and Aftermath.



ELECTION RESULTS from Wes

Although not unanimous, the results were certainly a landslide. Mary Lou got 95.24% of the votes for president with one write-in. There was also one write-in for vice-president, but Brit still got 95.45% of the votes. For the office of secretary, Tammy also got 95.45% of the vote with one write-in. Now here's the exciting news: the race for treasurer was unanimous! Tom got 100% of the votes, with no write-ins. Now that the officers have been identified, we're good for another year

Back in Time to Year 2013 — Our SSWC clubbies signed their work and celebrated the release of our club's first Anthology, *"As the Moving Finger Writes."* This could be you in our second book! There is a crazy rumor about story submissions being due at the March meeting. Point of Contact (PoC) is Tom Hessler, txhessler@comcast.net.

WEBSITES Sactowriters.com & [Facebook.com/sactowriters](https://www.facebook.com/sactowriters)

MEETINGS March 10th. Meetings are on the 2nd Monday of each month.

LOCATION: Crossroads Christian Fellowship, 5501 Dewey Dr., Fair Oaks 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Request for Your Writing

The History and Arts Commission of Citrus Heights is putting together a book on the Sylvan Cemetery. There is a lot of history buried there, and much of it is retained in family stories and neighborhood anecdotes.

You are invited to contribute stories and pictures of your relatives, friends, and neighbors who are buried there. If you have anything you would like to share within the pages of this book, please write the tales, jot down the anecdotes, and collect the pictures. Sadly, many stories could be lost forever if they are not recorded.

We would like to include stories and pictures from people in the community in the book. Of course, credit will be given to the authors who contribute material that is included.

Contact Mary Lou Anderson via email at mledsonanderson@yahoo.com. Please include Sylvan Cemetery in the subject line. I look forward to receiving a lot of wonderful stories and pictures.

Mary Lou, Author and Glass Artist

"The Six Rivers Killer" now available through Amazon.com



The following article does take place the weekend before our meeting. It may seem too late to sign up but I've been to these classes to find they're great info, and far from full. So if you want to go, signing up should not be a problem. Bud cuts right to the meat of the topics. Bud used to teach at ARC but these weekend courses are about it now! There may be one or two similar classes held this year, mayyybee. Sierra College and American River College are good places to keep your eye on for highly informative weekend classes as well as 8-week courses. *Your Newsletter Scribe, Bert*

WRITING FOR FUN AND PROFIT

Bud Gardner, co-author of *Chicken Soup for the Writers Soul*, part of the *New York Times* best-selling series, is offering a workshop, Writing for Fun and Profit at the Sierra College in Rocklin.

Date: March 8th, Saturday.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A successful writing coach who has inspired his students to earn more than ten million dollars by selling their writing, Gardner stated, "Have you always wanted to get into print and earn money with your writing? If so, this seminar is for you."

Students will learn to: see writing as a process, make money writing short articles, sell poetry for five dollars per word, create humorous fillers that sell, write and sell the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* story, write an effective query letter, make multiple sales from one idea, use the ten clear writing tips and much more.

The cost for the workshop is \$59. Pre-registration is required. Contact the Sierra College Community Education office at 916-781-6280 or go online at www.sccommed.org. The class will be held at the Rocklin main campus, Rm. C-5. There is a \$20 materials fee at the class.

Contact: Bud Gardner 916-781-2830



Just a Reminder to Market Yourself Everywhere

That includes in the newsletter! If you're in the newsletter, it's an easy, free way to spread your info that much further in the digital world. All you need to do is include your website, even it's from Facebook, or a link to any work you're selling online. That link should be included with your professional name at the bottom of emails. You do that, right? And better yet, hyperlink it. Then whatever book or service you're trying to sell, all people need to do is double clicky or ctr click and *whoosh*, there they are on your site. I do hyperlink people's work if they're in the newsletter and if they have supplied me with that information. Also, thanks again to my critiquers! Stories move on and another newsletter is done! Sincerely, your newsletter Scribe, Roberta "Bert" D, at dragonscribert@gmail.com

TREASURE

By Anthony Marcolongo

We have this ranch up in the hills, a getaway for us. The kids love roaming through the woods, though as of late, I have curtailed their excursions because a mountain lion set up his territory nearby.

I decided to shoot the cat before it endangered the health of my children, or those of a neighbor. Everyone in the area scoffed at me, some politely, others not.

Most of the locals scorned, "A woman, and a widow at that ... hunt down a hundred pound cougar?"

"Can you even shoot, Lizzy?" echoed among the many contemptuous cat-calls I received.

"Who ya gonna get to go with ya? No one hunts Idaho cougar by themselves, Lizzy."

Frankly, I grew tired of their mockings and decided to track the beast down without assistance from anyone. I thought, *hell, how hard can this be?*

I knew the odds. When a big cat hunts you, it will stalk you, from above and behind. Then when it sees its chance, it will charge at high speed. There would be no time to turn and fire, no time to defend against the assault. Before you could say, "Uh oh," you'd be on the ground with a cougar's jaws in your neck, and the claws from all four paws ripping into your back, not a pleasant situation to contemplate.

Men beat the odds by bringing dogs along. The dogs spook the cats, pre-empting their sneak attacks, and giving the boys an advantage not otherwise enjoyed.

In spite of the danger, the adventure of it all was too appealing to resist. So, I left the kids home with their aunt for several weekends, while I, the stalwart hunter of the hill, began haunting the woods for traces of *Junior's* presence. Thought I'd give him a name since the entire affair had become rather personal for me, anyway. *Funny how I just automatically assumed it was a male cat.*

Meanwhile, my fourth weekend out I ran into Herman and his gang of gun-toting boozers. One taunted, "Watcha doin' out here, Lizzy? Ain't no place for a woman alone."

"It's a good thing our dogs spotted ya before that cat did."

"Be a good girl and go home, Lizzy ... we'll handle this."

I just smirked at them.

"Seriously, Lizzy, there ain't no future in this crazy notion of yours," chided Murphy.

"Ain't no money in it, neither," added Bobby Spiels.

I tightened my grip on my 38-55 Winchester, waved them off, and continued on my trek. *No matter what they say, I will persevere*, I silently assured myself.

Then, two hours later, I explored a small cave, hoping to catch Junior napping, or just hiding. Instead I found a veritable *treasure*; two large suitcases full of money. Go figure.

I dragged one of the hefty suitcases outside, and hid it beneath some leaves and brush, for future retrieval, and somehow lugged the other back to my cabin.

That same day Herman and his gang of macho-marauders killed Junior up on Blackberry Ridge. They made a special trip to my cabin to show off his corpse, tied to the hood of that ratty pickup truck. All to impress upon me the futility of my acting like a man, I suppose.

I remember thinking, *Whatever. They have their prize, and I have mine.*

To this day no one knows of the cache I discovered. It's all probably ill-gotten drug money, but Herman and his morons were wrong. There was a future in my efforts, and there was money in it after all. Two million dollars worth in fact, in small denominations.



Part II by Bert's Alternate Universe: Or so the news claimed. In reality, the gang of cat-hunting thugs "killed" a stuffed dummy of Junior. While they reveled in victory, Junior pounced, ate them and drank their beer, grew fat, and retired to the serenity of the trees.

OFFICERS

Elected Officers:

President Mary Lou Anderson
 Vice President Brittany Lord
 Secretary Tammy Andrews
 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 *Need Someone!*
 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 1st**

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.

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

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

NEWLY PUBLISHED: My collection of short stories, "*Outsourcing Grandma Sylvia*" by Phil Braverman, has been published (Create Space, 2/14/2014), and is now available on Amazon.com. <http://goo.gl/F45RR1>

More Publishings: *Security* (book), 1/2/14, by Rebecca Beich
Taxing the Rich (letter to Editor, Sac. Bee), 2/09/14, by Gisela Butler

Humor from Tony Marcolongo:

Ever since I was a child, I've always had a fear of someone under my bed at night. So I went to a shrink and told him: "I've got problems. Every time I go to bed I think there's somebody under it. I'm scared. I think I'm going crazy."

"Just put yourself in my hands for one year," said the shrink. "Come talk to me three times a week and we should be able to get rid of those fears."

"How much do you charge?"

"Eighty dollars per visit," replied the doctor.

"I'll think about it," I said.

Six months later the doctor met me on the street. "Why didn't you come to see me about those fears you were having?" he asked.

"Well, Eighty bucks a visit three times a week for a year is an awful lot of money! A bartender cured me for \$10. I was so happy to have saved all that money that I went and bought me a new pickup!"

"Is that so!" With a bit of an attitude he said, "and how, may I ask, did a bartender cure you?"

"He told me to cut the legs off the bed!"

A pessimist is an optimist with experience, and a cynic is a pessimist with proof! T.M.

AD: Need a notarized affidavit to travel with your kids, buy property, or transfer a vehicle? How do you do this stuff? You can email mydiabeticsoul.com or call Andrea at (916) 396-3414 or (916) 489-1599. Ask for Andrea Roth, CA Notary Public, Member of the National Notary Association since 1996.

Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

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

MEETING INFORMATION:

March 10th
 2nd Monday
[Crossroads Christian Fellowship](http://CrossroadsChristianFellowship)
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
 Or see the Websites:

Sactowriters.com
Facebook.com/sactowriters

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