

August 2013

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

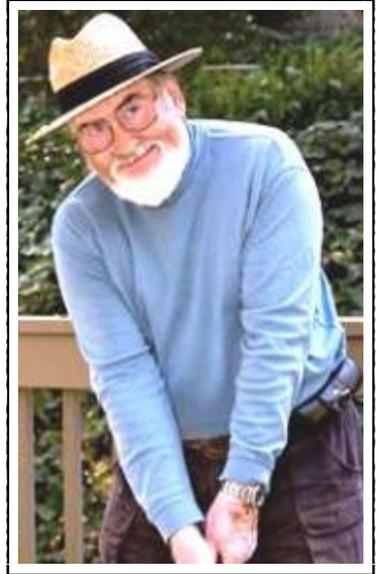
*On August 12th, our guest speaker is
Robert Pacholik, Writer, Teacher, Retired Army*

Robert M. Pacholik, a native of Chicago's Southside, served two combat tours in Vietnam as an Army field photographer and military journalist, (1968-69). After graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism/English, and a Master's degree in International Affairs, he spent 10 years as a Reporter, Editor, and Special Sections Editor on several newspapers including the Sacramento Bee.

Married in 1980, Robert he went to work for Merrill Lynch, Dean Witter Reynolds, and spent 29 years in the Securities industry as a Registered Principal, Branch Office Manager, and Investment Advisor to Retirement Plan accounts. In the mid-1990s, Bob caught the teaching bug and spent 15 years as a Securities Licensing Trainer, instructor, teacher in secondary schools and other colleges, along with University of Phoenix, and California State University (CSUS).

In his spare time, Bob wrote 16 extended-length short stories, and a six-story, "hybrid" e-book, Vietnam short story collection, "Night Flares: Six Tales of the Vietnam War," released in early May of 2013. Upon retirement, Bob set to work on Crab Louie and its companion duet-novel, Crab Louie Deux, due out in early 2014. Bob and his wife Kitty Williamson live in northern California. They have two grown children who live and work in adjacent states.

Bob's cat, *Goober*, thinks his writing is the greatest thing since chopped liver.



ANTHOLOGY UPDATE from [Tom Hessler](#)

All written material has been reviewed for final edit by MaryLou Anderson and Wes Turner and returned to the authors for their acceptance. The title of our collection is "The Moving Finger Writes..." a partial quote from Omar Khayyam's Rubaiyat in which the entire phrase is—"The moving finger writes and having writ, moves on." Based on that idea, we imagined a cover design that gloriously illustrates the writing and the spectrum of ideas that result from our work (more on page 2). Several of the authors are first time publishers thanks to this book! Our book cover is proudly displayed to the left.



AUTHOR EVENTS from [Andrea Roth](#)

- *August 10, 2013: Sacramento Suburban Writers Club *Local Authors Showcase* will 3:30pm-7:00pm in the **Arcade Library**, 2443 Marconi Ave, Sac, CA (916) 228-2419 with authors [Sheri Cockrell](#), [M. L. Edson](#), [Amy Rogers](#), & [Andrea Roth](#). They will be signing their books as hopefully, we all will! Stop by and say "Hi."
- *On August 24, 2013, same library, (from 3:00pm to 7:00pm) with authors [Sheri Cockrell](#), [M. L. Edson](#), [John Powell](#), [Amy Rogers](#), [Andrea Roth](#), [Amanda Steedley](#), & [Bekah \(RJ Machado De Quevedo\)](#).

WEBSITES: Sactowriters.com & Facebook.com/sactowriters

MEETINGS: August 12th. Meetings are on the 2nd Monday of each month.

LOCATION: [Crossroads Christian Fellowship](#), 5501 Dewey Drive, Fair Oaks. 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Every Writer Needs to Have an “Elevator Speech”

By John Marchel www.jme.com

What exactly is an “elevator speech”? An elevator speech is a short description of what you have written and presented in the time it takes an elevator to go from the top floor to the first floor or vice versa (hence the name). It is a (very) short speech (approximately thirty seconds to two minutes) given to an interested individual (editor, publisher, or agent) who you want to impress and maybe they will take you on and publish your work. You need to be able to look a stranger in the eyes, give your speech as though it isn't overly rehearsed, and then hand them your business card.

The idea of an “elevator speech” is to have a prepared presentation that grabs attention and says a lot in a few words. By telling your core message, you will be marketing yourself as a writer, but in a way that rather than putting people off will make them want to know more about you and your writing. It is imperative to work on this one to two minute presentation until it is perfectly crafted. This is one kind of speech that should be memorized. This speech will serve as your introduction to others, so it has to be good! It comes in handy when you attend an event, a writer's conference, a convention, or some other type of meeting with networking opportunities.

How do I craft my elevator speech? What are the ingredients? An elevator speech should have no more than three quick points about what your writing is about. Make it sound effortless, conversational, and natural. Do take it slowly and don't rush through the speech, and do pause briefly between sentences. Finalize your speech by making sure it is no more than 90 words long. Remember that brevity is the key in this type of opportunity. Here is my elevator speech:

John Marchel's Elevator Speech - Gambling Stories Book

- - My 52,000 word non-fiction book is called *Gambling Stories Told Here....Some True*, it's written in the style of the Chicken Soup series and contains 48 short stories about the fun, exciting and fascinating world of gambling.
- - The stories record little known events about gambling that most people, including many professional gamblers, have never heard about before.
- - It is a light-hearted, informative and entertaining book to read.
- - Here is my card. (Note - every writer should have a business card)
- (74 words total – just short of 30 seconds)



Bring your elevator speech to the next SSWC meeting.
Show and tell other members your speech and get feedback.



*Dice by Bert—go
go Illustrator*

ANTHOLOGY (*Continued*). The cover was displayed at the last meeting. A foreword and a back cover message have been developed by April Edsberg and Tom Hessler. The committee has fashioned an agreement between the authors and the club and we are awaiting return of this and a bio/photo of the author before finalizing the work. In August, we expect to complete the formatting and have the proof copy printed with availability of the final copies available soon after that. We can all be proud of the accomplishment!

Reminder — Be active on our Facebook at facebook.com/sactowriters — Kelley Smith, (Hannah's father) worked up a Facebook Fan-page for us — Thanks Kelley!

PUT YOUR AD in the NEWSLETTER

At our last Board meeting, we agreed to offer a **3-month AD** section in the newsletter to help our writers to promote your ventures. The ad is FREE to members and costs \$10 for non-members. Contact me (Bert) at dragonscribe@att.net. April takes payments. Please limit size to around a business card, short and to the point.

Request from Bert, your Newsletter Scribe

Guys & gals, to get easy, free, self-promotion, please add your website address to every email, and hyperlink it. Bam! You give everyone a chance to see your work, & I don't have to search or guess which website is the best. It may be a new habit to form, but a small one with great rewards! I will gladly hyperlink your site, *if I have it.*

Cry For Happy By M. M. Rumberg

mmrumberg.com

They sat on a park bench holding hands. The warm spring sun felt good. Cherry blossom trees lined the pathway, their pink and white petals a soft contrast against the deep blue sky. Other couples strolled by enjoying the park's beautiful setting. Two children ran by, laughing, as they chased a bright red ball.

John turned from watching the passing parade of people. "Hiroko, I received my orders today."

"What means that, Johnny-san?"

"It means that I'm being shipped back to the States."

"You no can stay Japan?" Her eyes were wide as she pulled her hands free and held them in front of her mouth.

He nodded.

A lone tear trickled down Hiroko's cheek.

"Please don't cry, Hiroko. I'm sad too." He had to admit that he liked her but had never told her he loved her. As far as he was concerned, he planned to be a bachelor for life. "I don't want kids," he'd said when they met months ago. "Don't like 'em. If that's okay with you, we can stay together." She had agreed.

"Johnny-san, I no cry for sad. I cry for happy."

"Huh?" His brow wrinkled in confusion. "I don't understand." *What the hell is she talking about?*

"I cry for happy because you can go home, Johnny-san. I cry for happy time we be together...for love we have. We be like husband and wife. I always remember that."

"Hiroko..."

"I be okay, Johnny-san, You not worry. I never forget you."

Despite not wanting to, his eyes welled. He didn't know what to say.

"Johnny-san, you always remember that I cry for happy time we had. I not cry for sad time you go."

"Hiroko...I want to tell you...I...I...love you." *What am I saying?*

She smiled. "I know, Johnny-san. I know you love me."

"But how...? I never said..."

"You be very good man to me, Johnny-san. You have good heart, so big. I know you have great love for me like I have great love for you."

"Hiroko, I...I'll marry you and take you home with me." *I can't believe I said that.*

She smiled and reached out and put one hand tenderly on his cheek. "It cannot be, Johnny-san," she said, softly.

"But..." *Whew, what a relief.*

"Johnny-san. I cannot leave my home. My parents old, need me. If I go U.S., no one to care for them."

"Then I'll stay here." *My God, did I really say that?*

"No, Johnny-san. You have parents at home. You go take care of them. Maybe some day, far away, we be together. But no can be now."

He hugged her tightly. "Hiroko, someday I'll come back. Someday we'll be together." *Ha! Fat chance.*

Knowing it would never be, Hiroko smiled, leaned over and kissed him softly one last time, then stood, turned, and with tears streaming down her face, walked down the path. Under her breath she whispered, "*We love you, Johnny-san.*" She gently patted her stomach.

John sat there for several minutes admiring the other women in their bright *kimonos*. He shrugged and shook his head.

Hiroko watched as he stood and walked away. He never looked back

A Fiction-Lover's Devotional from Mort

Deadline: September 1, 2013

Kathy Ide is making a book of short fictional stories coupled with Life Applications to help readers glean scriptural truths from the stories—similar to how Jesus taught his listeners how the stories applied to their lives. A major publisher has interest in this book and a potential series! Authors will receive \$25, a copy of the published book, and can list their bios, websites, and recent book titles.

FORMAT

1. Title: something catchy that relates to the topic
2. Byline as you want it to appear
3. Fiction Story: 1,500-2,000 words
4. Life Application: 250-500 words giving truth, teaching, and inspiration related to the story
5. Scripture verse that applies to the story. (Include reference and version used).

6. Author's Bio: 50-100 words

Double space, 12-point Times New Roman.

In the upper-left corner of the first page, put your name, address, phone number, and e-mail.

In the upper-right corner of the first page, list the theme/topic of your story, or stories.

Short stories must be FICTION. No true stories (not even fictionalized true stories). Preferable: third person and contemporary settings. *The publisher is very conservative, so the submission content should also be (Think "Upper Room.")*. If you want to see what Kathy looking for, email her (below). She'll be happy to send examples.

E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS TO: Kathy Ide

[<mailto:Kathy@KathyIde.com>](mailto:Kathy@KathyIde.com) Please write "Modern-Day Parables" in the subject line. You can sign up for The Write Life newsletter and story callouts at WriteLifeWorkshops.com also, <http://goo.gl/LXzDJC>.

OFFICERS

Elected Officers:

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Sunshine	All of us!
Speaker Coord.	Therese Crutcher-M
Facebook	Bert (and ? help!)
Web Masters	Wes, Bert, & Brit
Workshops	Eve Wise

Special Thanks! to our July guest speaker, Barbara O'Donnell, writer/teacher at CSUS.

JOKE CORNER:



A pessimist is an optimist with experience, while cynic is a pessimist with proof! *Anthony Marcolongo*

MEMBERSHIP may be paid quarterly, 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.

You're on an Island....

from Tony Marcolongo

Abe and Esther are flying to Australia for a two-week vacation to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

After a disturbing rumble outside the jet, the Captain announces, "Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm afraid I have some very bad news ... Our engines have ceased functioning and we will attempt an emergency landing. Luckily, I see an uncharted island below us and we should be able to land on the beach. However, the odds are that we may never be rescued and will have to live on the island for the rest of our lives!"

Thanks to the skill of the flight crew, the plane lands safely on the island. An hour later Abe turns to his wife and asks, "Esther, did we pay our VISA and MasterCard bills yet?"

"No, sweetheart," she responds.

Abe, still shaken from the crash landing, then asks, "Esther, did we pay our American Express card yet?"

"Oh, no! I'm sorry. I forgot to send the check," she says.

"One last thing, did you remember to pay the IRS this quarter?"

"Oh, forgive me, Abe," spouts Esther. "I didn't send that one, either."

Abe grabs her and gives her the biggest kiss in 40 years.

Esther pulls away and asks him, "What was that for?"

Abe answers, "They'll find us!"

Hawaii pic taken by Bert during 940th ARW TDY ... good ol' days 2007.

Sacramento Suburban Writers Club
c/o Buckroth Enterprises
P.O. Box 601013
Sacramento, CA 95860

MEETING INFORMATION:

August 12th
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

Or see the Websites:

Sactowriters.com
Facebook.com/sactowriters

