

June 2012



Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers

On June 11th, our FEATURED SPEAKER is Terry Burke Maxwell

Terry Maxwell has worked in her field of teaching and writing for over 45 years, in some shape or form, and established The Maxwell Group in 1992. The Maxwell Group continues to evolve as an independent book publisher, still providing math and educational resources but expanding into other nonfiction books.

Terry has taught, written, edited, and published math supplements throughout her career. In 1988, with Arithmetic In English, an aid for community college English learners and their tutors, Terry began to self-publish educational materials. Her most popular work, the CompuResource Book, is "A Collection of Activities to Integrate Curriculum and Computers," which was co-authored by Joan Elizabeth Hughes. First printed in 1994, this teacher resource paralleled the evolution of personal computers into the classroom and of classroom activities onto the computers.

At the beginning of her career, Terry Maxwell herself was in the elementary classroom. When possible Terry Maxwell tutors or volunteers with math students and in reading programs. Her experience has shown her that each learner is special, and when a student, whether child or adult, believes in his or her ability to learn, limited environments can be overcome. In 1975, Terry earned a Master of Education in Instructional Technology from San Jose State University. In 1968 she received a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from Immaculate Heart College, Los Angeles. She holds a Lifetime Elementary Teaching Credential for the state of California and is a member of the California Mathematics Council and the National Association of Professional Women.

Looking forward, Terry hopes to encourage teachers, or anyone with a story to tell or gift to share, to take the opportunity of today's communication mediums whether on paper, a website, an electronic reader, a video, a movie...to create lasting legacies of their wisdom or their vision, or simply their lives. She extends her creativity, writing, and publishing to helping others tell their life stories or share some expertise.

Associations that may be quite helpful:

Independent Book Publishers Association (this one is really beneficial) <http://pma-online.org/>
Northern California Publishers and Authors (local) <http://www.nciba.com/publishers/index.html>

Earth Patch Press, The Maxwell Group's newest imprint, has just published *Eye from the Edge: A Memoir of West Oakland, California*, by Ruben Llamas of Carmichael. Terry will address the many and sometimes confusing choices for writers in today's publishing environment.

For more information about The Maxwell Group and Earth Patch Press go to www.tmgpubco.com, www.tmgpubco.org and www.earthpatchpress.com.

This Month's Workshop will be presented by Brittany Lord, fantasy writer/artist

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

MEETING THIS MONTH: June 11th. Next meetings are on the 2nd Monday of Each Month.

Location: Crossroads Christian Fellowship 5501 Dewey Drive, Fair Oaks. 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Reference Books: When was it Prussia?

By M.G.Nichols



PART III

I know only five people that own their own multi volume *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Two are PhD's and another is working on her third master's degree. One is a self published writer and retired head librarian who also taught library science at three different community colleges. And me. But I do not even suggest you buy a set of encyclopedias, besides, that's what the internet is for. Except, more than half of the information on the net is highly questionable. But when a little information will help you with your writing or kick writers block out the door, a good broad reference book is a veritable leprechaun on your shoulder, so, what is a good, yet cheap source that's small enough to fit on your bookshelf?

They're called cyclopedias and desk encyclopedias. Usually they are in one or two volumes and have quick reference information on everything we were supposed to have learned while in school, and of course we all still remember. Sure. Currently, one of the best, and one of the best since 1897, is *Pear's Cyclopedia*. Surprisingly small as a book, but it is packed with tons of information that has been vetted by the worlds top scholars and researchers. Their claim is, *the Swiss army knife of reference books*, and they maybe right! A larger book, and equally packed with information of all sorts, is the *Penguin Encyclopedia*, in one very handy volume.

Both are fairly easy to find and have the most current data available in print, for such books. And that is why, if you really want a wide range of data, you'll also have an older reference book, to have all that data that was deemed too old and out of date to bother with and was edited out, but we are writers, and sometimes we really do need to know who was the head of state of a country that doesn't exist any longer. I've done a bit of comparison and found that leaders of state aren't the only people of history that get dropped to make room for newer more pertinent information, writers get tossed out, a lot! Oh, boohoo!

Still, though most people don't care who was popular in print in 1860 France, a good used book that cost something like 5 bucks is more than adequate, and there is a very, very good desk encyclopedia that was printed in single and two volume sets, it is *The Columbia - Viking Desk Encyclopedia*, and if you don't need to have a current and up to date reference book sitting next to you, this maybe the only one you need. Seriously, this is one of the best and most used desk reference books ever printed. A 1965 college teachers pamphlet included the *Viking* on its list of books to have on your desk to be a proper and competent college instructor. Not a bad recommendation. I bought one for \$3 and have certainly done more than 3 bucks of page turning. Truthfully, I still use my old *Viking Desk Encyclopedia* more often then the newer encyclopedias, and the ones I've given to college student friends get used with amazing regularity. One of those gifted copies recently returned from Boston, where it did its duty and helped a young man get his BA, and more importantly, he used it to show up a teacher that was telling porkies about Prussia and when it was a country. He took great joy in proving that the internet was not all that omnipotent and the printed word still carried weight.

The *World Encyclopedia* is a very good small paperback, and though the print is small, it is useful and well edited. *Webster's Pocketbook Encyclopedia* is a set and hasn't been updated for a long time, it's cheap, a little selective on what's covered, but good. Nothing is as helpful as good reference books to a writer, even our own fertile minds can get in our way, we are all perfectly capable of writing ourselves into a literary corner or worse, a verbal Gordian Knot, and a good reference book at hand just might be Alexander's sword. And as for the highly vaulted and dusky tomes of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* that take up six feet of bookshelf? It has recently been announced to the world, the master of information is dropping the printed page into the ashcan of forgotten jumble! The very epitome of the wisdom and data of the printed word, the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, is going online—only! Ain't that a kick in the head! I wonder how long I shall receive my *Book of the Year* in the snail mail? Shall I receive it in the near future by Email? How rotten!

What about reference books for grammar and the English written word? Next time.

My Notary Public Profession by Andrea Roth

As a **California Notary Public** since 1996, I am obliged to share some insights into this profession...Often referred to as a "Notary Republic," there is no such thing. The professional title is "*Notary Public*." No big deal. An easy customer correction. To enlighten and clarify misgivings, the definition of a Notary Public is as follows: "A **notary public** (or **notary** or **public notary**) in the common law world is a public officer[representative of a United State] constituted by law to serve the public in non-contentious matters usually concerned with estates, deeds, powers-of-attorney, and foreign and international business. A notary's main functions are to administer oaths and affirmations, take affidavits and statutory declarations, witness and authenticate the execution of certain classes of documents, take acknowledgments of deeds and other conveyances, protest notes and bills of exchange, provide notice of foreign drafts, prepare marine or ship's protests in cases of damage, provide exemplifications and notarial copies, and perform certain other official acts depending on the jurisdiction. Any such act is known as a **notarization**. The term *notary public* only refers to common-law notaries and should not be confused with civil-law notaries..." Wikipedia.com. Therefore, as I am a representative of the **State of California** in the capacity of a Notary Public, I do not take the responsibilities of this profession for granted. I often wonder if the general public, in need of notarial services, are aware of the processes that a notary must be familiar with, maintain, and *respect*. **Respect** is key.

For instance, first and foremost, for a person to even consider becoming a Notary Public, particular requirements must be met: be a legal resident of any state; be 18 years old or better; and have no felony convictions. Next, a commission application and Notary exam are adamantly necessitated, and can be conveniently scheduled. As a member of the National Notary Association for these many years, I am in contact with them for notarial guidance (800) 876-6827 or www.sos.ca.gov.

Furthermore, a state-approved, six-hour education course with examination is mandated, with no less than 70% to pass. If not scoring well, another time may be scheduled – but at a price! Another cost involves electronic fingerprinting of a candidate along with the purchasing of several tools to lawfully carry out notarial duties (e.g., notary seal, journal, jurat stamp, venue stamp, fingerprinting device, notarial certificates, Errors and omissions Insurance). You get the gist.

My business operates through personal advertising as an Independent Notary Public – meaning I work for myself. People often contact me via telephone to notarize their certain documents. I immediately ask when is a good time for them to have this done, are they 18 years of age or older, do they have an *updated* picture identification, what is the title of the document, do they understand the document (coherence), would they prefer to come to my office or shall I meet them somewhere at their convenience? Phew! I need to know! Before answering, a typical "*quid-pro-quo*" conversation ensues with "Do I have to make an appointment? Can I just come by now? How much does it cost? Can I have a discount?" and "This'll only take about ten minutes, right?"

People are always in a hurry! I respect that and do my best to comply. Anxiety about a notarizing process is always expressed as well. I reply with: "Yes, you have to make an appointment. No, you cannot come by now." As a sole-proprietor, my staff consists of one person – me. In order to gain your full attention to a notarial matter, my attention is undivided and I will set aside time for a customer. This is a 'special, undivided time' with one customer at a time. "*Cost*" is addressed with my explaining that "I offer a senior citizen discount, along with active military, active police officers, active fire personnel, active emergency medical technicians (EMTs), and *active sherriffs'* discounts as in being *free*."

Active" means: Not their wives. Not their children. Not their other family and/or extended family members. Just them. Directly. Oftentimes a *grunt* >< may follow. Ten minutes?! That'll never happen. *At least* twenty minutes are needed to review documents without advising. Then add filling-in-the-blanks; meticulously examining photo identifications and signatures for validation and to avoid identity theft; notarizing document(s) (placing my seal); filling out and having the customer sign and thumbprint my journal (record of transaction); giving an oath or affirmation and knowing the difference; attach, sign, and notarize an "acknowledgment" or "jurat" if needed; and agreeing on payment. My being attentive to details is very important!

Along with the aforementioned responsibilities, so so so many people are unfamiliar with a notary's further detailed responsibilities to fulfill the objectives of this profession. For instance, are you aware that there are laws, many laws, pertaining to Notaries Public? How about familiarity with your Secretary of State, a notary's 'boss'? Or the involvement of a County Clerk? Bureau of Vital Statistics? Hague Convention? How about having to be familiar with Government Codes? Business and Professions Codes? Civil Codes? Code of Civil Procedure? Elections Codes? Family Codes? Penal Codes? Probate Codes? Health and Safety Codes? Uniform Commercial Code? United States Codes? How about knowing where to look up all this stuff?! Sound pretty overwhelming, doesn't it? Well, it's worth it, really. Having been a California Notary Public for the last sixteen years, I am honored to be of service to the State of California. I am honored to assist the general public in this capacity **and I enjoy the knowledge obtained, the responsibilities sworn to, and knowing I am doing the right thing.**

Here's an example to us as writers: Maybe one day you will need an affidavit to verify you or someone is traveling purposely for a book project.

Just sayin'... CA Notary Public at your service! Andrea Roth (aka: A. K. Buckroth) (916) 396-3414
MA, CA Notary Public, Author, Speaker - Sacramento Writers Publicity Chairperson

www.mydiabeticsoul.com www.GlobalDiabetesAwareness.org

Sincerely,
Andrea K.
Roth



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SCI-FI / FANTASY WRITERS



Are there any out there??

Our Sci-Fi/Fan critique group has grown to a whopping 3 humanoids, with room for more.

We meet the 3rd Saturday of each month from 2-4p.m. or later. Location is flexible. See Bert, Mike Nichols or Brit if you're interested. Peaces, Earthlings.

COPY AND DEADLINES

Submit original written material: poems, letters, book excerpts, articles, book reviews, humor, websites, info, fun stuff to share — almost anything. Also, share info about other meetings, contests, books, book signings, classes, etc. Please keep submissions below 2 pages, otherwise we'll have to serialize them. Please submit electronically. There is no pay but byline credit is given — and that looks good to agents and publishers. It's a benefit of being a club member. The deadline to email your work, is the end of the month prior to the next month's meeting.

Contact: Roberta "Bert" Davis: dragonscribe@att.net

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS from maryellen_burns@mac.com, booktalk@me.com

June 20, 2012 – **Shameless Self Promotion for Writers**, Pocket 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

June 23, 2012 – **I Street Info Session**, 6:15 to 7:45 pm, Central Library, 828 I St, 2nd Floor, Red Room

More info on these events at saclibrary.org/events. Or see their blog: booktalksacramento.blogspot.com.

ADS: Andrea K. Roth, CA Notary Public, Member of the National Notary Association since 1996. Need a notarized affidavit to travel with your children or grandchildren? Buying Real Property? Transferring a Vehicle? Nine times out of ten, people need a document notarized and not know where to go. When you learn that a form needs to be notarized, call.

Call Andrea. (916) 396-3414 or (916) 489-1599 OR mydiabeticsoul.com

Sacramento Suburban Writers Club
c/o Buckroth Enterprises
P.O. Box 601013
Sacramento, CA 95608

MEETING INFORMATION:

June 11th
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

