

January 2015

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

*On January 12th, our Guest Speaker is
Sharon S Darrow
Author/Businesswoman/Pet Rescue*



I am author of three published books so far.

"Bottlekatz, A Complete Care Guide for Orphan Kittens" is my award-winning first book, is used as a training manual for rescue groups throughout the US and UK, and shares lessons learned from over 20 years of rescuing and raising bottle-fed kittens.

"From Hindsight to Insight; A Traditional to Metaphysical Memoir" was born of my desire to share a deeply held conviction that nothing in our lives is an accident, and that we receive subtle guidance throughout our lives. The idea quickly took on a life of its own until the book was completed. This book was originally published under the title "... and the Good Lord Remains Anonymous."

"Faces of Rescue; Cats, Kittens and Great Danes" was just released. This book contains stories about rescued kittens, cats, and Great Danes as well as about the people who do rescue work. The book also contains over 80 full-color pictures of animals I've known through the years. I'm also working on another book which I anticipate will be completed and published next year, so stay in touch.

I do love writing and public speaking, but am also a business owner. My company, "Travel ID Cards," markets our own unique Kids Travel Cards, Teen Travel Cards, Adult Info Cards, Pet Travel Cards, and custom cards.

Check out my blog at sharonsdarrow.wordpress.com and join the fun! The more I appreciate everything and everyone around me. I truly believe that life is a gift, and enjoying every minute of it is the best thing I can do for everyone around me!

My website is www.travel-idcard.com.

\$\$ Friendly reminder — Dues are Due, details on page 4 from Jeannie

WEBSITES: Sactowriters.com & Facebook.com/sactowriters

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

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

From Tony Marcolongo

In a trial, a Southern small-town prosecuting attorney called his first witness, an elderly woman to the stand. He approached her and asked, 'Mrs. Jones, do you know me?' She responded, 'Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realize you'll never amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you.'

The lawyer was stunned. Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, 'Mrs. Jones, do you know the defense attorney?'

She again replied, 'Why yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone, and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention he cheated on his wife with three different women. One of them was your wife. Yes, I know him.'

The defense attorney nearly died.

The judge asked both counselors to approach the bench and, in a very quiet voice, said, 'If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll have you both disbarred.'

Don't Fly this Airline

Eleven people were hanging on a rope, under a helicopter. 10 men and 1 woman. The rope was not strong enough to carry them all, so they decided that one had to leave, because otherwise they were all going to fall.

They weren't able to choose that person, until the woman gave a very touching speech.

She said that she would voluntarily let go of the rope, because, as a woman, she was used to giving up everything for her husband and kids or for men in general and was used to always making sacrifices with little in return.

As soon as she finished her speech, all the men started clapping.

**A NEW YEAR'S
RESOLUTION**

Joanie Ballantyne
2015

Christmas is over,
New Year has arrived
Our goals have been written
Another year to survive

Exercise and health food high on
the list

Who are we fooling
With this different twist

Look in the mirror
And what do you see
O no! That cannot be me

The gym is close by
And I go with sighs,
Trying to change
My butt & my thighs

An Excerpt from
THE PLOT THICKENS
by Noah Lukeman

Presented here by Anthony Marcolongo
with specific permission from Mr. Lukeman
<http://www.noahlukeman.com/>

Stories are necessary. Like food or water, stories have always been of supreme importance to the human race. They speak to us on a primal level, and they fill a need. Life can seem aimless, structureless, unjust, without resolution. Stories are the antidote to life: they offer purpose, structure, justice, resolution—not to mention romance, suspense, conflict, adventure. They offer meaning. If our lives cannot always have it, our stories can.

Stories in all forms—novels, screenplays, memoirs, plays, poems—can change lives. They can motivate, inspire, offer an enhanced sense of life, an example of how to live. They can provide a means of escape—from our lives or for a despondent prisoner. They can heal, provide a catharsis, captivate a bedridden child, make him forget his pain. They can educate, instigate, even incite to revolution. They can bring people together. And they can tear them apart. They can poison; works like *Mein Kampf* can spread hatred and misinformation, and brain-wash. Stories have been glorified, preserved for thousands of years.

They have also been censored, repressed. There is some magical element in storytelling, something mysterious that we'll never label. It is the most powerful form of human creation. It is thought on the page, and few things on this Earth are more powerful than thought.

It all lies before you on the blank page. From your mind to your hands to the keys. Nothing is stopping you from changing the world.

Lukeman's other prominent works:

THE FIRST FIVE PAGES

and

**A WRITER'S GUIDE to STAYING OUT of the
REJECTION PILE**

Both books and more are available through Amazon.com.

Short Notice Event!

This coming Friday, Jan 9th, 2015, the Sacramento Book Collectors Club hosts our Annual Show-and-Tell Meeting. Participants are invited to bring one item or small group of related items to share. Gary Kurutz will also showcase special items from the State Library. Set up is from 6 pm to 6:45. Festivities begin at 7:00, when doors close so arrive early. We begin with Inauguration of Officers. Wear a Top Hat if you have one, and your inaugural gown and black tie (if you want; but "usual attire" is OK). 900 "N" Street, Sacramento. Easy close-in well-lit on-street parking at that hour.

This is also a great opportunity to renew your membership, if you're a member or be introduced to the Club if you're not.

For more information, contact Maryellen Burns at booktalk@me.com

INFO from BERT

I'm renting my house in North Highlands and am looking for a renter. Delta Star Management is handling the home and if anyone is vaguely interested or knows someone, their website is:
<http://www.deltastarmanagement.com/>

I'm asking \$1100 and renter pays the bills they run up. (LoL seems fair to me. I'd like to lower it more for friends but I do have a mortgage to pay too.)

It's a 3 bd 1 ba, and I really do like my neighbors, just despise my commute, but no more! Now in my new place, it only takes me 30 to 35 minutes to get home instead of an hour plus. Woot woot!

As your Historian:

Also, I am requesting again, any stories, copies of pics, or info you may have of historical significance to SSWC. Even short commentaries are priceless.

I have had some great info shared with me from John and some pics so thank you thank you!

NOTE: I am not done and need more,

Please and thanks,

Roberta D., dragonscribert@gmail.com

2015 ANTHOLOGY

If you are planning to submit a story, memoir, essay or poem for the SSWC 2015 Anthology, you should be preparing it for review by a critique group or other similar review this month or next. Remember that the submissions are due by the March general meeting.

Tom Hessler

**Our Website has been down, and not in a happy, dancing way.
Thank you for your patience. SSWC**

From Pat Biasotti

"T'was the day after
Christmas
When to my wondering eyes
should appear
But ten extra pounds
On my hips, thighs
and rear!"

Ads and announcements

Photo Scanning

- *Upright photo/document scanner
- *Digitizes your photos in seconds then save them to a flash disk
- *Price per scan depends on quantity of photos or documents
- *Great for that memoir you are writing

Call or email for a
breakdown of prices and to
schedule an appointment.

916-256-7860

or bonniebair@yahoo.com

I am also available to help
you make a photo book using an
online company for an additional
cost.

Dues are Due! *By Jeannie, Membership*

The New Year is here! now the New Year is here!
I hope you have paid up your dues
And if you remembered to pay in December,
you'll find there is really good news

'cause you'll get a prize that will light up your eyes
It's certainly something quite dandy
And - this is great news - it's something you'll use
(just kidding - it's only some candy)

You'll find if you wait and pay your dues late
(you don't want to be in *that* line)
'twill cost you some more when you come thru our door
After Jan there's a ten dollar fine!

It's really just money, so pay up now, honey
and get this all out of the way
your mind will be clear as you start this new year,
so you can enjoy each new day.

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	Wes?
Directory	Westley Turner
Historian	Roberta "Bert" D
Librarian	Ron Smith
Membership	Jeannie Turner
Newsletter	Bert & crit team
Nominations	Westley Turner
Program/Event	? ?
Publicity	Therese Crutcher-M
Raffle	??
Sunshine	Group Effort
Speaker Coord.	Therese Crutcher-M
Facebook	Everyone be active.
Web Masters	Wes, Bert, & Brit
Workshops	Eve Wise

MEMBERSHIP may be **prorated if you join/rejoin after the 1st quarter.**

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.

CONDOLENCES TO BARBARA JODRY:

Our sincerest but very belated sympathy to long-standing member and former newsletter editor Barbara Jodry, whose husband Don Coan, 87, died in October. Don was a philanthropist and human rights activist who devoted his life to social justice issues.

Don spent 22 years with the Sacramento Co. Department of Social Welfare, retiring as Bureau Chief in 1988.

From Pat Biasotti

Submissions for the Newsletter:

Please send them to Roberta D, ("Bert") at dragonscribert@gmail.com.

Due dates are BEFORE the end of the prior month. Size may range from a small section or a few pages. Please review the work (naturally), and send in single space. If you have a website or link to what you sell, do include that too and I will be happy to hyperlink it.

Have a great New Year! *Your news Scribe, Roberta "Bert" D.*

Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

M.L. Anderson

8020 Alma Mesa Way

Citrus Heights, CA 95610

MEETING INFORMATION:

January 12th

2nd Monday

[Crossroads Christian Fellowship](http://CrossroadsChristianFellowship.org)

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, email

Jeannie Turner at

turnerjeannie@yahoo.com

Or see the Websites:

Sactowriters.com

Facebook.com/sactowriters

Articles by SSWC writers.

Art by Roberta "Bert" D,

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