

April 2015



Suburban Scribe



Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

*On April 13th, our guest speaker is
Bob Mutchler, Author, and
Rotary Foundation advocate for Cures of Polio.*

Bob Mutchler, or Motorcycle Bob, as he is known in Rotary and to the media around the world, has been riding his motorcycle with the sole goal of raising awareness of The Rotary Foundation and, more specifically, for PolioPlus since 1998. He has ridden to every state capitol in the United States, every Canadian provincial capitol, every Australian state capitol and many other riding events on his motorcycle in order to bring about more public awareness of PolioPlus. He has been featured on network television, talk radio, newspapers and magazines as he expresses the message of PolioPlus and The Rotary Foundation. Bob continues to be a featured media attraction two or more times every month somewhere around the world.



Bob has been a featured speaker in Africa, England, Holland, Australia, Canada and the United States. He has also been a keynote speaker at District Conferences and PETS in Africa, Canada and the United States. He has received numerous awards and Legislative Proclamations.

Bob is married to Patti and has four children and four grandchildren. He currently serves as a Folsom City Utilities Commissioner and just published his book [*From Iron Lung to Iron Butt*](#) co-written with author Lynda Lahman with all the proceeds going to PolioPlus, Rotary International's program to eradicate polio from the earth. In his spare time, he is a successful, fourth generation piano tuner/technician who plays keyboards and sings in the local rock and roll band, "Have Mercy" when he is not riding his motorcycle. More information at www.polioplusride.org, and www.nopolio.org.

Anthology by Mary Lou Anderson

Due to unforeseen circumstances ... You just know that when something starts like that, it can't be good. Some of you may already know that Tom Hessler cannot devote as much time as he would like to the club's next anthology. So, as the other Anthology article in this newsletter says, we are moving ahead. However, having another committee member would be helpful.

(Please volunteer — subliminal message intended.)

If you have some time (not a great amount) and have confidence in your writing abilities, **volunteer**. We are asking that you contact one of the committee members to help us produce our third annual anthology.

Any of us, April Edsberg, Wes Turner, or Mary Lou Anderson, would love to hear from you. *(Please volunteer.)*

ELEVATOR SPEECH CONTEST for all club members! Start writing so you can blurt out why you and your book are gr-r-reat. Winners are named at the May meeting! More info on page 5.

WEBSITES: www.sactowriters.org/ and [Facebook.com/sactowriters](https://www.facebook.com/sactowriters)

MEETINGS: April 13th. Meetings are on the 2nd Monday of each month.

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

CAPITOL CRIMES

Presents

"A Killer Writing Workshop"

About

This hands-on business and writing craft workshop is OPEN to ALL writers of any genre!

Lunch and snacks are provided.

Registration DEADLINE is April 6th.

Register early. Space is limited!

Keynote Speaker



We are thrilled to announce our lunchtime speaker, James Rollins, internationally acclaimed, bestselling author,

Presenters

Four speakers have kindly agreed to make this workshop a "Must Attend" by sharing their expertise in the following tracks.

TIME	TRACK A	TRACK B
9:00-11:30 a.m.	Nora Profit <i>Creating Drama and Tension</i>	Susan Spann <i>The Business of Writing</i>
12:30-1:30 p.m.	James Rollins Luncheon Speaker	
2:00-4:30 p.m.	Chelsea J. Carter <i>Framing Your Story</i>	George Fong <i>Forensics, Making It Real</i>

Date

Saturday, April 18, 2015

9:00 am - 4:45 pm

(Registration: 8:15 am - 8:45 am)

Price

\$50—for Capitol Crimes members.

\$65—for non-members attending the workshop only.

\$70—for non members attending the workshop AND joining Capitol Crimes.

For more information and to register, please visit

<http://www.capitolcrimes.org>.

Rancho Cordova City Hall

2729 Prospect Park Drive

Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

With permission from Ingrid Lundquist, forwarded by Jeannie T. Thanks, ladies!

Tammy's Corner

Hi Everyone. Pick out your dinner-party duds because the "Big Banquet" is getting closer. We want everyone to come and be part of the 60th Anniversary Celebration of being Sacramento Suburban Writers Club. We hope to make this the most memorable gala ever, with atmosphere, gifts, music, and more.

Guess what else? Ronald Goldberg, our entertainer for this Anniversary Banquet and Silent Auction is not only going to be our solo guitarist, but has volunteered to play the ukulele and mandolin for our entertainment, as well. **Isn't that great? I think you will all be pleased with his arrangements.**

If you have not already paid for your Banquet Dinner Selections, please either mail your dinner selections in to Jeannie Turner, (see the last page) or bring the menu /invitation to our next SSWC meeting on April 13th with a check.

Brittany is busy, as we speak, working on getting our SSWC Paypal account on the sactowriters.org website. Hopefully, the Paypal account will be up and running before our next SSWC meeting on April 13. The first thing to use the website account for is to pay for your SSWC 60th Banquet Dinner Selections, if you haven't already done so. **It should make the process of paying and choosing a dinner selection simpler for everyone.** Later we can use it to pay for our anthologies and to renew our membership fees. We're becoming so cosmopolitan, and I'm so proud to be a member of this club, aren't you?

Here's a new idea. Depending on how many members show an interest, we may set up a workshop with a couple of our most educational speakers later this year. We would have the members' vote on which subjects they'd like to have a workshop on and would be willing to pay a small fee to attend. Personally, I'd love to see our club have at least one workshop of this sort each year to help our writers become sharper in all aspects of the craft of writing and publishing.

Reminders:

You do know by now that I have to ask you to contribute something to help out with the banquet, right? You all know a good party only happens when there are lots of helpers. So where are my helpers? **I'm still looking for pretty baskets, preferably with handles for our Silent Auctions Gift Baskets.** And I also still need to borrow lots of those clear marbles that go in the bottom of vases for our decorations.

As far as the big basket for the live auction, we need you to dig around for cool items because I only have a few things in the basket, and we need to fill it up. Thank you to those who have already gone **to the trouble of bringing in an item. I appreciate your efforts. But, I'd like to have at least 40 items** in that basket with gifts ranging from \$5-10. I sincerely hope everyone in our club will at least place one bid on this basket and be involved in the spirit of giving at our auction during the banquet.

Happy Writing.

Elevator Speech Contest

From John Powell

As part of the clubs 60th anniversary program, a contest for the best Elevator Speech is being offered. All club members are invited to submit their entry to the SSWC Elevator speech committee, header by the chairman John Powell, at johnrmarchel@gmail.com. Deadline for submission is April 30th. A prize will be given and the winner will be announced at the clubs 60th anniversary dinner in May.

To remind all of what is an elevator speech, the following are some guidelines:

It is a 30-60 second description of your book and why someone should buy your book or **article you wrote. It's called an "Elevator Pitch" because it describes the challenge: "How would you explain your book or project if fate placed you in an elevator with your dream prospect and you only had the time it takes to get from the bottom of the building to the top, or even one floor to the next?"**

• The purpose of an elevator speech is not to close a deal. It's to interest the other person in continuing to talk, or to get someone to want to hear more. That's IT. It should be consisted one of the most important parts of the marketing strategy for your project.

Your pitch should be 30 to 60 seconds, usually around 100 words or less, and it needs to **end with a question, "call to action" or other appropriate closer (giving out your card). Consider a closer such as, "Does that sound like something you would look at or that interests you?" (That lets the listener respond and if they are interested, they will ask questions.)**

Remember all writers need to have an elevator speech - that means YOU.

<http://johnmarchelgambling.com/>

SSWC Says Special Thanks!

Last month's guest speaker was Susan Spann, *author of Fiction/Romance/Suspense, and Copyright Lawyer.* <http://www.susanspann.com/>

Publishing in the SSWC Newsletter

You can email your work to Roberta "Bert" D at dragonscribert@gmail.com

I've been asked a zillion times when member submissions are due and the story remains before the 1st of the newsletter.

I can't send the newsletter earlier than I get the info, right? Right.

So, with respect to everyone's good intelligence, if you want it in the April newsletter, send it by April 1st. (No April fool pun intended).

Thanks, Bert

REMINDER! Our website has changed!

Please "LIKE" us on our club's Facebook page. It will help build up the club's web presence, including your own :)

Our new club website is Sactowriters.org. Please update your link or notes and delete Sactorwitters.com.

Thank you, SSWC

Bert's Research and Info

As writers, we should know our audience and avenues of where to reach that audience. While some book stores are small and not everyone caters to a group of authors selling their goods, they may still allow one author for a few hours or at least allow the local author to put some books on their shelves to sell. You never know until you ask. Therefore, allow me to share my favorite local bookstore in Lincoln, the Book Cellar. This is the first place I've asked and obtained permission to sell a handful of books! Okay, I'm a first-timer, so that's big for me!

Used Bookstores, a Threatened Species?

I've been looking for places to write in Lincoln, and the Book Cellar has become one of my favorite hangouts to read and buy an occasional book. The decor is great on a normal day, and supreme around the holidays! I may do what the owner has in there, and those are wonderful, homemade, tall, bookshelves out of plywood (because the different layers of wood make the shelves strong), and then put molding on and stained it. This site shows the Halloween theme, WORTH the visit! <http://www.mybookcellar.net/index2.php>

That "G street" address really throws me. The Book Cellar is at 168 G Street (Hwy 65), now the old Hwy 65. Rest assured, it is on the main drag which is also called Lincoln Blvd, just as you are coming into old Lincoln from the south, it's on the left hand side, between 1st and 2nd Street.

Here's another something that I consider a very overlooked bit of common horse sense. People get tired of people saying Me mememememe me. We're also supposed to network, so have a good time sharing info on your favorite resources. It makes sense to me that mentioning other sites, (with permission of course!) would show not only a life outside of our own microworlds, but our ability to share favorite tidbits of information with others, and support our community.

If you want a day trip getaway, there's the [Bookery](#) in Placerville, and I've also been to Jackson, home to [Hein & Co Used Books](#), a 2-story motherload of books. I could live there. Here's a method of my madness: I don't buy many other books just for leisure reading because I'm usually too busy writing my own stuff, but I do buy a lot of reference books. Did you know there are science-fiction dictionaries/encyclopedias and even psychic dictionaries? For a sci-fi/fantasy writer, that yells "SCORE!"

Internet books and research are all fine and grand, but I want my eyeballs and fingers to last and need a break from that darn screen; however, if you just don't want to/can't/don't have time for that occasional drive, used online bookstores have great selection and prices. My favorite online bookstores are [bookfinder.com](#), [alibris.com](#), and there are others. It's not just Amazon. I've scored some great used books for under \$5 and then a few bucks for shipping/handling, books that were \$20 to \$100 elsewhere. SCORE again!



Bert's books

Writing Groups

MEETUP or "Meetup.com" is still a growing resource for writers to band together, network, and critique each other's work. Here's one group of many: <http://www.meetup.com/the-sacramento-creative-writing-meetup/> or if you use online url shortners, it's <http://goo.gl/IP7J6t>.

It's super easy. If you like, google up "google url shortner" and follow the directions.

**Exclusive Visit from the Bay Area
Coming to Sacramento
California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch**



www.cwcsacramentowriters.org

Featured Speaker Saturday, April 18, is Jo Haraf
“When Characters Take the Stage”
Interactive Session

Thinking of writing a personal history? A memoir? Every author of fiction and nonfiction faces the challenge of bringing in characters or “real” persons. What do we say, how much do we say, when is the best timing, and how do we pace character details? Or does it matter?

Definitely it matters, according to Jo Haraf, who says that when writers sit down to compose, they develop characters who through action, dialogue, thought or physical appearance claim, “This is who I am!” These first steps create personas, ripe for reinforcement or—even better, intrigue or contradiction—as the story continues.

In a stirring presentation chockfull of tips, Haraf will demonstrate the effects of character introductions and, drawing from works by well-known authors, how characters evolve through a story’s conclusion. Haraf will discuss the four ways a character may appear, what the author says by the introduction, and how first impression may change over time.

Whether fiction or non-fiction, characters (people) play a critical role in our narratives. **Meeting attendees are invited to bring examples of how they introduce a character in their own work, especially fiction or memoir.**

Jo Haraf comes to Sacramento with a reputation for concise and helpful presentations. After retiring as Chief Information Officer for a global 50 law firm, she pursued her dream to write. She began to study fiction at various colleges. People who have heard her call her “smart, personable and a damn good writer and teacher.” A popular speaker on writing craft, she refers to herself as a lifelong “techno-geek” turned born-again fiction writer. Having written hundreds of articles, she blogs, produces poetry and short stories about 1920s New York. She is a proud member of the California Writers Club and the Historical Novel Society.

Local Expert segment will feature Robin Martin (Two Songbirds Press) on **“Three Things Writers Should Know When Searching for an Independent Editor.”** Martin has served as assistant agent, editor of fiction and creative nonfiction publications, and trustee of the Northern California Editorial Freelancers Association. She helps authors complete their projects and related goals, whether to find an agent and a book deal, create a manuscript to self-publish to sell with pride, or complete a book to pass on to their families.

Meeting Details

Where/When: Cattlemens Restaurant, 12409 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova, Hwy 50 at Hazel, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. **Meeting fee:** Members: \$17/Guests: \$20; lunch included.

Critique Groups

Mary Lou Anderson

We had a critique group meeting this evening (mid-March), and it was so fun. Besides the remarks made about commas, periods, and other punctuation marks, fellow members also made outstanding suggestions about the writing, story lines, characters, and other aspects of the creations.

Another thought I had during all the banter was how much the writers have improved over the years of participating in the critique group. The writing is clearer, crisper, tighter, more descriptive, better. Best of all, there are fewer corrections that need to be made.

As a retired teacher (and we *never* fade away), it is heartwarming to see the improvement of all the group's members. Then there's the realization that everyone in the group has helped make *everyone* (including me) a better writer.

Bottom line, if you are not in a critique group, join one. If you can't find one that meets your needs, help start one. Everyone benefits.

LIBRARY BOOK SALES *from Bert*

All I did was google "Book sales, Sac CA, Apr 2015."

The more seriously we take our genre and do our homework, the more polished our book emerges as a solid, rounded, well thought-out story. Friends of the Library sales have been a great source for me to get reference books cheap! I've nabbed "Grey's Anatomy" for \$4 and beefy thesauruses for around the same price. This event also has CDs, software, and other materials.

Local libraries are having book sales in April:

The Friends of the Library Book Store

Saturday, April 11th in Rio Linda.

Time: 12 pm to 6 pm.

Location: 440 Elkhorn Blvd., Suite #7,
Rio Linda, CA 95673

The South Natomas Public Library,

2901 Truxel Rd, Sac., CA 95833

Days: Sat, 11 Apr - Fri, 17 Apr

Time: 9 am to 5 pm.

FUN FORUM CHATTER from Bert. Source: <https://goo.gl/RkShDx>

Question: How many characters are there in Harry Potter?

Blogger: "772. J.K Rowling said so herself." Does that sound utterly crazy? A bored geek could Google all day, but here's one: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Harry_Potter_characters.

Potter's world is nearing the mega-success of Star Wars! So, WRITE. Do NOT let naysayers stop you!

NEWSLETTER OFFERINGS:

There have been urgent requests to produce the newsletter earlier. That can only be done if material hits my mailbox earlier than the norm!

Please remember that none of us owns a time machine, so the earlier all members and member/officers send material, the better a chance of it landing in the newsletter in the requested month. The news **editor can't just *poof, "add it in." It takes time.**

If the material arrives last minute, my cat may end up eating it or joyfully shred it and I would not deprive her of such natural frolicking ;)

Cheers and "chop chop get 'er done," Bert



OFFICERS

Elected Officers:

President	Mary Lou Anderson
Vice President	Brittany Lord
Secretary	Tammy Andrews
Treasurer	Tom Hessler

Chairs:

Achievements	Mary Lou Anderson
Anthology CC	Need help!
Chairs Chair	Westley Turner
Coffee/Treats	Rotates
Conferences	John Powell
Critique Groups	Westley Turner
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	Need Someone**
Sunshine	Group Effort
Speaker Coord.	Therese Crutcher-M
Facebook	Everyone be active.
Web Masters	Wes Turner
Workshops	Eva Wise

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.

HUMOR CORNER from Tony Marcolongo

My name is Alice, and I was sitting in the waiting room for my first appointment with a new dentist. I noticed his DDS diploma on the wall, which bore his full name. Suddenly, I remembered a tall, handsome, dark-haired boy with the same name had been in my high school class some 40-odd years ago. Could he be the same guy that I had a secret crush on, way back then? Upon seeing him, I quickly discarded any such thoughts. This balding, gray-haired man with the deeply lined face was way too old to have been my classmate. After he examined my teeth, I asked if he had attended Morgan Park High School. "Yes. Yes, I did. I'm a Mustang," he gleamed with pride.

"When did you graduate?" I asked.

He answered, "In 1970... why do you ask?"

"You were in my class!" I exclaimed.

He looked at me closely. Then, that ugly, old, bald, wrinkled-faced, fat-reared, gray-haired, decrepit, !@#\$\$%^&* asked, "What did you teach?"

Workshop leader for the April meeting is April: Lynette Blumhardt. Thank you, Lynette!

SSWC 60th Anniversary Banquet & Scholarship Fundraiser

A celebration you won't want to miss! Saturday, 5PM, May 16th.

Details on pg 3, "Tammy's Corner."

**Mary Lou Anderson, c/o
Sacramento Suburban Writers Club
8020 Alma Mesa Way
Citrus Heights, CA 95610**

MEETING INFORMATION:

April 13th

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

www.sactowriters.org/

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

©SSWC All rights reserved.

