

May 2015

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

On May 11th, the Speakers are the member/authors of SSWC.

Our SSWC members are the speakers for this night, reading choice pieces of their works. We only do the readings twice a year.

You're invited to bring friends, family, and guests to join us.

We will also present the award for John's "Elevator Speech Contest."

Our author readers are:

*Bonnie Bair, Penny Howard, Al Gilding,
Gisela Butler, Jeannie Turner, and John Powell*

Please note that our May 11th meeting is at the church, while the May 16th banquet will be at the Old Spaghetti Factory, as follows:

*We will be celebrating the club's 60th Anniversary
with a Banquet and Silent Auction May 16, 2015.*

The event starts 5:00pm at The Old Spaghetti Factory,

731 Sunrise Avenue, Roseville, CA, 95661

Only \$20, see sactowriters.org to pay.

Full article on the handout.

BertaD

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

MEETINGS: May 11th. Meetings are on the 2nd Monday of each month.

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

Respects to Tom Hessler, passed away April 2015

June 29, 1939 - April 9, 2015

There will be a Celebration of Life for Tom on Sunday, June 7th, from 1 pm to 4 pm at the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse at 7997 California Avenue, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Phone number (916) 966-1036

To view Tom's legacy/obituary page, and /or leave an online commentary for Tom's family, please use the link:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/mercurynews/obituary.aspx?pid=174685752>

The following commentaries are dedications to Tom for all the goodness he's shared with us.

Tom was a very calming, inspiring guy to be around, a steadfast friend, thoughtful as a true gentleman, and had a soothing aura about him. I would make extra effort just to joke around with him every time I saw him, the kind of joking that sometimes made him blush, a type of banter that friends who trust each other have, funny and spunky. Tom was also one of my critiquers, and one of my favorite colleagues for sharing thoughts of intrigue. He will be among the special thanks in my novel. Losing him, it's just wrong. I want my buddy back! :(*Roberta "Bert" D.*

It was a great shock to discover Tom had died after a seemingly short illness. He was a valuable asset to SSWC, always helpful in so many different ways. I and the club will miss him sorely. *Pat Biasotti*

I was so sad to hear this news, Tom has been a wonderful, kind person. I will miss him. *Gisela Butler*

Oh! I miss him greatly. I spoke with him many times asking for his help in formatting my work. Oh, no. I really miss him. My deepest condolence and moral support to those he has left behind.

Emma Clasberry



Tom was endearingly boyish in appearance, yet incredibly intelligent, and so kind and generous in helping others. He was a pillar of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club, and it will not be the same without him. Even though he did not know me well, he more than willingly spent several hours helping me formatting my book for Create Space, and I will never forget how patient he was. What a wonderful man. I will miss him. *Cathy McGreevy*

I'll always miss Tom for his organizational skills when he chaired the Anthology Committee and on Critique Technique presentations. Tom's sense of humor seemed to slip into every project we worked on. His book "the Aedifex, Building the Pont du Guard," an excellent history which helped me to thoroughly enjoy the trip to France to see this famous aqueduct. He has contributed a lot to our club.

April Edsberg

"I was stunned to learn of Tom Hessler's passing, Tom's leadership in the SSWC was legendary and greatly appreciated. He willingly shared his expertise and inspired his writing friends to do more and soar higher. The world of writing has lost a caring leader, a caring writer. We never fully appreciate what we have until it is lost."

Mort Rumberg

Respects to Tom Hessler, *(continued).*

Tom Hessler, SSWC's Treasurer, Critique Group organizer, and Anthology initiator and continuing promoter, sadly passed away a couple of weeks ago. He was obviously a very active and supportive member of our club. Behind the scenes, he was also a member of our critique group that met once a month.

Tom used the "stream of consciousness" writing style and encouraged us to consider to use it in our own material. He published two books you might like to order and read: the Aedifex: Building the Pont du Gard and the Caucasus: a Novel. Both are available on Amazon.

He also pushed the need for us to find "themes" to include in our writing and maintain the theme throughout our books. In fact, he pushed *themes* so often that I retaliated by making an acronym of his name: **Thomas Hessler Enjoys Making Esoteric Statements: THEMES**. I reminded him about that often and will always think of him every time "themes" come up at discussions.

His enthusiasm and willingness to support others' writing efforts to find success will be remembered — and missed.

Mary Lou

With Respects to our Friend, Tom Hessler
To me Tom was like the redwoods, tall and sturdy and pleasing to the eye with his gentle, warm character. A man with a smile and a kind word and a helping hand that made you feel welcome. He was a leader and shared his knowledge with others generously. I will never forget the distinctive resonance of his kindly voice. He spoke like he looked, like a gentle giant. It was a pleasure to listen to whatever he said as he helped guide our members toward being better writers. Sacramento Suburban Writers Club members were lucky to have known him. I will miss him.

Tammy Andrews

I didn't know he passed. I am so sorry to hear this. I miss him even though I am far away, he was such a good help to the anthology. May God welcome his soul and may he rest in peace

Aleta

Tom giving a workshop in 2014



Honoring our Members, Family, and Friends:

This May is a month of celebrating our club's long life, and respecting the dedicated efforts of our members and leaders who have passed away. We have lost our founder, Ethel Bangert, our past president Moj Denhgham, a number of members or family (you're welcome to send me details), and most recently, Tom.

In honor of our club's founder, Ethel Bangert, I've also located her online memorial. It's been activated again for a year.

This might be a good thing to do for a number of our departed.

Our SSWC founder,
Ethel Bangert
September 28, 1912
to February 2, 2011



Ethel's page is located at:
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sacbee/obituary.aspx?n=ethel-elizabeth-bangert&pid=148363273>

Sincerely, SSWC

THE SECRET OF SURVIVAL AS A WRITER

Ethel Bangert

California Writers Club, Nov. 21, 1981

The Plains Indians had a greeting that I feel is the answer to the question, "How does a writer survive all the vicissitudes of fate, all the unkind rejections of his work, all the disappointments, and yes, even the dangers from a too early success?

The Indian greeting was, "Sigh you." It translates, "Be strong." And we must be strong to survive as writers., Strong enough to persevere in the face of every challenge that looms before us. Some so black, some so terrifying at times, that we don't see how we can possibly go on. But we must go on. We're here to communicate with people.

Now, when I was a young writer, I no sooner would sign a contract for a book and dream of those sales, then the roof would fall in. The kids would get sick, some other terrible thing would happen in the family, some catastrophe would hit, that should have stopped production. But!...oh, those career-saving "but's"...I made a commitment to a publisher. I had signed a contract. I had made a promise to meet a deadline, so the book was mailed on time. And this was often only possible by working after the house was quiet. Sometimes at midnight.

"Sigh you" -- be strong.

Another trick in facing problems and in persevering against all odds is to thoroughly analyze your proposed job before you tackle it. If a book, what about the subject matter. Before you submit an idea to a publisher or to a magazine editor, find out if there is material enough, material in abundance, for research on the subject before you start it. I believe this is true of fiction as well as non-fiction. Novels must have fascinating backgrounds, so you research and you research until you have enough rich material for that background, in depth, to make it interesting to your reader.

Another thing, ask yourself is this subject within my grasp? Do I have the technical skills to handle it? Am I ready for this idea? It is terrible to start a job and, half-way through it, face up to the fact that the whole project is far above your head. I know. I've done this.

How much do you want to do the book? Is it worth making sacrifices for? Writing demands sacrifice. More careers have been wrecked from weak desire than from lack of talent. Am I emotionally equipped to write this book? If not, why write it? However, consider, if a slice of romance can push back loneliness for a person for even an hour, that may be reason enough for you to persevere and write this romance.

Do I want to shape my life, for a year, around this book? Answering honestly will enable you to be strong enough to struggle with this material, to conquer it, to succeed. Finally, to proudly hold it in your hands when it is published. To think, without vanity, but with a kind of awe, "I did this! I did this! Myself! This never existed before in this world, and I created this."

That's quite wonderful. That's a miracle. Never mind what other people say about it. Never mind that they say, "You only got so much money for it." That isn't important at all. The important thing is that you created something that never existed in the world before. Or will you perhaps be strong enough to turn away to a less-ambitious project that is just as important to your growth at this time, something that can be accomplished in a shorter space of time and with much less dedication on your part? I've heard people say, "I'll never publish. The odds are against me. Too many people writing today. I haven't got a chance. No, the odds are against me." Well, let's look at these odds.

First, be aware that although it is true that thousands of manuscripts, short stories, and articles, never get published, and if you visit New Your as I do occasionally, you will see these offerings in hallways, stacked up. You will see them on editors' desks, and you'll think *what chance do I have*. But remember, of all the manuscripts mailed to national magazines each year, ninety-four per cent of the writers mail in one manuscript and never mail another. 6% mail two manuscripts and of that six per cent, two per cent persist. They hang in there. They work. They keep going.

And from this tiny two per cent, all of the magazines get their material. So where are the odds? They're all in your favor. And we also have seven thousand markets out there. Isn't that right, Bud? Easily. Yeah, seven thousand.

How dare we say there are no chances for us.²

THE SECRET OF SURVIVAL AS A WRITER

By *Ethel Bangert (Continued).*

Tenacity and success are the one and the same thing. What we, as struggling writers need to survive, as selling writers, is ability, tenacity, work, and perseverance. Preparation is in proportion to the rewards. For we must all serve an apprenticeship. I think we must realize we have to go back to square one if we change horses in mid-stream and try a new field. We have to go back and start again. Say that we move from articles to fiction, or short-fiction to novels. We have to be aware that once more we have an apprenticeship to serve.

Now we must write every day and not allow anything or anyone to keep us from working. I can make up a new excuse every day of my life for not writing, but if I want to write more than I want to do anything else, I'll write. And if the truth be known, no matter how much they may deny it, most housewife-writers are truly in love with their homes and gardens. It is very difficult for them to put writing first. It is for me. And frequently the persons who complain the most bitterly about not selling, if the hours at their machines were added up, the sum would be very modest. Instead of those hours being spent at writing, they're spent somewhere else. And this is fine. It's your life. But don't kid yourselves. If you used your writing time elsewhere, then don't feel bad if publishing doesn't follow a few meager efforts.

By the way, keeping a work journal of your actual hours spent in production, turning out copy, is really the gist of the whole business, turning out copy. Not talking about turning out copy. Turning it out! Now this can be an eye-opener. When you make an hourly journal, you actually see, Monday, I spent so many hours, Tuesday, I spend so many hours, Wednesday, I didn't work. Well, all right, then you have to do double work time on Thursday to make up for the Wednesday you missed. You see.

You are, you know, working toward failure if you are not working toward success. We simply cannot live in a vacuum. We do one thing or the other. "Sign you" -- be strong.

And know also, you are only in competition with yourself. You, and only you, can say, "Yes, I'm writing more carefully this year than I did last year." And only you know your true goals. That's why you cannot ever allow someone else, agent, friend, or family, to tamper with your work. It's your work. You're writing for publication. You're writing for a certain editor whose production you have studied. You know what that editor wants. Pay attention to that. Don't pay attention to someone saying, "What does that amount to? That's just nothing."

You have your own standards and your own goals. How can these other people know your goals? They can't. However, no manuscript should ever leave your desk until it is the very best that you can do at this time. Later, you'll do much better.

Now, as I see it, editors want fresh ideas. They want to be touched by your article, story, or novel. What does my reader want to feel? Different publications have different readerships, as we all know. What do those readers want to feel? Because that's what we are trying to do. Transmit emotion.

I doubt that anyone who hates people, can ever truly be successful because people are our stock in trade. All else is window-dressing.

One last thing, don't brood over stories that won't jell now. Some won't. Years later, that story will resurface and perhaps make your fortune.

It takes perseverance then, to transform desire into its monetary equivalent. The basis for perseverance is the power of your will. "Sigh you." With perseverance and a strong desire to succeed, with study of the markets, and of your craft, you will in time be irresistible to editors. Yes, you will. In time.

Now, many folks are ready to throw up their hands and quit at the sight of the first, second, tenth, or fifteenth rejection slip. Survivors carry on, despite all opposition and all misfortune. I salute them.

There may be no heroic connotation to the word that is the secret of surviving as a writer, which is, of course, perseverance. But the quality (of perseverance) is to the character of a writer what carbon is to steel.

So my dear friends and beloved students, "Sign you."

The End

SSWC Writers selling their books. May we have many more author events.



Bud Gardner

When you speak, your words echo only across the room or down the hall. but when you write, your words echo down the ages.”

— Bud Gardner, *Chicken Soup for the Writer's Soul: Stories to Open the Heart and Rekindle the Spirit of Writers*



Sherrie Cockrel & her hubby Joe



Mort Rumberg

GRATEFUL SIGNIFICANCE

Joanie Ballantyne
2014

From the highest leaf, on the highest branch,
The valley becomes an affair of beauty

Overtaken by the sights and sounds of all living things
Thoughts run 'round in my head

Dancing leaves flow in the wind forever,
And those branches grow higher and higher.

But what if they did not grow at all?
Where would everything be without the beauty of trees?

The hills and valleys would be barren,
And streams would lose their luster

The colors of the world would turn dark
And dampen our feelings of beauty

Look, sense the trees,
And be guided



John Powell

*Keep sharing
those pictures!
Bert*

THE WIND, THE WAVES, AND I

Anthony Marcolongo
2014

A light, warm wind wafted across the waves,
And kissed the gently breaking surf,
Before lightly brushing through my hair,
And rising to ruffle the top of the trees,
On it's way to who knows where.

I softly called a greeting,
But the rushing wind ignored my words,
Indeed, blew them away.

It's brothers and sisters hurried after it,
Cooling my skin as they went,
Bringing delightful relief from the relentless sun,
While pushing the great sea towards the shore,
And me.

A small wave broke and raced mightily,
Against the steepness of the beach,
Surging upwards to reach my toes,
All the while enchantingly giggling,
From the titillations of the incessant,
Pulsing breeze.

The little wave hesitated at the top of it's run,
Cresting long enough to show off it's myriad of
bubbles,
Before racing back beneath the caress,
of the next swiftly approaching minor swell,

They seemed intent on teasing me,
And amusing themselves,
By touching my toes,
To administer a cool, nonchalant tickle

Then the saddest thought occurred to me,

Each little flutter breeze,
Off to the high halls of the neverland,
And each little fleeting wave,
Receding and sighing its way
Back to it's mother,

Each was an individual,
Never to be seen again.

HUMOR CORNER from Tony Marcolongo

My doctor asked me if any
members of my family suffered
from insanity.

I said, "No, we all seem to
enjoy it."

*More photos from
SSWC author events.*



Andrea Roth



Amanda and Chopper

A LONG TIME AGO, IN A GRAMMAR SCHOOL, FAR, FAR AWAY

From Anthony Marcolongo

Back in grammar school we used to fiddle with mathematic riddles. For instance, get ready to add: A bus arrives at the corner of Stanton Street with no-one on board. It picks up 4 passengers; on Cole Street it stops to let off 1 passenger and picks up 3 more; on Willow Avenue it drops off 2 passengers and picks up 5 more; on Broadway and Winters, it drops off seven and picks up 8; then on Carlisle Street it picks up 4 and lets off 2, and last but not least, on Prospect Street it drops of 3 and picks up 5.

Are you ready? Got your math down? Okay ... how many stops did the bus make?

Our math teacher was not amused, but we forged ahead with more absurdities, to wit:

Pick a number (secretly); Okay now double it. Ready? Now add 8. Next, divide your answer by 2 ... got that? Okay, next, subtract the number that you originally started with.

Your answer is 4. Ta daaa!

Sometimes we would make it really hard, such as: Pick a number. Okay now double it. Ready? Okay, now add 5. Next, divide your answer by 2 ... got that? Okay, next, subtract the number you originally started with.

Your answer is 2.5. Yes?

Once we made this know-it-all jerk process instructions that left him with an answer of 1,929, 432, 325.3, or something to that effect. He never did figure it out.

Here's another: In this little town, on this little hill, was a cute little pine tree. It had seven limbs ... and on each and every limb it had seven branches ... and on each and every branch it had seven twigs ... and on each and every twig it had seven acorns. How many acorns were on that tree? Done? What's your answer?

Truth is, there are no acorns on a pine tree.

We'd also poke fun at the English language, and drive him mad with questions and statements that made no sense at all. Here's a couple of examples:

Why ... is a corner?

How far ... is a line?

When ... is where?

When questioned as to what we meant by all that gibberish, we'd answer, "Sorry, we only speak Ferrari," or "Don't worry ... tomorrow is on the hat-rack."

One of my favorites was a piece of work, invented by myself, but put into practice by my pal, Bino. The teacher asked him why he didn't understand something as simple as a verb. He told her, because they are frightening. When she asked him why he would be frightened by verbs, he answered, "Because they are right-angled walls of terror." We all roared in delight, but the prank got him detention.

When you didn't like someone you told them to "Get bent," or "Get outta' Dodge," or just plain, "Ride!"

Once, when grilled by my Principal as to why all this nonsense was happening in English and Math classes, I had the audacity to joke, "Because ... I ... have spoken."

I got to join Bino in detention.

SSWC is accepting suggestions for the title of our 3rd Anthology!

Please offer suggestions! You can also vote for one of the following Titles from the Board:

Writing is its Own Reward

Painting with Words

Breathings of Your Heart

Kaleidoscope

The Art of Words

Bleeding onto the Page

Your votes and suggestions can be given or sent to Mary Lou, Jeannie, or Wes Turner.

Dear Members, I just wanted to let you know that you may now go online and prepay for your dinner selections for our upcoming 60th Anniversary Banquet at sactowriters.org. It's very easy, even I could do it. Also, we finally have our guest speaker. Tammy (selection on page 9).

SSWC 60th Anniversary Celebration

**Menu is available at sactowriters.org
Select the "Events" tab,
Choose "Banquet Dinner Selections,"
and follow the instructions.**

Banquet Menu:

Entrée Selections:

- A. Baked Lasagna with marinara sauce,
ground beef and pork, and cheese.**
- B. Sicilian Meatballs, Italian Sausage & Spaghetti,
with Rich Meat Sauce**
- C. Breast of Chicken Alfredo**

Vegan or vegetarian dinners:

- D. Spaghetti with Marinara Sauce**
- E. Spinach & Cheese Ravioli in Marinara Sauce**

Very limited payments at the door!

OFFICERS

Elected Officers:

President	Mary Lou Anderson
Vice President	Brittany Lord
Secretary	Tammy Andrews
Treasurer	??

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	??
Librarian	Ron Smith
Membership	Jeannie Turner
Newsletter	??
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

*SSWC 60th Anniversary Banquet
& Scholarship Fundraiser
A celebration and silent auction!
Saturday, 5PM, May 16th.*

Details on pg 6

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.

Silent Auction Items:

- Napa wine with wine glasses and treats.
- A \$280 valued blackjack party event, an evening of a gambling (gambling training) party by John Powell.
- "Man Bucket" with car care accessories.
- A *near magical*, extra-large, framed print of Mad King Ludwig's fairytale castle (size is nearly 3 ft x 4 ft).
- A cozy blanket with slippers goodies.
- Art, media to learn French, & more.

WORKSHOP will be done by Mort and any other wonderful volunteers.



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



MEETING INFORMATION:

May 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

www.sactowriters.org/

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

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