

July, 2015

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

sactowriters.org

Wes Turner Speaker at our July 13th Meeting

Westley Turner enjoys editing and analysing the written word, where he focuses on helping others achieve their potential. Having been raised by two schoolteachers (his mother taught English, his father, music), he grew up understanding the importance of education and proper communication. "If you aren't doing something else, read something," was oft heard around his house, and cereal boxes were regularly passed around the breakfast table for close perusal.

His knowledge of grammar serves him well in the various critique groups he attends as he not only comments on manuscripts, but also guides writers in story development. He has also studied book formatting and layout, including front and back matter, so when your narrative is ready for print, he can give helpful hints there, too.

He expresses his creative side by escaping into the world of writing and is currently working on a series of books that take place in the same universe. The stories in those books began as bedtime tales told to his children, and as the children grew up, so did the stories.

Initially not knowing that writer groups actually existed, Westley happened upon SSWC many years ago and fell in with fellow writers, for a few years fulfilling the role of president of the club. Branching out to other writer groups in the area, he has served as a non-member judge for Northern California Publishers and Authors Books Awards for the last few years and has spoken at both the California Writers Club Friday meeting and the Gold Country Writers Wednesday meeting. His last speaking engagement was at the Conference on Creative Writing held on the UOP campus in Stockton, where he had been asked to speak on what he looks for in judging book contests.

The topic of the talk at SSWC is What is a Story? and How Can You Improve It?. Westley hopes to share some insights into the structure of stories and mention some specific details that will help you make your story more engaging to your readers. There may also be some easy-to-remember tips on self-editing.



SSWC gives a big **THANK YOU** to Pat Biasotti, April Edsberg and Nan Roark and others for bringing such yummy treats for the June meeting! It was great to have some variety both the sweet with the savory! Anyone and everyone is welcome to bring something to share for each meeting. Your service is greatly appreciated!! - Mary McClure

Workshop

The workshop for July
will be presented by
Ron Smith

Future meeting

Future Workshop Presenters
August 10 — Brittany Lord
September 14 — Robin Robinson
October 12 — Tammy Andrews

All meetings are held at the Crossroads Community Fellowship Church's meeting hall, 5501 Dewey Drive, Carmichael — just north of the Madison/Dewey intersection, 7-9 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month.
sactowriters.org

Tammy's Corner

Hi Everyone.

This will be the first newsletter by our new team, Bonnie Bair and Deanna Kerr. So remember to send some of your writing or other newsworthy ideas or articles to them for future use in our newsletter. We want it to be one of the best in town. Within SSWC we have a wonderful and varied group of writers and authors, and we should strive to contribute to our newsletter so it will reflect our diversity, wisdom, and character.

Several members attended Tom Hessler's Memorial on Saturday, June 7th. It was a reflective ceremony about his life. He led an exemplary lifestyle, and his family and friends shared experiences and stories about what a wonderful man he was. For those of you who didn't know him well, he'd been practicing jazz piano for years, and some of his musician friends pulled together a twelve-member band and played his favorite jazz piece for the group. Tom would have been pleased at the nice things said about him and the beautiful jazz played in his honor.

On a happier note, we officially, finally, hooked up our new treasurer, Paul Hayes, to our banking institution and gave him a wheelbarrow full of paperwork to do. It was difficult getting that doggoned wheelbarrow into Mary Lou's van, but we were bound and determined to give all that work to Paul. He happily accepted the Paul Bunyon-esque task with a good attitude and plans to whack that workload down to size and have everything in order in no time flat. And he promised not to use that big ax for anything untoward. (Okay, I got carried away, so some of that was exaggerated, but just a little.)

An idea has come up about contacting the students that applied for the SSWC scholarship and nearby high school English classes to invite them to join our club. Initially that might take some mentoring, and we may be looking for volunteers to supply time or ideas. I'll be facilitating their welcome. Details are still being worked out and will be forthcoming.

Happy Writing.

Laughter is the Best Medicine



Just a funny joke, but it really happened... By Gisela Butler

When I came to the states in April 1963, my English was so limited. We lived in my mother-in-law's house for a bit. Someone outside in the car was honking. My mother-in-law said to one of her kids, "Go outside and see who's honking." (I did not hear the word "who's" because everyone talked way too fast for me.) I said, "Boy, you sure have funny names in the U.S. Who would call their kid 'HONKING.'"

Submitted by Anthony Marcolongo

Why don't you ever see the headline, "Psychic Wins Lottery"?

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

Why do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counters?

"Politicians will say anything, if it gets them what they want. Now some politicians will deny that---if it gets them what they want."

Mort's 5-Minute English Lesson

For lovers of the English language

There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that is 'UP.' So listen UP.

UP refers to the sky or to the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP?

Why do we speak UP, why are the officers UP for election, and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report?

We call UP our friends.

We brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers, and clean UP the kitchen.

We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car.

A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP or clogged UP.

We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night.

People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special, especially when going UPtown.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP.

When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP.

When it rains, it wets the earth and often messes things UP.

When it doesn't rain for a while, things dry UP.



We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look UP the word UP in the dictionary.

In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4th of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions.

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used.

It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more ways to use UP.

One could go on and on but I'll wrap it UP, for now my time is UP.



Hey, wazzUP?

Well, maybe it's time for me to shut UP!

By Mort Rumberg

SSWC Memories

Jeannie Turner

My son knew a real, published author! And there would be a book signing of this famous author's latest work in a bookshop at the corner of Madison and Manzanita. How exciting! This I couldn't miss.

So off I went to meet a real author, a friend of my son.

I bought a copy of the book, of course, got it autographed, and then had my picture taken with the author.

I still treasure that book, my first autographed book - "To Wes's Mom, Mort Rumberg."

When I found out that I could belong to the very same writers' club that he and my son did, I promptly attended the next meeting of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club and have been attending ever since!

From the Prez.
Mary Lou Anderson

Something was recognized over the last couple of months. We are not alone.

No, not *that* kind. We still don't know if there are others *beings* out there on the millions and billions of potential planets, but there are other writing clubs with the same idea we have had.

That prevalent idea is that many clubs are seeking younger members. (Sorry, but, yes, we are getting older.)

Many students and young people are like I was: "As soon as I have the time, I'll write." "When the kids are grown and gone, I'll work on that book." "I'll jot this down and finish it later." For too many potential authors, that time doesn't last long enough.

The goal of bringing in younger members was part of the incentive behind the scholarship we awarded earlier this year to a high school student. So many schools were contacted and many students entered. The seed was planted for future authors, future members.

I was surprised to listen to leaders of the other clubs say the same thing we have discussed. But I was also pleased that it a universal goal.

This club has been strong for 60 years, and to keep it strong for another 60 (and more), we need to continually bring in younger members. So, bottom line, if you have children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, neighbors, anyone who has an interest in writing as a profession or a hobby, invite them to join us for a meeting. And when they come, make them feel welcome.

True story, Tom Hessler would have smiled...

Friday evening my daughter called to inform us that they will be in Oregon for five days.

I wished them a wonderful trip.

I mentioned to her that we will be attending a memorial service on June the 7th. One of our dear writers passed away. She said: "Oh, Mom, this will be tomorrow," on Saturday.

We wished them a happy trip.

Saturday at 1:00PM, my husband Gary and I showed up in Fair Oaks. Lots of people were attending the affair. Mexican food was served outside and everyone was eating in the community room.

I looked around and said to my husband, "No one from our writers' club is here, and I don't recognize anyone."

Then in the corner we saw a big birthday cake; it was a birthday celebration. I asked a young couple: "Excuse me what is the date today?" I was told June the 6th. We looked at each other and left for home.

Tom's special day on Sunday was such a wonderful celebration of his life. I would not have missed it.

So, Tom, I had to write about this, you are missed already ...

Your friend Gisela

On the Lighter Side

Trivia from Tony Marcolongo

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms.



Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are "limbs," therefore painting them would cost the buyer more.

COPY AND DEADLINES

Submit original written material such as: poems, letters, book excerpts, articles, book reviews, humor, web sites to visit, general information, fun stuff to share — almost anything. Also, share info about other meetings, contests, books, book signings, classes, etc.

Please keep the submission relatively short, otherwise we'll have to serialize it. Also, please submit electronically. There is no pay but byline credit is given — and that looks good to agents and publishers. This is a benefit of being a member of SSWC.

Contact Deanna at neverblocked@gmail.com or Bonnie at bonniebair@yahoo.com with your submissions.

FRIED CHICKEN

ANTHONY MARCOLONGO

In the New England State of Massachusetts, there exists what are known as Blue Laws, antiquated laws designed to enforce religious standards, particularly the observance of Sunday as a day of worship or rest. Some of these Blue Laws have remained in effect from times before the establishment of the Constitution. These antique statutes often prohibit an activity only during certain hours. And thus, begins our story:

In 1766 there existed, and to this day still exists, a Blue Law that specifically prohibits the riding of chickens down the main streets of town after 8:00 pm.

Perplexed as to how anyone could possibly ride a chicken, I set out to find the answer. I pondered whether one saddled the bird or simply rode it bare-back, like a horse.

However, no matter how far and wide I searched, I found no trace of a riding saddle ever having existed for chickens. Although my investigation raised a lot of sarcastically inclined eyebrows and produced an equal amount of laughter at my expense, all my efforts came to naught.

Then, one day, buried in an ancient volume of a New England library, I discovered the following article from a 1766 Boston newspaper:

May 5, 1766

Harland Sanders, a former British Army Colonel, has taken to chicken farming these days. Having established his flock on his bountiful estate just near the borders of West Cambridge and Belmont, he has been riding his birds down the Common Road, thence on to Brattle Street, and from there on thru Cambridge proper and across the isthmus to Boston Market. Many are the complaints that have reached this office, and the office of the County Constable regarding the awful racket the chickens make.

In his defense, the Office of Commerce for the Commonwealth, has recognized that no matter the route the Colonel might choose to render his harvest to market in Boston, it shall require that he use the common roads. However, pursuant to Blue Law 142.9, it being illegal to ride chickens on the streets and roads of the Commonwealth after 8pm, the Colonel has been ordered restrained from doing so in the interests of keeping with peaceful rendition of his commerce and satisfying the local inhabitants.

This age-old news article did little to explain how Colonel Sanders could have ridden his chickens—to Boston or anywhere else. But then, following much due diligence, I discovered yet another article that explained it all. To wit:

August 17, 1766

Abraham Bines was assaulted by a large gathering of hostile locals in the neighborhood of Cambridge Square when he attempted to ride his cargo of chickens thru the area around midnight.

Bines explained that he worked late night hours at the Sanders Estate and that his employment required he deliver the birds to the poulterer in Boston before 4 am.

Nonetheless, the angry mob yanked him from his drayage and promptly lit it afire, thereby creating a rather large mess of fried chicken carcasses amid the wagon ruins.

In the midst of the fray, former Army Colonel Sanders arrived and saved the day by apologizing, and offering to sell the fried poultry to the crowd at reduced prices, an offer that was willingly accepted.

Colonel Sanders used the monies to pay the fine for violating an established Blue Law regarding the riding of chickens on wagons thru the streets of the Commonwealth after 8 pm. Alas, all's well, that ends well.

OFFICERS

Elected Officers:

President	Mary Lou Anderson
Vice President	Brittany Lord
Secretary	Tammy Andrews
Treasurer	Paul Hayes

Chairs:

Achievement	Mary Lou Anderson
Coffee/Treats	Tammy
Critique Groups	Brittany Lord
Directory	Jeannie/Wes Turner
Historian	
Librarian	Ron Smith
Membership	Jeannie Turner
Newsletter	Deanna, Bonnie
Nominations	Wes Turner
Programs	Therese Crutcher-Marin
Publicity	Therese Crutcher-Marin
Raffle	Mort Rumberg
Sunshine	Tammy Andrews
Website	Westley Turner
Workshops	Eva Wise

MEMBERSHIP is paid on a yearly basis. If joining after March, dues are prorated by quarter.

Individual \$40.00/year	Couple \$55.00/year
Full-Time Student \$30.00/year	Platinum Senior (70+) \$30.00/year

Membership is not required for attending meetings but provides benefits such as:

- 1) publication in newsletter
- 2) participation in club author events
- 3) participation in critique groups
- 4) grants for conferences ... & more

More information is on our website: sactowriters.org.

Name: _____ Genres: _____ Published? Y/N

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Website/other info/address (optional): _____

Your name and email are needed to receive the digital newsletter.

Share your memory of finding SSWC. Tell us what brought you here. How you found the club. What your impressions were. What made you come in the first place. What made you come back....

Send your submissions in. Help us celebrate this, our 60th year of existence.

Deanna Kerr - neverblocked@gmail.com

Bonnie Bair - bonniebair@yahoo.com

Motivation

"Aliens come to Earth to capture and research the most advanced human being available. Who would they choose and why?"

-Taken from <http://writingprompts.tumblr.com/>



Contact the newsletter if you would like to **ADVERTISE** in the SSWC Newsletter for your writing related services.

\$3 a month (3 month minimum) for members

\$5 a month (3 month minimum) for non-members

Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

c/o Mary Lou Anderson
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

MEETING INFORMATION:

2nd Monday of the month

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Next meeting:

Monday, July 13th, 2015

Crossroads Christian Fellowship

Meeting Hall

5501 Dewey Drive

Carmichael

Just north of the Madison & Dewey intersection

All writers are encouraged to attend. Membership is not mandatory but brings privileges.

sactowriters.org

