

January 2016

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

sactowriters.org



Frederick K. Foote, Jr. was born in Sacramento, California and educated in Vienna, Virginia and Northern California. He is a veteran of the United States Air Force. He retired from the State of California in 2001 and from the Los Rios Community College District in 2010. He started writing short stories and poetry in 2013.

He has published over eighty stories and poems including literary, science fiction, fables and horror genres. A collection of his short stories, *For the Sake of Soul*, was published in October 2015 by Blue Nile press. Another collection of short stories, *Crossroads Encounters*, was published in December 2015 by Choose the Sward Press.

To see a list of Frederick's publications go to <https://fkfoote.wordpress.com>

Sierra Writers is hosting a conference in Grass Valley on January 23. Check out this website:
<http://sierrawriters.org/sierra-writers-conference/>



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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.
All writers are encouraged to attend.

Membership is not mandatory but brings privileges. See last page.

New Year's Resolutions, Anyone? Mary Lou Anderson

As writers, we are constantly urged to write every day. The typical suggestions are to journal, add something to your novel on a schedule, allot time to writing, yadda, yadda, yadda.

Try something new, *in addition* to the above, of course. Here are a few challenges for you. Take your pick. Try any one ... or all of them. It's up to you. But the only way to have something accomplished, something done, something printable, is to actually write something in a form that can be saved, printed, and even published. Here goes:

- Try a poem a day. Too much? Try a poem a week. You'll end up with 52 poems done by the end of the year.
- Write (or re-phrase) a joke you remember from your youth ... or read or heard somewhere.
- See a news article that sticks in your head? Write a piece of flash fiction (a few hundred words or less). Do this whenever the urge hits you ... but strive for at least once a week.
- Observe someone quirky at a store, along the street, at work ... anywhere. Write a description of him/her and create a scene involving that person.
- Had a strange dream last night? Would it make a good plot, a portion of a story, or include a good character? Race to the computer and make notes before the memory fades away never to be retrieved.
- The holidays are over. Write a few words about something interesting that happened around the dinner table. (Change the names, of course, so your relatives will continue to speak to you.)
- Create a conversation between your pet (cat, dog, goldfish?) and another animal that you saw (a squirrel in your yard, a bird flying overhead, the mold in your fridge?).
- Write a title for a new story. Set it aside. Next day, write another title. Keep doing that until one sticks then write the story instead of new titles.
- Pause the television during a scene and write a description of what's there.

No guarantees that what you write will be publishable and make you rich, but it just might help hone your writing skills.

Then please consider sending some of these attempts to Deanna Kerr or Bonnie Bair, our illustrious editors and publishers of the newsletter so all club members can relish your writing.

Advertisement:

Are you writing a memoir or other work that includes photographs or documents? Need help scanning your photos? I have a Kodak upright scanner that can copy your photos or documents FAST! And no more cropping! Scans start at 39 cents each.

Contact **Bonnie Bair** at bonniebair@yahoo.com or 916-256-7860 to make an appointment and start digitalizing your photos. I can also show you some additional fun ways to use your photos.



Here are some pictures I've scanned from years past. The one on the left is from my 8th birthday party and, in the image on the right, I was probably 4 or 5 years old with my dad and siblings.



Tammy's Corner

Hi, Everyone,

Wow! Can you believe how fast Christmas blew right by? I hope all your dreams and wishes and hopes for the New Year are met.

We have some great things coming up after the New Year. No date is set yet, but SSWC is planning an upcoming hands-on workshop on: How to Self-publish Your Own Book on Create Space. The class cost to each person is still being discussed, but it will be affordable and worth every penny. We anticipate organizing further workshops on different subjects every few months during the year, depending on member interest.

I would like to ask you all to ask your family and friends if they know any young adults who would like to join us for our Young Author's group. As I'm sure most of you know, writers start dreaming about becoming an author very early in their lives. Imagine if we had mentoring when we were young. We'd all be millionaires, right! The valuable information we share with our young writers will guide them further and faster into becoming expert writers. I'm very proud that SSWC is offering this priceless chance for them to be coached through the writing process. So please help us get the word out to any writer who might like to join us. It will give them an opportunity to get published in a future anthology, if they learn the craft well enough to get selected by our editors.

By the way, for those of you who couldn't make our Christmas Potluck, we had a nice turnout with a lot of great food. I'd sure like to have some of those recipes. Yum! We even had some minor gifts and pretty decorations to enrich the event. Happy Writing!



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RESISTANCE TO CHANGE

Anthony Marcolongo
(1970)

Most people fear change in their lives or situations. Think you do not? Take this simple test:

Would you like to be happy and successful? Of course you would. But, if you would like to be happy & successful, then it should be obvious that you are neither happy nor successful at the present time.

Therefore it follows that, whomever it is you are, or whatever it is you do, neither make you happy nor successful.

So, in order for you to be happy and successful, you will first have to change whoever it is you are, or whatever it is you do, or both.

But ... change what? Change into what? And that's the problem, because change is an unknown, and everyone fears the unknown.

In the end, people resist change due to an innate reluctance to proceed with, or into, an unknown. Yes, it can be done, but that does not change the preexistence of their fear, and history is tantamount evidence to the wondrous accomplishments of people who dared to challenge their fear of change and the unknown.

"I must be willing to give up what I am in order to become what I will be." *Albert Einstein*



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

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.

OFFICERS

Elected Officers:

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| President | Mary Lou Anderson |
| Vice President | Brittany Lord |
| Secretary | Tammy Andrews |
| Treasurer | Nadya Terman |

Chairs:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Achievement | Mary Lou Anderson |
| Chairs Chair | Wes Turner |
| Coffee/Treats | Tammy Andrews |
| Conference Coord. | John Powell |
| Critique Groups | Brittany Lord |
| Directory | Nan Roark |
| 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 |

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

Big THANKS to all those who have paid their 2016 \$\$\$WC due\$!

*It's not (quite) too late to pay them. You can pay your dues online at sactowriters.org, send them in by mail to **SSWC, P.O. Box 4134, Citrus Heights, CA 95611**, or pay them at the January meeting.*

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 ***by the 25th of each month.*** Also, share info about other meetings, contests, books, book signings, classes, etc.

Please keep the submission relatively short. 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.

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

➡ SSWC, P.O. Box 4134, Citrus Heights, CA 95611 ⬅