

October, 2015

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

sactowriters.org

Michelle Gamble Speaker at our October 12th Meeting

Michelle Gamble is an award-winning author with over 20 years in the publishing, public relations and marketing business.

She has enjoyed a prosperous career working for a variety of industries as an editor, writer, publisher and marketing expert. Michelle Gamble founded MGR Consulting in 2006. She is a seasoned veteran of the communication business, with over 20 years' experience in public relations, marketing and custom publishing. She began her career in 1988 working respectively for the California Departments of Justice and Water Resources. In 1991, she joined *California Computer News* and eventually took over the role as publisher, working on strategic communication programs to increase the publication's market presence and overall success. She then joined two new start-up companies called The Center for Digital Government and The Center for Digital Education where she served as executive editor and director of custom publications and developed an array of marketing and communication programs and services. After a brief position as director of strategic communications at a marketing agency, she left to form her own agency in 2006, which eventually led to the launch of 3L Publishing in summer of 2009.



Michelle is also a gifted public relations expert. She has enjoyed appearances and articles featuring 3L in *Success Magazine*, *Sacramento Magazine*, *Business Journal*, *Redbook*, *Elle*, *About.com*, ABC National News, Bloomberg, Blognation and numerous national media. Her clients' works have been featured in *Posh Caribbean*, *Daily Summit*, *Washington Post*, *About.com*, *Sacramento & Co.*, *Good Day Sacramento*, *Business Journal*, *France Today*, *French Morning*, *Herald Nuevo*, and dozens of other high-profile media outlets. She is also an accomplished writer and has been published both regionally and nationally in *Converge*, *T.H.E. Journal*, *Engineering News Record*, *Telecommunications Week*, *Government Technology*, *Comstock's*, *Sacramento Magazine*, *Access*, and dozens of others.

She is a speaker and presenter and has done presentations at numerous conferences across the country. She is also a screenwriter and her movie *Virtual Seduction* aired on Showtime. Her book, *Second Bloom: 10 Steps to Reinvent, Rejuvenate, and Realize a New Life* in the Inspirational category, has been chosen as an Honorable Mention in the Writer's Digest 17th Annual International Self-Published Book Awards. She has also written *California Girl Chronicles*, book one and two, *Body in the Trunk* and contributed to several other books as ghost writer.

Workshop

The workshop for October will be presented by Tammy Andrews.



Ad

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.

Add to Your Platform Help the Club in 2015 Mary Lou Anderson

As we near the end of the year, several committee chairs has asked for someone else to take on a couple of the chores. I am hoping other members will step up to help keep our group running so smoothly.

Find Speakers: We need someone who can help fill our ten speaker slots. If you attend other writers' meetings, read about local activities, happen to know some talented people, and have a working telephone, YOU could be the one who could take on this responsibility. Think of the people you'd meet.

Sell Raffle Tickets: All this task entails is setting up the table before the meeting and selling tickets to members, well, plus packing up the remaining items, donating some of the left-overs to charities, and stashing the box in your garage. It's certainly not difficult and several members help after the meeting. Since we decided to contribute all the funds from the Raffle to our Scholarship Fund, think of the great impact this can have on the future.

President? Anyone else want to be president? I love doing it but don't want to be a hog. If anyone else wants to run for the position, join the 20 or so other candidates now campaigning for the Presidency of the United States ... oh, wait! It's just the presidency of our club. If you are interested, see Wes to be placed on the ballot in our upcoming election. Other positions? If you want to hold any other office, please contact Wes or me (Mary Lou) and let us know of your interest.



Remember, the tasks are easy when many hands help. And, if no one steps forward, we will be around to tap shoulders, maybe yours.

Sales and Go-Aheads

"Gold Rush Pie Maker Made Lots of Dough," *Wild West* by Deanna Lee Kerr.

"Coming of Age," *Young Adventurers: Heroes, Explorers, and Swashbucklers* by Mort Rumberg.

"Served with a Twist," *Amazing Short Stories*, book 6 by Mort Rumberg.

SSWC — Wow!

Mary Lou Anderson

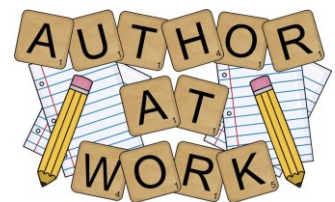
There are several great things going on in our club right now. Jeannie Turner is handling our membership that is so strong and talented — fantastic writers every one. Our list of publications is growing every month and now takes three pages to list all the titles by our members.

John Powell is working on a conference for sometime next year and has a committee working with him. Several

club members volunteered at the last meeting to work with him. Thank you!

Tammy Andrews and Cathy McGreevy are coordinating the program for local students that will help them get an early jump to a potential writing career.

April Edsberg, Wes Turner, Ron Smith, and I are working on the 2015 anthology. We are hoping to get others involved next year.



Tammy's Corner

Hi everyone. It's October, and this month is chock full of interesting things to do.

We're planning on having our very first young adult Mentoring Program meeting at 6 p.m. just before our regular SSWC meeting on October 12th. If you know of any young writers (high school or college age) who would be interested in submitting a short story for consideration for publishing in our 2016 Anthology, please encourage them to join us.

It's time to go to the Folsom Renaissance (Ren.) Faire for fun and story ideas, October 17th and 18th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you're writing anything from that era, it's a great research opportunity. There will be hundreds of fabulously costumed characters from the Renaissance period, dressed as peasants or nobles from the realm of European kings and queens. And don't forget that it was also the era for pirates galore, my favorite of course, woohoo! You'll feel like you're on a Hollywood movie set, so take your cameras. For added fun, dress up and enjoy the camaraderie. Also, it's a great place to pick up Nanowrimo ideas for November.

After the Ren. Faire, you have exactly 12 days, (not counting Halloween night) to think up some interesting characters and an intriguing plot for next month's Nanowrimo event. For those of you who don't know what that is, it stands for National Novel Writing Month. Beginning on November 1st you begin writing a 50,000 word fiction novel, from scratch, (not previously started) and finish it by November 30th. Believe it or not it only takes two hours a day writing 15 words a minute to equal 1,800 hundred words a day, times 30 days equals 54,000 words. That's 4,000 words more than is needed. Of course if you think at all, it will slow you down some. ☺ But it can be done. Last year I finished in 12 days. I'm a slow thinker I suppose, 'cause it just whipped by.

To complete Nanowrimo in 30 days, you write fast, without correcting mistakes in typing or word usage or concept. You fix that later. Of course, your story will be a very rough draft of what you intend it to become when you polish it up and send it to a critique group later.

To prepare for Nanowrimo, in October you just jot down the basic ideas or gist of a story, along with a list of names for people, animals, and cities, in case you need them for the story. Do just enough beginning research to keep your story realistic. You can do the complex research later. Outline or not, depending on what you want to do. Personally, I wait until about midway through my nano-story and then fill in a simple outline, in order to keep the facts straight.

Nano preparation should keep you busy right up until Halloween. Then it's time to get out the costumes and pretend to be some character you are not, just for one night of laughter.

Have a great time doing all the interesting fall events out there, and don't miss out on the rich story ideas all around you.

"Chain Reaction" is a TV program on the Game Show Network. The object is to connect the first word to the last while joining each word in between with the one below it. For example:
1 + 2, 2 + 3, 3 + 4, 4 + 5, 5 + 6, 6 + 7

This – 1
Instant – 2
Coffee – 3
House – 4
Cat – 5
Fancy – 6
That – 7

Dolly McClure wrote one for writers.
Answers in the November Newsletter
Writers

Writers

THE TRACERS OF HOA BOA

Anthony Marcolongo

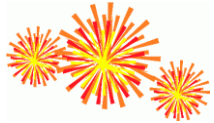
There in the dark of the Hoa Boa Woods, only Charlie would give away his emplacement positions by firing at us in the night. His muzzle flashes lit up the darkness in the far tree line, from whence they were shooting, and betrayed their places. Of course, we were obliged to return fire, thereby giving up our positions as well. We would have preferred to lie there, silent and unobserved till morning, but our Forward Listening Post (FLP) had been discovered and come under attack. We absolutely had to provide cover-fire while those two FLP troops retreated to our location.



Unfortunately, the shooting escalated so rapidly the FLP boys got pinned down halfway back. Alone out there in the inky blackness, they lay motionless, heeding our calls to stay still and wait for a guide to bring them in. Well, that plan misfired as well because the rate of enemy fire escalated to unbelievable proportions. Lead was flying everywhere, all at once.

Had Charlie brought up reinforcements? Why all the commotion, all the bother? What was he defending out there in the darkness? Had we stumbled onto something? A base camp, perhaps? Whatever it was, he was putting up a great effort to drive us off.

It was about then that the Dinks lit up the entire place with a damn flare. Pop ... whizz ... and pop again, as it ignited. Floating down on its little parachute, it illuminated the inky-black of the jungle night and presented a macabre view of the bush. Still, we couldn't get an actual pinpoint fix on them, only the flashes of muzzle-blasts. Neither could they discern our exact locations, as evidenced by a non-shift in the direction of incoming rounds.



The flare burned out and went to ground, but as the darkness and our night vision returned, the Zips suddenly opened with a blistering fire, replete with those telltale green tracers to mark the accuracy of the path of their shooting.

Funny thing about tracers, they go both ways, if you know what I mean, and this night was to be no exception. An APC (Armored Personnel Carrier) noisily rumbled up, squeaking to a stop on its metal tracks. One of the Tread-Heads on board swung the dual-fifties around in the direction of that far tree line and opened up with a thunderous fusillade of red tracer fire. What a show! A conveyor belt of greens tracers screaming in and a deafening conveyor belt of red ones going back. The entire cacophony lasted about five minutes, and suddenly the green conveyor belt ceased; all the enemy muzzle flashes disappeared; then the earsplitting hammer of the red conveyor belt ceased, and the night fell eerily silent.

As the sound of insects returned, I took Ferguson with me and crawled out to retrieve the FLP guys. Ever-so-silently, we led them back in a crawl, another conveyor belt, this time one of bobbing-butt silhouettes in the tall nocturnal grass.



Come morning we would make our way to that tree line and check the damage. There would be lots of spent cartridges, and perhaps a blood trail or two - even some abandoned accouterments, like a web-belt, canteen or helmet ... but little else.

Till then, the rest of the nerve-wracking, pitch-black night still lay ahead, deep in the Hoa Boa Woods.

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	Jeannie/Wes Turner
Historian	
Librarian	Ron Smith
Membership	Jeannie Turner
Newsletter	Deanna, Bonnie
Nominations	Wes Turner
Programs	Therese Crutcher-Marin
Publicity	Cathy McGreevy
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

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.

**A Big Thank You to our
Chairs Chair – WES TURNER!
We appreciate all your hard work!**



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