

April 2016

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

sactowriters.org

Michael Spurgeon Speaker for the April 11th Meeting

Let the Water Hold Me Down (Ad Lumen Press 2013) is Michael Spurgeon's first novel. It was inspired by his experience living in San Cristobal de Las Casas during the time of Zapatista's uprising. His writings have appeared in regional and national journals, including *The North American Review*, *Sonora Review*, *The Packinghouse Review*, and many others. He is the author of two short collections of poems—*Valente's Delicate Wrist* (Talent House Press, 1998) and *Prosthetic Breath & Other Poems* (3300 Press, 1995)—and his poetry has been anthologized in *Burning the Little Candle* (Ad Lumen Press, 2013) and *Late Peaches: Poems by Sacramento Poets* (SPC Press, 2013).



He is co-founder and Board President of 916 Ink, a Sacramento area non-profit dedicated to promoting children's literacy through creative writing. He serves as Faculty Advisor for *American River Review*, the award-winning literary magazine published by the English department at American River College. He is also one of the primary founders and organizers of Summerwords, a writing colloquium at American River College. This year his workshop will be **Morality in Fiction: Beyond Good & Evil**. Registration for Summerwords should begin April 1st. Register at: www.summerwords.org.

Michael Spurgeon, his wife, and their two children currently live in Sacramento, CA, where he is a tenured professor of English at American River College.



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.

Meet a Club Member- Recently relocated Bonnie Bair



I have been in the club a relatively short time but I have been writing my whole life. As a child, I wrote myself as the heroine in every story. In high school I wrote “woe is me” poetry and today it is non-fiction exploration of the cities I’ve lived in namely, “ABC’s of Sacramento” and soon to be “ABC’s of the American Vancouver.” Since I’ve paid the club’s yearly dues, I’m going to continue “attending” my critique groups, and we are working on Skyping me in to the monthly meetings even though I’ll be living 700 miles north in Vancouver, Washington. A big thanks to all y’all for helping me understand the science of writing and knowing when to put in commas and colons. I’ll see you, when I see you!

BOARD MEETING INFO – AND THE BANQUET IN MAY

If you think our meetings are a bit crazy, try coming to our Board Meetings (“bored” meetings, per Mort). We try to keep them short while enjoying pizza with our words, debates, discussions. The time may be chaotic, but we do accomplish things. No, really, we do. If you are interested in attending, talk to anyone on the board, and we’ll fill you in on meeting times and places.



Regarding the May Banquet, Brit decided on the Cattle Rustlers Steakhouse restaurant, 7040 Sunrise Blvd., Citrus Heights, as the location. It’s on Sunrise (near Woodmore Oaks, just a bit north of the Sunrise Mall) – easy to find and lots of free parking!



We also decided to invite a guest speaker in addition to having a few members read a creation of their own (limit 5 minutes still). Volunteers, called on by Penny to read, will be asked to submit their material to Brit to double check the length. (And, please, everything should be PG13 since, after all, we are a family club.) From the 5 or 6 names submitted, 3 will be chosen to be read with the others as alternates.

Newsletter Info Mary Lou



Bonnie, our illustrious newsletter editor, publisher, and filling-the-pages guru is moving out of town for at least a year. I don’t know how we did it, but she was convinced to continue doing the newsletter long distance.

With today’s electronics, we won’t even know she’s gone. Well, we will definitely know she is not *with us* by her physical absence. She won’t be able to attend meetings nor help with the youth group (sob), but her presence and influence will continue. Thank you, Bonnie.

Bonnie has been very active in the club, a great asset, and will be missed. We all hope she has a great time out of town but finds the new place to be too cold, too wet, and too distant from the beautiful Sacramento Valley and returns to us soon.

Welcome to Ask A Writer. We are trying an experiment at our monthly meetings called ASK A WRITER. From 6:45 to 7:00 several writer members will make themselves available to answer specific questions about writing. If they don’t have the answer, they will direct you to someone who can help you. We think this approach will enable writers to deal directly with specific problems. Of course, you should continue mingling and networking with other members before the meeting begins, but sometimes a specific answer to a specific question might be more helpful than fishing around. Let’s see how it works. Check the schmoozing corner at the next meeting. – Mort Rumberg



SUGGESTIONS

Mary Lou Anderson

Were you at the club meeting earlier this year when suggestions to improve our club and meetings were requested? If so, read on. If not, read on. Many people had some great ideas. Most like the club (and that's why you come! Thank you.)

One suggestion has already been started. Wes is tracking how many words were written in the weeks between our meetings. The numbers are humbling. Some members wrote thousands of words, prompting the rest of us to get our fingers moving.

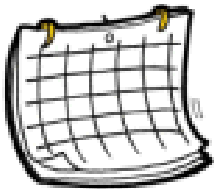
There were suggestions for a 59-word or a "flash-fiction" contest. Brit will work on that — with a goal of mid-summer.

Our mini-workshops are being worked on, and our first one should be relatively soon. Members are searching for a location with safe/secure Wi-Fi so we can cover the information AND practice online.

Ideas for speakers' topics were noted, and the search is one for people, no – experts – who can provide us with information on e-books, promotions, improved sales, and better writing skills. More marketing information was requested by some members, and speakers and workshops will be put on our schedule to help us with that chore. We are also looking for a keynote speaker for our May Banquet, in addition to our member-readers.

So, stay tuned. Keep coming. Continue to read the newsletter. Our club may be 61 years old, but it's still young at heart, embracing change while maintaining our cherished traditions of camaraderie, networking, and helping each other.

Sorry for not getting this out in time!



This Saturday April 2nd, there will be a weekend drop-in critique for anyone that is interested. This is a critique where we do a read-through without having read the piece before or in advance. All genres are welcome as well as writers of all skill levels. If you would like to have your writing critiqued, please bring five copies of five pages (double spaced, 12 pt font) to the group. People who just want experience critiquing but don't have work to critique are welcome as well.

The meeting will be Saturday April 2nd from 2:00 pm to 4:00-ish at the outside tables at the Starbucks in the Barnes and Noble at Birdcage.

Barnes and Noble
Marketplace at Birdcage
6111 Sunrise Blvd
Citrus Heights

If you have any questions, please email Brittany at tealya@hotmail.com

~Brittany

So you now have 2 drop-in critique groups to try out, get to know people, and make plans for a new group- Brit's on April 2 (info above) or at my (Mary Lou's) place, next meeting April 25th, 7 pm. Contact either one of us for more info.

MEMBERSHIP is paid on a yearly basis. If joining after March, dues are prorated by THE 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 3) participation in critique groups
- 2) participation in club author events 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 Pat Biasotti
 Librarian Ron Smith
 Membership Jeannie Turner
 Newsletter Bonnie Bair
 Nominations Wes Turner
 Programs Tammy, Nadya & Cathy
 Publicity Cathy McGreevy
 Raffle Paul Turner
 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

“Always carry a
 note-book. And I
 mean always. The
 short-term memory
 only retains
 information for three
 minutes; unless it is
 committed to paper,
 you can lose an idea
 forever.” – Will Self

**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
 Bonnie
bonniebair@yahoo.com
 with your submissions.**

Writing Prompt:

Draw an imaginary constellation. Write a story such as ancient people might have told about it.

(Free clipart provided by: clipartbest.com)

