

May 2016

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

sactowriters.org

Antoinette May Speaker for the May 9th Banquet

Antoinette May's third novel, *The Determined Heart: the Tale of Mary Shelley and Her Frankenstein* was published in October by the Lake Union Publishing Division of Amazon Press. Her first novel, *Pilate's Wife*, published in 2007 by William Morrow, has been translated into 18 languages. *The Sacred Well*, her second William Morrow novel, was chosen best of 2009 by the San Francisco Book Festival.

Antoinette's non-fiction includes *Adventures of a Psychic* which spent 44 weeks on the New York Times best seller list. She was the recipient of *La Pluma de Plata*, an award conferred by the Mexican Government for the best travel article on their country. She writes weekly columns for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *SF Gate* and is a frequent contributor to the *Sierra Lodestar*. Antoinette's articles have appeared in *Cosmopolitan*, *Self*, *Country Living*, *San Francisco* and *Sacramento* magazines. Visit Antoinette's website

<http://www.antoinettemay.com/>



Annual May Banquet

Cattle Rustlers Steakhouse

7040 Sunrise Blvd, Citrus Heights, CA 95610

6 p.m. on Monday, May 9, 2016

The Annual May Banquet is set. It will be on our usual meeting date of May 9 but will start at **6 p.m.** The board voted to contribute \$5 toward our members' cost of the dinner, so the price will be only \$15 for members. Be sure to bring your spouse, significant other, guest, someone you know who will enjoy the evening.

Antoinette May will be our speaker that evening. She is a local author/journalist and has published novels via a publisher. I have heard that she is a great speaker.

We will have another silent auction this year to raise additional money for our scholarship fund. Many fun and interesting items have been donated. Once again our goal is to have \$1000 available for a local student.

Remember, festivities begin an hour earlier than our normal meeting time since the restaurant closes at 9. We really hope everyone will be able to be there.



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.

Critique Critique! Mike Brandt

The new *multi-genre* critique group met at 7:00 PM at Mary Lou's house, and we immediately sprang (first day of spring) into action. Forgive the paronomasia, Wes!

To sum up the evening...our stories began with a young man walking through a dark, mystical European forest, scented with dandelions, while carrying a freshly baked schwarzwälder kirschtorte (Black Forest) cake for his sweetheart, when suddenly...a *not-so-menacing* cat with large paws appeared, sitting on the dirt path, by an oak tree wearing his wine stained running shoes and a marathon bib. If you want the key to unlock this conundrum, please join the group or ask a member.

We had a great evening sharing stories, building camaraderie, and if YOU want to become part of this fun non-abrasive group, then join us on for the next meeting on Monday, May 23.

Grammar Guardian
Mary Lou Anderson

I don't know why it bothers me so much, yet it does — maybe because I was a teacher for so long and now see that education has had a serious brain burp. I realize that language is a living entity, constantly changing and revising itself, yet communication is hindered when people have to stop to think about what is being said.

My complaint? People who say things like: "It's for her and *I*." (*me* ... or better yet, *us*) "She *don't* (*doesn't*) do that either." "*Them* (*Those*) people are coming." "There *is* (*are*) four more books on the shelf." Last week, a school tour was going through Old Sacramento when a teacher said to his students, "You didn't leave nothing on the table, did you?" Yes, I corrected his double negative ... and in front of his young students.

Book Launch for Bonnie Bair's "ABC's of Sacramento"



I was able to get a book signing at Avid Reader on Saturday, June 11th at 4pm. Come and support me at this great bookstore on the corner of Broadway and Land Park Drive.

ONE-MINUTE ENGLISH LESSON

Mort Rumberg

You've heard it all before. Headlines that bring a second look, and misplaced grammar that creates a whole new meaning. The following are actual signs or article headlines.

Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
My kind of guy, but with a panda?



Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
Well, now. Some kids are pretty big - I have to watch my weight.

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile
Well, logically, it makes sense.

Continued from Page 3. . .

Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft
Hmm. I wonder where that extra case of beans was placed.



In a Laundromat:
 AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE
 ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT.
I understand that this laundromat is quite popular.

Get a Literary Agent - Free Shipping Ends Today!
I didn't know they come in the mail. It would be a pretty large box. I wonder how much shipping costs?
 (Turns out what they are selling a BOOK titled "Get a Literary Agent"!)

THE STORM

Anthony Marcolongo

These are huge waves, the kind that toss ships about like twigs. Nasty things; towering thirty to sixty feet at times. They are coming in groups and swells, but ya can't tell because ya can't see over the nearest ones to assess any succeeding ones that are rushing in.

They tend to push a craft backwards. I watched one ship get cast backwards some hundred yards or so, in one heaving demonstration of might. The damn wave just swelled up under her and carried her off, before letting her slip back down into the trough, and rolling away on its uninterrupted journey to nowhere. The ship had hardly completed its slide to the bottom of the trough when another monster surged in and pushed the craft skyward again.

This time, the ship crested the thundering ridge of the wave and disappeared down the other side, no doubt down into another trough, but thoroughly out of sight.

The flying spray from the high seas rendered the accuracy of sight improbably. Besides crippling your ability to see for more than seconds at a time, the damn spray stung your eyes, as well. The water was bitter, cold and salty; an abominable potion to get beneath your eyelids.



The boys in the wheelhouse were safe from the perpetual blast of that stinging mist, but it's for certain they had lumps, bumps and serious bruises by now. There was no way they could possibly remain upright, given the severity of the pitching caused by these gyrating mountains of water.

Worst part of it was the fact that these types of storms were known to continue for days, and to sailors caught in them for such lengths of time, the waves just seemed to keep coming, on and on and on, day and night, forever and again.

Sometimes there would be mysterious breaks in the howling of the wind, or the rigor of the spray, but ... then the chaos came again. Those breaks were teasers; Mother Nature's tortuous playing with her insolent subjects.

In the middle of that foam covered, surging and heaving sea, someone screamed a challenge in the dark, some bravado about whether or not that was the best she had. Don't know if he was challenging the water, or Mother Nature herself, but either way the fool might get us all killed. Some of the guys were threatening to toss him overboard before Neptune, or Mother, anted up. He finally shut up.

I always wanted to be a fisherman, but this is ridiculous. Hell, even the fish had dove for those calmer, deeper waters, everyone knew that. 'Course we were not keen to follow them, though.

In the end, we'd lose a boat or two, maybe even a bigger ship, like the one that just passed over that wave. There'd be a couple of survivors, maybe. Same thing every year, except this year the waves are too big for comfort.

Continued from Page 3 . . .

There'd also be no sleeping for the duration, and fatigue would grip us all. So, when the thing blew itself out of and the final waves rolled on past, we'd all just collapse from total from total exhaustion. The ocean calm would be covered with white foam, but we wouldn't see it we'd be asleep.

The guys in the wheelhouse? Dunno. Did they ever sleep? If so, who manned the wheel while they did? Well, I'll catch ya later, another forty footer just slammed into the bow.

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

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

bonniebonniebair@yahoo.com with your submissions.

Monthly Writing Prompt

Addict: Everyone's addicted to something in some shape or form. What are things you can't go without?

<http://thinkwritten.com/365-creative-writing-prompts/>

(Clipart provided by clipartbest.com)

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