

August 2016

# Suburban Scribe

**Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club**

*sactowriters.org*

## **Linda Joy Singleton Speaker for August 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting**



Linda Joy Singleton is the author of over 40 children's books, including *The Seer* series, *Dead Girl* trilogy, *Curious Cat Spy Club* series, *Snow Dog Sand Dog*, and Sept 2016 *Ya Memory Girl*.

She started writing at age 8 and kept her stories, poems and other keepsakes in memory boxes—realizing even at a young age that memories are precious and fragile. She grew up in the Sacramento area, attending schools in the San Juan District. She and her husband live near Jackson on 28 acres with a lovely view of oaks and pines and a menagerie of animals.

She will be speaking on "Publishing in a Changing Market." And will also share how she survived losing agents after long periods of no sales but kept working hard and four traditionally books published in 2016 with at least three scheduled for 2017. She will give helpful tips on selling books and has a fun story to share about how she got her 5th agent.

For more: <http://www.lindajoy singleton.com/>



**August is . . .**  
Cataract Awareness Month  
Goat Cheese Month  
Peach Month  
What Will Be Your Legacy Month  
Admit You Are Happy Month



<http://popculturemadness.com/Trivia/August/#sthash.EAEifTkP.dpuf>



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.*



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Michael Brandt, Sacramento Suburban Writers Club member, participated on multiple panels as a speaker at the annual *Public Safety Writers Association* (formerly the *Police Writers Club*) held at the Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas from July 13<sup>th</sup> thru July 18th. With over forty-five years of investigative expertise, Michael was excited about the opportunity to share his experience related to the differences between real-life police work and TV shows' perception of police work.

Michael was awarded an *Honorable Mention* by the Public Safety Writers Association Fiction Short Story Writers Contest, July 2016, in Las Vegas.

## MOUNTAINS

Tatiana Dunn

What do you feel when you look at the mountains?

Silent, they stand in their power and significance. Overwhelming quiet makes me look around, searching and listening for noise, but there is stillness. I am alone.

In awe, I stand. The cracks on the mountain have a pattern. I want to draw it, so I pull my pencils out. While sketching, I notice two climbers making their way up the route. From here they seem really tiny.

I watch the climbers for several minutes. I get distracted by an ant just an inch away from my foot. He is dragging a pine needle 10 times longer than he is.

Soon, I put my sketch pad aside and stretch. Where I sit is a perfect place for a nap. I make myself a pillow out of old pine branches. My bed is the ground, covered with pine needles. I'd never had anything more comfortable than that. I will finish sketching the mountain later. It is impossible to fight the sweet drowsiness. I smile and begin to sink into the dream land. Strangely, I am not afraid of anything.

## OCEAN

Tatiana Dunn

I can sit for hours and watch the ocean. As the waves throw themselves onto the sand unexpectedly close, I jump aside. Seconds later, I am chasing after the wave. There is a spot between the rocks where the waves cannot reach me. I look down at the waters and see something pink and purple. I cannot tell what it is. Intrigued, I bend and reach over. Pieces of abalone shells, all different shapes, lay on the sandy bottom. I pick them up and notice that the next piece is half under the sand. I am not taking this piece. Why? A little crab throws his claws at me. "Go away," he says. "I had to fight for this shell yesterday. It is now my house." And so I leave.

Two feet to the left is another presentation of abalone kingdom. I pick quite a good amount. The shapes and colors are amazing. No two are alike. I fill my pockets. I know my friends will like these small business cards of the ocean.

## My Living Will

Gisela Butler

Last night, my kids and I were sitting in the living room and I said to them, 'I never want to live in a vegetative state, depending on some machines and fluids from a bottle. If this ever happens, just pull the plug.' They got up, unplugged the computer and threw out my wine!



### Meet a SSWC Member – Mort Rumberg



Mort is a retired U.S. Air Force Officer who served as a Rescue and Survival technician, teaching escape and evasion and survival techniques to air crew members; he survived a tour in Vietnam and barely survived two hardship tours in the Pentagon as a computer systems action officer.

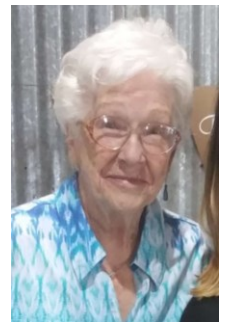
Mort was also an information technology consultant and a manager with a large international health care insurance company designing computer business systems. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, a Master of Arts in Teaching, and a Doctorate in Education. He's been an adjunct professor of computer sciences for several universities in the Washington, DC area.

For 10 years, Mort and his wife, Susan lived aboard "Irish Gold," a motor yacht berthed on the Potomac River and was a volunteer with the Alexandria Police Department and the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Now a novelist, he has six books to his credit – one of which won a national writing competition.

Mort resides in Gold River, California. His hobbies include painting, genealogy, traveling and several other nefarious passions. His website is [www.mmrumberg.com](http://www.mmrumberg.com).

### Meet Another SSWC Member – Penny Howard

Penny Howard has been a member of the Suburban Writers for over 25 years and has enjoyed the many friendships she has made over that time. Penny never aspired to become a writer. It happened after taking Bud Gardner's class in Writing for Publication. Since then she has had the good fortune to have been published in several magazines and in newspapers across the country, and has even been paid for some of her articles.



She is 94, a third generation native Californian, and proud to be of the Greatest Generation. She lived through the Great Depression and WWII. Her life has been a roller coaster of ups and downs. She was widowed with a baby son during the war. She later remarried and had three more sons and a daughter. Life was good again. Then, her oldest son, a West Point graduate, was killed in Viet Nam. About six years ago she lost another son. And in June 2015, her husband of 67 years, passed away at the age of 95. In spite of these losses, Penny still feels she has a good life. She is healthy, active, and very close to her three children, three grandchildren, and two great grandchildren (with a third one due in August).

Penny only writes nonfiction, because "I don't have a good enough imagination to write fiction". However, her stories continue to lead one's imagination to the good old days. In fact, one of her stories about a childhood school principal in Auburn was just recently published in the Sierra Heritage Magazine.

A "Lexophile" is a word used to describe those that have a love for words, such as "you can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish", or "to write with a broken pencil is pointless." A competition to see who can come up with the best lexophile is held every year in an undisclosed location. This year's winning submission is posted at the very end.

...When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.

...A will is a dead giveaway.

...When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A

...Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.

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

More information is on our website: [sactowriters.org](http://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  
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**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  
 Youth Mentorship Tammy, Wes, & Cathy  
 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

If you've read this far, please reply to the Editor with feedback on what you like and what you'd like to see more of in the newsletter. As a SSWC member, if you haven't sent your bio (260 words or so) and picture, then now's the time. Snap to it! 😊

**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 [bonniebair@yahoo.com](mailto:bonniebair@yahoo.com) with your submissions.

*(Clipart provided by clipartbest.com)*



**Monthly Writing Prompt**

While on a walk in your neighborhood, you see a little boy sitting at a table with a sign so you dig in your pocket and find some change. As you get closer to the boy, you notice his sign doesn't say "Lemonade for Sale" instead it says. . .

Prompt provided by the SSWC Editor – from real life experience

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