



Suburban Scribe

December 2016 Newsletter

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

sactowriters.org

December Potluck Meeting for the Holidays

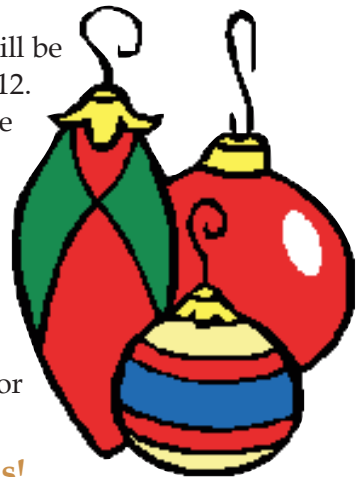
Everyone is Invited!

Our club's yearly Christmas Potluck (and book launch) will be held at our next meeting ... on Monday, December 12. Your entire family is invited — spouses, children (future authors?), cousins, siblings, everyone.

Please bring a food dish to share. Whether it's a main dish, salad, side dish, drinks ... whatever, come to share and laugh. Since we are also celebrating our anthology book launch that night, the club is buying a cake, so work around that if you plan to bring a dessert.

You do not need to bring plates, cups, napkins, or utensils. We will have plenty.

Please plan to join us. Food, fun, family, friends!



Time for a Change (and a huge round of applause)



It has been a wonderful and exciting six years as prez of SSWC. I've had a blast standing in front of you month after month, year after year. I hope none of you tired of me — I never tired of you. It is time, however, to let someone else take the lead.

Thank you all for being part of a great club — the best club in the area. Comments from visitors include things like: "This is the friendliest group." "Everyone supports each other." "I felt so welcome here." "This club has a lot of energy."

With so many great members with so much energy, the club meetings are a great place to meet other writers, share our experiences, relish everyone's successes, and get inspired to continue writing.

However, I leave with one warning: Do not miss a meeting when elections are being held. That lesson was learned when I missed that important date six years ago ... and was elected president. I was sorry for a nano-second; from then on, it was all fun.

So, again, thanks go to all of you for participating ... and be sure to keep writing. To quote a Fortune Cookie, "Words are the only thing that last forever."

Thank You Mary Lou!

Most of us don't say it often enough, but each one of us has appreciated your enthusiastic, innovative and selfless leadership throughout your reign of our little writing kingdom.

We all hope you enjoy your SSWC presidential retirement!



Editor Denied Flapjacks



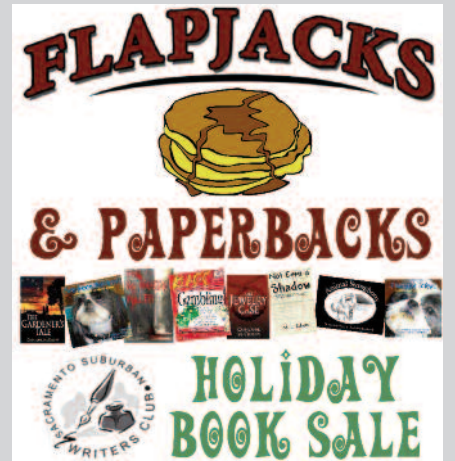
Hi! My name is Chopper and I'm a dog. I'm black and white, hairy and short, and my belly is NOT full of flapjacks. Mommy and four other SSWC authors had a holiday book sale at Flapjacks and I was NOT allowed to go. At least Mommy and her friends sold some books! Thanks Frank and Jennifer and all my friends at Flapjacks.

Please send in lots of creative, original submissions (final edited versions only please) so I can put them in future newsletters. You can also send upcoming event information, or peanut butter, to me at:

ivebeenlicked@gmail.com.

Licks & kisses,
Chopper

Thank you Flapjacks!



What Kangaroos Can Teach Us by Edric Cane About What It Means to Know Math: A Parable

Let's imagine students who know that 2 books + 3 books is 5 books, 2 cookies + 3 cookies is 5 cookies, and that 2 chairs + 3 chairs is 5 chairs. These students are taking a geography class on Australia. They learn a lot about that country and are told about an animal called a kangaroo. They are shown a video about kangaroos and learn that they hop on powerful hind legs and that a mother keeps her baby (which they all call Joey) in a pouch on her stomach. Yet, there is one thing that is true of kangaroos that these students are not told. They are not told that 2 kangaroos + 3 kangaroos is 5 kangaroos. Why not? What would we think of a teacher who insisted on teaching that to students and tested them on the knowledge?

Now let's look at three students: students A, B, and C. They are in a Math class. All three are asked to add $2/7 + 3/7$. Student A searches inside his brain for a toolbox where he stores rules for operations on fractions. In it, he identifies a rule that applies to the problem at hand. It says: "To add two fractions with the same denominator, you add the numerators and

keep the denominator the same." He uses that rule to correctly add $2/7 + 3/7$. Student B also reaches into his toolbox, but it is a little bit messy in there and he gets the answer wrong because he confuses the rule about adding with the rule about multiplying: he correctly adds the two numerators but also the two denominators. Student C doesn't use a toolbox. She takes it for granted that 2 sevenths + 3 sevenths is 5 sevenths for the same reason that 2 kangaroos + 3 kangaroos is 5 kangaroos or that 2 books + 3 books is 5 books.

Of these three students, which one knows more math, the one who knows the rule and applies it correctly or the one who doesn't need the rule?

More importantly, if we look at what takes place in classrooms and textbooks, which of these students are we seeking to create by our teaching?

And, whether we like it or not, if we look at the reality of what takes place, and has taken place for a very long time, isn't it obvious that in aiming to create student A we are also unavoidably creating student B?

Character and Plot Structure Workshop — by Tammy Andrews

In the past few months, several of us from Sacramento Suburban Writers Club have attended a half-day workshop with author, Loucinda McGary, and have found it an invaluable experience. She attends regular retreats herself and sharing her expertise taught us things we had never considered about Character & Plot Structure.

This mini workshop is limited to a maximum of two participants, two observers, and two helpers from previous workshops. It takes at least two hours for each person's plotting session, which includes feedback and ideas from the participants. So the workshop is four hours for two participants' personal plotting sessions.

She is offering her Mini Workshop - On Your Own Story Characters and Plot Structure for a limited time, at the minimal cost of \$25 for participants and \$10 for observers. All who have attended say it's priceless.

The main participants and the instructor will brainstorm aloud. If the observers want to contribute ideas, they will have to raise their hands and be recognized before speaking. If the observers decide

they want to be part of a later plotting session, they will be given a 20% discount.

Her Plotting & Character Workshop includes the following:

1. Defining one to three main characters based on the eight character archetypes, or combination of types, before doing the plot line.
2. And most important, at what place in your story do you include your crucially important Pinch Points and Plot Points. How many of you have heard about those? There's actually a percentage point in your story where they are supposed to go.

We highly recommend taking this class, even for previously published authors. Especially if you want a commercially attractive, well written and well paced novel.

The next available session for this workshop is on January 7th, 2017, from 11- 3PM, site yet to be determined. If you are interested in this workshop, please contact me, Tammy Andrews, at lavendersunset54@yahoo.com.

<http://www.loucindamcgaryauthor.com/>
www.facebook.com/loucinda.mcgary



A Final Plea

Please be sure to read the "Suburban Scribe," our club's newsletter. There is news in there about club activities and great submissions from members who can now include "I've been published" in any query letter.

If you don't have time to read it (a convenient excuse?), put it in the "water closet" (aka "near the toilet") and read it in bits and pieces. Keep it near the television and read it during boring commercials. Put it in the kitchen and read it while waiting for the toast to pop up or the water to boil. Just read it, okay?



Mary Lou

A Christmas Poem — by Jeannie Turner

Christmas time is coming.

Thanksgiving's had its say.

Again folks get together

This Christmas family day.

But some folks, they are homeless

And some are all alone.

They cannot greet the holidays

But with a silent groan.

Yet there are those whose plights are worse

Than any of the others.

And that is those whose fam'lies

The sisters and the brothers,

Who maybe live just down the street,

Choose not to be a part.

They may be standing side by side

But distant in the heart.

How can we help? What can we do

To remedy this sorrow?

Just pray and pray and pray today—

Don't wait until tomorrow.

Let's ask the Lord sincerely

To soften each hard heart

And show us all what we could do

To humbly do our part.

Dear Santa Claus,

I wish I were writing you this letter under different circumstances but I am very disappointed with you this year.

I have become aware that you placed me on your Official Naughty List. Don't ask me how I know this. Suffice it to say I have friends among the elves. I also understand that Mrs. Claus concurs with this decision. I can't imagine that you considered all options before placing me on the List, but the things you object to are quite acceptable here. After all, this is California. Surely you wouldn't want to be accused of being intolerant of different life styles, especially when dealing with so many different cultures around the world. Had you addressed your concerns with me, I might have been able to make some adjustments so I could stay on the Official Nice List.

Please speak with Mrs. Claus and reconsider. Surely there is some room for flexibility. How could you be so unkind to me? I am a writer and only write to entertain. The voices tell me what to write. I am only their messenger.

Mr. Claus, I also want to mention one other thing. I have it on good word (those elves again), that your hands weren't exactly clean this year. I'm not inclined to let Mrs. Claus know, but...! After hearing about some of the naughty "things" you did during your "delivery trips" last December, I thought it prudent to send you this as a friendly reminder. It's my understanding that most of those "things" are illegal in most states, even in California! I'm sure that Mrs. Claus has never heard of such naughty behavior in all her years, but would be interested in knowing about them.

I hope you will think long and hard about keeping me on the Official Naughty List. Let's both make this a win-win. You give me the Masserati I want, and Mrs. Claus will continue as is. And we both can try to be better throughout the New Year.

Sincerely,

unassumingly modest, award winning, world famous author,
M.M. Rumberg

As the Muse Directs

by Al Gilding Sr.

Memory is driven by experience. The greater the impression, the longer it will persist. Memory builds each individual character, bit by bit. Some may lie quietly in the recesses of the unconscious, doing their secret work. Some may be serially recalled, to the point of obsession. Most do their invisible work, observing but unobserved.

And so I begin my story, with impressions that have lasted; acutely aware of those that are only minimally and indirectly apparent.

"If you fail to use your opportunities, you will lose them!"
William Jennings Bryan

If one fails to remember, so to learn from important experiences, they will be repeated, until they are locked into the archive of the mind.

And so, to Write

I have looked at *Life* many times and wondered what it was all about. When I was a child, I looked forward, trying to imagine what it would be like when I was *grown-up*. I dreamed great dreams about being rich and famous by having accomplished some magnificent deed that would transform me into a real *somebody*.

But, because of the vagaries of my early life circumstances I have at other times felt consigned to an also-ran status; always trying, but never really succeeding in the *race* within life.

In my early adulthood, all I had to look back upon was a very ordinary, even humble beginning, and looking forward seemed to confirm the latter of my earlier feelings.

Many things have happened since then which have tended to confirm, at different times, my childhood

dreams as well as the fears. I have led a rather ordinary real-world life on the outside, accomplishing many things, none of which have catapulted me into the stratosphere of my early dreams. But on the inside I have led a very active mental life, always questing for an understanding of that earliest of all questions.

"What's it all about?"

In the beginning of the literary odyssey that was my second book, "The Bible is a Parable," from what I thought was the high hill that was seventy-eight years, as I could look back much further than I was able to see ahead, an answer of sorts had come to me. It was a long time in the coming, as the "Eye of Circumstance" or sometimes choice, cast my attention first one way then another for answers that satisfied my yearnings and my capacity to understand what there was to see and sometimes see through.


Each casting, while at first compelling, had in the end seemed to lead toward an extreme that caused me to withdraw, not totally satisfied that it of itself, was the answer that I had sought.

This time the answer seemed so elementally simple! A five word phrase, so foundationally complete it overwhelmed any understanding of how I might attempt to make any kind of witness to it, as it seemed to imply the need to accomplish. The hiatus that this indecision had led to was long-standing in the number of years that it had devoured as I slowly worked my way toward the urgent need to *just do it*.

And so I began this second book with a wary trepidation that slowly turned into an unaccountable gusto of acknowledgment of the very possibility that I *could* just do it.


Sweet Christmas

by Jeannie Turner



I'm dreaming of a sweet Christmas
Just like the ones I used to know
Where cookies are baking and fudge is a-making
and popcorn is looking like snow

I'm dreaming of a sweet Christmas
With every Candy Cane I eat
May your mouth be filled with a treat
And may all your Christmases be sweet





Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

P.O. Box 4134 • Citrus Heights . CA 95611



ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Mary Lou Anderson	Secretary	??????????
Vice President	Brittany Lord	Treasurer	??????????

CHAIRS

Achievement	Mary Lou Anderson	Newsletter	Chopper Steedley-Tolan
Chairs Chair	Wes Turner	Nominations	Wes Turner
Coffee/Treats	Walt Speelman	Publicity	Cathy McGreevy
Conference Coordinator	John Powell	Raffle	Paul Turner
Critique Groups	Brittany Lord	Speakers	Tammy Andrews & Cathy
Directory	Nan Roark	Sunshine	Eras Cochran
Historian	Pat Biasotti	Youth Mentorship	Tammy, Wes & Cathy
Librarian	Ron Smith	Website	Wes Turner
Membership	Jeannie Turner	Workshops	Eva Wise

Newsletter Copy & Deadline

Submit original written material such as poems, book excerpts, articles, book reviews, humor, general information and fun stuff to share to ivebeenlicked@gmail.com by the 20th of each month. Also, share info about other meetings, contests, books, book signings, classes, etc.

Please keep your submission relatively short and 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 paid member of SSWC.

SSWC Meetings

All meetings are held at the
Crossroads Community Fellowship Church
in the meeting hall

5501 Dewey Drive • Carmichael
(just north of the Madison/Dewey intersection)

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Second Monday of each month

Writers of all ages and levels are encouraged to attend.

Membership is not mandatory, but brings privileges.
(see details below)

Sacramento Suburban Writers Club Membership Form

Membership is not required to attend meetings, but provides additional benefits such as:

Publication in SSWC Newsletter • Participation in SSWC Author Events & Critique Groups • Grants for Writing Conferences & more!

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual	\$40.00/year	Full-Time Student	\$30.00/year
Couple	\$55.00/year	Platinum Senior (70+)	\$30.00/year

Name Phone

Email

Genre(s) Published? Y/N

Website/other info/address (optional)

SSWC Membership Dues are paid on a yearly basis. If joining after March, dues are prorated by the quarter for new members. Please visit sactowriters.org for more information.