



# Suburban Scribe

February 2017 Newsletter

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

sactowriters.org

## Inside the Mind of a Blueberry *Finding your Silly Gene*



Peter Blueberry is a poet, author, illustrator, songwriter, retired architect and a two-time cancer survivor. He is also a veteran, Viet Nam Era. He lives in Citrus Heights, CA with his wife and soul mate of 49 years. Much of his time is devoted to writing and illustrating poetry and enjoying his 4 grandchildren. He has authored 21 self-published books and in the past 7 years, has read to over 20,000 people around Northern California. Other than that; he's not admitting to anything.

### **Bet – You Didn't Know** *by John Powell*

Writing is an interesting occupation. You can do it anytime, anywhere, and you can even do it in your underwear. There are a great many things you need to know about this particular skill. In fact it can take years to perfect the talent required of a successful writer. Here are a few facts to help you along the way:

*"I am." Is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.*

*There is enough graphite in the average pencil to write 45,000 words.*

*No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.*

*A successful fiction book sells 5,000 copies.*

*A successful non-fiction book sells 7,500 copies.*

*Barbara Cartland, who died in 2000 at 98 years old, wrote 723 books, selling more than a billion copies.*

*Of all books sold in the US, 52 percent are sold in venues other than bookstores.*

*Women buy 68 percent of all books sold.*

*Today, authors should be aware that blogs can lead to books.*

*Blogs make good sounding boards for reaching readers, editors, and publishers.*

*The word "set" has more definitions than any other word in the English language.*

### **Is the word you're using current? Do you want it to be?**

A lot depends on what you are writing. If the setting for your story is in the 1800s, you don't want to use words that were not in popular usage at that time. If a person who was young many years ago is saying something, it should be different than if a person who is currently a young person is saying it. If you are writing a non-fiction article, you don't want to use yesterday's words. Period.

*How do you know which words to use?*

A comparative graph in Google Books Ngram Viewer is your answer. Not only is this a very helpful site, it is also just plain fun. Check it out. <https://books.google.com/ngrams>





# Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

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



## **ELECTED OFFICERS**

<b>President</b>	Westley Turner	<b>Secretary</b>	Mary Lou Anderson
<b>Vice President</b>	Cathy McGreevy	<b>Treasurer</b>	Christine and David Stein

## **CHAIRS**

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

<b>Individual</b>	\$40.00/year	<b>Full-Time Student</b>	\$30.00/year
<b>Couple</b>	\$55.00/year	<b>Platinum Senior (70+)</b>	\$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](http://sactowriters.org) for more information.**