

May 2017

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club

sactowriters.org

Annual SSWC Spring Banquet

Don't miss it!

A meal at The Old Spaghetti Factory is always an experience, especially this night of nights, for the Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club. The antique lighting, intricate stained glass displays, and the old-fashioned trolley car that doubles as a dining hall make guests feel as though they're stepping into another world.



Not only will we dine sumptuously this evening but we will also meet the winner of our annual Scholarship competition.

The Old Spaghetti Factory, still family owned and operated, will help to make this evening a memorable dining experience as well as a delightful break from our busy writing schedules.



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.

Life Stories Convention

Walt Speelman

I was encouraged at one of our SSWC meetings to attend the “Our Life Stories Writers’ Conference.” This year’s theme was *Finding Humor in Our Family Stories*.

My \$25 could not have been better spent. The venue was the Cosumnes River College in their recital hall. The chairs were comfortable, if small, and the campus secure. They handed out an information sheet including a schedule, which was followed. Best of all, a small booklet, *Writing Prompt Workbook*, was distributed. The staff could not have been friendlier. Information was available in both clearly marked buildings. Plus the minor art show made it a quality event.

There were three scheduled speakers: Allison Page, writer and actor; James Cagney, poet and writer from Oakland; and Jack Hamilton Ohman, Sac Bee cartoonist.

Two had amusing stories to tell as part of their presentation. The third was more political than necessary and expounded on the death of his father. I don't know if this was typical as this was my first attendance at an Our Life Stories Writers’ Conference. I found his hurt and political wounds depressing and not humorous at all.

The poet was helpful by sharing his thoughts and explaining his information-gathering processes. He was both humorous and clear. I bought his Chapbook at the break and found it gritty. It was well written—and from the streets. I would recommend spending the five bucks if this is what you like.

Overall I liked the exposure to other writers and another writers’ club. I found everything interesting.

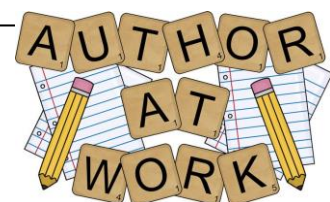
Next year’s “Our Life Stories Writers’ Conference” will be held on April 28, 2018.

For more details contact the Hart Center (916) 808-5462 or <http://www.ourlifestories.org/>

Bet - You Didn't Know

By John Powell

- ❖ The ratio of customers to bookstores is highest in Nevada, Texas, and Mississippi.
- ❖ About 20 percent of online sales are of titles not available in traditional brick-and-mortar stores.
- ❖ University presses are rebounding. The growth engines were history, biography, and law.
- ❖ From 8,000 to 11,000 new publishers enter the field every year; mostly self-publishers.
- ❖ Some 300 to 400 mid-sized publishers exist in the United States. California is the stronghold of small presses with approximately six times the number located elsewhere. Colorado and Minnesota also have large independent and self-publishing communities.
- ❖ On the average a bookstore browser will spend eight seconds looking at the front cover and 15 seconds scanning the back cover.
- ❖ Nonfiction typically outsells fiction by two to one. However, at least 20 percent more fiction is being published these days via the Internet and Print on Demand (POD).
- ❖ The average number of copies sold per title of a POD was 75 books of the 10,000 titles.
- ❖ A new book is published every 13 minutes in America.
- ❖ Bookstore owners in Raleigh, North Carolina, contend that the book most often stolen year after year is the Bible.



Shining at Your Signing

Your book is done. You have it in your hot little hand. Now you have to promote it and that means reading from it in front of groups of strangers. Are you ready? Knowing that even musicians need help, Julliard School of Music offers a *Conquering Performance Anxiety* class.

How can you as an author get more comfortable reading your work in front of an audience? This is necessary and the more comfortable you can look and feel while doing it, the better job you will do.

So, how to overcome this problem? We need help.

The best way to get to the point of confidence in facing a group of strangers and reading your work to them is to *do it*, just *do it*, as often and as much as you can. So how can you get such an opportunity?

Check out the following *MeetUp*. Here are some details on the group:

<https://www.meetup.com/Writers-On-the-Air/events>



Meet, Greet, and Open Mic

Writers On the Air (WOA)

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Sacramento Poetry Center

1719 25th Street, Sacramento, CA

The Sacramento Poetry Center allows this group to use their facility on the last Saturday of the month, whenever there isn't a conflict with their schedule.

Readers will be recorded (unless there is a specific request not to) and aired on KUBU 96.5 LP-FM and accesssacramento.org and writersontheair.com

All genres are welcome at this Open Mic.

The *MeetUp* is free, however, donations are encouraged and accepted. This is a great opportunity to read your work and get feedback.

Young Adult Mentoring Program



This is ongoing.

The group meets in our usual room at 6 p.m. just before our regular SSWC meeting
 If you know of any young writers (high school or college age)
 who would be interested in improving their writing skills
 please encourage them to join us.

Congratulations!

Gisela Butler's second book is out!!!

"Love Lost in the Forest," a tender but suspenseful romance novella, takes place in a small town based on the author's childhood home.

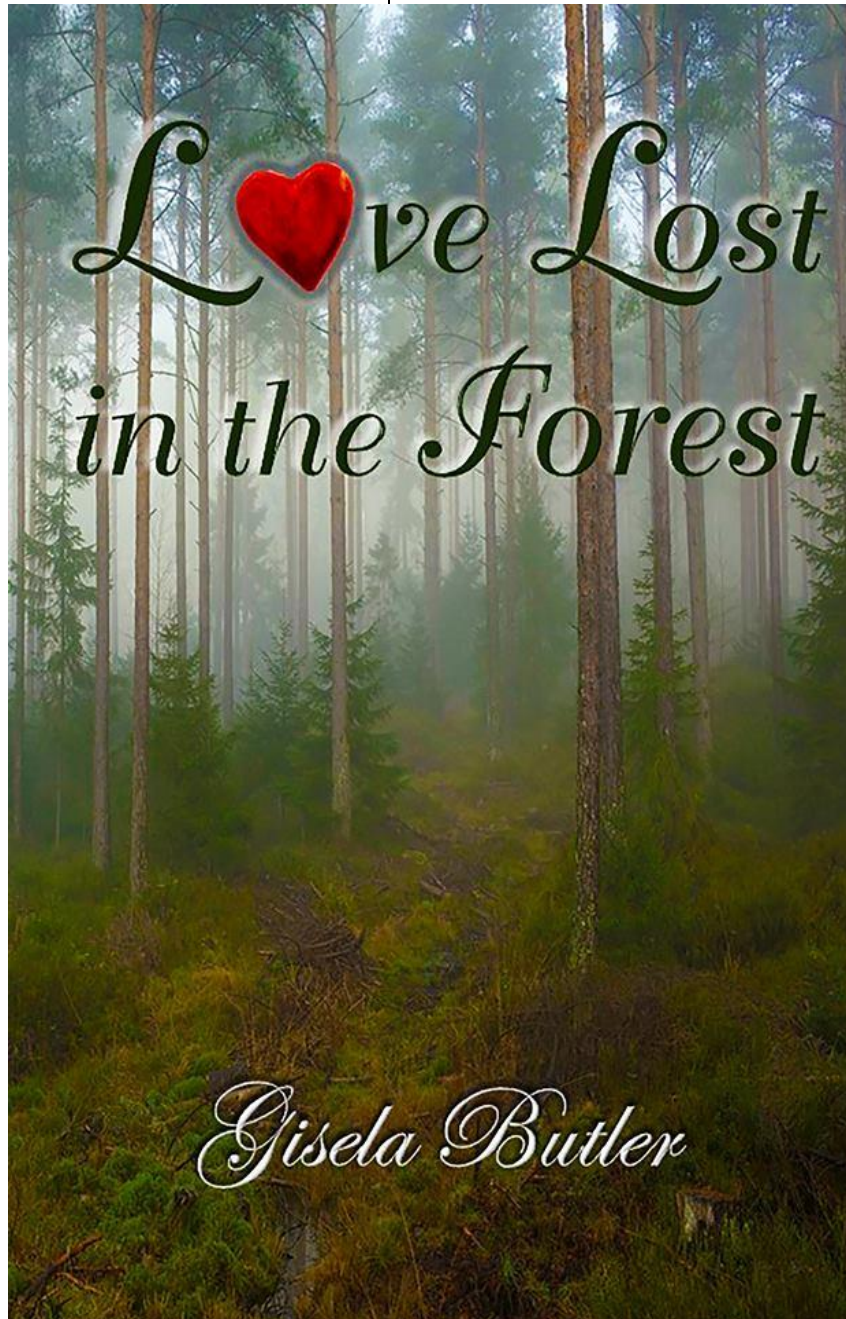
This is a wonderfully old-fashioned love story, with a twist, in which a young man falls in love with two beautiful women. How will this all turn out?

In 1950 Helmut is sent to build a housing complex in a small village in Germany in the town of Holzhausen. This causes anger in the villagers,

Their reaction is the last thing he expects. Then he hears of mysteries concerning the dark forest surrounding the old town: a wild family that live deep within its darkness, tales of those who venture too far into the dark forest and are lost, never heard from again.

Falling in love isn't what he expects either but when he meets the charming country girl, Angelika, watch out. Wanting to find a spot in the forest where he and Angelika can have some privacy, he ventures too far into the dark forest and finds himself in a life-threatening situation.

Calling out for help brings him into contact with a mysterious girl. She has the beauty of a nymph and a heart of sweet innocence.



Will the charming country girl, Angelika, learn of Helmut's tryst with the mysterious nymph-like girl of the forest?

Falling in love with two women is not a good choice, ever.

- ❖ One reader says, "I love this book! It is an easy-read romance with lots of exciting mystery. I could almost see that dark forest—it made me shudder."
- ❖ Carolyn Bradford says, "I am so excited . . . I think it is fabulous!"
- ❖ Dottie Crafts "[looks] wonderful, can't wait to read it."
- ❖ Karen Kennedy McKissick, "Cannot wait to read it."
- ❖ Ronald W. Smith "a suspense romance!"

You will be glad to know that it is available on Amazon and kindle.

(and, for the special members of SSWC, in the trunk of Gisela's car!)

May 2017

OFFICERS

Elected Officers:

President	Wes Turner
Vice President	Cathy McGreevy
Secretary	Mary Lou Anderson
Treasurer	Chris & David Stein

Chairs:

Achievement	Mary Lou Anderson
Chairs Chair	Wes Turner
Coffee/Treats	Walt Speelman
Conference Coord.	John Powell
Critique Groups	Brittany Lord
Directory	Jeannie Turner
Historian	Pat Biasotti
Librarian	Ron Smith
Membership	Jeannie Turner
Newsletter	[open]
Nominations	[open]
Programs	Therese Crutcher-Marin
Publicity	[open]
Raffle	Paul Turner
Scholarship	David Stein
Speakers	Tammy Andrews & Cathy McGreevy
Sunshine	Eras Cochran
Website	Westley Turner
Workshops	Eva Wise
Youth Mentors	Tammy, Wes, & Cathy
Board member at large	Mort Rumberg

Contact the newsletter if you would like to **ADVERTISE** your writing related services in the *Suburban Scribe*, the SSWC Newsletter

\$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 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 member of SSWC.

Send your submissions to

newsletter@sactowriters.org

MEMBERSHIP is paid on a yearly basis. If joining after March, dues are prorated by quarter.

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 it does provide benefits including

- 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.

Name: _____ Genres: _____ Published? Y/N

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Website/other info/address (optional): _____

Your name and email are needed to receive the digital newsletter.