

June 2017



Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club

sactowriters.org

Peggy Dulle will be Speaking on Outlining and Genre Hopping

The great controversy—to outline or not to outline...that is the question

The essential question to all writers is not whether to write or not. We all would respond with a resounding, "Yes!" We have so many stories and ideas that we are desperate to put pencil to paper. The next step is what separates authors into different camps of writing methods and processes. First are the outliners, those who make a roadmap of their book before they ever begin to weave the story. Then there are non-outliners who are often called "seat-of-the-pantsers," or sometimes just a "pantser." And of course there are also the hybrids who steal from both camps. Peggy will talk about the advantages and disadvantages of these writing dichotomies.



Crossing into new territory—
writing in different genres

Many authors combine genres within their stories. For example, they might blend elements of a mystery with those of a paranormal romance. Also, the defining lines of genres have been blurred in recent years giving authors greater freedom, but before you attempt to leap totally from one genre to another, you must ask yourself a question—why do I write? The answer will dictate whether you cross genres with your own name, a pen name, or not at all. Peggy will talk about writing in different genres—keeping the stories straight and whether it is a good idea or not.

Peggy's Bio

Peggy Dulle has always loved books, being an avid reader and writer for as long as she can remember. She has been an elementary teacher for thirty years and only started writing seriously in 2001. She writes in three genres: mystery, fantasy, and science fiction under two names: Peggy Dulle and PD Musso.

She mentors high school students who are interested in becoming authors and speaks at local schools and organizations about writing. She was the president of Capitol Crimes, the Sacramento chapter of Sister In Crime, for seven years and is also a member of Sacramento Valley Rose, the Sacramento chapter of Romance Writers of America. She is currently the Chairman of the Program committee for Bouchercon 2020 which will be held in Sacramento.

Under Peggy Dulle she writes the Liza Wilcox mystery series: *Death is Clowning Around*, *Apple Pots and Funeral Plots*, *Secrets at Sea*, *Saddle Up* and *Till Death Do Us Part*. The next book in the series, *Web of Deception*, is due to be released in August 2017. Also in the Get Away Diner mystery series are *The River's Secret*, *A Kept Secret*, and *Secrets Revealed*. Her The Spirit Walking paranormal mystery series consists of *Spirit of Consequence* and *Spirit of the Game*.

Under P D Musso she writes the Blood Badge fantasy series: *Recruitment* and *Revelment* and The Hunters science fiction series: *Dawn of Destiny* and *Dawn of Desire*. Her website is www.peggydulle.com

Coffee and Treats Update

Walt Speelman
Coffee/Treats Chairman

Tammy Andrews served us well as coffee/treats chairman. I took over that position from Tammy last October. We had \$20 in the kitty and a good supply of coffee, creamer, tea, etc.

Since then we gained \$18.00 in donations and incurred \$9.71 in expenses. We now have a Grand total of \$28.29 (including the \$4.00 in the donation can). The can is always near the coffee pot. Please think of donating. The supplies turned over by Tammy are dwindling.

Our coffee pot is getting slower and slower. Therefore, I have taken the liberty of purchasing a spare coffee pot at Snowline Hospice. It was almost new—and just \$4.50! I will have this with me in case ours breaks down completely.

Another subject is snacks. The supply of snacks each meeting is dwindling. Almost always the same people are bringing snacks each month. We appreciate them and I thank them. Let's have more members participate and bring snacks.

The last item here is courtesy: Please select your desired snack then move away from the table so others can enjoy the treats.

As an endnote, please do not bring extra paper supplies—I do not have the storage room.

All club meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month 7 – 9 p.m. at the Crossroads Community Fellowship Church's meeting hall, 5501 Dewey Drive, Carmichael, just north of the Madison/Dewey intersection. All writers are encouraged to attend. Membership is not mandatory but brings privileges.

Bet - You Didn't Know

By John Powell

- ❖ During World War II, the U.S. Playing Card Company had a secret deal with the U.S. government. They produced special decks of playing cards for American prisoners of war in German camps. When moistened, these cards peeled apart to reveal sections of a map indicating precise escape routes.
- ❖ The U.S. Treasury Department reported in 1814 that 400,000 decks of cards were manufactured that year with a duty-imposed tax of 25 cents per deck.
- ❖ The new Aladdin hotel-casino (2000-2004) in Las Vegas reported it went through 300,000 decks of cards each year.
- ❖ In 1885 a card manufacture company introduced decks of cards called Tally-ho after an attractive carriage in vogue at the time. A small start-up competitor chose the recently developed high-wheel bicycle, newer and faster than a carriage, as its trademark. Hence the name Bicycle Playing Card Company.
- ❖ It is commonly believed that the four suits in a deck of playing cards — spades, hearts, diamonds, and clubs—derive from French decks of cards. In French decks, the suits representing four classes: Spades representing nobility; hearts, the clergy; diamonds, merchants, and clubs, peasants.
- ❖ The Playboy Club located in the Palms Resort Casino in Las Vegas reported it goes through 72 decks of cards every night.
- ❖ The United States Playing Card Company, the largest manufacturer of playing cards in the world, sells more than 20 million decks to casinos every year.
- ❖ In November 2007, Liu Fuchang, a Chinese citizen, set a new Guinness World Record for owning over 11,087 individual decks of different playing cards.

Particle Archeology

John Vester



Dirachnid waited, along with all her sister lab workers, though less patiently than they. They had gathered in a group at the back of the laboratory, near the new equipment. Schrankafer, bent over some dials and buttons, was in no hurry to start the meeting he had called. It gave Dirachnid some time to think. She didn't like these interruptions. She was much happier examining data—slowly, thoroughly, monotonously. It gave her pleasure. It was in her genes.

These little speeches of Schrankafer gave her no pleasure. She had no doubt that these pompous announcements of his were fun for Schrankafer, but she was weary of these self-important episodes.

With an effort, Dirachnid controlled the nervous trembling her thoughts were causing her. Yes, Schrankafer was a chaser of dreams—of personal glory. But the knowledge on which his search for fame would rest would be teased out of vast amounts of experimental results through the sure, methodical labors of workers like her and her sisters. Yes, it was drudgery that Schrankafer had little knowledge of and no patience for. He was little more than a figurehead in the lab, but he held the power of life or death over every worker here.

But for her, a worker, to think such thoughts! What could be wrong with her? Unheard of! She had never detected an inkling of such sentiments among her co-workers. For safety's sake she would have to keep such thoughts completely to herself.

Today Schrankafer would demonstrate his new toy, and describe, with hyperbole and superlatives, the experiments Dirachnid and her sisters had designed and would be called upon to interpret.

Dirachnid was growing impatient.

Finally, smoothing his wing shields, Schrankafer turned and faced his audience. "Ladies, I've called you together so you can witness today's momentous experiment.

"As you may already know, Gell-Mantis' work with the tunneling electron stinger has revealed that the hard/small electron, unlike the soft/giant tau and muon particles, has a textured surface. This new quantum tunneling ovipositor will, I am absolutely confident, allow Mantisian scientists, for the first time, to analyze this texture."

Schrankafer clicked his plitri-nobs in self-satisfaction, "And I will be the first."

Dirachnid longed to be able to exchange a knowing smile with any of her sisters. But none seemed to share her amusement at their drone's grandstanding.

The ovipositor was lowered slowly by a worker toward a large lump of almost pure mandibulum suspended inside the cloud chamber by cross-linked magnetic fields.

Schrankafer took over the controls. Completely oblivious to his audience now, he guided the ovipositor toward its target just as gently and lovingly as he guided his Queen's ovipositor whenever she deigned to make more lab assistants for him.

Dirachnid was anxious to get back to her work. If someone didn't move, they'd all just remain standing there. With only the tiniest hesitation, she simply returned to her post. The others did the same. They could watch the progress of the experiment on monitors throughout the lab.

Schrankafer did not know, or care, that his audience had left him.

The invisible point of the quantum tunneling ovipositor was soon deep within the mandibulum and headed for the energetic third electron of a typical atom.

If you're wondering what happens next...Ask John

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\$3 a month (3-month minimum) for members
\$5 a month (3-month minimum) for non-members

Send your request to newsletter@sactowriters.org

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

**Young Adult Mentoring Program**

Do 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 this group that meets in the kitchen at 6 p.m. just before the regular SSWC meeting at 7 p.m.

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

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.