

August 2017



Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club

sactowriters.org

Don't miss **Gwen Hernandez** as she shares *Productivity Tools for Writers*

Plan to participate in her presentation



Gwen Hernandez is the author of *Scrivener for Dummies*, *Productivity Tools for Writers*, and the "Men of Steele" romantic suspense series. Through her popular online courses and her in-person workshops, she has helped thousands of writers all over the world find the joy in Scrivener. She loves to travel, read, jog, practice yoga and Kung Fu, and explore Northern California with her retired Air Force husband and a lazy golden retriever. Find her online at gwenhernandez.com and ScrivenerClasses.com.

In her workshops, *Writing Your Way with Scrivener*, beginners and experienced users will benefit from Gwen's introduction to Scrivener's basic features. Learn how to create a new project, understand Scrivener's interface, organize and work with files and folders, import your existing work and research, color code your files, set word count targets, and more. **Plan to bring your laptop, loaded with Scrivener, so you can follow along.** To get the free trial, go to www.literatureandlatte.com/scrivener.php.

In addition to helping others improve their writing, Gwen also creates some exciting books herself. If you're looking for fast-paced, sexy romantic suspense with military heroes, don't miss *Blind Fury* (#1), a hot friends-to-lovers story in D.C. or *Blind Ambition* (#2), a sexy, second-chance romance on the run in the Caribbean.

Her latest in this series, #3, is *Blindsided*, in which, after being framed for espionage, reformed hacker Valerie Sanchez has no choice but to run. Worse, when the proof of her innocence is destroyed, things turn deadly. Can she trust the sexy terrorist hunter who mysteriously turns up to protect her, or is he the real threat?

To read an excerpt of this new book, go to

<http://gwenhernandez.com/romantic-suspense-books/blindsided/>

All 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.

At the
Fair
with our
Cathy

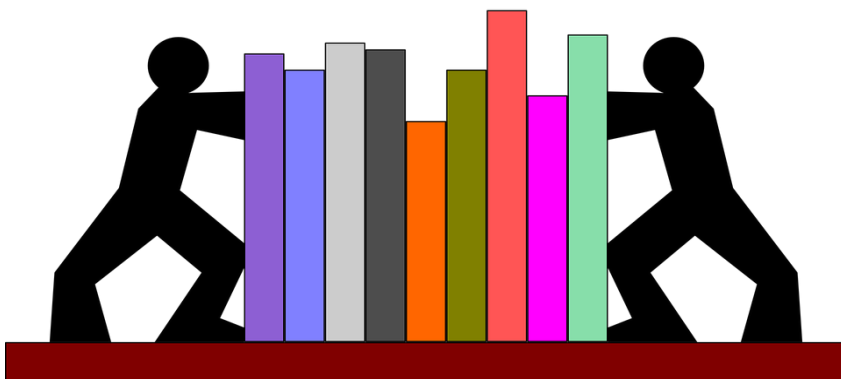


Check out Catherine's blog at
<https://cathymcgreevy.wordpress.com>
or her Facebook page at
<https://www.facebook.com/catherine.mcgreevy.5>

Catherine McGreevy grew up in several countries including France, Spain, and Morocco, and attended twelve different schools, three of which were international schools. Throughout the many moves, one thing remained constant: her love for books. Mary Stewart, Elizabeth Peters, and Phyllis Whitney were among her favorite writers and greatest influences.

Now living in Northern California's gold country, she writes clean and patriotic romantic suspense novels and historicals—just the kind she enjoys reading. She currently has two books available on Amazon Kindle: *The Gardener's Tale* and *The Jewelry Case*. Two more are due to be published soon.

Bookend Your Book: Front Matter and Back Matter



Books consist of many components, all of them important when creating a full, complete, and professional work. Two of these components that often causes self-published authors pause is the Front Matter and Back Matter.

While these components are in two separate locations in the book (the front and the back), they serve essentially the same purpose: they bookend your content, propping it up with important information that your reader may not need, but should have available.

Learn more about these two important elements of your book at
<http://www.lulu.com/blog/2017/07/bookend-your-book-front-matter-and-back-matter>

Bet–You Didn't Know A Few Facts for Writers

John Powell
aka John Marchel

- ❖ A poem written to celebrate a wedding is called an epithalamium.
- ❖ Allied bombers in WWII were issued Biro pens (a colloquial name for a ballpoint pen) as fountain pens leaked at high altitude.
- ❖ As early as 246 BC con men were at work aging manuscripts and selling them to book collectors as antiques.
- ❖ Aristotle, who was tutor to Alexander the Great, wrote to support his teaching.
- ❖ Copies of the Bible and the Koran small enough to fit in a walnut shell have been written by hand.
- ❖ In 1967, the American Typers Association created a new punctuation mark that was a combination of the question mark and an exclamation point called an interrobang. It was rarely used.
- ❖ Forty-seven Bibles are sold or distributed throughout the world every minute of the day.
- ❖ From 8,000 to 11,000 new publishers enter the field every year; they are mostly self-publishers.
- ❖ Most pencils sold in European countries don't have erasers.

Archetypes

At our July 9, 2017, meeting Mary Lou Anderson and Cathy McGreevy presented a workshop on archetypes, specifically, positive male archetypes. Archetypes are defined as a very typical example of a certain person or thing or a recurrent symbol or motif in literature, art, or mythology.

Often we see certain groups of traits that give a person their "personality." Archetypes don't just describe a person's personality, however. They also show us what motivates them. What do they care about most? How does that make them behave? How do they treat others?

Being aware of our character's archetype helps us draw that character with more focus. This will make our characters, whether fictional or real, come across as more interesting and relatable.

Type	Characteristics	Examples
Chief	Dynamic leader; wants power, respect	Captain Kirk, Star Trek
Bad Boy	Dangerous to know; wants revenge, revolution	James Dean
Best Friend	Sweet and safe, wants to belong, get along	Gilligan, <i>Gilligan's Island</i>
Lost Soul	Tormented, taciturn; misfit, empty	The Phantom, <i>Phantom of the Opera</i>
Charmer	Smooth talker; intimacy, relationships	Cary Grant
Professor	Analytical, knows answers, seeks truth	Sherlock Holmes
Swashbuckler	Adventurer, protects others, not a thinker	Errol Flynn
Warrior	Noble champion, honor, saves his people	Mel Gibson, <i>Braveheart</i>

In upcoming SSWC workshops over the next few months, negative archetypes for men and female archetypes will be presented, along with a workshop on plotting and on deep point of view.

FYI: Mary Lou, Cathy, and Tammy will also present a series of paid writing workshops this fall, which will discuss archetypes in greater depth, along with other topics. This series of 4-hour Saturday workshops is not affiliated with SSWC, but members are invited to participate. Dates and times to be announced.

What Are Others Saying About Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club??

Coach Teresa LeYung-Ryan says: "Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club's mission statement and behavior—'To foster, encourage, and educate writers and independent publishers...'—exemplify dedication."

To see photos and highlights of the July 10, 2017, interactive presentation
 "Use Your Name and Your Themes to Advance Your Writer's Platform-Building Journey"
 please visit:

<http://lovemadeofheart.com/blog/coach-teresa-leyung-ryan-cheers-for-sacramento-suburban-writers-and-their-platform-statements/>

The Devil's Stairway

M.H. Brandt

This stairway could lead to the heavens, to Prince Charming's castle, to a fairy princess in waiting—or NOT, depending on one's perspective. This stairway is located on the isolated Ilse de Royale, French Guyana, slightly above the equator, where the year-round temperature averages 78 degrees Fahrenheit accompanied by a suffocating humidity. Stopping momentarily on the stairs, one could smell the sweet scent of the bougainvillea and the mango trees blooming. Coconut palms sway in the winds as the playful agoutis¹ chase each other on the grounds below. The squire monkeys jump from tree to tree, parrots squawk, birds chirp, and the ocean's waters slam against the rocks below.

You have now entered one of the most notorious penal colonies in the world—a veritable *Twilight Zone*. The very name, *Devil's Island*, makes most people shake. Rather than fences, the shark-infested waters of the Atlantic Ocean discourage any thought of escape. Once famous for its cruelty,

¹ A rain forest rodent that looks a bit like a really large guinea pig. Its coarse hair is covered with an oily (and stinky!) substance that acts like a raincoat.



torture, and starvation, *Devil's Island* has now become a tourist attraction.

The Devil's Stairway takes you to the beautifully designed and comfortable governor's quarters, hidden from the penal colony rabble by lush vegetation. Made out of granite rocks taken from the sea barrier, Devil's Stairway has weathered well the past 150 years, although *Devil's Island* has been hammered by wind and tropical rains.

If the guards did not kill the potential escapee, malaria, yellow fever, or the Fer de Lance² would.

Yes, this island is beautiful, but beauty really *is* in the eye of the beholder.

The crumbling cell blocks, rusted prison bars, and apparitions of past hollow-eyed inmates clad in their tattered red and white faded pajamas floating silently from cell to cell send shivers through most tourists. For the lover of the macabre, it's a great adventure, remembering how Steve McQueen as Henri Charrière in *Papillon*, survived the horrible conditions—rampant sickness, malnutrition, and hopelessness.

² Any of several extremely venomous snakes of the viper family (Viperidae)

August 2017

2007 Yaris for sale!

- ❖ Chrome rims not included! No matter, they're only on two of the wheels anyway, while the other two were spinners - meaning that they spun off the highway some time ago. People will think you are funny—or that you work for Google.
- ❖ It's for sale to you! (If you have the clout needed to cruise in a blue hatchback.)
- ❖ And scratches? Why scratches are like scars. Scars show character, and this vehicle is loaded with character!
- ❖ That other guy wants you to believe one headlight is enough, but don't trust him. Two is best, and you get both of them!
- ❖ What shade of blue, you anxiously ask? Many shades! Whether it's metallic blue, basic blue, or light blue with missing clear coat, you get all of your favorites in one package!



- ❖ This vehicle has had two owners, the same as the number of taillights you get.
- ❖ Was this car kept in a garage, you ask? Of course not! This car is too beautiful to be kept out of sight.
- ❖ Maybe you want the edgy experience of crawling up to 65 mph with the dull roar of the outside air rushing past the windows while they're still closed. Or dare to choose the deafening thunder after you use all of your massive arm and shoulder muscles to manually roll down the windows.
- ❖ Is 174K your lucky number? Well if it is, then you're in luck! That is how many miles this car has!
- ❖ If you want booming bass and amazing sound, then probably you will want to buy a system to put in it.
- ❖ Do you have friends? You can put one and a half of them in the back seat. But, after you own this blue gem, friends won't be an issue any more; they'll all leave because they can't handle the jealousy this car causes!
- ❖ But don't fret! This car will improve your love life! Prove to all the ladies (and gentlemen) that chivalry isn't dead—these manual locks will force you to show them how much you care by opening and closing the doors for them, wooing even the most stonehearted woman!

But seriously, this car is reliable, gets great gas mileage, and is a fantastic commuter car! \$3100/obo. Contact C&DS at (587) 854-3346



Coffee and Treats

Walt Speelman, Chairman



Found a dollar donation in the kitty after the July meeting.

This and other donations will be used for basic supplies such as coffee and plastic-ware in the near future. Thank you.

The delicious watermelon that has appeared twice is due to the generosity of Al. Be sure to thank him.

Participation has improved in the snack supply. Thanks to all, as the cash donations are not used to buy snacks.

When you bring a snack, please plan on taking the leftover goodies home.
I have limited storage space in my pantry and I do not store open containers.

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	Jeannie Turner
Nominations	[open]
Programs	Therese Crutcher-Marin
Publicity	[open]
Raffle	David Stein
Scholarship	David Stein
Speakers	Tammy Andrews
Sunshine	Eras Cochran
Website	Westley Turner
Workshops	Eva Wise
Youth Mentors	Tammy, Wes, & Cathy

The SSWC Young Authors Mentoring Program will begin again at 6 P.M. at our September 10th, 2017, meeting.

Advertise your writing related services in the ***Suburban Scribe!*** members \$3 a month non-members \$5 a month (3-month minimum) 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 20th 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

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor –

I have always enjoyed reading the Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club Newsletter, the Suburban Scribe. However, your latest edition appalls me.

Check your "facts"! [*A Few Facts for Writers* by John Powell]

Does Asimov really have a book in every Dewey Decimal system category?

No! That is a resounding NO!

You were close with your "facts," but not correct.

His *works* have been published in all of the 10 major categories, but no books in the 100s (Philosophy and Psychology).

His only work in the 100s was a foreword he wrote for *The Humanist Way*, written by Edward L. Ericson.

Yours for truth,
Victor Veritas

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.