

September 2017



# Suburban Scribe

**Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club**

## Using Audio To Grow Your Readership:

How Audiobooks and Podcasts Fill Another Niche in The Market



Amy Rogers, MD, PhD, is a Harvard-educated scientist, novelist, journalist, educator, critic, and publisher who specializes in all things science-y. Her novels *PETROPLAGUE*, *REVERSION*, and *THE HAN AGENT* use real science and medicine to create plausible, frightening scenarios in the style of Michael Crichton. Formerly a microbiology professor, she is the founder of ScienceThrillers Media publishing company, an active member of International Thriller Writers, and serves as treasurer for Northern California Publishers and Authors. In addition, she runs the ScienceThrillers.com book review website and writes a monthly science column for Sacramento's *Inside Publications*.

Amy began her writing career in elementary school by (unsuccessfully) submitting anecdotes to Reader's Digest in hopes of earning twenty-five bucks. By junior high, her real passion was science, especially microbiology. In the bedroom of her home in rural Minnesota, she kept Petri dishes of bacteria in an egg incubator and won first place ribbons in science fairs. That passion led her to study biochemistry as an undergraduate at Harvard, and ultimately to earn a medical degree and a doctorate in immunology from Washington University in St. Louis. A fascination with microbes animated her years of teaching biology at California State University. More recently, the amazing powers of microscopic critters inspired her to write page-turning novels and short stories that seamlessly blend reality and imagination.

Amy is dedicated to putting real science in her fiction. This author loves dim sum, Ted Drewes frozen custard, redwood forests, Minnesota lakes, Hawaiian beaches, and cats. She lives in Northern California with her husband and two exceptional children who believe she has an unreasonable tolerance for mysterious things growing in her refrigerator.

- ❖ Have you read *PETROPLAGUE*? What if bacteria turned all the gasoline in Los Angeles into vinegar? Carmageddon doesn't begin to describe it.
- ❖ *REVERSION*? Rabies kills. Can it also cure?

She also works for scientific literacy by writing a monthly column "Science in the Neighborhood" for Sacramento's *Inside Publications* and has taught both ecology and computer programming to kids.

# Something New!

Sacramento Suburban Writers Club will put on hold our Young Authors Program at this time. However, young authors are still welcome to attend our new monthly educational workshops on Advanced Writing Techniques (AWT).

We hope that our writing topics will interest and benefit more of our SSWC members and, of course, young authors as well.

Starting on September 11 at 6 p.m. we will have our first AWT meeting at the Crossroads Church Fellowship Hall at 5501 Dewey Drive (just north of Madison and across from Safeway). It will end just prior to our regular Sacramento Suburban Writers Club meeting.

The premise is that each month we will have a different topic on advanced writing concepts. We will start with *Scene and Sequel*. The topic for the following month's workshop will be announced at each SSWC meeting.

The requirement to attend the AWT meeting is simple. Each attendee must bring a definition of the topic and an example. The attendees will only read their definition if it is different than others, but each will read their examples. The round table discussion and questions will begin after the examples are shared and will last for about 30 minutes.

The first topic is something I'm interested in exploring. Even though I've been writing for five years, I'm still not sure I have a good enough understanding of scene and sequel. I tried to set up my latest story for revisions with scenes using the Scrivener writing program, which our August guest speaker told us about. But I found myself occasionally confused about where the scene ended and another started, especially regarding very brief scenario changes.

The topic for our 6 p.m. workshop on Monday, September 11 (right before our regular SSWC meeting) will be:

First - Exactly what constitutes a scene? (Describe how or where a scene begins and ends.)

And Second – (depending on how many people attend, so have both definitions ready just in case) - What is the meaning of Scene and Sequel? (And does every scene have a sequel?)

I will be the person to contact for the topic of discussion questions and suggestions for what you might like to study. We will have a list of topics soon. Please email me your suggestions for topics.

My co-conspirators/facilitators will be Cathy McGreevy, Brittany Lord, and Mary Lou Anderson.

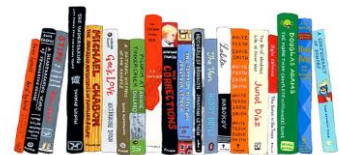
Please RSVP if you plan to attend the September 11 6 p.m. workshop. Remember to bring your definitions and examples.

Also please let me know if you think this is the type of educational program that might interest you as an SSWC member.

Contact me, Tammy Andrews, at [lavendersunset54@yahoo.com](mailto:lavendersunset54@yahoo.com)

## A Helpful Hint

by Mort Rumberg



Need a title and find yourself pulling your hair out searching for the perfect one for your story or novel? Fret no more. Here's a suggestion to ease your quest.

You can always use a title that's already been used - Yes, you can...titles are not copyrightable.

OR, better yet, do an Internet search for "Book Title Generator." Dozens of sites will pop right up.

You can even filter the offerings by specifying fiction or non-fiction, or a specific genre.

September 2017

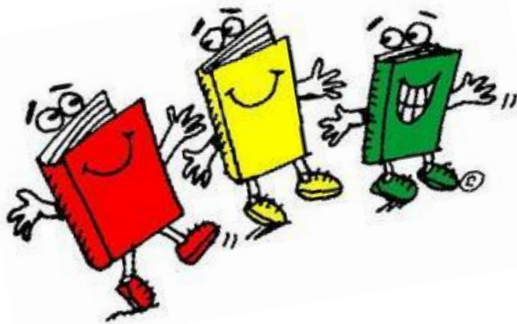
## Another SSWC Author

IN PRINT AGAIN!

Bill Carpentier, inspiring management expert and author of *The Two-Hour Leader*, looks back on his life with a critical eye—and great comic timing—in his new book, *Dust from the Attic*.

He shares his experiences of growing up in an Italian family in 1950s Brooklyn (even including a recipe for egg creams), naval training during a long winter on the Great Lakes, and trying to be present for his kids while on the road.

There's a little something for everyone—and a lot of laughs—in Bill's book, *Dust from the Attic*.



### Tag! You're it!

Want to know how your book will fare in a Google search? That's where appropriate "tags" come in to play. For example, when someone searches for books about spies or assassins, the search engines look for keywords - the hidden tags used to describe the book. If your tags are on the list (the keywords), the more often your book will also be on that list.

Here's an example: You wrote a book about horses. Your main tag is "horse." But, if someone only searches for "equestrian," your book won't show up, or if it does, it might be last on the list. That's why you need to think seriously about which tags to use. To help you, search book search terms. A gazillion sites will appear.

All of the meetings of the Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club are held  
on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

September 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	[open]
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	Mort Rumberg
Scholarship	David Stein
Speakers	Tammy Andrews
Sunshine	Eras Cochran
Website	Westley Turner
Workshops	Eva Wise
Youth Mentors	Tammy, Wes, & Cathy

Advertise your writing related services in the  
***Suburban Scribe!***

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

Send your request to [newsletter@sactowriters.org](mailto: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 one of the many benefits of being a member of SSWC.

Send your submissions to  
[newsletter@sactowriters.org](mailto: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

3) Participation in critique groups

2) Participation in club author events

4) Grants for conferences ... & more

More information is on our website: [sactowriters.org](http://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.