



July 2018

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club

Building Tension in Fiction



Best-selling author, Donna Hatch, is a hopeless romantic and adventurer at heart. This drove her to write and publish more than twenty historical romance titles, including the award-winning "Rogue Hearts Series." She is a multi-award winner, a sought-after workshop presenter. In addition, she also juggles multiple volunteer positions as well as her six (yes, that is 6) children. A music lover, she sings, plays the harp, and loves ballroom dancing. Donna and her husband of over twenty years are living proof that there really is a happily ever after in life as well as in books.

A Review in *Reading is My Super Power* states, "Donna Hatch is one of the masters of clean romance with electric tension and smokin' hot kisses."

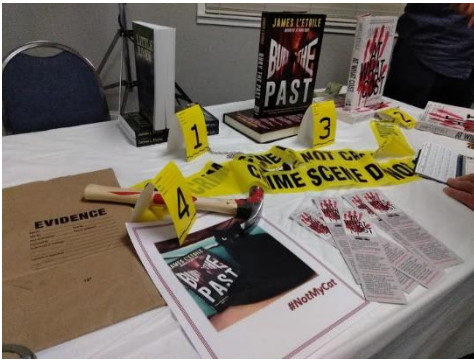
In addition to our topic of the evening, Building Tension in Fiction, Donna has spoken about and taught classes on Descriptive Prose, Extreme Editing, The 21 Deadly Sins of Writing Romance, Creating Believable Characters, and Point of View, as well as the all-important, Solving the Mystery of Show, Don't Tell.

To learn more on these topics, go to <http://donnahatch.com/> or check out her facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/RomanceAuthorDonnaHatch/>

All of the meetings of the Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club 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.

Comments from some members about last month's speaker

James L'Etoile and Crime



Michael Brandt

James L'Etoile's presentation was excellent and he provided a small glimpse of what life is like in the prison system. He addressed the many forgotten serial killers from around the greater Sacramento area including the gruesome Gallego murders. The Prison Trivia quiz was a novel idea and everyone had fun seeing who might be a future inmate.

Mort Rumberg

Great presentation! It was incredibly interesting to hear about prison happenings from an insider and to see how reality differs from TV or movies. James L'Etoile has great presence and is an excellent communicator. Thoroughly enjoyed the presentation.

Al Gilding

I may not be the best one to comment on speakers and their contribution to our concerns. With my hearing problem, even with hearing aids, I pick up less than half of what's being said and understand a little less, and my seeing problem is definitely not an aid.

However, he seems to project a kind of professionalism that made what I heard interesting enough to try to follow. His quiz of prison jargon was entertaining and only seemed to indicate that I would have probably understood even less if I had been an inmate than I did of his speech. So being good enough to evade that misfortune has probably added to my list of survival techniques.

Robert Greeley

Who knew that the Hillside Strangler would be "meek and mild" and manage a tier of prisoners in the California prison system once he was incarcerated.

Or that Sacramento has a disproportionate history of serial killers and mass murders—more per capita than New York and Chicago.

And there is the meaning of a "keister stash." If you don't know, you should have been there.

Jeannie Turner

This is a good book! Even the minor characters are well-rounded and memorable. I could scarcely put *At What Cost* down and finished it in two days. (Of course, a lot of "more important" things didn't get accomplished, but who cares?)



A Helpful Hint

by Mort Rumberg



Polish, Polish, Polish

The SpamAnalyse site has a tool that can check the content of emails to see whether they're likely to be caught by spam filters.

<http://www.spamanalyse.com>

OnlineCorrection.com is a tool designed to find spelling, as well as basic grammar and stylistic mistakes, in English texts.

<http://www.onlinecorrection.com>

This app is a bit less polished than the previous ones, but Cliché Finder is still useful. Rather than find spam or grammatical errors, it locates and flags commonly used clichés. Clichés make you sound unimaginative, so stop using them.

<http://cliche.theinfo.org>

Whither Goest Thou

Al Gilding

What happened after “God” made Man? This excerpt is from a story called “Whither Goest Thou” which very subtly relates to the Bible’s Cain and Abel parable. Its larger meaning includes the friction between settled people and nomadic herd followers and their land-use claims. Enjoy this passage from the Romeo and Juliet story of a star-struck encounter and its star-crossed outcome.

If you don’t know, O fairest among women,
Follow in the footsteps of the flock,
and feed your little goats
Beside the shepherds’ tents.
—Song of Solomon 1:8

It had been a dull day, among many long, dull days. Keinalone (Kane-alone) had never felt really suited to this kind of work. She had been snatched away from her mother who had been patiently trying to show her the intricacies of women’s ways. She had also not learned these easily, and her father had always wanted another boy to add to his benefit.

Keinalone had had to take the place of that greater undelivered treasure by tending the family flock of sheep and goats. Isolation from the concerns and affairs of the family weighed more heavily upon her as time slipped ever so slowly by.

Now, on the few occasions that she was with them, she felt more and more the stranger in their midst as they talked of the concerns that were close to them, that she could scarcely relate to any longer.

Was this to be her fate? she had asked of the wind that blew, the only sound to accompany her lonely spirit, so much of the time. Never to quite replace the son her father wanted, and never to be the woman that she might have been. Even her mother seemed more distant from her now.

Keinalone arose slowly from her morose contemplation to find the flock had begun to stray. She again repeated that simple task that required so many repetitions to keep such simple-minded creatures together and secure. Her days had a certain sameness with only an occasional lion or wolf she’d scare off with bold noisy displays of bravado and occasionally, ever so reluctantly, a well-placed stone from the sling that she had been taught to wield.

But the nights were different. She never quite knew what was out there until a sound of quiet movement or

a low growl brought her to a sudden frightened alertness.

Then her loud screaming challenges, accompanied by the thump, thump, thumping of her large staff, seemed the urgently required response. Occasionally these were interspersed by the sound that her staff made in the night air as she whirled it around and around. These seemed to help her believe that she would make it through one more night without hurt to her or the flock.

Sometimes her staff would connect in a glancing sort of way. A louder than usual bleating would often tell her that one of her charges wasn’t bunched as tightly as it ought to have been, but sometimes it would be something else. A slow reduction in the nervous bleating would tell her the predator who was no longer there.

Only then could she enjoy the huge expanse of the starry sky that only faintly lighted a moonless night. Its everlasting sameness always had a calming effect on her slowly settling nerves. As she would gaze up into the stunning vastness, she felt as if her body was slowly floating ever upward as if yearning to join with this heavenly scenery. A shiver of pure joy would sometimes course through her being, as that strange kind of oneness seemed on the verge of consummation. The feeling was something that she was little prepared to understand, but it was the only time that she didn’t feel that everlasting loneliness. It was only then that she could experience a closeness to the God that her family seemed to worship only with ritual sacrifice.

*If this passage whets your appetite,
for the rest of the story, see Al*

Say it Again, Only Better

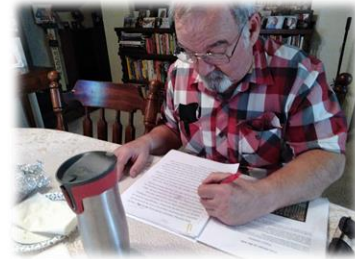
Instead of
PRETTY

- ✓ Lovely
- ✓ Glamorous
- ✓ Attractive
- ✓ Elegant
- ✓ Cute
- ✓ Exquisite
- ✓ Gorgeous
- ✓ Stunning
- ✓ Neat
- ✓ Striking

Instead of
YOUNG

- ✓ Youthful
- ✓ Naive
- ✓ Budding
- ✓ Growing
- ✓ Early
- ✓ Fresh
- ✓ Raw
- ✓ Green

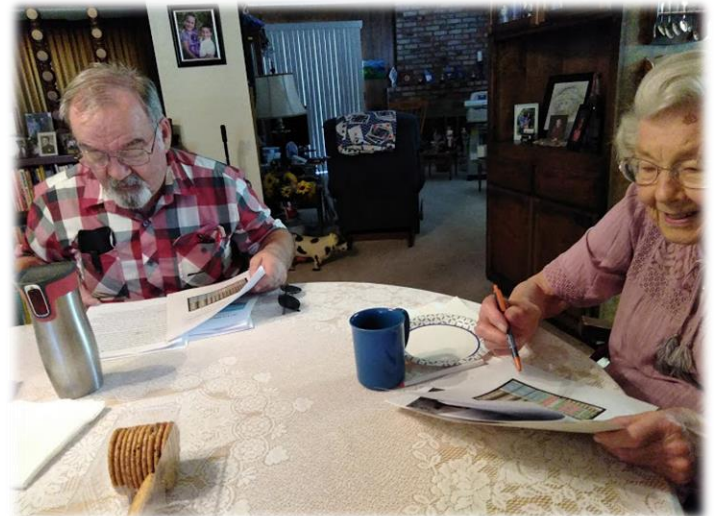
How is *Your* Critique Group Doing?



Jeff Falkner



John Powell, Jeff Falkner, Pat Biasotti hard at work



Third Saturday Critique Group

OFFICERS

Elected Officers:

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

Chairs:

Achievement	Mary Lou Anderson
Anthology	Eva Wise
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]
Publicity	[open]
Raffle	Mort Rumberg
Scholarship	David Stein
Speakers	David Stein
Sunshine	[open]
Website	Westley Turner
Workshops	[open]

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

COPY AND DEADLINES

Please 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

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: _____