

October 2018



Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club

Historical Fiction:

How Not to Get Bugged Down in Research

Erika Mailman is the author of four historical novels: *The Witch's Trinity*, a San Francisco Chronicle Notable Book which Khaled Hosseini called "gripping"; *Woman of Ill Fame*, about a Gold Rush prostitute who solves murders; *House of Bellaver*, a literary ghost story set in Oakland; and *The Murderer's Maid: A Lizzie Borden Novel*, which won an IPPY gold medal for historical fiction and was a National Indie Excellence winner. Mailman has been a Yaddo fellow and Bram Stoker Award finalist.



Erika grew up in Vermont and attended Colby College and the University of Arizona, Tucson, where she received an MFA in poetry. She currently lives in Northern California with her husband and children,

close to where gold was discovered in 1848. Erika says, "I love history, David Bowie, Oakland, Vermont, domestic shorthairs, fairy houses, mochas, and movies."



Under the pen name Lynn Carthage, she writes Y.A. fiction with the Arnaud Legacy trilogy published by Kensington. She reads voraciously, loves anything French, gets "itchy feet" to travel on a regular basis, and finds peace in the woods, in meadows, in nature. She has always been fascinated by the way history allows us to imagine how people of the past lived and breathed and felt.

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.

A Helpful Hint

Mort Rumberg

Save a Lawsuit

CITE YOUR SOURCES

Working on a non-fiction project and need to cite the source of your info? Need to capture and display source information?

Well, don't delay citing the source. In the excitement of "the hunt" don't think "I'll simply return later and cite the source."

Sources can prove to be difficult to locate, especially those on websites and online databases. Take advantage of style guides such as reference sheets and online bibliography generation sites such as those listed below.

Remember, citations are important and lend strong support for your work. Here are several source sites.

<http://www.bibme.org>

Main focus is looking up a book using its ISBN number, title or keywords.

Information from the look-up can be added to a bibliography to later download to a file.

<http://www.easybib.com>

"The free bibliography composer" generates a citation based on a book's ISBN number.

Offers over 50 other source formats including magazine articles, web sites, online databases, even live performances.

<http://www.citationmachine.net>

Select from MLA, APA, Turabian or Chicago formats and Print or Non-Print sources.

Enter information in the fields and citation will appear properly formatted to copy and paste into a document.

<http://www.citavi.com>

A "knowledge manager" designed to support the entire research process, Citavi has several options to generate citations including a bar code scanner.

<http://www.turabian.com>

A resource website to assist in citing almost any reference using the Turabian style. Also includes MLA and APA resources.

<http://www.LegacyURL.com/harvardref>

Over 51 different types of source citations generated by manually entering information into fields.

<http://www.noodletools.com>

Build citations in several styles then copy and paste them into a document.

<http://tweet2cite.com>

Tweet citation generator that converts Tweets into properly formatted MLA, APA and Wikipedia citations.

www.zotero.com

A research tool that automatically senses research content in the web browser; includes a source citation component for many different formats.

Source: *Legacy QuickGuide, Citing Your Sources*, by Thomas MacEntee, 2014, p.4

October 2018

Vintage Views Two: The Old-Timers

Pat Biasotti

The Charismatic Bud Gardner

Bud Gardner, as well as Ethel Bangert who was one of the original founders of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club (SSWC), had a profound influence on the club. Many of our members attended his invaluable Writing for Publication classes at American River College. He was very proud that one particular year all of the SSWC officers were, or had been, his students and, therefore, were passing along to club members his writing and marketing concepts. Several times he was our featured speaker and is a lifetime honorary member. He has always been an enthusiastic promoter of SSWC.

Bud certainly deserves accolades. For many years he was a physical education teacher and athletics coach at American River college (ARC), while writing in his spare time. He had already sold 60 articles before he took on the Writing for Publication classes at ARC in 1977. On the hallway wall outside his classroom he painted a stripe denoting his students' sales in inches and feet, tracking at least a million dollars in sales. That stripe eventually extended from his classroom all the way down the main Davies hallway. His success resulted from his enthusiasm, passion for writing, and the personal encouragement he gave each one of his students. Barbara Jodry, a long-time SSWC member, remembers well his motto: "Everyone has a story—turn it into something that will captivate a reader." After retirement from full-time teaching, he conducted special seminars on aspects of writing at Cosumnes River College and Sierra College and also hosted a Writing for Publication TV class.

In addition to his membership in SSWC, he was an active member of the California Writers' Club (CWC). In 1981 he helped CWC organize their annual conference ... and snagged Alex Haley as the featured speaker, whose book "Roots" had been recently published.... (This author was at that conference and had the privilege of fetching a drink of water for Mr. Haley.) For many years Bud participated in the annual Maui Hawaii Writers' Conferences. As a member of the National Speakers' Association, Bud was a popular motivational speaker.

Resolutions praising his teaching success have come from governors, the legislature, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. In 1992, the prestigious American Society of Journalists and Authors awarded him the Robert C. Anderson Memorial Award as the most inspirational writing coach in America. However, he says, the ultimate was as co-author of *Chicken Soup for the Writer's Soul*. Because of that book he traveled all over the country for book signings and enjoyed the many prestigious personalities he met.

Bud finally retired completely and moved to Roseville's Sun City with his wife, Jennifer Martin (also a very successful writer). He didn't let any grass grow under his feet. He got bored with retirement and, having read that playing music helps to prolong the memory and avoid Alzheimer's, he took up the harmonica (which he had played as a youngster), and organized the "Harmonicoots," comprised mostly of Sun City residents. Once the largest harmonica band in the country, the Harmonicoots traveled the world for over 14 years, playing on cruise ships and entertaining in numerous care homes and retirement communities.

Bud, this little kid from a family of modest means growing up in a small town in Kansas, is grateful for all the blessings in his life (blessings that came surely because of his energy, tenacity, and positive attitude). He names as his three great passions: coaching athletes, the Writing for Publication classes, and music. His family—wife, two daughters, a son, and grandchildren—also give him much joy and pride in their accomplishments. At 81 years he deplores the aging that is diminishing his eyesight, but he's fighting back with his usual positive outlook.

Bud's energy, enthusiasm, and passion for writing so inspired his students that they have now sold over 3,000 articles and 110 books, earning over 3 million dollars. How privileged we have been by knowing him as a friend and having "the most inspirational writing coach in America" in our midst.

Say it Again, Only Better

Instead of

THINGS

Belongings

Property

Tools

Goods

Gear

Stuff

Instead of

SWEET

Attractive

Delicate

Elegant

Fetching

Pleasant

Tempting

Flash Fiction

*From two of our SSWC members—
guess who!*

Word count: 100

The prompt: *The story progresses and you realize that you, the writer, are the bad guy.*

The courtroom emptied, but he told me to stay.

He looked familiar but older—tall, stooped, greying hair, dark clothes. Everything about him was dark, especially his mood.

Struggling to ID him, thoughts rumbled through my mind until realization slammed into me. Had he paroled? Impossible. Escaped?

Eight years ago, I sentenced him to life without parole (LWOP) for murder.

“Turn off the lights.” Everything went dark, everything except the blinking light attached to the bricks of C-4 strapped to his chest.

My God! How did he find out I murdered his wife and planted the evidence that convicted him?

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The prompt: *A very old weary man handed me an extremely old book and stated, “I’m passing the responsibility on to you.” He then vanished.*

I was eating a cider donut under an apple tree when a weary old man handed me a dateless leather book, “I’m passing the responsibility to you.”

I looked at the book; he’d vanished. It read, The Rose of Turaida. The pages were blank. Surprised, I fanned the pages and a hologram appeared. It was Maija, the Rose, about to die at the hands of her abductor wielding an axe. I yelled “No.”

The abductor fled at the sound of my mysterious voice. She was saved and married her true love. The book disappeared leaving behind a Rose diamond, 6K.

# Three Ways to Keep Learning

## Elk Grove Writers Guild Registration

Elk Grove Writers Conference, 10/27/2018  
Holiday Inn - 9175 W. Stockton Blvd., Elk Grove  
7:30 am to 4:30 pm

**It's Time. REGISTER NOW! Space is Limited.**

The 2018 Elk Grove Writers Conference will be a winner.  
Admission is \$50.00 and includes continental breakfast and box lunch.  
You won't want to miss it.

Click here for details and registration <https://www.egwg.org/program>

### Advanced Writers Workshop

Do you know? There is a writing workshop before our monthly meeting.

Several of us have been discussing writing techniques that help get our information and stories told. We meet in the kitchen of the Friendship Hall at 6 p.m.—ending just before the start of the regular meeting.

We will be talking about Flash Fiction again. You are invited to write 100 words on one of the two topics ... or write 100 words each on both...?

Option 1 — A weary old man walks up to you and hands you a very worn old book. “I’m passing the responsibility to you,” he says. The next thing you know – he has vanished.

Option 2 — If you can’t remember my name, just say “chocolate” and I’ll turn around.

Get busy on your submission for SSWC’s 2019 anthology. The theme and title for this anthology is

***Other People, Other Places, Other Times.***

We look forward to seeing your best work.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the committee members:

Eva Wise, Ron Smith, Cathy McGreevy, Mort Rumberg, Wes Turner, or Mary Lou Anderson.

# FLASH JUST IN

**Don't miss**

## Social Media / Websites / Blogs Workshop

The workshops are going well and have been full of useful and important information. Brittany has agreed to hold another one, and Mondays seem to be working fine.

Our next session will be held on  
Monday, October 22,  
at Mary Lou's house  
and will start at 6:30 p.m.

We try hard to finish by nine since many people have to work the next day.

So, pack your computer, have \$10 in hand, and come ready to work on setting up your own website, even if it's a free practice one.

More info about getting something set up will be sent to those who preregister (please). If you plan to attend, please contact Mary Lou and put SSWC Social Media in the subject line.

[mledsonanderson@yahoo.com](mailto:mledsonanderson@yahoo.com)

## 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        | Mary Lou Anderson |
| 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](mailto: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](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: \_\_\_\_\_