

November, 2018



# Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

[sactowriters.org](http://sactowriters.org)

**Brittany Lord will be our speaker for Monday, November 12, 2018**

## BODY LANGUAGE

Body language is one of the best ways to show both a character's personality and mood. With just a few extra words, you can turn a bland sentence into something powerful and moving. It doesn't take much—just a few extra words. At the November meeting, our very own Brittany will give you some tips and tricks for using effective body language in your stories.

Brittany "Tealya" Lord has been writing stories since she was two years old when she created her first story with scribbles and read it to her mother. Since then, she has spent all her free time trying to perfect the art of story telling both the written form and pictures. She hates the word "said," so she has forced herself to perfect the art of using body language instead of dialogue tags and tries to share her experience as much as she can. Her first book, *Kithryn Mythrin*, is available through [Smashwords.com](http://Smashwords.com). You can also view some of her artistic work at <https://www.deviantart.com/tealya>



## SSWC ELECTIONS

Yes, it's that time of year again — not just city, county, state, and national elections ... it's time for our club to consider who will help lead the club into the future. And we don't use dirty politics and nasty campaign ads.

Are you willing to help out? The "work" is not difficult, and if it's divided amongst many members, it's down-right easy. Think how great Prez, Vice-Prez, Secretary, or Treasurer will look on your author site.

Throw your hat into the ring (forgive the cliché, please) and run for office.

Check this newsletter's last page for all the possible ways you can help, and let a current board member know you are ready and willing. (sorry, another cliché!).

## Workshop

Cathy McGreevy will share tips she learned at a recent writers conference.

## Anthology

Anthology  
Anthology

Reminder — write and submit your story, poem, and/or article for the next anthology — up to 5000 words.

*Other People, Other Places,  
Other Times.*

## Future meeting dates:

December 10 will be our annual Holiday Potluck. Be sure to sign up to read at the meeting. Also, please sign up for the food you'd prefer to bring. Plan to have a lot of fun getting to know your fellow members better.

Meetings : 2nd Monday. 7—9 p.m. 5501 Dewey Drive, Sacramento [sactowriters.org](http://sactowriters.org)



## Advanced Writing Techniques

Do you know that there is a writing workshop before our monthly meeting?

Several members meet to discuss writing techniques. We meet in the kitchen of the Friendship Hall at 6 pm — ending just before the start of the regular meeting.

Our topic for discussion in November is Starting Your Novel.

Do a bit of research, take some notes, jot some questions down, and come ready to discuss — or just listen to others' ideas and techniques on how to start a story that will grab the readers' attention.

This is not a critique session. It is 100% support, information, and learning to be better writers.

Flash fiction prompts are on page 3 of this newsletter.

## Volunteers for Club

Our club needs volunteers. There aren't many responsibilities with any one of them, and if someone takes over one position, the work is light for everyone.

Maybe what we really need is a volunteer member to ask members to volunteer.



The following is from Writers-Editors Network, Dana Cassell, Editor, Issue 234, October 9, 2018.

Mort Rumberg submitted it to share with our members and readers.

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### Links of Interest

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**Grammar Book's 16 Comma Rules.** Think you know all there is about commas - think again. This site is wonderful in it's knowledge base. Not just about commas but all things grammar.

<http://www.grammarbook.com/punctuation/commas.asp>

**Get More Done: The Complete Introduction to Task Management (PDF).** An excellent presentation of the task management processes. Great for one, or multiple, tasks.

<http://bit.ly/2h6BRVX>

**Writer's Block Cure: 100 Resources To Never Run Out of Ideas.** Here's a great way to overcome the sudden darkness at the end of the tunnel. Excellent ways to deal with it.

<https://mirasee.com/blog/writers-block-blog-post-ideas/>

**If you create social media video content for clients or your own business – free tools.** Who can't use social video media? Check out what's available.

<https://www.digginet.com/13-free-tools-to-create-video-content-for-social-media/>

## 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. Also, share info about other meetings, contests, books, book signings, classes, etc.

Please keep the submission relatively short, otherwise we'll have to serialize it. Also, please 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.

Contact Mary Lou Anderson (916) 459-0888 or [mledsonanderson@yahoo.com](mailto:mledsonanderson@yahoo.com)

Deadline is about two (2) weeks prior to the meeting date.

THE POWER OF  
*Writing*

**FLASH FICTION**

*Flash Fiction* limits the number of words, usually under 2000. It *sounds* easy since the stories are so short (we've been limiting ours to exactly 100 words), but since the submission must include hints of a longer story with actual characters and a plot, it is a difficult matter to master.

It has been described as part poetry, part narrative, since it must use the best possible words to convey the message, the emotion, the plot, the characters.

Flash fiction helps the writer write more concisely, limiting adjectives and adverbs and encouraging use of more active verbs and clearer nouns.

Enhanced by the  
Power of Writing  
*Well!*



This piece of *flash fiction* was submitted by Mike Brandt. Please note it is *under* 100 words.

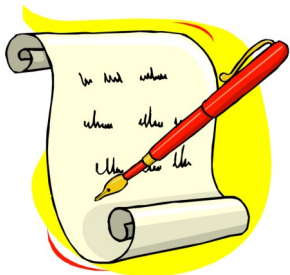
**Chasing Papa**

Rue Descartes, No. 39, Paris, France – to be exact. A marble plaque on an outside wall caught my attention, *Ernest and Hadley Hemingway lived here from 1921 to 1925*. Suddenly, a bolt of lightning hit me: “Papa, YOU BASTARD!”

Thoughts raced through my mind, SIXTY YEARS since I first read *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*. I've chased your stories around the world from East Africa to Cuba, Paris and Key West. I've climbed Kilimanjaro, on safari in Africa, ran with the bulls, and walked the streets of Havana as you did so many years past. What a captivating impact and adventure!

**Flash Fiction Prompts**

**for November's Advanced Writers' Techniques Meeting**  
Suggested by Brittany Lord



1. Start the story with a character being pulled from a car.
2. She wanted me to break it.

Use either one of the above prompts to write a 100-word story. Or, better yet, write two 100-word stories using each of the prompts. Even BEST, write more than one story for each of the prompts.

Doing this is great practice for limiting words, eliminating adverbs and adjectives, using active verbs, and setting the idea of a story out for the readers.

It's fun. It's easy. It's hard work. It's all of the above.

And best idea of all: submit your favorite to the newsletter for publication for that warm, fuzzy feeling of being published.

**JOIN US AT 6 pm ON NOVEMBER 12 AND SHARE  
YOUR FLASH FICTION STORY.**

This is from the upcoming *Grammar Guardian's Critique Group Survival Guide*. Members of SSWC critique groups might like to have this page to use with new members and not have to wait for publication.

## **Critique Group Submission Guidelines**

*Copy this page and give it to the new member(s).*

Our critique group meets \_\_\_\_\_ (once a month, twice a month, etc.)

Our next meeting is scheduled for \_\_\_\_\_.

The time we meet is from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

The location of our meetings is: \_\_\_\_\_.

(At a local meeting place [library, coffee house] or rotated among the members' homes).

Review your submission several times before sending it. Your submission should be as nearly correct as you can make it. Reading it aloud helps.

Email your work to members a week or ten days before our next meeting.

Submit up to \_\_\_\_\_ words. (Maximum of 4000 to 6000 is suggested).

Submit new material each meeting. The entire manuscript can be reviewed after you have completed the work and have made all the corrections.

Set up your work:

Use 12 pt., Times New Roman (or similar) font

1½ or double space

1-inch margins (approximately)

Number the lines.

Indent paragraphs (no extra lines or spaces between paragraphs).

Do not start chapters on a new (separate) page. Save paper.

Leave enough "white space" so everyone can make notes.

Copy and save your submission in a separate file before emailing.

If you cannot make it to a meeting, please email the other members and let them know. Perhaps a new date can be set. Contact information is on the other side of this paper.

Other info: \_\_\_\_\_

Current members: write your name, phone number, and email address on the back. Be sure to get the new member's email address too.

Writing is hard. Writing well is harder.

Participating in a critique group, listening to their suggestions,  
then editing, deleting, re-writing, correcting, re-reading,  
re-writing and re-writing again, then finishing with the  
best possible story is fantastic. Priceless, even.

(This is what I keep telling myself!)

## OFFICERS

### Elected Officers:

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

### Chairs:

Achievement	Mary Lou Anderson
Coffee/Treats	
Critique Groups	Brittany Lord
Directory	
Historian	Pat Biasotti
Librarian	Ron Smith
Membership	Jeannie Turner
Newsletter	Mary Lou Anderson
Nominations	
Programs	David & Christine Stein
Publicity	<b>You???</b>
Raffle	Mort Rumberg
Sunshine	
Website	Wes Turner
Workshops	Mary Lou Anderson

**December meeting is the potluck.**  
Sign up at the November meeting for what dish you will bring to share.

## Welcome to our New Member

Antoine J. Bastien van der Meer joined SSWC last month. He has already completed a book and is in the process of editing it.

If you get a chance at the next meeting, introduce yourself. Chat with him about his writing and about yours. That's what networking is all about.

## Raffle Prizes

**If you have something you'd like to get rid of (gifts from in-laws, a hand-me-down...), why not bring it to the next meeting for the Raffle Table?**

**It's the ultimate in recycling.**

**And remember, the money from the raffle goes toward our scholarship fund — a good cause.**



## Learning Website Development

There is one more workshop planned for this year — the Monday after Thanksgiving, November 26. We meet at Mary Lou's house at 6:30.

Always included are some hints at social media that will help promote your creations — whether they are the written word or other forms of art.

Email or call Mary Lou Anderson if you want to save a place for you.

## MEETING INFORMATION:

2nd Monday of every month  
**7:00 - 9:00 PM**

**November 12**  
**December 10—Potluck**

*All writers are encouraged to attend. Membership is not mandatory but brings privileges.*

