

December, 2018

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

<http://sactowriters.org>

SSWC Christmas Potluck

5501 Dewey Drive
Fair Oaks

Come for food, fellowship, fun!

7 p.m. Monday, December 10

Next meeting—Annual Potluck

Monday, December 10, 2018

Bring a spouse, significant other, friend, fellow writer

Also bring some food and/or drinks to share.

This is held at our regular meeting place in the Fellowship Hall.

We will have tables set up and will provide plates, cups, plastic utensils, napkins.

Entertainment will include readings by several club members.

We could even try some Karaoke. C'mon. Why not? Holiday songs. Christmas carols.

Everyone is invited. Everyone is welcome. Just whip something up (or stop by a store) and come.



Future meeting dates:

Monday, December 10, 2018

No workshop—just food, fun, and friends.

January 14, 2019—Speaker: Cheryl Stapp, a writer of nonfiction California history. Her subject will be Research

Meetings 7—9 p.m. 5501 Dewey Drive, Fair Oaks

<http://sactowriters.org>

Santa's Mailbag

Dear Fat Man in the Red PJs,

Let's cut to the chase. This is the third year in a row I've asked for a Maserati and the third year that you've not complied. I've tried asking nicely, got a little hot under the collar, even threatened you with a hint or two to Mrs. Claus about your wayward ways.

So, I thought it would be in-keeping with our escalating behaviors to let you know just what I plan to do—send a little note to Mrs. Claus—but this time I'll really do it, not simply threaten.

Here's the deal. Get me the car, and we move back to square one and part friends. Otherwise, we are approaching the point of no return. And don't give me that naughty or nice stuff ... just do it.

In case you think I'm not serious, here's what I plan to send to your better half if what I want isn't under my tree this Xmas.



Dear Mrs. Claus,

I want you to know I am in contact with a “jolly” guy named S. Claus, or Nick, as he seems to prefer. Being pretty good at tracing people (I do a lot of genealogy), I believe you are Nick's mate...or ex-mate as he claims. I want to be transparent about this and make sure you two are no longer together before entering the picture. Here is my response to him from his ad on HotLove.com:



Dear Nick,

I liked your description of yourself on HL.com as being “a real saint” — I am so tired of guys trying to seem cool, you know... bad boy types. You sound fun, and I could use someone more cheery and jolly in my life right now. And no, “jolly” is not a crack about your size — I like the cuddly type. But from your picture on the website, I think HWP (height and weight proportional) is pushing it a little, no? The picture was a little fuzzy though, so an in-focus one would be nice, and is that some sort of wagon?

I do love it that you were brave enough to wear red at your size. Also, Nick — mid-50s? Really? With that beard? I like that you added you are really ageless — that was cute. You do sound sweet, generous, and kind of worldly... and I do think we might have a lot in common. Can we get together and see how compatible we truly are?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely, Madam X

Got it, heavy set? You do realize how tenuous your position is, right? So get with it, and put this thing to a smooth and easy end.

M.M. Rumberg

Unassumingly Modest, Award Winning, World-Famous author



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, send pictures of original art that lets members know you can do book covers. Please share info about other meetings, contests, books, book signings, classes, etc.

Please keep the submission relatively short, otherwise it may be serialized. Also, please submit electronically; include “SSWC Newsletter” in the subject line. There is no pay but byline credit is given — and that looks good to agents and publishers. This is a benefit of being an SSWC member.

Contact Mary Lou Anderson (916) 459-0888

mledsonanderson@yahoo.com

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

Dues

Jeannie Turner

The New Year is coming! The New Year is coming!
 I hope you have paid up your dues.
 Now if you remember to pay in December
 You'll find there is really good news.

'Cause you'll win a prize that will light up your eyes.
 It's certainly something quite dandy.
 And—this is great news—it's something you'll use.
 (Just kidding - it's only some candy.)

You'll find if you wait and pay your dues late
 (You don't want to be in that line),
 'Twill cost you some more when you come thru our door -
 After Jan. there might be a fine!

It's really just money, so pay up now, honey,
 And get this all out of the way.
 Your mind will be clear as you start the new year,
 And you can enjoy each new day.

Websites and Social Media Workshop

Writers need to get their names out there.
 Writers need to promote their skills and their writing.

It's some of the hardest things to do since writers are notoriously independent workers.

To help fight that tendency (or is it a genetic mutation?) we plan to hold more workshops on developing and maintaining your own website and participating in social media.

With all the business of the holidays, we decided to postpone the next meeting until January. (We do ask for a \$10 donation to cover the cost of the projector.)

If you are interested, please contact Brittany (texts?) or Mary Lou (email or phone call 916-459-088). Our other contact information is listed in the directory.

Raffle—Volunteer “Job” :

Pretty Self Explanatory

Mort Rumberg



The job is pretty self-explanatory: Arrange the items on the tables and endeavor to sell raffle tickets, the proceeds going to the scholarship fund.

Since you store the items until the next meeting, you are free to read all the books and bring them in when you are finished.

The only thing you have to remember, which I continually mangle, is 1 ticket = \$1; 5 tickets = \$3; 10 tickets = \$5. Also, each guest gets one free ticket. That's it.

If you can remember that, you are eligible to be the Raffle guy ... or gal.

A Writer's Advice

Jeannie Turner

“The last line first,” was her advice.
 That's the only way to write.”
 So, I thought well! I should begin,
 I'll start right in tonight.

The last line first should help me know
 Which way that I should go,
 And help me keep myself on track,
 And maybe not go slow.

But if I don't know where I'm from,
 Can I get to the end?
 If I just start to write pell mell,
 What message will I send?

If I *don't* use that *last line first*,
 And write just really fast,
 When I find out how it turns out,
 I'll write the first line last!

Thick Skins Necessary for Writers?

Article on Thick Skins for Writers

Rachelle Gardner - www.rachellegardner.com

<https://www.communicatoracademy.com/2018/06/20/do-writers-need-thick-skin-how-to-take-criticism/>

I've been told I need to develop thick skin too. However, I have a confession:

I don't have thick skin.

Not at all. I have a fragile heart, I take things personally, and I don't just bounce back right away when I receive criticism.

I truly appreciate helpful critiques of my work, or advice on how to improve any area of my life. I crave it. I value the input of others. Yet at the same time, if it's not always positive, I have a hard time getting over the hurt feelings (or the knee-jerk angry reaction) and moving on to actually learning from the criticism. I imagine I'm not the only one.

The reason I'm telling you this is because I know people are telling you "develop thick skin" and I know some of you are thinking, "I don't know how to do that." And I'm here to tell you: Some of you will *never* develop a thick skin.

But the important thing is: ***You'll survive.***

When you're criticized or rejected or you receive negative reviews, it will hurt – it may pierce your heart, but you'll survive. You survive by first, allowing yourself to experience the pain. You find ways to express it in a healthy way, perhaps by taking a day to cry, or talking it over with your best friend, or calling your mom because she's the one person who always supports you no matter what.

Then, you turn it around. You ask yourself if the criticism came from someone to whom you should listen. If the answer is yes, then you begin looking for ways to learn from what they said. You ask yourself whether you disagree or agree with what they said. (You give yourself permission to disagree with at least part of it.)

Then you take what you can learn from it, and discard the rest. Move on to the next thing.

Easier said than done, of course. And I admit, it sometimes takes me awhile to work through this process!

Thick Skin?



Used with Rachelle Gardner's permission - she was really nice and responded very quickly

OFFICERS

Elected Officers:

- President **You???**
- Vice President **You???**
- Secretary **You???**
- Treasurer **David**

Elections on Monday, December 10

Chairs:

- Achievement **You???**
- Coffee/Treats Al Gilding
- Critique Groups Brittany Lord
- Historian Pat Biasotti
- Librarian Ron Smith
- Membership Jeannie Turner
- Newsletter Mary Lou or **You???**
- Nominations **You???**
- Program/Speakers David & Christine Stein
- Publicity **You???**
- Raffle **You???**
- Sunshine Nan Roark
- Website Wes Turner
- Workshops **You ???**



And you thought the elections were behind us ... Well, the national ones are, but Monday we'll be voting for club officers. Be sure to be there.

Elections for Board Members

This club runs on volunteers—no paid positions, no tax deductions (durn), no paid vacations (double durn), but lots of other members saying “Thank You.”

Help the club succeed by looking over the list of positions open and add your name to the list. Or, simply say you’ll take over some of the responsibilities and help the club.

Anthology

Be sure to write, polish, then send in your story, poem, or artwork for our next anthology.

We have received the first submission. Will you be submitting yours soon?

Remember—the subject is pretty open — *Other People, Other Places, Other Times.*

Send your submission to Ron, Wes, Mort, Cathy, or Mary Lou. Easier yet, send it to: anthology@sactowriters.org

Motivation Writing Prompt

You pass a bus stop every day. A nice baby stroller has been there every day this week. You’ve reported it, but it’s still there.

There are blankets and a couple of toys inside, and everything’s wet from the rain yesterday.

Who left it? Why? Why hasn’t it been claimed yet? Or even, why hasn’t anyone stolen it?



MEETING INFORMATION:

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

Next meeting:
POTLUCK

Monday, December 12

Bring something to share for dinner.

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

**5501 Dewey Drive, Fair Oaks
Crossroads Christian Church—
Fellowship meeting room
Just north of the Madison and Dewey
intersection.
Lots of parking!**

