

January, 2019

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

<http://www.sactowriters.org/>

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!
Wow, it's 2019 already!

Cheryl Anne Stapp will speak at our January 14 meeting. Her topic — Research

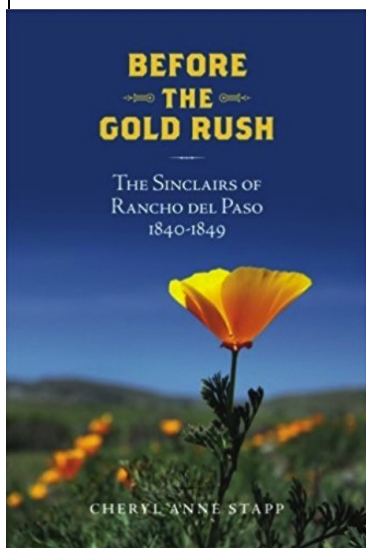
All writers need to do some research sometime. At our January 14 meeting, Cheryl Anne Stapp will talk to us about the importance of doing it right, no matter your genre.

Cheryl writes nonfiction California history, a passion that requires a tremendous amount of research. She is the author of *Rise, Ruin & Restoration – A History of Sutter's Fort* (2018); award-winning *Before The Gold Rush – The Sinclairs of Rancho del Paso 1840-1849* (2017); award-winning *Disaster & Triumph: Sacramento Women, Gold Rush Through the Civil War* (2012); *Sacramento Chronicles - A Golden Past* (2013); and *The Stagecoach in Northern California: Rough Rides, Gold Camps, and Daring Drivers* (2014).

The last two titles were published by the prestigious History Press, now merged with Arcadia Books.

Cheryl has a special interest in pioneer women, and frequently lectures on this topic to historical societies and women's organizations. She lives with her husband in Sacramento—in bygone days an important Gold Rush town, and the largest staging center in the nation.

She is a volunteer docent at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, and a past vice-president of California Writers Club, Sacramento. She invites you to learn more about California history by visiting her website "California's Olden Golden Days" at <http://cherylannestapp.com/>.



Future meeting dates: January 14
February 11
March 11

January Workshop: Mike Brandt will present information on Author Interview tips.

Meetings 7—9 p.m. 5501 Dewey Drive, Fair Oaks, CA
<http://www.sactowriters.org/>

The following material was provided by Mort Rumberg, a faithful and consistent contributor to *Suburban Scribe*.

Everything is from Writers-Editors Network eZine, Issue 235, WEN eZine Quick Tips, December 27, 2018:

Writers-Editors Network eZine is Copyright CNW Publishing Inc., 2018.

Please feel free to forward this eZine to others, and invite them to visit <https://www.Writers-Editors.com> to sign up for their own copies.

Printable calendars for your 2019 planning and tracking

<https://www.printable2019calendars.com/>

This is a printable site – you can download both the PDF and Word formats for no cost.

15 Grammar Goofs That Make You Look Silly - well worth a review

<https://www.copyblogger.com/grammar-goofs/>

This is a free Kindle download and everyone wants freebies, but I don't know for how long:

“How to Sell Without Selling: Step-By-Step Marketing Formula to Attract Ready-to-Buy Clients”

<https://amzn.to/2SkRSKw>

by Terry Dean, a highly-respected marketing consultant

Download Your 2019 Blog Planner - free with your email. Here's a solid way to plan your blog.

<https://blogenergizer.com/>

20 Editing Tips from Professional Writers - free with your email. An excellent free download.

<https://prowritingaid.com/en/Landing/Ebook>

Source:

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

The Nine Steps to Writing the Novel

Cle' Curbo
aka L. Paul Turner

These steps require the writer to revisit the manuscript many times. Thus, it is advisable to become what I call the parent-editor. In this state of mind, you don't need to kill your darlings, just remove them from the story. Of course, there are the rare exceptions, but these can remain in the story only if they truly contribute to it naturally, without destroying continuity, story-line, or breaking the fourth wall. Learn to love being the parent-editor of your wonder child novel.

These steps do not tell a writer how to come up with an idea for a story; that is a completely different topic about which many books have been written.



Step 1

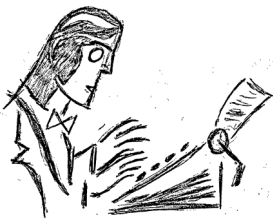
Create the story in rough draft.

Write the story as completely as you can with the end in mind. This creation can be an outline with as many elements, twists and turns, mysteries, and foreshadowing as you can reasonably muster.

Step 2

Flesh out the story to connect the scenes.

The writer may overwrite at this stage, adding side scenes, and way too much information and dialogue. Just remember to not give away the plot too early.



Step 3

- a) Add any foreshadows and red herrings that seem appropriate.
- b) Make sure bad guys win for much of the book, perhaps at least through two-thirds of the story. During this time, the main character gets into deeper and deeper problems.

Step 4

Start including plausible explanations and successes .

At the climax, or major turning point (some may call it the realization scene, or the transformative scene), the tables begin to turn, and the hero is sufficiently aware of problems and possible solutions to start winning, and to begin correcting past wrongs, and preventing future problems. This last one-third, or one-quarter of the book is the point where the reader has reached maximum and final tolerance with the problems that beset the main character. Here, the reader needs something more than clues, temporary rest points, comic reliefs, and small victories for the hero. The reader knows the situation and wants action to carry the hero through. At this point, plausible explanations and successes are an acceptable substitute for tight logic and sensible, and even for sensical accuracies.

Step 5

Trim unnecessary content.

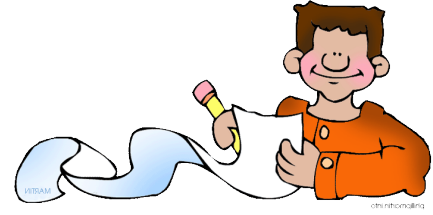
Polish ordinary foreshadows. For example, a conversation between two opposing characters can reveal something to the main character, and complete that character's plan. A plan is an example of a foreshadow.

(Continued on page 4)

(The Nine Steps to Writing the Novel—Continued from page 3)

Step 6

Set the book aside for at least one month, maybe two.



Step 7

After one or two months, read the manuscript for pleasure, and cast away the excess. This means the writer must eliminate information given at the wrong time, or to the wrong person. It means shortening sentences, and paragraphs, and making them pull the reader along to the next paragraph.

Step 8

Hand the manuscript to a non-friend, to professional editors, to an agent, and to reviewers you trust, who will later give you a blurb for marketing.

Step 9

Review and revise the manuscript according to the advice that makes sense to you and the story, then send it back to the group in Step 8. When it gets back to you, read it again, and change a few items in the manuscript, if necessary, or simply abandon the story and have your agent send it around for publication, or publish it yourself.

Critiques? Ouch!

This quote was found while looking for something completely unrelated. Serendipity happens.

Critique is never personal. When sane and healthy writers critique one another, they do it to help. The goal is to show what did and did not work; it's not a statement of personal worth.

However, when our written darlings are critiqued, we as writers tend to feel like we've been stabbed.

It is from the website: <https://thewritepractice.com>



Grammar Guardian

Lie or Lay?

You can lie, but you're not being honest.

You can lie down, but you cannot *lay* down.

Hens can lay eggs. You can lay your book on the table. You can lay yourself down to sleep, and when you do, you lie down.



OFFICERS

Elected Officers:

President	Ron Smith
Vice President	Brittany Lord
Secretary	???
Treasurer	David Stein

Chairs:

Achievement	Mary Lou Anderson
Coffee/Treats	Al Gilding
Critique Grps	Brittany Lord
Historian	Pat Biasotti
Librarian	Ron Smith
Membership	Jeannie Turner
Newsletter	Mary Lou Anderson
Nominations	You???
Prgm/Speakers	David & Christine
Publicity	You???
Raffle	You???
Sunshine	Nan Roark
Website	Wes Turner
Workshops	Paul Turner

Contests

Other prize-winning authors recommend all writers to enter as many contests as possible. Awards and recognition can help writers to get their names to the public, helping their success.

The *Poets & Writers* website lists contests for stories, poems, and other writings from January to March 15, 2019.

<https://www.pw.org/grants>

or

<https://www.pw.org/explore/tag/grants/9505>

Check out this site featuring the article:

Kazuo Ishiguro: How I wrote *The Remains of the Day* in four weeks

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2014/dec/06/kazuo-ishiguro-the-remains-of-the-day-guardian-book-club>

Sent to the newsletter by Robin Robinson

Words are animals alive with a will of their own.

~Carl Jung.

Motivation Writing Prompt

They landed and you tried really hard to be there in time, but ... / and

Why?

Who?

Purpose?

Result?



MEETING INFORMATION:

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

Next meeting:

Monday, January 14

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!