

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

sactowriters.org

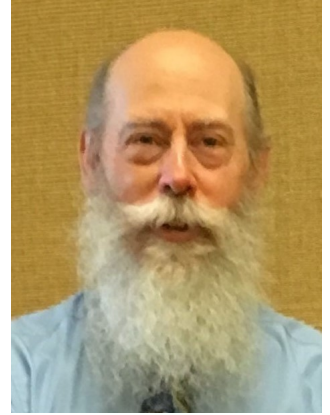
February 11 Speaker — Wes Turner

Got a great idea and want to see it in a book but don't know what's involved in getting it there?

Wes Turner's presentation on **From First Idea to Printed Book** will touch on many of the relevant steps required before you can see your idea shared with the world at large. There are numerous tasks required to complete the process—several of which can be done by the author, but there are a few that require a level of expertise most authors don't have.

You need to decide when you can afford the time to do it yourself, and when you should really pay someone else to do it. (And even if you *are* an expert, a second set of eyes is always helpful.) Different levels of editing are needed at different points in the sequence, an artistic ability is needed with graphics instead of words, and tedious jobs should be handed off to someone with an eye for detail. Though all the various functions are needed to achieve a creation that the author can be proud of, the division of labour is up to you. Understanding what is involved will make the journey at least predictable if not altogether pleasant.

Having been raised by a pair of school teachers, Westley had his early life inundated with knowledge, both that which he desired and that which was absorbed without his awareness. His first career was focused on maths and computer science, but when that field dried up, he returned to school to complete his degree, this time focusing on more creative endeavours, finding that his absorbed knowledge helped tremendously. Wanting to help others as they helped him, he became an editor of stories, of books, of encyclopaedias, which led him into more investigation of the printed word. Learning by doing, he formatted and laid out a non-fiction book which sold out its first printing the weekend it was released. Now branching out into typography and audio books, he will never run out of challenges, wanting to learn how to do it all himself.



Contests? Writing Contests?

Mort Rumberg let us in on three sites that might be of interest to authors who want to enter writing contests:

<https://www.pw.org> (Poets and Writers magazine)

<http://fundsforwriters.com> (Funds for Writers)

<http://www.newspaper.com/classifieds/big-list-of-writing-contests> (New Pages)

Future meeting dates:

February 11
March 11
April 8

February's 15-Min. Workshop: "Problems Writers Contend With" (?? With Which They Must Contend??) and maybe some solutions to consider.

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

Short-Short Story
Mike Brandt

The Night the Lights Went Out in Paris

Audrey and I planned our trip to Paris to photograph the fireworks behind the Eiffel Tower on New Year's Eve deciding that this would be a great way to bring in 2019. We scratched Sydney, and off we went to Paris landing at Charles de Gaulle International Airport. We checked into our hotel and asked the all-important question, "Where would we find the best place to take pictures of the fireworks behind the Eiffel Tower on New Year's Eve?" The concierge stopped short of panic, eyes big as saucers, "There are no fireworks on New Year's Eve at the Eiffel Tower!"

This is a true story. Mike

AND...we celebrated by taking pictures of the fireworks behind the Arc de Triomphe.



Mort Rumberg sent this information:

Ever wonder if your email and passwords have been stolen? With all the recent security breaches, there is a very good chance they have. Check this free site for an update.



[https://
www.howtogeek.com/343947/
how-to-check-if-your-password-has-
been-stolen/](https://www.howtogeek.com/343947/how-to-check-if-your-password-has-been-stolen/)

City of Sacramento Hart Senior Center
ANNUAL OUR LIFE STORIES CONFERENCE:
REVEALING THE TAPESTRY OF OUR LIFE STORIES

Saturday, April 13th from 9am to 4pm with registration. Fee — \$35

The annual Our Life Stories Cross Generational Writers' Conference will be held Saturday, April 13 at Cosumnes River College 9am to 4pm.

The day-long event, now in its twelfth year, is a product of Hart Center's Life History Writing program.

Attendees will enjoy workshop sessions led by celebrated authors sharing their wisdom and guiding attendees through exercises that explore the craft of memoir writing.

A delicious lunch is included mid-day.

915 27th Street Sacramento, CA 95816 Contact Us (916) 808-5462

Our Life Stories conference and registration information and forms are available at the Hart Senior Center front desk or at: www.OurLifeStories.org. All are welcome!

SSWC NEWSLETTER 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.

Circles in the Air

Jeannie Turner

“Ciggy Smokes,” she called them,
That little girl just three.
And they were oh, so grownup!
“That’s how I want to be!”

Her mother could blow smoke rings,
And they’d go round and round.
They always floated up so high
And never touched the ground.

It looked like they were magic,
“Oh, they’d be so much fun.
If I could have a Ciggy Smoke
I’d blow the bestest one.”

A few years passed by quickly.
Soon she was almost eight,
And now the years were fewer
That she would have to wait.

They went to visit Grandma,
The mother and the child.
And if a person smoked there
It drove the Grandma wild.

The mother said to Grandma
“My girl has been so good,
I want to buy her ice cream.
I promised her I would.”

They put their pretty clothes on
To go down to the town
Because to not dress proper
Would make all people frown.

And then the child saw mother,
With Ciggy Smokes in hand,
Just stick them in her bosom.
But still she looked so grand.

They went down to the drugstore.
They sat there in their booth.
The child, she ate her ice cream,
But now she knew the truth.

The Ciggy Smokes weren’t “grown-up.”
The Ciggy Smokes were bad.
The mother shouldn’t smoke them
If it made the Grandma mad.

So little girl decided,
Right that very day,
That she no more desired them.
Not even in her play.

PS
The little girl grew up fast.
Soon high school was in view.
And Grandma said, “I’ve something
Special just for you.

“If you get through your high school,
And never, never smoke,
I’ll buy for you a wristwatch.
And this is not a joke.”

In those days, let me tell you,
It was extremely rare
To find a lot of people
With clocks that they could wear.

And so the child, a smart one,
When High School years went by,
Accepted it from grandma
And never blinked an eye.

And Grandma still is thinking
She saved the child from sin,
Not knowing *that* child never,
Never *would* have given in.

For thinking of her mother,
Hiding Ciggies in her bra,
Deceiving *her* own mother,
Was the worst she ever saw.

She knew she’d never do it,
Make those circles in the air,
And oh, they were so pretty.
But now she didn’t care.

SSWC Anthology Guidelines

Don't put off submitting your writing or artistic masterpiece much longer. SSWC's deadline for submissions to the club's fourth anthology is coming up fast.

Only manuscripts from SSWC members will be considered.

Submissions are accepted now through **February 11, 2019**.

All work must be original, unpublished, and your own personal work.

No excessive violence or sex.

All submitted material must be "clean" — error free, "polished" via critique group(s), and "submission ready" as if sending it to a publisher ... because you *are* sending it to a publisher. Too many errors and the submission(s) will be returned.

If time permits, submission(s) may be re-entered after corrections, edits, and another critique group review are completed.

All submissions must be within the specified theme: *Other People, Other Places, Other Times* (any one of the three — all submissions do not have to be the same theme) .

The anthology committee will not provide editing of your submissions.

Stories:

Fiction or non-fiction

Limit of three (3) story submissions

Complete story (not an excerpt)

Only one can be up to 5,000 words

Other two are limited to 2,000 words each

Poems:

Limit of five (5) poems

Maximum of 50 lines each

Rhymed, metered, or free verse

Art:

Any medium

Limited to five (5) submissions electronically submitted in high resolution (photo of art)

Will be included in anthology as a black and white photo

Include with your submission(s):

Head shot (2" x 3" jpeg) in high resolution

Bio – 150-200 words

Payment of \$12 (per author – total) to cover the cost of publication

More information is available at our club's website: sactowriters.org

An opportunity from our “Sister Club” — NCPA’s 25th Book Awards Competition

If you published in 2018, you are invited to submit a book to Northern California Publishers and Authors club’s book contest. The last day to enter is Friday, February 15. You do not need to be a member of NCPA to enter your book.

The Book contest is open to members and nonmembers.

Accepting all genres, all types publishing, including eBooks (new this year)

NCPA member \$65/ book (includes one banquet ticket)

Non-member \$95/ book (includes one banquet ticket)

Banquet ticket only, \$30 per person ~ Everyone welcome

NCPA membership \$40/year.

If you published any book(s) in 2018 but haven't submitted to the NCPA Book Awards, now's the time to do so! Deadline in just two weeks — February 15.

It's simple ~

go to the NCPA website ... norcalpa.org

click on the blue strip in the center of the home page where it says "Applications are now being accepted..."

follow the instructions: they're explicit and easy to follow, including where and how to pay.

GOOD LUCK!

Everyone is invited to their banquet on April 14 where the winners will be announced. The Keynote Speaker is Dierdre Honnold Wolownick, the mother of Alex Honnold (National Geographic's 2019 Academy Award Nominated Documentary Film "Free Solo." This is about Alex, the only person to climb Yosemite's El Capitan without the use of ropes or other tools ... only his fingers and toes.) Ashley Williams from Good Day Sacramento (CW31) will be the Emcee, and Frances Kakugawa will be there with her Poetry. Time: 5pm-9pm at the Cherry Island Golf Course in Elverta, CA.

Funds from our Silent Auction will go to the Mustard Seed School.

We'd love to hit 40 entries this year, our 25th Anniversary!

If you have any questions, call Norma Thorton at 916-991-5751 for information.

Poetry Slam — FREE!

The Elk Grove Arts Commission is sponsoring a Poetry Slam on March 10 from 2—5 p.m.

This will be held at the Dreaming Dog Brewery, 2501 W. Taron Court, Elk Grove.

Hurry — space is limited Contact Loy Holder at loyholder77@gmail.com or
Nan Mahon at nanosecond@comcast.net

Bloopers

From the book: *Spot the Blooper* by Dr. Guffey and Professor Seefer

Christine Stein found these examples of really great bloopers. She added: “I think I **emphasized** all the bloopers, but I did not get my degree in English.”

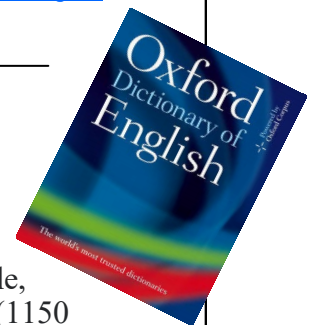
I thing she did really well finding them.

- Blooper 1: Statements that appeared in résumés sent to Robert Half International, the world’s largest accounting and finance staffing firm: “EDUCATION: Graduating this **Maybe**.” “WORK EXPERIENCE: My last employer **fried** me for no reason.” “OBJECTIVE: I’m looking for my big **brake**.” “EDUCATION: Earned a diploma from a very **repudiated** college.” And statements that appeared in cover letters: “I was instrumental in **ruining** the entire operation for a Midwest chain of stores.” “Here are my qualifications for you to **overlook**.” “Hope to hear from you **shorty**.”
- Blooper 2: Sign in a souvenir shop in York Beach [Maine]: “You **brake** it, you pay for it.”
- Blooper 3: In an e-mail message sent by a LinkedIn marketing expert: “Great discussions and tips are taking place **everyday** with over 10,000 members.”
- Blooper 4: In a summons from Santa Clara County to potential jurors: “You might not qualify for a jury if you do not read, **right**, or understand the English language.”
- Blooper 5: Letter to the editor of the San Francisco Chronicle: “**Me and my siblings** are not thugs and gangsters. We all have degrees and are doctors, technology workers, DNA researchers—the people who are defining the future.”
- Blooper 6: In a Washington Post article: “What drains out is an intensely sweet juice that is fermented into a pricey wine found on the **desert** lists of the finest restaurants.”
- Blooper 7: From the website of Ipsos, a company that conducts online consumer surveys: “Here are just a few highlights to **peak** your interest.”
- Blooper 8: In a column in The Denver Post, columnist Julia Martinez discussed a proposed history of Denver for which the city’s mayor “is supposed to write the **forward**.”
- Blooper 9: When the great American opera singer Beverly Sills died, The New York Times said that she made her debut in 1969 “at the most **scared** of all Italian opera houses, La Scala.”
- Blooper 10: An editorial in The New York Times about the state of the schools in Washington, DC: “The imbalance is particularly disturbing, given that the District’s children **fair** worse at school than children in other big cities.”

https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss_2?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=Seefer&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3ASeefer

Jeannie Turner sent in this bit of history:

On February 1, 1884, the first portion of the Oxford English Dictionary was published. Plans for the dictionary began in 1857 when members of London’s Philological Society, who believed there were no up-to-date, error-free English dictionaries available, decided to produce one that would cover all vocabulary from the Anglo-Saxon period (1150 A.D.) to the present.



OFFICERS

Elected Officers:

President	Ron Smith
Vice President	Brittany Lord
Secretary	Shery Cockerel
Treasurer	David Stein

Chairs:

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

What privileges come with membership?

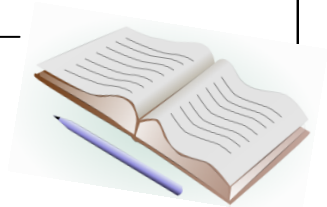
Monthly newsletter delivered to your email address.

Publication in the newsletter.

The right to submit to the anthology.

Ability to apply for grant money for conference attendance (member for 3 years, "in good standing," apply every 3 years to give others a chance, and as funds are available).

Book Signing Cathy McGreevy



Please support your fellow club member. Cathy McGreevy is having a book signing on Friday, February 8.

She says, "I would love to see you at my book signing at Face in a Book bookstore in El Dorado Hills.

"I will be one of two authors there, along with a tarot card reader. There will be delicious refreshments. Please drop by between 6:30 - 8 pm if you can make it!

"Hope to see you there."

Location — 4359 Town Center Blvd, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762 (Latrobe exit off the 50 freeway)

Motivation Writing Prompt

You meet someone from your past (or future) while visiting another country (or planet).

This prompt will cover all three topic areas for SSWC anthology: *Other People, Other Places, Other Times.*

So NOW is the time to get busy and write a few hundred (or thousand) words or a poem or paint a picture. Get creative; fiction or non-fiction will work.



MEETING INFORMATION:

2nd Monday of every month

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Next meeting:

Monday, February 11

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!