

June, 2019

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

sactowriters.org

Danita Moon is our speaker for Monday, June 10 She will talk about ways to promote books.

Danita is an assistant to NY Times bestselling novelist Brenda Novak. She does almost all of Ms. Novak's publicity and knows everything about how to market a best-seller.

She is an avid reader and loves to find new authors. Danita says, "I don't really have a favorite genre as I read pretty much all of them with the exception of erotica, urban fantasy, or non-fiction. I enjoy books that are a series — trilogies — or are tied together in some way."

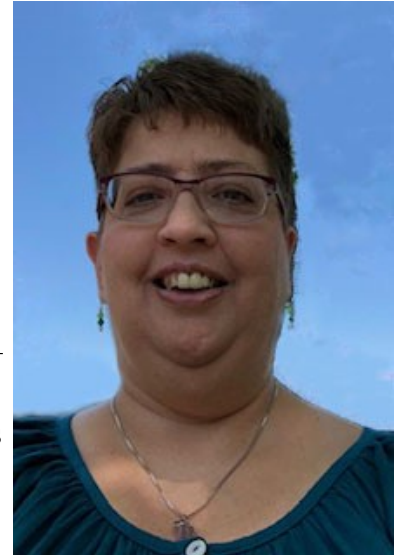
When she was younger, her favorite series, which she read numerous times, was *Little House On The Prairie* by Laura Ingalls Wilder. The longest book she's ever read was in college. It was called *The Death of a President* and was about John F. Kennedy's assassination. The book was over 1,000 pages long, and she adds that she finished it in less than 48 hours. "I read it for a paper I was writing for my history class and received an A+."

She says she now enjoys thrillers, romance suspense, contemporary romance and mystery. Her must-have authors are Brenda Novak and Christine Feehan. Other authors that she enjoys reading are Allison Brennan, James Patterson, J.T. Ellison, Karen Rose, Jonathan Kellerman, Kay Hooper, Mary Higgins Clark, Patricia Cornwell, Iris Johanson and Kathy Reichs.

Danita does volunteer work for New York Time Bestselling Author Brenda Novak. She lives in Antelope, CA. She is also a book blogger. Her review sites are:

[As You Wish Reviews](#)

[Over The Moon For Books Promotion, Reviews and More](#)



This quote is from the June edition of *Reader's Digest*. (Editor's note: Of course, I mentally related it to writing and critique groups.)

I've always been motivated more by negative comments than by positive ones. I know what I do well. Tell me what I don't do well.

Abby Wambach, American Athlete (retired soccer player, coach, two-time Olympic gold medalist and FIFA Women's World Cup champion)

15-Minute Workshop

June — Mort Rumberg — Plurals - A survey of plural usage.
July — See Paul Turner with your idea.

Future meeting dates:

Monday, June 10
Monday, July 8
Monday, August 12

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

sactowriters.org

SSWC Annual Banquet

Contributions from Jeannie Turner, Laura Kellen, and others.

May 13, 2019, was the night of our Annual Banquet. This year we held it at the historic and beautiful upstairs room at The Old Spaghetti Factory in Roseville.

The banquet was a success, with many members bringing their spouses, family members, grandchildren, and other guests. Twenty-one members, fourteen guests, and one new person attended.

Attendees enjoyed lasagna, chicken marsala, and mizithra cheese with browned butter. During the banquet, several members read their original pieces: Al Gilding read along with his granddaughter, McKenzie, Mort Rumberg, Brittany Lord, Jeannie Turner, Mike Brandt, and Karen Sepahmansour.



Mort Rumberg, Bob Greeley and his wife



Edric Cane and his wife



Mike Brandt reading his selection and Jeannie Turner ready to read hers next.



Julie Byers



The Old Spaghetti Factory banquet room.

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 it will have to be serialized. 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 mledsonanderson@yahoo.com
Deadline is about two (2) weeks prior to the meeting date.

Little Free Libraries

Laura Kellen

Do you want to go on a book adventure? Then check for a Little Free Library in your neighborhood!

Little Free Libraries are independently operated mini-libraries located in suburban areas. These weather-proofed library boxes are mounted on a post and usually prominently located in someone's front yard. The libraries operate on the "take a book, leave a book" principle.

Little Free Libraries, a non-profit organization, just celebrated their tenth anniversary this month. There are more than 80,000 registered Little Free Libraries in 91 countries, which have shared a total of 120+ million books.

To find a Little Free Library near you, click here: <https://littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap/>



Little Free Library located near the C.H. Police Station on Fountain Square Drive - across from the post office.

Libel

Mort Rumberg

Here's a rewritten explanation of libel. Always good for writers to be aware:

In order to win a libel case, a public figure would have to prove a damaging claim was written with malice...that is, that the publisher and the author knew the claim was false and deliberately acted with reckless disregard for the truth and with malicious intent.

Why isn't proving the claim is false enough? Because it's not enough to prove the claim was false, or even that there was subsequent damage to the person's reputation.

Malicious intent, an intangible state, must be proven and that is VERY difficult to prove in a court of law. That is why courts rarely rule in favor of public figures — but they sometimes do, so be very careful.

All that said, it behooves the author to avoid maliciously attacking a public figure — even if you win, defending oneself in court is hugely expensive.

Flash Fiction Contest

Brittany Lord



Remember? The club is now having a monthly flash-fiction contest.

The contest is simple: write a 100 word story using the month's prompt. Then submit your story to Brittany @ tealya@hotmail.com with the subject line "Flash Fiction Contest" before the 25th of the month.

The stories will then be read and judged. The top three will be sent to the newsletter, and the winner will get to read their story in front of the club at the next meeting.

Flash fiction is a great way to try out new writing techniques and to grow your writing skills. Give it a try.

Winning Flash Fiction story for June:

Why I'm Afraid of My Shadow

Cathy McGreevy

While jogging that day, I turned my head to look at the beautiful scenery and noticed my shadow wasn't behind me as usual. Before I comprehended what happened, something dark and cool wrapped itself around my eyes, blinding me.

"What's going on?" I cried, trying to claw the darkness away, but it was like prying away a drift of mist.

A voice hissed, "I'm tired of having to follow you around all the time. From now on, you follow me."

"What? No!"

It was too late. My shadow walked ahead of me with strong, confident steps, dragging me helpless along the ground behind it.

Memoirs – Everyone Has a Story

Pat Biasotti



Every family has a story, and some are just amazing. Your sons and daughters may know yours, but as it filters down to the grandchildren and future generations it usually gets diluted and sometimes lost.

When asked hers, Mary M laughed, “Oh, we are just plain ordinary people. My folks grew watermelons and corn on a farm in Kansas.” Turns out her ancestors escaped religious persecution in Belgium, came to a Jesuit Mission in Indian country in the 1860s and bought the land for that family farm from a Pottawattamie Indian. She owns a copy of the land grant signed by President Andrew Johnson.

Pia D’s grandfather was one of seven German immigrants who purchased a tract of land in 1881 and established a German communal settlement near Encinitas, California, which is now a California State Historical Monument. Eleven families held everything in common. All the receipts and records are preserved in a treasured volume written in the old German script.

Sadly, Betty G doesn’t know her story. Her father was one of the children shipped westward on the “Orphan Trains.” This was a welfare program to relocate orphaned and homeless children from the crowded Eastern cities of the U.S. to foster homes, usually located in more rural areas of the Midwest and West. Between 1854 and 1929 it placed more than 200,000 children.

It’s time for you to write your own story as an

invaluable gift for your children and the generations that follow. Many books are

available on writing your memoirs or autobiography. Memoirs usually describe only specific events in a person’s life, or you might prefer a chronological autobiography detailing most of your life. Tackle it in the way most comfortable for you, and you will probably find delight in reliving great memories. For those with computer skills, one can make scrapbook pages inserted with text and pictures (old black-and-white or colored). If you wish, most online companies and store photo departments can assemble these into a handsome book.

Don’t wait. A few years ago the author of this article started writing her biography as birthday or Christmas gifts for her children. Unfortunately, she is elderly and way behind on “Pat’s Story.” Over several years she’s only gotten through her college graduation and wedding day. As she stacks on birthdays, her children laugh “Mom, you’d better hurry up or else live until you’re a hundred and ten!”

Don’t wait. You may not have one-hundred and ten years. Get busy on *your story* now and bestow on your children and grandchildren this precious present.

Advanced Writers Techniques

Mike Brandt



The purpose of the AWT is to challenge your writing skill set: We suggest a different challenge each month. June's is to write 100 words **using dialogue only**. Any subject.



The AWT meets every month at 6 pm, one hour before the general meeting. The place is — in the kitchen.

Grab a chair and bring it in. We all share our best ideas of great writing techniques garnered from our own experience, our reading, and our research.

We are here to help each other. Join us, please.

Stroke

Jeannie Turner

'Twas a *stroke* of good luck with my golf *stroke* that day,
But a man's quick right *stroke* brought me down;
A *stroke* of face paint covered over the bruise,
And *stroking* my cat eased my frown.

Then a friend took me out with his crew for a ride,
I never had gone quite so fast!
But *strokes* of that crew brought no victory to them
In fact, it turned out, they were last.

Some words that we use have more meanings than one
And *stroke* is a big one, you see,
But the one that we're speaking of here, now, today,
Is important to you and to me.

That attack on your brain, a stroke, it can come,
In a couple of two different ways.
But it always blocks blood, every time, to your brain,
Lasts seconds, or it can last days.

These signs one must look for, and look for quite fast:
Balance, speech, weakness, or eyes.
Signs might disappear quite as rapidly, too,
But that can be only disguise.

The person who's having a stroke needs quick help,
The window for saving is small.
Please don't let them say, "I think I'm ok."
Just go make that nine-one-one call

You're wanting to help them while waiting for help—
Don't even give them a drink.
And aspirin is not what you want in this case.
The cause might be not what you think.

This blockage of blood to the brain might be caused
By a blood-stopping clot it is true,
But the lack of the blood that is reaching the brain
Just might have been caused by type two.

And that's when a vessel, it leaks or it bursts,
And blood is not reaching the brain.
For this one an aspirin is really the worst.
And stroke rarely comes with a pain.

Yes, watch for those signs. The key word is speed,
Whether it's you or your brother.
Minutes count. Note the time when the symptom appeared
There's no need to wait for another.

Get help right away, so don't think to drive.
An ambulance has the right things
For life-saving treatment to start while there's time
As the patient to ER, it brings.



Space Available – Rents in Orbit

Paul Turner

The Space Development Equation, here in shortened form, is Cost of Spinship divided by number of habitats equals cost per habitat to be paid monthly as rent over the five to ten year payback period.

After payback of initial capital expense, rents are controlled by market forces alone. Factors such as types of investors and initial and later tenant types are included in the completion of the Equation.

I'll let you know the outcome in my investor book arriving late in 2019, if I can do the math in that time. A detailed set of spinship plans and specs and stress analyses are required before the Equation can be presented.

Chapter 8 in the current "The Space Trade Update," explains the general plan for solving the Equation.

Editor's comment:

Fiction ... or Fact?

Perhaps only the author knows for sure.



File Clerks in My Brain

Jeannie Turner

I took a look some years ago into my brain to see
Just what was going on in there,
and how thoughts come to be.
Know what I saw, to my surprise, was going on in there?

Some little friends I didn't know were rushing everywhere
Like busy file clerks, yes, they were, just working hard for me.
Much more was going on in there than *anyone* could see.
When I was searching for a name, or a specific word,
Those busy file clerks ran to look as soon as "search" they'd heard.

Sometimes I'd try to do their job, I'd think and think and think.
But oh, that did no good, I found, just brought me to the brink.
No, they preferred to work alone, at least that's what I found.
When *I* tried hard to help them, they'd just go round and round.

I know they used to dash with speed, and find things right away,
But they are going slower now. Sometimes it takes all day.

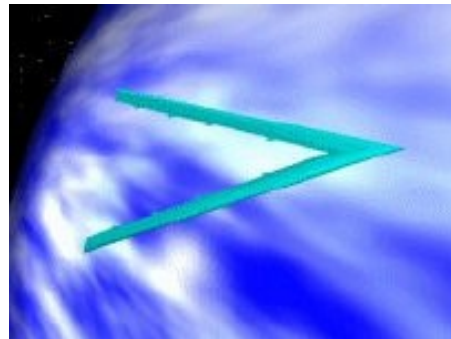
What makes them slow, I want to know, and so I looked around.
I'll tell you now the shocking sight of what up there I found.
Those file clerks who'd been very fast, those helpful little talkers,
Are now *still* checking all around—**BUT THEY ARE USING WALKERS!**

The Future is Near

Paul Turner

This orbital airship, a part of the Ascender series of JP Aerospace, connects earth to the great beyond. But, where do we go when the Ascender gets us to orbit? Do we meet a hotel in orbit? That would be nice. Better

if we could join in a thriving community in space. A community that could travel to Luna or Mars in comfort, see sights along the way, have gravity, eat well, sleep well, play and work hard. Such is the #Spinship shown above the earth. In this orbit, it meets the ascending orbital airship, and transfers cargo and passengers. The spinship communities in earth orbit and out to translunar, rely on space mining to build products needed for a thriving economy, including trade with mother earth. Later this century, ships similar to these may take us to the stars.



Join the Club!

According to our list of members, there are now 51 members — paid or honorary! We are a vibrant club with active writers and several critique groups (with room for more). We are voraciously supportive of each other.

SSWC supports local writers and encourages everyone to write and publish. Attending meetings is free, but membership brings benefits, such as publication in the newsletter and anthology, use of our club's library, qualification for grants to attend conferences (limits apply), and ability to join our first-class critique groups.

MEMBERSHIP is paid on a yearly basis. If joining after April, dues are prorated by quarter (unless you are just really late in maintaining your membership!).

_____ Individual \$40.00/year _____ Couple \$55.00/year
 _____ Full-Time Student \$30/year _____ Platinum Senior (70+) \$30.00/year

More information is on our website: sactowriters.org

Name: _____ Genres: _____

Published? Y / N (yes, includes self-published) Email: _____

Phone: _____ Address: _____

Website/other info/address (optional): _____

OFFICERS

Elected Officers:

President	Ron Smith
Vice President	Brittany Lord
Secretary	Y O U ? Please.
Treasurer	Julia Beyers

Chairs:

Achievements	Y O U ????
Coffee/Treats	Al Gilding
Conferences	John Powell
Critique Grps	Brittany Lord
Historian	Pat Biasotti
Librarian	Ron Smith
Membership	Jeannie Turner
Newsletter	Mary Lou Anderson
Nominations	Y O U ????
Prgm/Speakers	Cathy McGreevy
Publicity	Paul Turner
Raffle	Y O U ????
Sunshine	Nan Roark
Website	Wes Turner
Workshops	Paul Turner

Motivation Prompt

Write what you *really* want your family to remember about you.

What is your favorite childhood memory? Favorite childhood movie and why.

(This is a prompt to help you start your story as suggested by Pat B. — see her article on page 4.)



MEETING INFORMATION

2nd Monday of every month

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Next meeting:

Monday, June 10
Crossroads Christian
Fellowship Hall

5501 Dewey Drive

Just north of the Dewey and Madison intersection

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

