

September, 2019

# Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

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

## Margaret Duarte will be the Speaker at the September 9 meeting. Topic — My Path to Publication

Former middle school teacher, Margaret Duarte, lives on a family-owned-and-operated dairy farm with a herd of “happy cows,” a constant reminder that the greenest pastures lie closest to home.

Margaret earned her Creative Writing Certificate through UC Davis Extension and has since published three novels in her “Enter the Between” visionary fiction series:

*Between Will and Surrender,*  
*Between Darkness and Dawn,* and  
*Between Yesterday and Tomorrow.*

Her poem and story credits include *SPC Tule Review*; *The California Writers Club Literary Review*; finalist in the 2017 SLO Nightwriters Golden Quill Writing Contest; First Place winner for fiction in the 2016, Second Place winner for fiction in the 2018, and Honorable Mention for fiction in the 2019 Northern California Publishers and Authors Book Awards Competition.

For links to Margaret and her work, visit her website at: [margaretduarte.com](http://margaretduarte.com).



## A Wintery Parisian Street Shindig

M. H. Brandt

My wife and I had spent the better part of a year planning our trip to Paris to photograph the fireworks behind the Eiffel Tower on New Year’s Eve, 2018. We scratched Sydney, and off we went to Paris for a wintery Parisian street shindig. 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 as big as an ostrich’s, “There are no fireworks on New Year’s Eve at the Eiffel Tower!”

Every month we offer:  
15-Minute Workshop  
Writing Support  
Speakers

Future meeting dates— All Mondays:  
September 9  
October 14  
November 11

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

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

## Healing the Continental Divide

Mark Heckey

It is a serpentine line that runs rough and jagged through our land,  
 Following jutting mountains and gushing streams.  
 The separation of a nation, a barrier beyond our reach.  
 Seeking a place of beauty and calm, thirteen travelers assembled.  
 Three came from the South,  
 Four came from the West,  
 Two from the Windy City,  
 Four nearby, from the heartland.  
 All of us reflecting a troubled country seeking hope and reconciliation.  
 We found ourselves with this in common: a love of creation and nature.  
 Our guide took us deep into the forest,  
 Towards the wild,  
 To a place of quiet, opening our hearts to  
 the spirits of the trees, the raven's call, the wind speaking to our souls.  
 Beyond politics and religion, we found our common chord.  
 Binding us together,  
 In our humanity,  
 In our vulnerability,  
 Seeking our place with nature and the common heartbeat of man.  
 Finding a proper balance with the raw forces surrounding us.  
 Thirteen people on an adventure, thirteen strangers transformed by a mystical force.  
 Now friends, even if only for a few days.  
 Our guide showed us a trail of serenity, understanding, and hope.  
 False barriers fell away.  
 The divide narrowed.  
 We began to heal.

The role of a writer is not to say what we all  
 can say, but what we are unable to say.

- Anais Nin

There is no such thing as writer's block. That was  
 invented by people in California who couldn't write.

- Terry Pratchett

### 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.

**Remember to put SSWC Newsletter Submission in the subject line ... PLEASE!**

Contact Mary Lou Anderson 916) 459-0888 mledsonanderson@yahoo.com  
 Deadline is about two (2) weeks prior to the meeting date.

This is a suggestion from one of our members:

"How about writing a magazine article before writing your book?

Each article looks good to a future publisher when you finally send your book in. Approximately two million magazine articles are published each year in America's 16,000 magazines.

The magazine pays you, and it adds to your credit when you tell the book publisher about your experience."

Thank you, John Powell, for submitting this great idea.

*This is the space  
where your story,  
poem, article, or  
excerpt could have  
been published.*

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### Rules To Writing Good

Mort Rumberg

- 1) Prepositions are not words to end sentences with. It is not something you want your readers to learn from.
- 2) Avoid clichés like the plague. Not only are they old hat, but they leave much to be desired, so stick to your guns and stay on the straight and narrow path or your writing will stick out like a sore thumb.
- 3) Always be more or less specific in your writing. Writers should never, ever generalize.
- 4) Don't be redundant. Don't use more words than necessary to get your point across, explain a situation in excessive detail, or enhance an explanation beyond the minimum required to convey the meaning. Excessive use of unnecessary words is often highly superfluous, pretentious, verbose, and long-winded, and literally wastes words.
- 5) Don't exaggerate. Realize that exaggeration is a million times worse than understating and can often lead to being a masterpiece of insignificance.
- 6) Who needs rhetorical questions? They are overly melodramatic, pompous, and abstract, if not bombastic.

And finally...

Seven) Be consistent.

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### Flash Fiction Contest

Brittany Lord

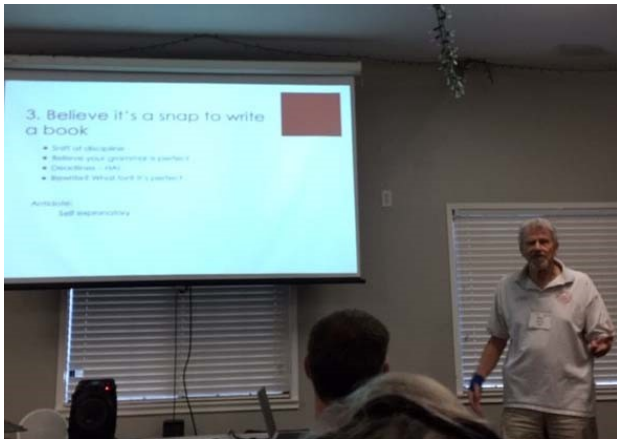


The club holds a monthly flash-fiction contest.

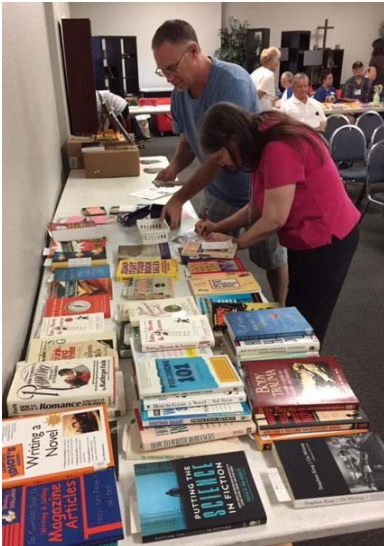
The contest is simple: write a 100 word story using the month's prompt. Then submit your story to Brittany @ [tealya@hotmail.com](mailto:tealya@hotmail.com) with the title "Flash Fiction Contest" before the 25th of the month.

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.



Every meeting, a club member presents a short workshop on a specific writing topic. In August, Mort Rumberg, author of several novels and books of short stories, gave the workshop.



Ron Smith, aka Bryson Kilmer, is SSWC's president and librarian. In the picture above, Ron and another member are discussing books that members can check out. Check the club's website for a list of the books that are available to club members.

Member Laura Kellen took these pictures (left) and sent them for inclusion in the newsletter. Thank you, Laura, for providing these shots.

## 100-Word Flash Fiction Challenge prompt for September —

### Goin' to a Shindig

Remember this from last month:

Here's a little inspiration(?) for you:

Goin to a shindig  
I'll even eat a pig  
Gonna roast it big  
And dance a jig.  
I ain't no prig  
I'll have a swig  
And smoke a cig  
And wake up in the brig.

MMR

**Have you written yours yet?  
No? Then do it already!**

Submit your writing to the newsletter editor (M.L.). Many, some, most, will be published as space permits. (See page 1 for a submission.)

## Advanced Writers Techniques

Mike Brandt



AWT group meets at 6:15 PM, forty-five minutes before our regular monthly meeting, at the Crossroads Christian Church. Learn how to be innovative while cultivating your skill set to create a book the readers will love.

**September's session:** we'll discuss - "What a buyer looks at when buying a book related to sales/purchase and revenue streaming v. being a non-profit author. In this session we'll discuss the importance of book covers, spines, and back covers.

Each participant will have an opportunity to express his or her thoughts. Please respect fellow writers' time and arrive by 6:10 PM.

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

## Join the Club!

We are a vibrant club with active writers, several critique groups (with room for more), and we are wonderfully 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](http://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	<b>Y O U ? Please.</b>
Treasurer	Julia Beyers

### Chairs:

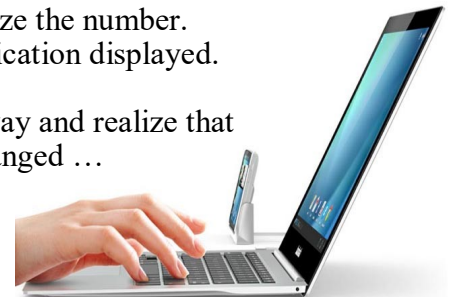
<b>Achievements</b>	<b>Y O U ????</b>
Coffee/Treats	Al Gilding
Conferences	John Powell
Critique Grps	Brittany Lord
Historian	Pat Biasotti
Librarian	Ron Smith
Membership	Jeannie Turner
Newsletter	Mary Lou Anderson
<b>Nominations</b>	<b>Y O U ????</b>
Prgm/Speakers	Cathy McGreevy
Publicity	Paul Turner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



## Motivational Prompt

Your phone rings.  
You don't recognize the number.  
There's no identification displayed.

You answer anyway and realize that  
your life has just changed ...  
forever.



## MEETING INFORMATION

2nd Monday of every month

**7:00 - 9:00 PM**

**Next meeting:**

**Monday, September 9**  
**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 —