

October, 2019

# Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

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

**Mike Brandt will be the speaker for the Monday, October 14 meeting of SSWC.**

**His topic will be NaNoWriMo, otherwise known as: National Novel Writing Month, also known as November.**

Mike will share insights on how to write a novel in thirty days.

**Please check out ... and print ... page 8 of this newsletter. It's the handout for Mike's presentation.**

M. H. Brandt is an Award-winning American author and an extreme adventurer. Michael has run marathons and mountain climbed on the seven continents and has traveled to the four corners of the world.

Michael is a retired homicide detective of 29 years, who writes short stories and destination travel articles for publications. Michael lives in Northern California with his wife Audrey



You can reach M.H. Brandt at [mhbrandt119@yahoo.com](mailto:mhbrandt119@yahoo.com)  
[MHBrandt.wordpress.com/](http://MHBrandt.wordpress.com/)



## RAFFLE

Have you noticed that lately the raffle has been almost entirely books?

Let's mix it up a bit. Bring in some white elephant items for the raffle.

## Aluminum Can ... Can You?

Do you realize that the church lets us use their room for next to nothing? Our club does make a donation to help out, but maybe we can do more ... and perhaps clear out our recycling at the same time.

Answer: bring **aluminum cans**.

Recently, the comment was made that they do not want plastic bottles since they are more difficult to recycle nowadays.



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

**October Workshop —**  
Subject: Critique Groups — presented  
by Paul Turner, Cathy McGreevy, and  
Brittany Lord

**Future meeting dates — All Mondays:**  
October 14  
November 11  
December 9 — Potluck

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

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

## Which is Best?

Jeannie Turner

Which season of the year  
Do *you* think is the best?  
The one you like a little more,  
Although you like the rest.

For me, I think it has to be  
The autumn we call fall.  
The year's last, lovely, radiant smile.  
It is the best of all.

The weather's almost perfect then  
To visit Apple Hill.  
I know, I've been there many times,  
But still, each time's a thrill.

The apple picked right off the tree,  
With red and shiny skin,  
The inside white and sweetly tart,  
Juice running down my chin.

So many, many, *many* things  
I love about this season—  
The pumpkin pies, the family meals,  
All give another reason.

And holidays, those two we love:  
Halloween is fun.  
And then a day for giving thanks.  
That *is* a special one.

Unpacking all our warmer clothes,  
Hot cocoa, harvest moon,  
Football and the marching band--  
They cannot come too soon.

I love to swish my feet among  
The crisp leaves on the ground.  
They crackle, and they crunch, and snap—  
I love to hear that sound.

Autumn is a second spring  
When every leaf's a flower.  
Their colors change from day to day,  
Sometimes from hour to hour.

God paints the world all red and gold  
Just for me and you...  
And then—to make a perfect scene —  
He paints the sky with blue.

With shorter days, and cooler nights,  
And colors oh, so bright  
And starting school—the golden rule  
Makes all the world seem right.

Fall is such a precious time—  
You can't miss or ignore it.  
The days are short, the colors bright.  
Do you, as I, adore it?



## 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.

### Autumn Rain

Jeannie Turner

The rain falls, oh so gently  
As it washes dust away,  
And brings with it the scent I love.  
It blesses all this day.

The rain falls, oh so lightly,  
As it touches field and flower,  
And it compares with nothing else,  
That pleasant autumn shower.

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### Why?

Jeannie Turner



Why do we call the autumn *fall*?  
Is it because the leaves *do*?  
Or because we *fall* in love with it?  
Both reasons might be true

### My Ex Mother-in-Law

Gisela Butler

I came to love her so much. She understood my loneliness when I came to the U.S. in 1963.

I married her son in Germany, in Berlin. He was an air force man. I could not speak the language but she taught me simple words while my husband was at work.

I divorced my love of my life after 14 years. We kind of drifted apart.

My children called her Oma which is grandma in German. She became Oma Tahoe, she lived in Lake Tahoe.

Even though I split from her son, she never stopped loving me. We had such a strong bond.

I just lost her two weeks ago. She was in hospice for one year. My visits would cheer her up. I was glad to have this great lady of 96 years old in my life, and could give her happiness through my laughter and visits.

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### Publicity ....

Publicity Chair Paul Turner is working with a couple of club members on a special way to get the word out about our club.

A video is in the planning stages that will encourage people to join and become involved in critique groups.

Paul will keep it short and to the point then is planning on publishing it on all kinds of social media.

Way to go, Paul!

## Leaves

Jeannie Turner

'Twas only yesterday the leaves were green  
More shades of just one color I'd ne'er seen  
They'd been such beauties with delightful sheen  
And now they're gone

But, oh, what's happened in the still, cold night?  
The colors now, they fill me with delight  
The sunshine of the autumn sky is bright  
And all is changed

The new-toned leaves that grace the once green trees  
Are dancing gayly in the autumn breeze  
It seems their one desire is just to please  
And so they do

Like early Christmas lights those leaves do glow  
Like candy treats from heaven sent below  
They're twirling, dancing, for the autumn show  
They bring us joy

The day comes that the vibrant colors leave  
Their beauty as they fall makes my heart grieve  
They'll all be on the ground by time it's eve  
And so it goes

They flutter from the trees without a sound  
Their brilliant hues now carpet all the ground  
And there was not a single soul around  
When it occurred

It seems they love the ground the way they fall  
Like they are heading for an autumn ball  
Or harking to an unseen, unheard call  
The end is near

Some people think those leaves are dead, they say  
But when you see them dancing on their way  
Especially when it is a windy day  
You know they're not

They've left each tree so dimly, starkly bare  
And now, poor trees, they've nothing left to wear  
But I'm so glad the trees don't seem to care  
Just stand alone



## We Made It Through

Karen Sepahmansour  
September 17, 2019

We made it through,  
Almost 46 years of bliss and tears,  
Of learning about each other throughout the years.  
We worried about if we would smother,  
But peace kept us under a cover for each other.

We made it through the transition of interference  
From every individual appearance,  
Of family members who were with us living,  
And not wanting to be forgiving.  
We just kept on with our being

We made it through  
Our cultural gaps,  
As we shut our traps,  
For being too rigid or frigid  
With the differences that existed.

We made it through  
With children and heirs that filled our hearts  
With their laughter and their never-ending smarts  
To be open and caring,  
And never forget our sharing.

We made it through the turbulences and pains,  
And all that remains,  
Of fruit bearing red colors,  
There will never be another YOU.



## Carpool Anyone?

The evenings are getting darker earlier,  
and some members do not (or should not) drive at night.



So ... is anyone willing to carpool?  
Need a ride? Willing to drive with a fellow writer in the car? Share writing ideas on the way to and from the meeting?

If you need a ride or are willing to drive, please email me or hand a note to me (editor Mary Lou), including the area/direction you come from, and we'll do our best to put you in touch with each other.

## Current Info?

Have any items you want to share? Events? Book launches?

Send the info, pics, specifics to Wes to put on the website.

## Autumn of Life

Jeannie Turner

The autumn of life—a mixture so strange—  
Nostalgia, blessings, potential.  
The harvest of seeds we've sown in our time  
Prepares us for cold days, eventual.

How beautiful are the leaves growing old,  
Full of color and light at the last,  
As if nature had saved up all year just for this,  
The finale, so grand, for our past.

The quiet reflection the falling leaves bring—  
Letting things go helps us thrive.  
Let's cast off old hurts to make way for new joys,  
Grasp the beauty of being alive.

The colors of autumn, and our colors, too,  
Fade as *we* face winter's chill.  
The changes and cycles of seasons repeat.  
They have, and they always will.

The changes of autumn, like changes in life—  
The branches just standing there, bare—  
Remind us of change, that unchangeable fact,  
That element all of us share.

When life's autumn arrives, we look back and we see  
The *way* God has led us so far.  
But we know in our hearts there is still work for us  
To be better someday than we are.

There's still work to do—the fullest and best.  
It's such a good transition time.  
The season of fruit, most abundant all year—  
It's true that fall's glory is prime.

So let us enjoy the autumn of life,  
The beauty of letting things go.  
For there'll come a day when our sun will go down,  
And then heaven's blessings we'll know.



### Advanced Writers Techniques (AWT) Mike Brandt



AWT group meets at 6 PM, an hour before our regular monthly meeting at the Crossroads Christian Church. Learn how to be innovative while cultivating your skillset to create a book, short story, poem, or more that the readers will love.

In **October's session** we'll discuss – **WRITE WHAT YOU KNOW**. This old adage seems to be the most common writing advice out there. What this advice really means is that writers should start with what they know, and this exercise will do just that.

Bring samples, ideas, Internet suggestions, anything that will add to the discussion.

**Creative Writing Prompt: Write What You Know – Write (150 words or fewer) about something that you know.** Begin with something familiar from your own life—such as a past event, something you know how to do, a character inspired by someone you know, or a place from your life—and put it in a fictionalized scene or story.

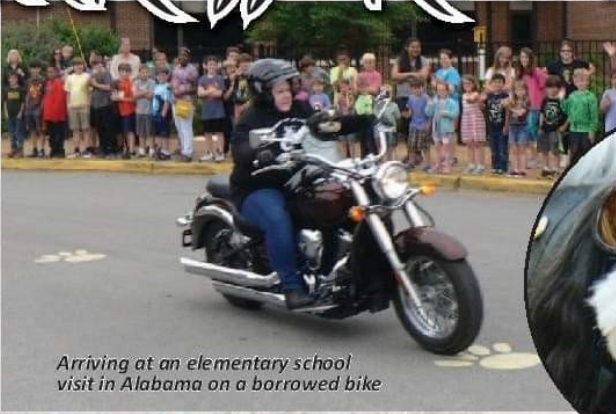


We have a famous member — a canine! Amanda Steedley's dog Chopper is the featured dog in the current issue of *Virginia Rider Magazine*.

See the Book Fair information in the inset at the bottom of this page.

# RRRiders

## CHOPPER



Arriving at an elementary school visit in Alabama on a borrowed bike



Chopper is a ten-year-old Shih Tzu who is a motorcyclist, a traveler, a children's book author and a medical alert dog. He has traveled to 30 states via motorcycle, car or plane, and has been to many motorcycle races, including MotoGP in Indianapolis and MotoAmerica in Sonoma. When he first started riding as a puppy he wore a helmet, Doggles and a harness or jacket, but repeated in-ride helmet removals made it less dangerous for him not to wear his helmet. He usually rides in an EGR USB tank bag made for dogs in front of me, which has a clip that fastens to his harness, but also rides his own motorcycle in the living room since he does not have a license. His favorite bike is my 1991 Honda Hawk GT NT650, but he has ridden on several different bikes. He loves riding fast with his ears flying and enjoys when children wave at him while riding. Chopper loves to travel and has logged 80 or 90,000 airline miles, driven coast to coast in multiple directions and visited many states on a motorcycle. Some of his favorite non-riding vacations were to the Grand Canyon, the French Quarter in New Orleans, Plymouth Rock and Lake Tahoe. He also loves to go hot air ballooning, to eat peanut butter and to ride anything that moves, such as airport trains and the table at the vet's office. He recently published his fourth book and uses riding as a way to connect with children when he visits schools and libraries, often arriving at author visits on a motorcycle. Last year an injury and a genetic condition caused him to lose his right eye, but that hasn't slowed him down much at all. He still loves riding, is an amazing medical alert dog and is wonderful at helping children learn to love reading. Chopper's owner is Amanda Steedley. Enjoy more of Chopper at [ivebeenlicked.com](http://ivebeenlicked.com). Follow Chopper on [choppersmc.com](http://choppersmc.com) or [@choppersmc](https://twitter.com/choppersmc)



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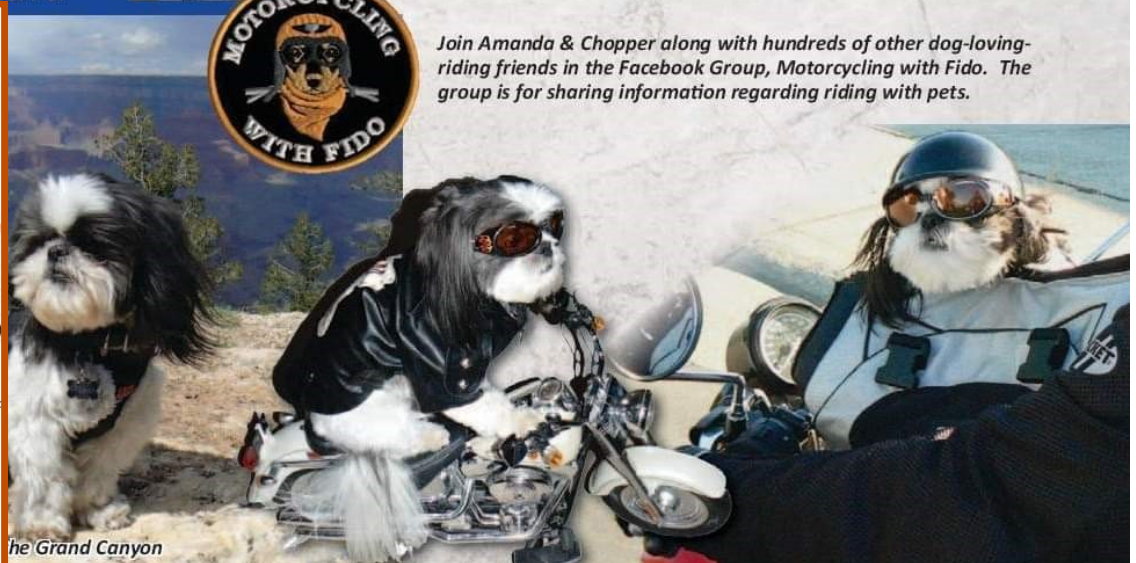
### Upcoming Events



Bay Area Kids' Book Fairs  
<http://www.bayareakidsbookfair.com>  
Acalanes High School  
1200 Pleasant Hill Road  
Lafayette, California  
20 October 2019 • 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.



Join Amanda & Chopper along with hundreds of other dog-loving-riding friends in the Facebook Group, Motorcycling with Fido. The group is for sharing information regarding riding with pets.



The Grand Canyon

## NANOWRIMO Month is November (Flash write)

**It's that time of the year - Writing your 1<sup>st</sup> Draft in two weeks or NaNoWriMo writing in 30 days**

**Enough sleep** – seven to eight hours nightly. Eat and keep hydrated.

**Maintain daily discipline:** Post-its with next place to pick up writing, let your hair grow out till you finish, or wear a plastic orange wrist band – serving as a reminder & **PUT UR BUTT IN THE CHAIR.**

**Work SMARTER:** No phone calls, Texting, emails, FB, Blogs/ You disappeared.

**Find a place without interruption.** Everyone understands you need quiet time! Some travel to a rustic hotel for a weekend or week.

**Set goals for yourself/ deadlines.** Words per day, rough draft, research.

**Daily writing time management.** 5:30 AM till 10:30 AM?

**Write 500 to 1,000 words a day** — 50,000, 70,000 to 75,000 word = novel. If your goal is **five pages** and you don't make it, tomorrow start with five pages. **Goal: 50,000 in 30 days = 1,667 wpd.**

**Writing for its own sake has rewards.**

**Develop a Story Line,** (Log Line or Capture Line) for your story that keeps you focused on the story.

*Example: The Peace Garden – A traumatized Marine corporal returns to Corregidor Island fifty-years after the fall of the Philippines and discovers that World War II did not end in 1945. w/c 26*

1. **Synopsis** — a roadmap of your plot.
2. **Pre-requisite: 2 weeks** — having a plot and subplots; some research but do not get hung up in this area. Overdoing research clutters the book with unimportant detail.
3. **Picture characters & speech patterns:** George Cloony, James Earl Jones, Jack Nicholson, Cate Blanchett or Katherine Hepburn
4. Think about what it is you want to say as a **picture** then write about it
5. **Keep your hands moving;** don't cross out anything. It's about QUANTITY
6. **Don't worry about spelling,** punctuation, or grammar. XXX=blank, (misspelled).
7. **Write with freedom,** spirt, enthusiasm, w/o fear of criticism, quickly, & recklessly. Lose control!
8. **Don't think, or get logical** — **Mr. SPOCK.**
9. **Get your story on paper & edit later.**
10. **Keep the plot moving forward.**
11. If you get **STUCK,** vacuum, go shopping, but move away.
12. Get rid of or silence the inner-editor - **“Banish the Beast.”**
13. **Don't be polite.**
14. What are the two best words in the English language? **THE END**
15. ALWAYS carry **small notebooks** for writing thoughts or ideas that jump up at you while shopping, walking, or taking a mental break.
16. **Motivation** — enter a writing contest and **WIN!**
17. **Reading your genre.**
18. **Never QUIT!**
19. **www.nanowrimo.org**

### Pre-work:

Idea of your PLOT

Characters

Outline of chapters if a PLOTTER

Seat of the PANTSER: get a new pair of pants

Research beforehand

90 pages outline; then add dialogue and descriptors



## Join the Club!

We are a vibrant club with active writers, several critique groups (with room for more), and 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:

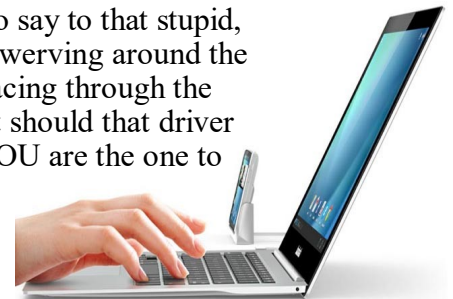
President	Ron Smith
Vice President	Brittany Lord
Secretary	Cathy McGreevy
Treasurer	Julia Beyers

### 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	Laura Kellen
Publicity	Paul Turner
<b>Raffle</b>	<b>Y O U ?????</b>
Sunshine	Nan Roark
Website	Wes Turner
Workshops	Paul Turner

## Motivational Prompt

Just what do you want to say to that stupid, #@\*#@#!!! driver who is swerving around the cars, not using a blinker, racing through the yellow/red light? Just what should that driver hear — especially when YOU are the one to tell him or her?



## MEETING INFORMATION

2nd Monday of every month

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

**Next meeting:**

**Monday, October 14**  
**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 —

