

December, 2019

# Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

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

## Potluck Dinner — SSWC meeting on Monday, December 9.

This is a "true" potluck — it is entirely up to you to decide what to bring to share with the other members. No sign up, no lists, just food.

Cook something special, try a new recipe, buy something, or let your significant other prepare a dish for you ... then bring him or her — everyone is invited.

We will have napkins, plates, cups, plastic utensils. You need to bring yourself, your significant other, your dish, and a serving spoon (or whatever).

Come and enjoy all the other writers in our group. Even first-timers are welcome.



## President Ron Smith extended his invitation to the potluck:

The Christmas holiday potluck is upon us once again. Join the fun and bring a guest to the meeting. We'll have readings from several members, including: Brittany Lord, Jeannie Turner, Al Gilding, Mort Rumberg, and others.

I'll announce the winner of our \$1000 scholarship. We strive not only to improve our members' writing, but we encourage our community to follow interests in writing as well. Without learning how to write clearly, sentences become a jumbled mess on paper, just like the twisted words swirling in my head. And no, grammar check does not help structure a sound sentence, but it does help with spelling every once in a while. Of course the program can spell the wrong word without the writer noticing.

Writers, open your minds to new ideas or take readers down a journey along new stories.

*Ronald Smith*

## Elections

We can all be thankful that our national elections are still nearly a year away, but we have to get through all the hype, accusations, finger pointing, blithering idiocy that will be all over the various media outlets for nearly a year ....

**HOWEVER**, our SSWC elections are coming up at our next meeting. There will be no overblown, long-winded, nonsensical promises by any candidates — just enthusiastic members willing to help out with the club's business.

**So, be sure to come and vote.**

**VOTE**

## January, 2020, Meeting

Our speaker for the January, 2020, meeting will be Drea Moore who will speak on Marketing for Authors.

**REMINDER — Dues are due.** Be sure to renew your membership. (Rates are on the last page of this newsletter.)

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



**Future meeting dates**—All Mondays:  
December 9 — Potluck & Elections  
January 13 — Marketing for Authors  
February 10 — Local author W. Burg

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

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

## Mort's Annual Letter to Santa



Okay, Fatty in Red,

I've about had it from you. For years I've been asking for a Maserati, and for years you've been putting me off, giving me a lot of that naughty and nice stuff you like to spout off about.

I warned you I would send a nasty gram to Mrs. Claus if I didn't get the car, but that didn't seem to impress you. So, since you didn't bother to protest, even a little, I sent the letter off to let things settle where they may. I understand, from some feedback I received from a few elves, that more than a few harsh words went back and forth between you and your lovely spouse. I was glad to hear that, since I expected that the delivery of my car would now get your attention. Alas, it didn't.

Well, to be fair, in a sense it did: I did get the car—but it was not what I expected. Perhaps I should have been a bit clearer in my expectation. I wanted a full-size, fully operational, latest model, with all the bells and whistles top-of-the-line Maserati.

What I received was a surprise. It actually made me angry, but in retrospect, there was a bit of humor there, and I begrudgingly appreciated your sense of the weird—for several seconds—then I got angry again.

What did I get angry over? I got angry about what you *did* put under my tree. A little toy car. Was that really the best you could come up with?

I can see you laughing, your fat belly jiggling with each “Ho, Ho, Ho.” Well, I'm not laughing, although I gave the toy car to my nephew and enjoyed him saying “wrooom, wrooom,” as he sped the car across the floor. It lasted all of five minutes before the first wheel came off. One minute later, the toy car was in the trash heap.

So, because my letter to Mrs. Claus didn't seem to get your attention, I'm now thinking about bringing a lawsuit to your little kingdom.

Before I do that, fat man in the red PJs, I want to give you another chance to make things right. Simply give me a Maserati and we're done with this, or we'll spend the next several years in litigation—and that ain't fun.

Let's resolve this issue amicably.

M.M. Rumberg

Unassumingly Modest, Award Winning, World-Famous author



### COPY AND DEADLINES for our NEWSLETTER

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](mailto:mledsonanderson@yahoo.com)

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

November is over. December is here.  
2020 isn't far off.

Did you reach your goal for  
NaNoWriMo?

Did you participate in the No-Shave-  
November movement (cancer fundraiser)  
and finally shave your beard?

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**ATTENTION: ROMANCE WRITERS  
SAC LIBRARY EVENT  
DECEMBER 8**  
Laura Kellen

The Sacramento Public Library is offering a  
FREE author talk from New York Times  
bestselling author Julia Quinn on December 8!

Julia Quinn is a New York Times bestselling  
author of several dozen historical romance  
novels. Her books have been translated into 32  
languages, and she is one of only 16 members  
of Romance Writers of America's Hall of Fame.

Currently, her historical romance show, *The  
Bridgertons* is in production by Shondaland as a  
Netflix original series. Inspired by Jane Austen  
herself, Quinn will be a keynote speaker at  
Regency Romance: A Jane Austen Celebration  
event with an audience Q&A to follow.




**Flash Fiction Writing Contest**  
SSS  
Brittany

Our winner for the flash fiction month contest for  
December, Jeannie Turner! Also the only entry but  
a very nice one at that.

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**Flash Fiction Winner**  
Jeannie Turner

“Oh, it’s true,” the squirrel said,  
“For food, the nut is best.”  
“Not so!” then Robin Red replied,  
“A worm succeeds that test.”

Frog soon came a’hopping by,  
He’d overheard their words.  
“Delicious flies are really best,  
“You silly squirrels and birds.”

A wise child then came skipping by,  
With woeful shaking head.  
“Hearing now your arguments,  
“You are wrong,” he said.

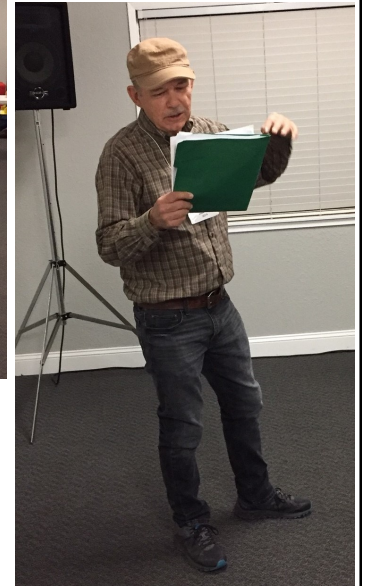
“Food some folks appreciate,  
“Different food for others.  
“People know their favorites,  
“Everyone has druthers.  
“Consider, truth for one, you see,  
“Might not be true for you.”  
*True* is not the same for all.  
Confusing, but it’s true.



## PHOTO CORNER

### Pictures from November's Meeting

#### Laura Kellen



Left — our speaker, Ross Rojek, sharing his knowledge about books, writing, and selling.

Above — President Ron Smith (aka Bryson Kilmer) is talking to the group.

Right — Paul Turner (aka Clé Curbo) is presenting his workshop.

Want to know what the upcoming club events are?

Visit our Facebook's event page here: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/sactowriters/events/>



## Advanced Writers Techniques (AWT)

### Mike Brandt



The AWT group usually meets one hour before our regular monthly meeting. However, there will not be an AWT meeting this month because we will be busy setting up the potluck.

**January's session:** we'll discuss – **Writing realistic goals.** January is prime time for goal-setting, and as writers the first step to setting S.M.A.R.T. goals while being completely honest about how many hours a day or word count you can devote to your writing. "Realistic" is the key word here.

Each participant will have an opportunity to express their thoughts. Please respect fellow writers' time and arrive at 6:00 PM.

## 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

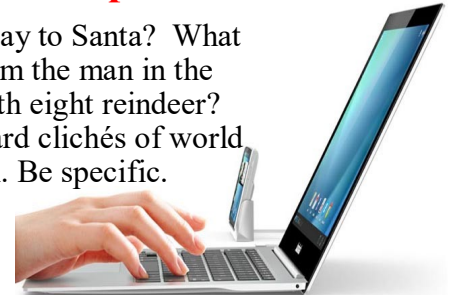
#### Chairs:

<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

What do YOU want to say to Santa? What gift are you longing for from the man in the red suit driving a sleigh with eight reindeer?

Move beyond the standard clichés of world peace and happiness for all. Be specific.



### MEETING INFORMATION

2nd Monday of every month

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

**Next meeting: P O T L U C K**

**Monday, December 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.

