

July, 2020

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

sactowriters.org

SSWC Board Meeting Tuesday Evening (Online only) FUTURE MEETING INFORMATION

Decisions at a Board Meeting? Really? Well, we actually made at least one. Since we aren't going to meet as a group for a while, we are talking about having meetings online. Perhaps with Zoom.

Page 2 of this newsletter has info on how to join Zoom for an online meeting from Mort. Read it over. It's such a great thing to do, you might start holding Zoom meetings with other groups or family members.

More information will come as we determine topics and times.

Looking for a little humor during these trying times?
Then read on. There is little humor anywhere else.

Comments from Members

Covid Funk.

That's what people are calling it.
The "it" being the issue that we are not doing
all those things we said we would do. We're
not getting everything done on our ToDo lists.

The Fourth of July has come and gone,
But changes? There seems to be none.
We keep to our selves, not leaving our home
I'm now talking to my garden gnome.

Is there any life out there?

Hello ... Hello? Is anyone else there?

Television reruns are so boring
The poor dog is even snoring
My Amazon bills are growing.
Help! We've got to get going.

Mike Brandt added:

The worst money-wasting purchase I have made
this year is a day planner.

Future meeting dates—

This is going on waaaay too long. But we want to get through this with our health still intact. Ron reports that the church is not opening its meeting room yet, and no one blames them. No one is sure if anyone would even want to show up when we all feel so uncomfortable to try to meet as a group
We are considering having meetings online as a few other groups have tried that and had success. So, stay tuned.

Meetings 7—9 p.m. 5501 Dewey Drive, Fair Oaks — **but, once again, not this month either.**

sactowriters.org



Zoom

Hello Everyone,

Due to Covid-19 we have not held any in-person meetings due to concerns for everyone's safety. However, we are trying to set up virtual meetings to continue encouraging your writing. Your Board of Directors has been active in getting us to this point. Our August meeting will be on Zoom. If you haven't Zoomed before, it's a nice experience - easy and relaxing even if you've never done it before.

Here are two things for you to do:

#1) Virtual meetings.

We are thinking of a panel for our first virtual meeting. What subject would you like to have discussed at the meeting? What questions about writing would you like answered? What writing items have been holding you back that you'd like discussed? Don't hold back — we'll do our best to get answers for you, so send us your questions in advance so we can be prepared. Of course, you can also ask questions at the meeting itself.

#2) Download the Zoom app.

Go to: <https://zoom.us/> and enter your info. Then download the free app. That's it. Really. If you have questions, the Zoom site has answers for you.

An icon will be downloaded to you - it will look like a movie camera. That's what you click on to connect to a meeting.

When you want to log in to Zoom to "attend" a meeting, simply click on the Zoom camera icon, enter the meeting data (we'll forward it to you), and you'll be there in seconds. Seriously, it is easy for novices to do. Don't worry that you'll break something — you won't.

Once you've downloaded the app, try a dry run. You won't be able to sign on to a specific meeting yet because you need a meeting ID code and a password to gain entry, and the meeting will have to be about to begin. Those will be sent in advance of the meeting.

Just before the meeting is to begin, log in, and "Presto!" you're at the meeting. I'm serious...it's easy. If this is new to you, try a dry run or two. Adjust the volume. Click on the icons and arrows in the lower left of your screen. Get familiar with them. It actually borders on fun, and does become fun when you see everyone on the screen.

You may also be able to log in directly through a Zoom link we'll send out. Either way works.

A nice thing about Zoom meetings is you can dress as casually as you want and eat soggy lasagna at the same time. Oh my!

Everyone stay safe and we'll see you at the next meeting.

Mort





COVID CALENDAR

Jeannie S. Turner

I used to know the days—I knew them all
 And I would know each one what I should call:
 Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, started out,
 And Wednesday, Thursday, Friday made me shout.
 Then Saturday would come, the very last.
 My week went by so swiftly and so fast.

But now my week confuses me a lot
 Because some dif'rent day names we have got:
 There's *Thisday*, *Thatday*, and there's *Yesterday*,
 And *Someday*, *Nextday*. Is it time to play?
 Or is *Today* the name that I should know?
 Will *Otherday* just bring me grief and woe?

When calendars can get their act in gear
 And day names never more will bring me fear
 Our time will once more be as it should be
 And days will soon again go fast and flee.
 Bad COVID will at last be long time gone.
 Our life can then resume—and we'll move on.


FUN WHILE STUCK AT HOME

From Pat Biasotti, (*locked down* in her retirement community for 3-1/2 months—Yikes!)

Use your brainpower to solve these riddles from the “Daily Chronicle,” published by ActivityConnection.com

1. What can you hold without touching?
2. Always in you Sometimes on you. If I surround you I can kill you.
3. You're in a dark room with a candle, a camping stove, and a gas lamp. You have only one match. Which do you light first?
4. A cowboy booked into a hotel on Sunday. He stayed two nights and rode back home on Sunday. How is this possible?
5. How can you leave a room with two legs and return with six legs?
6. If you drop a yellow hat into the Red Sea, what does it become?
7. I have no feet, no hands, no wings, but I climb to the sky. What am I?
8. What can point in every direction but can't reach a destination by itself?
9. What 5 letter word typed in all capital letters can be read the same upside down?
10. Mr. and Mrs. Mustard have six daughters and each has one brother. How many people are in the Mustard family?

.....
 A great quote from George Burns:” You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you're down there.”



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.

Networking in the Genre

John J. Vester

Well, the pandemic is loosening its grip, but things are far from normal, in life, or in the genres.

A wonderful event happened earlier this month, though. Sorry there wasn't enough notice for me to include it in my last installment. Amazing Stories magazine hosted a virtual Con, AmazingCon (June 12-14), that was delightfully geared toward the writing of speculative fiction. There are plans for a second such Con in March, so stay tuned. Amazing Stories is the twice or thrice resurrected magazine started by Hugo Gernsback 92 years ago, the birth of SF as we know it today.

I attended two workshops, and they were both tremendously informative and helpful. One, "Plotting an Amazing Story," led by Amber Royer, conveyed in six hours (three two hour sessions) as much as one could expect from a full college course in creative writing. I highly recommend her book "Story Like a Journalist."

https://www.amazon.com/Story-Like-Journalist-Master-Collection-ebook/dp/B0893NSV5S/ref=pd_lutyp_rtpb_1_1/147-6282827-6663619?encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=B0893NSV5S&pd_rd_r=1d8cdab2-bf59-48f4-87c5-9cf2b91961db&pd_rd_w=6goDF&pd_rd_wg=odgMy&pf_rd_p=a6e2c5ee-564b-4b8f-b08c-386e20fcecea&pf_rd_r=7JWTXEKND2A876E31E7T&psc=1&refRID=7JWTXEKND2A876E31E7T

The other workshop, "Crafting the First Three Pages," led by Richard David Starr, prolific writer in various genres, helped sharpen the first three pages of each manuscript brought in by the participants. It was a master class, not only on how to hook the reader, but also on the Clarion method of critiquing.

I recommend this Con for any who aspire to get published in the genres. The fact that it was on-line made it accessible to many more than would normally have been able to attend an event in New York. They reported that 263 attended, besting some reality-based Cons. That's a mighty fine fringe benefit of one of our responses to the pandemic. So much so that the Con is planned to be virtual in March also. There was no cost to attend the first one either. The jury is out on 2021, but whatever the verdict, it was a most valuable three days.

Some critique groups are tiptoeing toward actually meeting again, keeping social distances of course. That's wonderful, but, as Michael Conrad, as sergeant Phil Esterhaus, said at the beginning of every episode of Hill Street Blues (showing my age, am I?) "Be safe out there."

Hope we can start meeting again soon.

At that time, we will start doing the Advanced Writers' Workshops again.

Come up with some great topics to share when we get together.

(Hey, maybe we could do those online too. ???)

Helpful Spelling Hints

Mort Rumberg

7. Capital vs. Capitol

Capital refers to a city, specifically a governmental seat. It can also be used in a financial sense to describe money or equipment. *Capitol* is a building where a legislature meets.

We took a tour of the capital building today.

Incorrect

We took a tour of the capitol building today.

Correct

8. Compliment vs. Complement

A *compliment* is a flattering or praising remark. A *complement* is something that completes or brings something to perfection. *Those shoes are the perfect complement for that dress.*

Today I received a nice complement from a friend.

Incorrect

Today I received a nice compliment from a friend.

Correct

9. Comprise vs. Compose

Comprise means "to be made up of." *Compose* means "to make up the constituent parts of." With *comprise*, the whole is the subject. With *compose*, the parts are the subject.

Fifty states comprise the United States. **Incorrect**

Fifty states compose the United States. **Correct**

Mnemonics

From the Grammar Guardian

Mnemonic (the first "m" is silent) is a device such as a pattern of letters, ideas, or associations that assists in remembering something. (Google Dictionary)

A mnemonic for these two words is:

Cash and **main** have an "a" so use capital.

There is a **dome** (note the "o") on the building so use capitol.

And a mnemonic for these would be:

Compliment has an "i" as in **nice**.

Complement completes something.

Sorry, I ain't got none for *comprise* and *compose*. Let me dwell on it a while.

...

Nope, nuthin'.

Fear not the dictionary.



Mort's Musings
Mort Rumberg

I renamed the john, Jim and
can realistically say
I go to the gym
several times a day.

I've discovered
that my favorite
hobby is:
constantly
touching my face.

I now wear a mask
inside my house —
not so much to stop
COVID-19, but to
stop eating.
It hasn't helped.

- Appropriate analogy as I leap from an airplane making my first (last?) parachute jump:
- The curve is flattening so we can start lifting restrictions now = The parachute has slowed our descent, so I can take it off now.

I have one of those talking scales. This morning it said: "Only one person at a time on the scale. Please practice social distancing."

I checked my car. I get
three weeks to the
gallon.

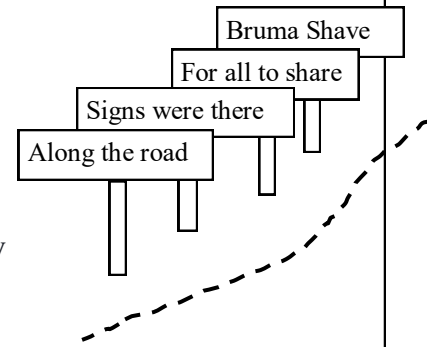
**Share some of your thoughts. We need to find humor
wherever we can find it.**

**Sharing that humor will always
be a great thing.**

Spaced-Out

Jeannie Turner Shared These with the Club

These days of our spaced-out living reminds me of the spaced-out laughs we used to get on a drive in the country. Some enterprising ad men for Burma Shave came up with humorous rhymes with each line posted on signs a mile or so apart. The long pauses between each line of each rhyme kept our attention. These were so fun! We'd try to think of or make up the next line. We were always surprised by what we found.



I don't know when they disappeared, but probably many people today have never heard of them.

I hope you can get a chuckle from these.

DON'T STICK YOUR ELBOW
OUT SO FAR
IT MAY GO HOME
IN ANOTHER CAR.

Burma Shave

TRAINS DON'T WANDER
ALL OVER THE MAP
'CAUSE NOBODY SITS
IN THE ENGINEER'S LAP.

Burma Shave

SHE KISSED THE HAIRBRUSH
BY MISTAKE
SHE THOUGHT IT WAS
HER HUSBAND JAKE.

Burma Shave

DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD
TO GAIN A MINUTE
YOU NEED YOUR HEAD
YOUR BRAINS ARE IN IT.

Burma Shave

DROVE TOO LONG
DRIVER SNOOZING
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT
IS NOT AMUSING.

Burma Shave

BROTHER SPEEDER
LET'S REHEARSE
ALL TOGETHER
GOOD MORNING, NURSE.

Burma Shave

CAUTIOUS RIDER
TO HER RECKLESS DEAR
LET'S HAVE LESS BULL
AND A LITTLE MORE STEER.

Burma Shave

SPEED WAS HIGH
WEATHER WAS NOT
TIRES WERE THIN
X MARKS THE SPOT.

Burma Shave

THE MIDNIGHT RIDE
OF PAUL FOR BEER
LED TO A WARMER
HEMISPHERE.

Burma Shave

AROUND THE CURVE
LICKETY-SPLIT
BEAUTIFUL CAR
WASN'T IT?

Burma Shave

NO MATTER THE PRICE
NO MATTER HOW NEW
THE BEST SAFETY DEVICE
IN THE CAR IS YOU.

Burma Shave

A GUY WHO DRIVES
A CAR WIDE OPEN
IS NOT THINKIN'
HE'S JUST HOPING .

Burma Shave

AT INTERSECTIONS
LOOK EACH WAY
A HARP SOUNDS NICE
BUT IT'S HARD TO PLAY.

Burma Shave

BOTH HANDS ON THE WHEEL
EYES ON THE ROAD
THAT'S THE SKILLFUL
DRIVER'S CODE.

Burma Shave

THE ONE WHO DRIVES
WHEN HE'S BEEN DRINKING
DEPENDS ON YOU
TO DO HIS THINKING.

Burma Shave

CAR IN DITCH
DRIVER IN TREE
THE MOON WAS FULL
AND SO WAS HE.

Burma Shave

PASSING SCHOOL ZONE
TAKE IT SLOW
LET OUR LITTLE
SHAVERS GROW.

Burma Shave



Join the Club!

We are a vibrant club with active writers, have several critique groups (with room for more), and stay 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 / year

_____ Couple \$55 / year

_____ Full-Time Student \$30 / year

_____ Platinum Senior (70+) \$30 / 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	Cathy McGreevy
Treasurer	Julie Beyers

Chairs:

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	Laura Kellen
Publicity	Paul Turner
Raffle	MaryEllen Dempsey
Sunshine	Nan Roark
Website	Wes Turner
Workshops	Paul Turner

**There's a spot in the list
above for YOU!**



WRITING PROMPTS

Work on a memory book about what you are doing, or not doing during the quarantine. Your future family members might enjoy reading how you did, or did not, handle the time.

I've heard that the State Library is accepting information of how this time is impacting your family and your life. Go to this site:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SD2DXNR>

And, please, let me know how it works out.



MEETING INFORMATION

USUALLY the 2nd Monday of every month

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Next meeting:

**Sorry, but no meeting in July either
Things *might* get back to
NORMAL again ... someday.**

5501 Dewey Drive

Just north of the Dewey and Madison intersection

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