

August, 2020

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

sactowriters.org

Let's Give It A Try! It's TIME!

Meeting scheduled for Monday, August 10. Same time, different place.

Location? — Your home.

Really? How? — On Zoom!

This virus is keeping us at home, but let's break the routine and get together. Zoom has been touted as the way to do it, virus free — even *virus* free. It's used by parents, Hollywood stars, grandparents, D.C. politicians, friends, and family.

It's easy. It's free. FREE!

So, until we can have a meeting in person again, we are going to hold virtual meetings. For this first one, we are having a panel of members discuss and take questions about critiquing.

Critique Groups can help perfect your writing. Specifically, you should use critique groups to full advantage, from the first idea of your story, to developing fantastic characters, to writing scenes, to keeping the plot moving, to completed manuscript.



Everyone is invited. If you know of anyone who is interested in writing, especially during these trying times, invite them to join us.

No long-term commitments. No pressure. No deadlines.

Just genuine interest in writing ... and helping others do the same.

Open to all — everyone.

Future meeting dates— YES! A meeting date! Finally!

But it will be a virtual meeting. Online. Via Zoom.

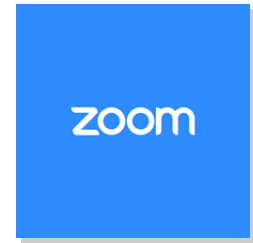
When — Monday, August 10 at 7 p.m. Yep, our "normal" time..

Where — your living room, kitchen, den, wherever, with your computer, laptop, tablet, phone, whatever.

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

sactowriters.org

HOW TO LOG INTO THE MEETING ON MONDAY, FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS



Two easy ways to join the Zoom meeting:

1. Easiest — click on link to get into the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81621562209?pwd=M0JUTmdpS054aG0wNmtNUTJxRDBXdz09> or

2. If you have a Zoom account, log into your Zoom account and click on *Join a Meeting* and enter:

Meeting ID: 816 2156 2209

Passcode: 817931

3. Hard — for those who want to use your one-tap mobile look up info here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdx8ThWSzf>

Meeting ID: 816 2156 2209

Passcode: 817931

An Outstanding Week in Belize

Michael Brandt

I am happy to report that my article on Belize was published in the August edition of International Travel News titled “An Outstanding Week in Belize.”

Last December, my wife, Audrey, and I went to Placencia, Belize, Central America for a short vacation so I could pursue yet another destination half marathon, making Belize my twentieth country where I ran a marathon (18 of them so far) or a half-marathon (2). It was called the *End of the World Marathon & Half-Marathon* because the Mayan calendars predicted the end of the world in 2012.

I maintained a daily journal where I wrote things like:

- What I saw
- What surprised me
- Sights, smells, tastes, and sounds
- Things that were funny or sad
- The people we met along the way
- And especially what made me smile

Aldous Huxley wrote of British Honduras, now Belize, in 1934 — “If the world had any ends, British Honduras would certainly be one of them.”

There’s a certain mystique or “mayastic” to Belize. It’s an unspoiled hidden gem, reminiscent of Hawaii or the south Pacific islands in the 1950s with its beautiful beaches, friendly people, quiet sleepy towns, and a thriving eco-tourism industry isolated from the mainstream tourism.



FUN WHILE STUCK AT HOME

Remember the questions Pat Biasotti sent last month? Could you answer them? Here are the questions with the answers this time. They are included below.

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?

ANSWERS

Pat explained, "We were never given the answers." She added that these are the ones she came up with:

1. breath
2. water
3. Light the match first.
4. stayed elsewhere other nights — or the horse was named "Sunday."
5. carry back a table
6. sunk or wet
7. fireworks
8. compass
9. HEIST CHINS
10. nine

If you happen to use those riddles, answer to # 9 is incorrect. We did these at my table in dining room, and the "T" is not the same upside down, so "chins" is better answer.

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—about two weeks before meeting date.

Doorbell Magic

Jeannie Turner

Oh, I can make the doorbell ring—
It's sorta, kinda, magic.
(Although at times it quite annoys
and borderlines on tragic!)



I go into the little room.
I quickly shut the door.
And then just as I get set down—
Oh, need I tell you more?

You've guessed! You've found my magic out!
Now you can do it, too.
You'll make your own sweet doorbell ring
By doing what I do.

Just go into your little room
And shut the door real tight,
Then you will hear your doorbell ring
And know that I am right!

New Members —
Old Members —
Young Members —
THIS SPACE IS
FOR YOUR
ORIGINAL
SUBMISSIONS!!!
Next month?

Biggest Social Event ... Ever?

Jeannie Turner

Today I had my biggest social event day since—well since before COVID! First off, I drove my car to Autocraft, called Tom to tell him I was there and would leave the keys in the car and pay him afterwards on the phone. (I am continuing to isolate. One-hundred percent!) Then I walked and walked, clear down by a 1-way bridge! Much fun. Then I got a call from son Rondi that our brand-new Quick Quack Car Wash on Zinfandel was having free car washes all week. I had heard about it, but I am a loyal customer of the original Rancho Cordova one on Sunrise. The old one is fine. I am nothing if not loyal! But when one of my children suggests or recommends something—well . . . just a quick drive through.

So, on my way home, I WENT THROUGH THE CAR WASH! And what a thrilling thing that was! Flashing, changing-color lights glowing through billowy white suds cascading so beautifully down the windshield! What an intoxicating experience it was after all my COVID confinement!

Well, what do you know! This new one *is* better than the old one on Sunrise! To heck with loyalty. It was such an exciting thing to do that I bought a month pass to get it done any time I want, every day if I want, even many times a day if I want—and I might. It was the most exhilarating thing that has happened to me in months!



**A Reading from the Journal of Michael Brandt:
SAILS, TALES, & RAINFOREST
Mike Brandt**

25 May 2017: Is there light within darkness?

It was our second morning of the cruise, east of Puerto Rico and steaming southward towards St. Bart's, French West Indies. Audrey and I elected to eat at the La Veranda restaurant, located on Deck 10, which had a beautiful sunny view of the Atlantic Ocean on the outer rim of the Saragossa Sea. We had just exited the Bermuda Triangle—or had we?



We were sailing on the open sea with clear skies and enjoying its tranquility with its noticeable white foam wake to our stern against the back-drop of a dark blue ocean. The brown boobies were flirting with the passengers, squawking and flying close to the ship then pulling away before being photographed. It was as if the boobies knew how to *tease* the passengers: so close ... yet so far.

Dining was an open seating arrangement, and we were seated with an elderly British couple already eating. We politely introduced ourselves and joined them. The waitress came over, took our order, and poured our coffee. We were committed, and we both knew shortly thereafter that this was not going to be a fun breakfast. Our fellow cruisers were not very friendly. In fact, they were coldish, stone-faced.

The male chirped, "*Peter,*" and she said, "*Vesta,*" sourly in a distinct Cumbrian accent as they were from the Lake's District. Vesta monopolized the conversation and began telling us stories about their forty-seven cruises and the many misfortunes referred to as ... "*Adventures,*" enunciating adventures, so we would not misunderstand her cavalier stark demeanor. It was obvious that this couple was not the pride of England and Vesta had missed her daily dose of laxatives.

She went on to say, in her typical rapid, hard-to-understand accent, that they were on a ship with an outbreak of norovirus, attempting to shock us, to another vessel that broke down in the North Irish Sea in which they had to be evacuated off their cruise ship and loaded on to another vessel which left them without seeing any of their scheduled ports. Vesta clearly emphasized that during the ship's mechanical breakdown, they could not take showers and had eaten sparingly. It was impossible for us to interject anything into this one-sided adventure. Vesta, well, she became intolerable, ridged and toxic. She continued telling stories about "*Adventures*" off the coast of Africa which raised unnecessary tensions. It was clear to Audrey and me that Vesta was a huge DORK.

I promptly dubbed Vesta "*The Leper of the Sea*" because she actually bragged about all her disastrous adventures for which, at the beginning of our twenty-five-day voyage, WE DID NOT WANT TO HEAR.

We avoided Vesta the entire cruise as it was apparent she had a severe case of mad cow disease, lacking the frothing of the mouth in public. Had I not avoided her, it would have been *Murder on the High Seas*, and Hercules Poirot was not aboard!



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 PROMPT

The newsletter editor would REALLY like to include a larger variety of submissions.

We are, after all, a club of *writers!*

Short stories, poems, articles, excerpts from your books, questions, comments ALL are welcome.

The only requirement — YOU are the author or have permission to submit it.

Please submit *something!*



MEETING INFORMATION

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Next meeting:

Monday, August 10

Location: Your home.
Via your computer, tablet, or cell phone.

All writers are encouraged to attend.
Membership is not mandatory
but brings privileges — like
publication in the newsletter!