

September, 2020

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

sactowriters.org

Self Publishing Tips and Tricks With J. Scott Coatsworth

Join us Monday evening, September 14, on Zoom to learn about the in's and out's of self publishing, including practical applications and resources, from award-winning author J. Scott Coatsworth! Are you interested in learning how to design your own covers, promote your own work, and make a name for yourself outside of a traditional publisher? Don't miss Scott's talk!

With 25+ works to his name, Scott is a prolific author in Sacramento's LGBT+ scene. Scott writes in a variety of genres: anthologies, contemporary, magic realism, sci-fi, fantasy, and holiday themed. Of special note is his book *The River City Chronicles*, which features streets, scenes, and landmarks familiar to any Sacramento reader.



Scott lives with his husband Mark in a yellow bungalow in Sacramento. He was indoctrinated into fantasy and sci-fi by his mother at the tender age of nine. He devoured her library, but as he grew up, he wondered where all the people like him were.

He decided that if there weren't queer characters in his favorite genres, he would remake them to his own ends.

A Rainbow Award winning author, he runs Queer Sci Fi, QueerRomance Ink, and Other Worlds Ink with Mark, sites that celebrate fiction reflecting queer reality, and is a full member of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA).

For more information, check out Scott's website at: <https://www.jscottcoatsworth.com>

For more information on the Queer Sacramento Authors Collective, a group that writes LGBT+ themed fiction, please click here: <https://www.qsac.rocks>

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

Again, it will be a virtual meeting. Online. Via Zoom.

When — Monday, September **14 at 7 p.m. Yep, our "normal" time..**

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

Instructions for joining the meeting are on page 2.

Ronald Smith, SSWC President, invites you to our Zoom meeting .

Topic: Ronald Smith's Zoom Meeting

Time: Sep 14, 2020 7:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Click here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2521715779?pwd=aXdYM1FLRStzVnZqYlZyYzZ3OUputz09>

Or join the meeting by logging onto Zoom and enter this info:

Meeting ID: 252 171 5779

Passcode: 7JjTpg

The Zoom logo is a blue square with the word "zoom" in white lowercase letters.

Comments from Members After our First Zoom Meeting

Zoom meetings are fun! Our August Zoom meeting was well-attended; my screen was filled with old friends! Ron, our SSWC President, kept the meeting moving smoothly and efficiently. Our panel speakers gave a professional quality presentation. The chat box was filled with funny comments, sharp observations, and great questions. There were no communication errors, blackouts, noise feedback transmissions, or technological nightmares. The whole experience was easy and fun. Sure, it's not the same as meeting in person — but it's the next best thing! Laura K.

What a great meeting. I always learn something at a meeting, but this time I gained a great deal more than I expected. Having two professional editors (Mary Lou and Wes) discuss the “ins and outs” of editing and answer all my questions, in depth, was simply wonderful. Practical answers, direct and to the point. Thank you, guys! Mort R.

Our Zoom Zoomed!

Kudos to those who made our Zoom happen. It is rewarding to participate in SSWC's sixty-five-plus years of continuing support of local writers.

Thanks to the critiquing ideas presented, our critique group is going to improve. We are excitedly implementing these guidelines and are looking forward to better, more valuable help in our group.

And, of course, it was great seeing those we haven't seen for months. Anonymous (aka Jeannie T.)

I was delighted to attend the last SSWC meeting via ZOOM. I was lucky, because my family visits via ZOOM and my tech children set me up with a webcam (already had a computer). Otherwise, I would have been lost. It was too bad more members could not have "attended." I know the Newsletter deadline is coming up, but could someone write an article with explicit instructions for those of us who are not so technical? I know my daughter was able to join our family via her phone. Another person didn't have a webcam but could hear us talk and joined in that way. Thanks for reading my input, Pat B.

JUST FOR FUN!

Grammar and punctuation (fun) t-shirts for sale.

<https://www.zazzle.com/punctuation+tshirts>



One Way to Sell Your Story

L. Paul Turner



This is an article that tells how you can transform your current work into a screenplay format in order to find a new market for your creations. The article was prompted by a recent Facebook gathering that I viewed where screenwriter agent, Babz Bitela, was interviewed by Jack Dever and Rick Kuebler of CFAA (Capital Film Arts Alliance, Sacramento).

Are you suffering from creative burnout? Sometimes we all do. The cure may be in transforming your current work to screenplay format.

Take a story you already have, one you really like, and go to www.fountain.io. Fountain is a markup system that you can use in any text editor you have, whether it's Pages, MS-Word, Notepad, and so on. Fountain has a list of character marks that you use to indicate the start of a scene, a character, setting, action, and more.

Once you've marked up your work, you load it free to WriterDuet.com, a program that transforms your marked up story into the proper screenplay format. If you are not sure exactly how to proceed, look at industry examples of screenplays. For PDFs of scripts that have been made into movies, go to <http://www.la-screenwriter.com/script-index/> or, go to <http://www.dailyscript.com/movie>.

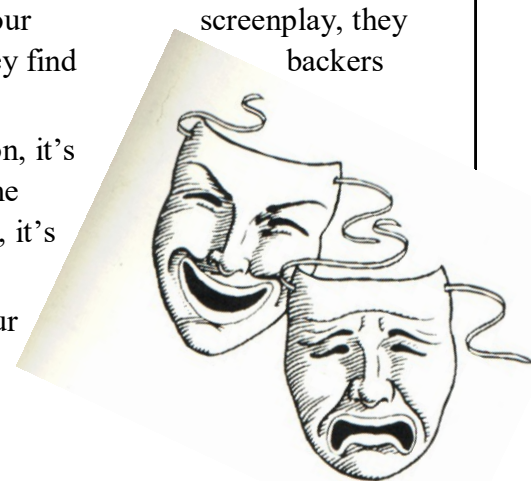
After your story is in screenplay format, contact a screenwriter's agent. I intend to use Babz Bitela. I recently watched her do an online question and answer with some friends of mine. She was sincere, helpful, and well-informed by experience. Simply place her name in the web search box and see if you agree.

There are any number of paths from here, but whatever you do, keep your agent informed. The agent may ask to read your screenplay. Make sure it's 90 to 110 pages, or ask the agent for what length they accept. The movie industry rule of thumb is that each page of a screenplay manuscript equals about a minute of movie running time. So, a 90 page script would provide an hour and a half in movie length.

The agent may ask you to send the script to producers with a query letter. There are many producers, and they may have room somewhere for your story. If a producer likes your screenplay, they may pay you one or two thousand dollars for an option to buy it when they find backers to support the production of a movie based on your story.

If the producer has found the backers and is ready to exercise the option, it's time to find an entertainment law attorney. You may be advised to sign the contract for the movie, or to send the producer a counteroffer. Either way, it's good to have an agent and an attorney to advise you.

So, give yourself another avenue to use your current creations. Try your story as a screenplay. You will be on another great adventure in sharing your work.





THE GOLDEN HANDSHAKE

Karen Sepahmansour

The Golden Handshake
What is That?
Is it at 50, 66, 90 or when I am old and fat?

The Golden Handshake
What nerve of all?
To think that they stand and never will fall?

The Golden Handshake
Who thinks I am done?
Well, I am only beginning to have fun.

The Golden Handshake
Who wants to throw it out?
This is an ancient way of thinking so why do they pout?

The Golden Handshake
Who thinks it's given to the young?
At many different ages we still see the sun.

The Golden Handshake
Who thinks it's an insult to the mind?
To the soul and whoever needs a kick in the behind


The Golden Handshake
Should it ever be?
Because we're born and die free.

The Golden Handshake
Should it have no name?
There is no one to have shame.

The Golden Handshake
Should it be buried in our past?
They're our lives' lessons as long as we last.

SONG OF THE PEPPERCORN

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O' moon shine thru my window,
O' ancestor of day,
Kiss my mind with premonition,
As you wean the sunlight's ray.

O' stars of fire you outlive time,
O' monumental light
While pixels, earth, and icy steel
Do damage to the night.

O' soil of sweetness, softest sod,
O' comfort give you must
To peppercorns so bitter-hard
We crumple into dust.

So day star hastes again toward night,
That quenching salve, as darkness speeds
With outstretched arms to dawn's new dust,
Propelling peppercorns through time
To pierce the frozen muddied rime
Of nightfall's armored touch.



Hi, all you SSWC members!

Now is your chance to show your support of our great organization that has helped many of us greatly.

We know you are not currently getting some of the things you signed on for: networking, meeting in person our illustrious speakers and being able to buy their books—signed, greeting other members with a handshake or a hug, participating in the scholarship raffle, attending the annual banquet (this one would have been the 65th!), being mentored and guided by our other published writers, and enjoying our delightful assortment of refreshments.

As we look to the future, we hope normalcy will soon return, and when it does, we want, AND WILL HAVE, all these things again. We must not, we cannot, let our club dwindle in the meantime.

Now you can show your support of the Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club by promptly paying your 2021 dues.

No, I won't be handing candy bars to early payers.

No, I won't hand you a receipt.

No, we won't smile and laugh as you hand over cash or dues.

However, you will be proving your loyalty to the club.

And yes, you will be getting a receipt (via good ol' USPS).

And you may even get a warm, fuzzy feeling from knowing the good you are doing.

How do you do this? Simple.

Just drop a **check** in the mail made out to **SSWC** and address it to Jeannie Turner. Her mailing address is in the club's Directory that she sends out.

If you don't have the Directory, email Jeannie at

turnerjeannie48@gmail.com

and ask her where to send your check. She will let you know. The amount of the dues is on the last page of the newsletter.



COPY AND DEADLINES

Submit **original** written and edited/corrected 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 book completions and launches, other meetings, apps, 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.

New Members —

Old Members —

Young Members —

Odd Members —

Even Members —

**T H I S S P A C E I S
F O R Y O U R
O R I G I N A L
S U B M I S S I O N S !!!
Next month?**

Well, it's now next month" and we have a submission from a new member! Thank you, Gloria.

But, you. Yes, *you!* Where's YOUR article for the *Scribe*?

Is it still stuck in your head? Your fingers are frozen? Your brain has ceased working with all that's going on nowadays? ... Or with all the *nothing* that's going on?

Put your thoughts and ideas into poem format. Write them as a short story. Even as flash fiction with just a few dozen, or a couple hundred, words. But you do need to put your thoughts into words and send them, right?

Share your frustration, your joys, your thoughts, your ideas. Tell what you've been doing ... or NOT doing during this time. Write what you wish you could do as soon as this quarantine ends.

Then send it to the newsletter!

Like Nike says: *Just Do It!*

What you send to the newsletter isn't "filler."

It's something you will have written ... and published.

It's a start in the process of being a published author.

Or it's a place to share your successes.

A place to try out something new.

A way to release the tensions, the frustrations we're all going through.

A way to get others interested in your books that are for sale.

A way to scream to the world "I AM AN AUTHOR!"

**Neener, neener to all those kids back in high school who
said "You're a nerd!" or "You'll never
amount to anything."**

Here you will be, in front of everyone, ... an AUTHOR! A PUBLISHED author!

Okay, okay, so you want to get paid for your writing. I certainly understand, and you have the time while you're sitting at home right now. All you need is words, and they're free! Oh, and you'll need time and imagination and grammar. Well, you get the idea. This is a website listing many magazines that pay for articles.

<https://www.theinternationalfreelancer.com/1-a-word/>



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): _____

MAIL YOUR DUES TO: Jeannie Turner. Her address is in the Directory. If you don't have one, email Jeannie at turnerjeannie48@gmail.com and she will let you know where to send it.

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!



The prompt for this month is to write the reason you are willing to volunteer to send a new prompt to the newsletter every month.

Come on ... you can do it!



MEETING INFORMATION

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Next meeting:

Monday, Sept. 14

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!***