

November, 2020

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

sactowriters.org

R. L. Merrill will be our speaker on Monday, November 9!

Click here at 6:55 p.m. to join the meeting (additional log-on details on page 2):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86717830262?pwd=M29jSEtWNTAzZTQ5WnR1c3V6UXpnUT09>

Ready to rock 'n roll? Rock 'n roll romance, that is! Our November speaker will be R. L. Merrill (Ro). She writes contemporary, paranormal, and historical horror romance, but is best known for her writing within the breakout genre of rock 'n roll romance.

A member of the San Francisco Romance Writers of America, Ro joins our meeting through the power of Zoom! Hear about her experience in writing about quirky characters, real-life issues, and awkward interludes on Monday, November 9th at 7 pm.

R. L. Merrill brings you stories of Hope, Love, and Rock 'n' Roll featuring quirky and relatable characters. Whether she's writing about contemporary issues that affect us all or diving deep into the paranormal and supernatural to give readers a shiver, she loves creating compelling stories that will stay with readers long after.

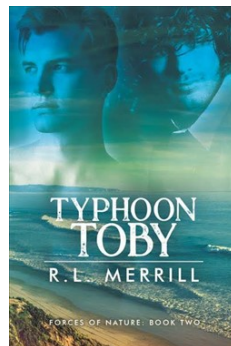
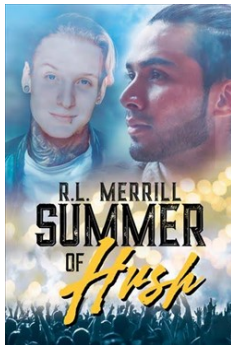
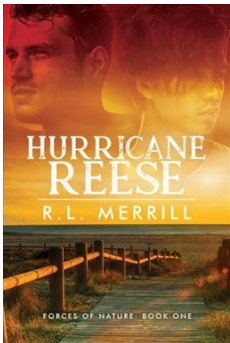
Winner of the Kathryn Hayes "When Sparks Fly" Best Contemporary award for *Hurricane Reese*, Foreword INDIES finalist for *Summer of Hush*, and RONE finalist for *Typhoon Toby*, Ro spends every spare moment improving her writing craft and striving to find that perfect balance between real-life and happily ever after.

She writes diverse and inclusive romance, contributes paranormal hilarity to Robyn

Peterman's Magic and Mayhem Universe, and works on various other

writing and mentoring projects that tickle her fancy or benefit a worthy cause.

You can find her connecting with readers on social media, educating America's youth, raising two brilliant teenagers, trying desperately to get that back piece finished in the tattoo chair, or head-banging at a rock show near her home in the San Francisco Bay Area! Stay Tuned for more Rock 'n Romance!



Future meeting dates — YES! Another meeting date!

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

When? — Monday, November 9 at 7 p.m. **Yep, we still meet at our "normal" time. No special showing this month — just the one at 7.**

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

Instructions for joining the meeting above and on page 2.

ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS

The Zoom logo is displayed in white text on a blue rectangular background in the top right corner of the page.

Click the link below or on page 1. That's it. Just click on it, and *zoom*, you're there.

Topic: SSWC Zoom Meeting, hosted by President Ron Smith.

Date: Monday, November 9, 2020

Time: 7:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada) (You didn't forget to reset your clocks, did you?)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86717830262?pwd=M29jSEtWNTAzZTQ5WnR1c3V6UXpnUT09>

No waiting. No delay. Turn on your camera and your microphone (icons on Zoom at the bottom left), and enjoy the meeting.

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

Meeting ID: 867 1783 0262

Passcode: 167249

October's Zoom Meetings

If you missed the meeting in October, you missed a lot. The presentation by Gerry Ward was given twice because he presented from the library in downtown Sacramento during his work hours.

So much information was presented, all leading to how easy it is to print your book. Gary is there to help out with many steps of the publication process.

And a Word from our October Speaker

Gerry Ward

Message to members of SSWS from our October speaker, Gerry Ward:

Thank you for having me. I enjoyed speaking with you and your group. Thank you for the newsletter.

Here is more information on the I Street Press:

The I Street Press is a service of the Sacramento Public Library that helps local authors self-publish their books.

For more information please visit: <https://www.saclibrary.org/Education/Tech-Creation/I-Street-Press>

For pricing please visit: <https://istreetpressblog.wordpress.com/pricing/>

For a list of editors and Graphic Artists to help with your layout and design:

<https://istreetpressblog.wordpress.com/resources/>

Best,
Gerry

Gerald F. Ward
Special Projects Librarian
Central Library
828 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-264-2777

You can contact Gerry with any questions you might have.

His work week is Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 8-5. He is off on Wednesdays.

ANTHOLOGY

Did you see the email about our club's anthology? The fourth SSWC anthology is done! Printed! Finished! The announcement and ordering instructions were sent to everyone on the club's mailing list.

Are you an author of a story in the book? If so, you paid for a copy of the book.

Your \$12.00 entry fee helped pay the cost of the art for the book's cover. The members of the club who proofed, edited, corrected, and worked on the book itself did it for nothing ... nada ... zip ... just the satisfaction of completing the club's fourth anthology.

This edition did take a lot longer during these trying times, and somehow time escaped us. Next time we promise to be more timely. (A N D ... YOU can even volunteer to help!)

An order has been placed for those who got their requests and money in quickly. (First cut-off date was Wednesday, October 28.)

A second club order will be placed soon, aiming for delivery before Christmas. Please act quickly.

Prices are:

1 book for authors included in the anthology.

Additional copies for included authors: \$6.

Copies for SSWC members: \$7

Everyone else: \$8

Shipping, handling, and taxes are included, so ordering through the club will save you some money. They are priced at \$8 on Amazon, but that does not include taxes and s/h charges.

If you want copy(ies), send a NOTE and a CHECK to Mort Rumberg. Include the TOTAL number of books (that would *include* the free copy for authors). We will arrange for a second pick-up date, hopefully before the Christmas holidays.

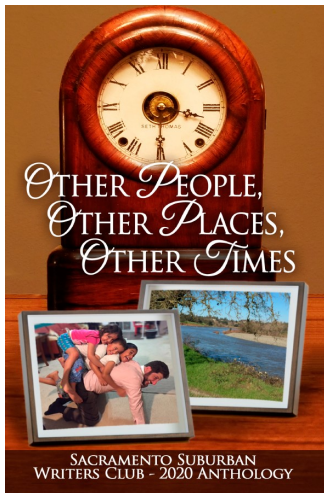
If you want to arrange pick up of your free copy (authors only) and/or want to order additional books, contact Mort ASAP. His address is:

Mort Rumberg

2072 Xavier Lane

Roseville, CA 95747

SSWC (be sure to put SSWC on the envelope)



PICK-UP DATE FOR ANTHOLOGY COPIES

If you ordered copies of the anthology, you can pick them up on Saturday, November 21, at the parking lot of the church where the club meets (or at least *used* to meet).

Someone will be there (5501 Dewey Drive — corner of Madison and Dewey) at 10:30 on that Saturday.

Pickup will be easy and quick. Masks will be worn. We can even place the books in your car for you.

If you are unable to meet that day at that time, please contact Mort to make other arrangements.

mortrumberg1@earthlink.net



Breaking News!

Brittany has had her baby!

Artemis Teresa Lord finally showed up on Monday October 26, weighing 8lbs 9oz and 20 inches long.

She is in perfect health and so loved. She is quite the snuggle bug already and wants to be held constantly. Welcome to the world, baby!

A Paddlewheel Cruise on the Columbia River

Pat Biasotti

While I was visiting my daughter in Washington State, she treated me to a cruise on "The Columbia Gorge, "an authentic sternwheeler," white with red and blue trim, built in 1983, powered by diesel, with only a 5-foot draft. Early October, 2020, was a perfect sunny day to be out on deck for a cruise along the middle Columbia River. From the dock at the town of Cascade Locks we traveled upriver, with many lumber mills along the shore, along with gorgeous water front homes. However, those homeowners ironically pay for these million-dollar views with a railroad running through their back yards!



Train tracks on both the Oregon and Washington sides of the river carry at least 40 Southern Pacific and Northern Pacific trains a day headed for the deep-water terminal where much of the grain, lumber, and other cargo are shipped overseas. These are unbelievably lengthy trains, perhaps two miles long.



Although the boat turned around at the town of Stevenson, farther up the river we could see Wind Mountain, an extinct volcano. This lava flowed north, collided with flows from the Montana area and helped form the Cascade Mountains.

We docked at Cascade Locks to discharge some passengers, then continued downriver, under the Bridge of the Gods, 120 feet high to allow navigation below. In 1927 Lindberg flew "The Spirit of St. Louis" under the bridge. However, three hundred to six hundred years ago a huge landslide in this area covered forty square miles and created a

land bridge across the Columbia, causing the water above it to rise up forty feet. Eventually, this water pressure gouged out a narrow channel through the land bridge, resulting in treacherous rapids.

When Lewis and Clark came through there were many huge boulders in the rapids area, so they needed to portage their canoes around it. Previously the Indians had stolen their Newfoundland dog, "Seaman," but Sacagawea bargained with them and they had gotten it back. Seaman, (huge--one hundred-fifty pounds) was invaluable to the Expedition in catching and retrieving game, and scaring off wild animals. However, at the rapids the dog disappeared, whether it drowned, was stolen, or ran away, they never saw it again. A statue of Sacagawea and Seaman stand in a park near the Cascade Locks Museum.

The "Oregon Pony," was the first steam locomotive built on the Pacific Coast and first to be used in Oregon. This tiny, eight-ton engine, only fourteen-and-a half feet in length, was used during the 1860s to portage steamship passengers and goods round the rapids. During the gold strike in Idaho, the tiny "Oregon Pony" carried thousands of pounds of gold around the rapids on the way to the San Francisco Mint. It is now enshrined in the Cascade Locks Museum park.



The Columbia had always been a transportation route through the Cascade Mountains. Thus, eventually three locks were built here to lower ships forty feet so they could continue down the river. When Bonneville Dam was finished in 1937 and the water level rose enough, the locks were demolished. Along this stretch of river headed toward the Dam, we saw numerous Indian fishing platforms on each side of the river. Seven tribes have treaty rights to all the salmon they can catch, usually with hoop nets. The Indians who have boats are the only persons allowed to use gill nets.

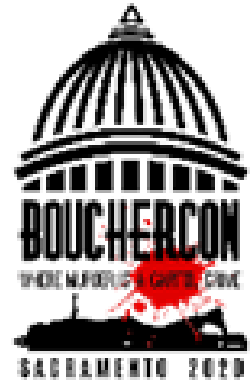
During the Oregon Trail days, the Army had three forts along this stretch of the river in order to protect the Oregon-bound immigrants from the Indians.

Our final destination was the Bonneville Dam. Here navigation locks on the Oregon side take twelve minutes to lower boats to the river below and there is no fee. At this time in October the spillways at Bonneville release eighty cubic feet of water a second, but in the Springtime over four hundred feet cubic feet per second. Today the Columbia River discharges twenty times more water into the ocean than does the Colorado River. Turning around we returned to the dock at Cascade Locks, having learned interesting history and witnessed majestic views along the Columbia Gorge.



Bouchercon Convention Interview

Jeannie Turner



Jeannie Turner and her sister, Judi Patterson, "attended" the Bouchercon Conference recently. Though it was supposed to be held in Sacramento, it was actually held virtually. It sounds like those of us who did not participate really missed a lot.

What made you decide to attend this convention, Bouchercon: The World Mystery Convention?

In 2018 when Bouchercon was first announced, my sister and I saw that our very favorite author, Anne Perry, would be a featured speaker. That did it for us. We sent off our money right away. For those next two years we anticipated our fun weekend, awaiting our delightful hours together. Of course, we had right away reserved our rooms in the same hotel where many of the events would be taking place.

So, I suppose you are both mystery writers?

Oh, no, neither of us do that. But we do read them.

Then you were going for just that one reason? To see Anne Perry?

Yes, we really were. But oh, my! We were surprised that we enjoyed every bit of that conference, and we have lists of more books that we now want to read. It was exhilarating to meet so many authors and hear back stories of books we'd read and books we now plan to read.

Were you disappointed when the COVID shutdown began?

Not at first, 'cause we just *knew* this bad COVID would all be over before October, for goodness sake! But, then, yes. We were very disappointed.

How did you feel when Bouchercon was changed to virtual and you wouldn't be able to attend in person?

We just pocketed our returned money from Bouchercon and our hotel and signed up for the virtual convention.

What did you miss from traditional conference?

All those tables in the main hall with authors selling their books which we would then carry back to our rooms in a sturdy canvas bag we would have been given with the Bouchercon insignia emblazoned across the side.

Finding a delightful place just down the street where we could enjoy a meal between sessions.

The fun of staying in a hotel and letting someone else make the bed.

Did you enjoy the virtual conference at all?

We certainly did!

What did you like Best?

We are front row sitters at conventions like this, and for this one we didn't have to dash from session to session and plow our way through crowds to get those front row seats!

Plus, we could actually see "behind the scenes." Fifteen minutes before each panel's start time we were allowed in. It was fun to hear the panelists from all over the United States—and beyond— kind of getting acquainted with each other. One moderator even introduced her cat and asked the panelists if the cat would

(Continued on page 6 — see "Bouchercon")

(Bouchercon — Continued from page 5)

be distracting and if she should put the cat in another room.

Also, it was easy to ask questions. Just type them in chat. Each session concluded with the last fifteen minutes for Q and A.

How hard was it to get connected to start? And go from one session to another?

Nothing hard about that! It was a breeze!

The hardest thing was deciding which of the several panels offered each session we would attend.

There were so many very interesting ones available to us.

Back to your drawing card, Anne Perry. How did that go?

Hers was one of the pre-taped hour-long interviews, so we actually watched hers more than once!

We learned so much more about her and how and why she does her historical mystery novels. If there had been no more to the conference than this, it would have been worth it.

What else did you learn at this conference?

How much time do you have? We both learned a lot. Each panelist is a prolific writer— their bios were right there for us to click on—and they shared insights in a wide range of topics: the future of noir, police procedurals, PIs, cold cases, contemporary crime, how policing has changed, facts of DNA, humor in mysteries. The panel on Villains: Made or Born included psychiatrists and other scientists—all writers, of course.

Did I tell you that in addition to Anne's, there were several other prominent writer taped interviews? Scott Turow is a most interesting person, and after hearing about his life and his books ... well, I have ordered some from my library and others from Amazon!

So, what, over all, did you learn from this Bouchercon conference?

Oh, a lot! But probably the biggest thing I learned is that I'm not ready to go back to school full-time. I had no idea staying so tightly focused for so many hours all day long could be so exhausting!

I have one final question for you. Were you ever tempted to attend a session in your PJs?

Don't ask!

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.

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!



Writing Prompt

What's the first (legal) thing you are going to do when the quarantine is over?

Will you give your family hugs that seem to last forever?

Will you go to your favorite restaurant and eat one of everything on the menu?

Will you go to a movie and buy tons of popcorn?

Will you try to lose the pounds ... the infamous "Corona 19"?

What do you have planned for the first week after the quarantine is cancelled? ... Or is it too soon to plan anything?



MEETING INFORMATION

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Next meeting:

Monday, November 9

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!***