

December, 2020

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

sactowriters.org

Next SSWC Meeting — Monday, December 14 at 7 p.m.

Join us for our annual potluck dinner. Of course this year it will be just a little different. Make a sandwich. Order in. Pick up some take-out. Whatever. Just be sure to join our Zoom SSWC meeting on Monday, December 14, and have fun with the rest of us, whether or not your mouth is full.

Would Emily Post approve of eating during a Zoom meeting? (Who's Emily Post you ask? Simple answer: Etiquette Guru.)

Whether or not she or anyone else tells you not to, there is an exception for our December meeting. Normally, we have dinner with time to chit-chat, network, share ideas, and get to know everyone better.

For this year's holiday celebration "together," we can still eat with everyone. Just remember to swallow before talking, please.

Readers/Presenters Needed for December Meeting

Every year, for decades, members have read at our potluck. Just because we can't get together for dinner and fun doesn't mean we should break the pattern. So, we are asking if you would like to read your short story, poem, or an excerpt from your book. If you would, please let President Ron know (ronvws@hotmail.com). Keep your reading to about 5 minutes, so about 750 words. Please no graphic violence or sex.

Club members and friends will get the chance to hear and see you read on Zoom. It is great practice and a fun way to get to know our members.

Zoom SSWC Meeting:

Simply click on the link below about 5 minutes before the meeting (about 6:55 p.m.):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89419271729?pwd=RldzK2YyaFFNRDdCZFFNc085ZHJldz09>

See page 2 for more details.

January Meeting — YES! A meeting in January! Yay!

January's Zoom meeting is going to be great! Be sure to join us on Monday, January 11, for a valuable presentation by author June Gillam. She has several books out, including *House of Dads*, *House of Cuts*, and more.

June will share her experience with hosting a virtual book launch, so important right now.

Also, Gloria Cooksey will re-start our workshops that we've had at our meetings for years. She will be the chair for finding other members to present at each of our future meetings too. Gloria will share some inspiration for all of us. Easy-peasy.

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Ronald Smith is inviting you to a scheduled SSWC Zoom meeting.

Topic: Ronald Smith's Zoom Meeting

Date: **Dec. 14, 2020**Time: **7:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89419271729?pwd=RldzK2YvaFFNRDdCZFFNc085ZHJldz09>Meeting ID: **894 1927 1729**Passcode: **223925**The Zoom logo is a blue square with the word "zoom" in white lowercase letters.

No waiting. No delay. Click on the above link or log on with the info provided then turn on your camera and your microphone (icons on Zoom), and enjoy the meeting.

**Support Your Club — Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club Specifically
Dues are Due****HAIL TO ALL YOU STAUNCH
SUPPORTERS OF SACRAMENTO SUBURBAN WRITERS CLUB!**

Kudos, praise, and thanks to those who have paid their 2021 dues!

Those who haven't yet shown their allegiance to writers of the world can send their checks to the membership chairman,

Jeannie Turner

2145 Farnsworth Way

Rancho Cordova CA 95670-2214

Praise be to the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club board; our dues have NOT increased—

Still a whole year's membership for less than a month of car washes at Quick Quack:

\$40 Individual membership

\$30 (seniors and full-time students)

\$55 couples

For new members, there is a form on the last page of this (and every) newsletter. Please print it, fill it out, and send it with your check to Jeannie at the above address.

Make your check out to SSWC.

**SSWC Elections**

In this strange year, we are simplifying our club's election process ... no fake ballots, no stuffed ballot boxes, no incursions from overseas ... just a simple vote by a show of hands at our next meeting.

If you are interested in any of the club's elected or volunteer positions, just say so. Help from many sources makes the already light workload even lighter.

Ron emailed the slate of officers and the open volunteer positions. So, be ready on Monday, December 14, to cast your vote. Easy-peasy.

Dear Fat Man in the red pajamas,

A hearty Ho, Ho, Ho to you. Since we're coming up fast on the end of 2020, I want you to know I fully understand your resistance to providing me my Maserati. It's almost as if you knew this would be a challenging year and continually put off dealing with the issue of getting me my expected wheels.



Since Covid struck, it has made the world a different place and surely difficult for everyone...including you and your elves, and I respect that. Even if you were, somehow, against all odds, to get me the car, I'd have no place to drive it under present conditions, so it would simply sit in my garage. I might let it stay outside for a day or two so the neighbors could drool over it—not that I'd want their drool to anoint the shine (they'd be wearing masks, anyway), but I'd like them just to realize my extraordinary good fortune in owning such a beauty.

But the whole thing is up to you. You can get me the car for Xmas and I'll praise your magnificence to the world, letting our past disagreements simply disappear in the wind, or you can even wait until next year. The pandemic has put a big crimp in everyone's expectations, even mine, so I would be willing to wait. I know you will find that surprising, but I am not an unreasonable person. 2020 has been a wipe-out and my expectations have been severely lowered.

I'm pretty sure you had nothing to do with the virus, after all, it is supposed to have come from afar. You *didn't* have anything to do with it, did you? Naw, I don't think so.

So, because of the lockdowns we all are coping with, I will agree to a delay of the possibility of submitting a lawsuit against you.

May I suggest you use this time productively to think about it. If the elves began work on it now, surely I'd be happy with it under my tree and you'd be happy being rid of me and my harassing letters. And, of course, Mrs. Klaus would certainly ease up on her harsh words to you.

It'd be a win-win situation.

A Merry Christmas to you and the team at the North Pole.

M.M. Rumberg

P.S. — I'd like a Cherry Red one!



A Message from, and Congratulations to, John Vester

Whatever you do, I wish you and yours a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas.

My editorial about the Pluto/planet controversy will be in the March/April issue of Analog magazine. My story, "Where There's Life," appeared in the Sept./Oct. issue. They have accepted another opinion piece from me.

That, and another story ("To Feed the Animals") and my Guest Editorial will also appear in Analog, I know not when.

ANTHOLOGY COPIES

Announcing the 2nd and probably last opportunity to buy the SSWC anthology through the club, saving some serious \$\$.

Buying them through the club, the price will be **\$6 per book for authors** or **\$7 for club members** and **\$8 for others**. Shipping and sales tax will be included (and that will save you some \$\$). Members can send a check to Mort Rumberg, and an order will be placed. We will once again set up a Saturday (in January) for distribution (for PAID orders) for easy pick up.

Mort Rumberg
2072 Xavier Lane
Roseville, CA 95747

Send a **check by to Mort by January 8**, made out to SSWC or Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club. The pick-up at the church parking lot will happen a few weeks later on a Saturday again—the date depending on the delivery of the books.



To buy a copy of the book by yourself... or to tell your friends and family where to buy it, you can either:

1. go to Amazon and type in (or copy this and paste it into the search line):
sacramento suburban writers other people, other places, other times book
2. or click on the link below to go directly to Amazon to order the book:

<https://www.amazon.com/Other-People-Places-Times-Sacramento/dp/1949309606>

Need to Move?



No, no, no! Not out of your house.
Not out of town. Your *body!* Do
you need to move your body?

Stretch your muscles? (What ARE muscles,
anyway? — You know, those things you
haven't used since March, perhaps?)

Well, I found an exercise video on
YouTube. The leader does a good job of
encouraging movement. It is for "seniors,"
but it would be good for *anybody*. Maybe it's
a starter video, but it will be good for you to
just move!

Try it out. It might make you feel better ...
well, you'll feel better after you do this a few
days.

Just click below.

[https://www.youtube.com/results?
search_query=AE_FeKpc_lk](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=AE_FeKpc_lk)

It's only 20 minutes long and is
varied enough to keep your
interest.

Of course, if you're as out as
shape as some of us are, you
can stop or pause the video
when you need to.



HISTORY

Pat Biasotti volunteered to help keep the history of
our club. She would very much like some pictures of
our 50th Anniversary celebration a few years ago.

We need a record of this important occasion in our
history files. She would appreciate actual print
photos, because her printer is only black and white.

Send to her at:

6650 Crosswoods Cir., #100
Citrus Heights, CA 95621

Thanks.

We all need a laugh these days and
Pat Biasotti submitted her
favorite *senior* joke.

My Living Will

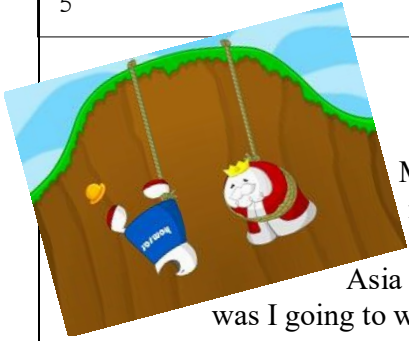
Last night my kids and I were
sitting in the living room and sipping wine. I said
to them, "I never want to live in a vegetative state,
depending on some machines and fluids from a
bottle. If this ever happens, just pull the plug."

They got up, unplugged my computer and threw
out my wine.



Learning to Engage Readers with K-Drama Techniques

Cathy McGreevy



My gut instinct about K-dramas (Korean dramas) used to be that they were melodramatic and sentimental with corny plots and bad-acting, like soap operas or Mexican telenovelas. So several years ago, when my daughter, Amy, who had lived in Asia for four years, invited me to watch a K-drama with her, I turned her down flat. No way was I going to waste my time on that nonsense.

Fast forward to March, 2020, a week or so after the COVID quarantine began. Once again, Amy asked me and her Dad to watch a K-drama with her. For the sake of family togetherness, I'd been watching a lot of other shows on TV I didn't really enjoy such as Taskmaster and a couple of slow-paced Japanese movies my husband suggested. As a result, this time I decided to sacrifice myself, watch an episode or two of a K-drama with Amy, then politely bow out.

My husband, who had the same prejudice as I did, said "No, thank you." So Amy and I went upstairs alone to watch a K-drama called *Pinocchio*., which my daughter told me was set in an alternative universe in which some people get the hiccups whenever they tell a lie. Sounded pretty dumb. Expecting little, I started to watch.

And was instantly hooked.

I'd mistaken melodrama and sentimentality for "grabbing your emotions and not letting go." The difference between being melodramatic and deeply moving is being able to pull it off. After all, the greatest works of literature all involve strong human emotions, high stakes, and familiar tropes—not just cheesy, badly written ones.

Before I emotionally recovered from *Pinocchio*, my daughter introduced me to another of her favorite K-dramas, *Healer*. I wasn't willing to give my heart away to another TV show again so soon, but I obediently sat through the first episode, grumbling inwardly, "This can't be nearly as good as Pinocchio." What a good mom I was, to watch this one with my daughter too.

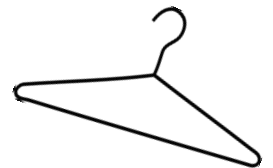
However, after the second episode I wasn't just hooked, I was binge-watching—something I'd never done before. Until the 16-episode show was over, I kept my daughter up till early morning, dragging myself to bed only when I could no longer keep my eyes open. Then, after awakening, I'd knock on her door begging to see the next episode. Incredibly, each show got better than the one before. And each one ended with cliffhangers that made it so I JUST HAD TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED NEXT!

Since then, I've watched more than fifty K-dramas. Each one has about 16 one-hour episodes. One was fifty episodes long. Please don't do the math. Let's just say that my writing schedule and my sleep have suffered.

As an author, I've spent a lot of time analyzing how the writers of my first K-dramas and many of the others managed to grab me and not let go. And how can I, and you, use these techniques in our own writing to engage our own readers.

I'll let you know my conclusions in my next article on this topic.

(Hint: One technique is to end on a cliff-hanger.)



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.

The Emotion Thesaurus

Laura Kellen

Did you attend the November meeting? Maybe you heard mention in the meeting about a unique thesaurus that some of our members are using - *The Emotion Thesaurus*.

This book lists 75 different emotions, then lists the body language, thoughts, and visceral responses associated with each. For example, the emotion of "desperation" is associated with physical signs of pacing, strained forearms, and an emotion-choked voice. A character who is experiencing desperation may feel a tightness in their chest, a willingness to sacrifice goals, desires, and needs, and become obsessed with plotting out their desired outcome. These external and internal cues of emotion help a writer to add richness and complexity to their story.

This is part of a larger series called the "Writers Helping Writers Series." Designed to help writers add more detail, realism, and emotion to their novels, these books are written for writers, by writers.

What books are in the series?

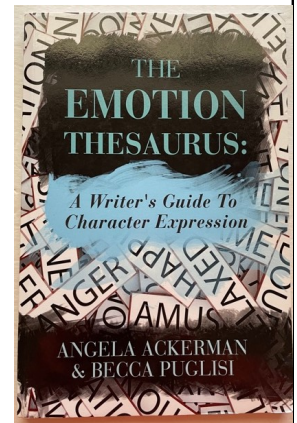
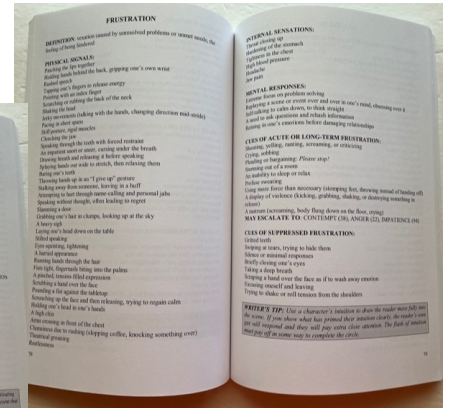
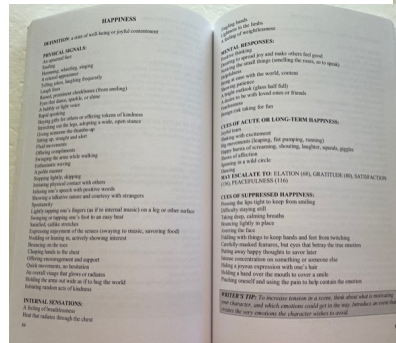
- The Emotion Thesaurus: A Writer's Guide to Character Expression
- The Negative Trait Thesaurus: A Writer's Guide to Character Flaws
- The Positive Trait Thesaurus: A Writer's Guide to Character Attributes
- The Rural Setting Thesaurus: A Writer's Guide to Personal and Natural Places
- The Urban Setting Thesaurus: A Writer's Guide to City Spaces
- The Emotional Wound Thesaurus: A Writer's Guide to Psychological Trauma
- The Occupation Thesaurus: A Writer's Guide to Jobs, Vocations, and Careers

All of these books are written by Becca Puglisi and Angela Ackerman. They are all available on Amazon for reasonable prices (\$5.99 Kindle, \$15-17 in paperback.)

For more information on the Writers Helping Writers series, see here:

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07ZH6WS6C>

Hint from the editor: Maybe if we all bug the SSWC Librarian (our Prez), we might get the club to buy these?



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!

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 or on page 2 of this newsletter. Make check out to SSWC.

OFFICERS

Elected Officers:

President	Ron Smith
Vice President	Brittany Lord
Secretary	You?
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	Gloria Cooksey

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



Writing Prompt

Are you spending some of your "free" time clearing out parts (or all) of your house?

Have you found something to donate to a charity?

Did you find something for our raffle table during this "stay-at-home" time?

Write about an item you found that surprised you. Maybe something that you treasured. Or an item you just couldn't part with.

Hint: Just write! (Do as I say, not as I do!)



MEETING INFORMATION

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Next meeting:

Monday, December 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!***