

March, 2021

Suburban Scribe

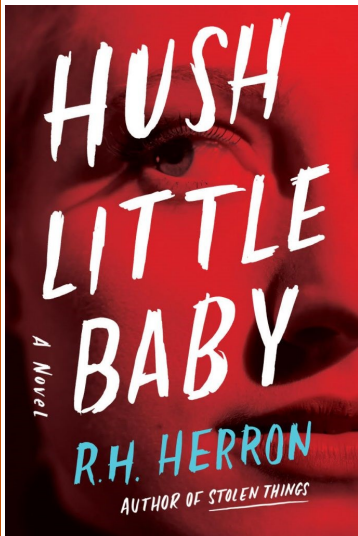
Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

sactowriters.org

Rachael Herron, author, will speak to our SSWC members at our Monday, March 8, 2021, Zoom meeting.

Once you've written those important words — "The End" — you may think you're done, but the work is really just beginning! It's not all about writing — it's about rewriting, too.

Revision is often feared, but when equipped with a few simple tools, it turns into the most fun that can be had while writing! After hearing about these tips and tricks from author Rachael Herron, you'll be impatient to get to revision!



Rachael Herron is the internationally bestselling author of more than two dozen books, including thrillers (under pen name R.H. Herron), mainstream fiction, feminist romance, memoir, and nonfiction about writing. She received her MFA in writing from Mills College, Oakland, and she teaches writing extension workshops at both UC Berkeley and Stanford. She is a proud member of the NaNoWriMo Writer's Board, and she's a New Zealand citizen as well as an American.

Learn more about Rachael Herron at her website:

<https://rachaelherron.com/>

Zoom Meeting Info—Briefly

Join us on Monday, March 8 at 7 p.m. for the next SSWC meeting time.

AT 6:55 pm. CLICK BELOW to join the 7 pm meeting —

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84982401122?pwd=Vlhpd2duM2RPVETwSEhjWjByWGhJQT09>

More details for joining the meeting are on page 2.

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ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS FOR JOINING MONDAY'S SSWC MEETING

Hello Everyone,

Once again, we mingle and support each other on Monday, March 8th at 7pm. Join the Zoom meeting and meet another great speaker. I'm proud how well SSWC members have been stepping up and keeping the writers club moving forward in these challenging times. Feeling a bit blue, write a happy story and change your mood. Take care and see everyone on Zoom.

Ronald Smith, President, SSWC

Date: Monday, March 8, 2021

Topic: Ronald Smith's Zoom Meeting

Time: 7:00 PM

Join SSWC Zoom meeting live. How? Easy — just click on the link below to join the fun:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84982401122?pwd=Vlhpd2duM2RPVEtwSEhjWjByWGhJQT09>

Another way to join Zoom meeting, log into your personal Zoom account and enter:

Meeting ID: 849 8240 1122

Passcode: 982306

A brave way to enter meeting with data phone:

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,84982401122#,,,,*982306# US (San Jose)

or dial: +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose) Meeting ID: 849 8240 1122 Passcode: 982306



"Reading-the-Newsletter" Contest

Last month four members responded to the request for the "secret word" to be sent to the editor: Pat Biasotti, Cathy McGreevy, Laura Kellen, and Eva Wise. Their names were put into a bag and Cathy's was drawn. She is the winner of a \$20 gift certificate from Amazon.

To win, find the big typo then send an email to Mary Lou with "SSWC Found It!" in the subject line. Tell me which article the big typo is in along with the page number

Your name will be placed into the pot for the drawing. One "little" change ... you've got to attend the meeting ... you must be present to win.

Thank you to those who participated. Now, finish reading the newsletter.

A WRITING IDEA

Here's a thought to share the great information our club has to offer.

If you know other writers anywhere in the U.S.A., or even anywhere in the world, invite them to join us in our Zoom meeting. Everyone is invited, members or not. The meeting might seem late on the East Coast, but think how early it would be for someone in Hawaii or Alaska ... or even Europe? Or Asia? Or ... ?



60 Minutes — Interview with Colson Whitehead

If you missed *60 Minutes* Sunday, February 28, you missed a great interview with Colson Whitehead, a two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize in fiction for *Underground Railroad* and *The Nickle Boys*. (There are very few writers who have won the Pulitzer Prize twice!)

A couple of things caught my attention. The interviewer read the opening sentence of each of his books. He called them “crackling.”

“Even in death the boys were in trouble.”

“The first time Caesar approached Cora about running north, she said, ‘No’.”

“It’s a new elevator, freshly pressed to the rails, and it’s not built to fall this fast.”

“I have a good poker face because I’m half-dead inside.”

Here's something to help make him more relatable to us: his first book was submitted 25 times and was rejected every time. It is still unpublished. He also writes in multiple genres.

It was reported that four million copies of his books have been sold.

His wife gave away one of his writing secrets: he listens to loud music while he writes.

Regarding his switching around different genres, he says, “You can write anything if you’re good enough.” (It sounds like he certainly is “good enough.”)

If you would like to watch the interview, click below:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/colson-whitehead-profile-60-minutes-2021-02-28/>

Comma Rule Review — Interjections

The Grammar Guardian
M. L. Edson

An interjection is a word or short phrase that interrupts the sentence and usually shows strong emotion, such as surprise or anger.

An interjection can stand alone, as in “**Yippee!**” or “**Oh no!**”

Or an interjection can be used at the beginning of a sentence:

“**Oh**, you really meant that.”

“**No**, you may not go outside without your mittens on.”

An interjection that is within a sentence needs to be surrounded by commas.

“You, **um**, really know who did it?”

Use these in your writing, correctly, of course, to add emotion to your characters and your story.

LOTZA GOOD PEOPLE IN SSWC

Pat Biasotti

It is certainly true that there are *Lotza Good People in SSWC*, because we are a very friendly group and generous with our help. However, that helping hand does not always apply only to writing techniques. Kudos to member Edric Cane who went to bat for an unjustly convicted felon, Quinton Watts, who served more than a decade in prison. Watts was the driver of the casino bus which crashed near Colusa in 2008, killing eleven people. News of this crash made all the headlines.

Cane has been a lifelong instructor in various colleges and universities, starting with English Literature and later getting his math credentials. Originally from France, he came to Southern California and moved to Sacramento about the time of the Watt's trial. He read the articles accusing Watts of sleeping at the wheel or being drunk. Something in the reports aroused suspicions which stayed with him. About ten years later he wrote a letter to The Sacramento Bee asking for an update on the case. Through it he met Rhonda Glaser, a justice advocate investigating the Watts case. She had collected piles of records, files and transcripts, and was advocating for Watts' release.



Quite a leap from mathematics to a criminal case, but Cane was horrified by the trial irregularities Glaser had found. For one, he says, "The defense system was so atrocious I was shocked. It was my first encounter with the American justice system. How could someone be defended so poorly?" He and Glaser met weekly, and for two months he studied those records.

You need to know why Cane was so shocked by that trial, which resulted in a sentence of 26 years and 4 months for Watts, a Black man. It was a gross travesty of justice. Watch for "The Watts Trial" in next month's SSWC Newsletter.

However, a few weeks ago, Quinton Watts walked out of prison, a free man, due to the efforts of several people, not the least Edric Cane and a recent Sacramento Bee investigation. A caravan of cars, including Cane's family, Glaser, reporters and others were there to greet Watts. Cane and his family hired an Uber so that two of Watts' daughters, now 14 and 19, and who had not seen him in 12 years, were there to meet him. Watts hugged his girls and said, "I just wanted to go home and see my beautiful girls. It's a dream come true."

Cane continues to help him resettle with a GoFundMe account (set up by Cane's daughter), negotiate the myriad details of integration into civilian life—these *new-fangled* iPhones perplexed Watts. Cane also investigates ways to purge him of this unjust conviction, plus help him obtain employment; (Watts earned custodial credits working in the medical ward at the prison.)

Our hats are certainly off to you, Edric Cane.

WORKSHOP

Gloria Cooksey

The March workshop topic is online reference sites, so I've compiled a list of (my favorite) places for discussion. Every line is linked to the website it describes. Let me know if you experience problems with the links and I will make repairs. Everyone is encouraged to share additional websites that might be helpful. the big typo I will provide an updated chart after the March workshop, if necessary.

"TELECOMMUTE TECHNOLOGY" Contact Gloria Cooksey at gloria.cooksey@usa.net or P.O. Box 293032 Sacramento, CA 95829-3032 (USA) Fax: 1-916-200-2408.

LINKS TO ONLINE REFERENCE SITES

LIBRARIES

[Library of Congress \(including catalog and locations of rare books\)](#)

[Copyright](#)

[Interlibrary Loan](#)

[Law Library](#)

[Library Card \(Reader Registration\)](#)

[Publishing Resources](#)

[Sacramento Public Library](#)

[San Francisco Public Library](#)

REFERENCE MATERIALS

[Merriam-Webster Dictionary/Thesaurus](#)

[Encyclopedia Britannica](#)

[The World Factbook—Central Intelligence Agency](#)

[Google Maps](#)

[Foreign Language Translations](#)

Time & Place

[Calendar Generator](#)

[International Time and Date](#)

[Moon Phases 2020 – Lunar Calendar](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

[Grammarly Official Site - Online Grammar Tool](#)

[Project Gutenberg \(public domain literature\)](#)

[Random Face Generator \(photos\)](#)

[Random Location Generator \(photos with options of category/image type/color\)](#)

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, SSWC Membership Chair. 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	Linda Covelli
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	YOU ????
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!**

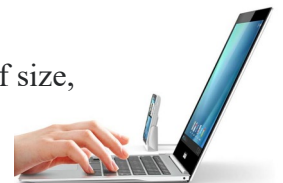


WRITING PROMPT

Here is a prompt submitted by Mort:

**I looked out the window and couldn't
believe what I saw. It was ...**

Describe what it was you saw in terms of size,
color, and purpose.



MEETING INFORMATION

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Next meeting:

Monday, March 8

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!*