

May, 2021

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

sactowriters.org

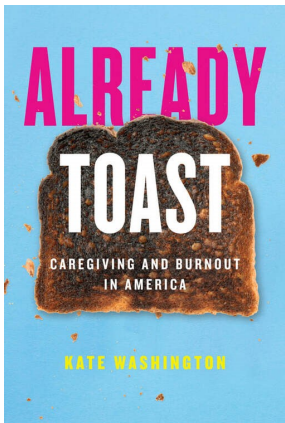
Kate Washington, author of *Already Toast, Caregiving and Burnout in America*, will speak to SSWC during our 7 p.m. Zoom meeting on Monday, May 10, 2021.



Join us for May's meeting where author Kate Washington will discuss her newly released book: *Already Toast: Caregiving and Burnout in America*. Kate will also talk about her lengthy professional writing career, her path to publication, and the content of her work.

Already Toast: Caregiving and Burnout in America is the story of one woman's struggle to care for her seriously ill husband — and a revealing look at the role that unpaid family caregivers play in a society that fails to provide them with structural support. Her book received a starred review in Book List and has garnered reviews from *Kirkus*, *Publishers Weekly*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *Lit Hub*, and *The Millions*.

Local club members may already be familiar with Kate's work, as she is a dining critic for *The Sacramento Bee* and has written extensively for *Sacramento News & Review*. An author interview recently appeared in *The Sacramento Bee*, as well as a profile piece in *Sacramento Magazine*. Our long-distance visitors may already be familiar with Kate from her op-ed article that appeared in *The New York Times* on February 22. In addition to being a local author, Kate has written for many other publications, such as *The Washington Post*, *Eater*, *Catapult*, and *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*. You can visit Kate's website at: kawashington.com



Check out the Sacramento Magazine profile here: https://issuu.com/sacramentomagazine/docs/march_2021/46

Here is The Sacramento Bee's interview with Kate: <https://www.sacbee.com/entertainment/article249950419.html>

Kate's New York Times Op-Ed: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/22/opinion/us-caregivers-biden.html>

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Zoom Meeting Info — Briefly

Join us on Monday, May 10 at 7 p.m. for the next SSWC meeting time.

AT 6:55 pm. [CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE 7 pm MEETING](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81884702569?pwd=V211SFZSmtiQzdQblpaVHNfV0diQT09) —

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81884702569?pwd=V211SFZSmtiQzdQblpaVHNfV0diQT09>

More details for joining the meeting are on page 2.

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS FOR JOINING MONDAY'S SSWC MEETING



Date: Monday, 10, 2021

Topic: Ronald Smith's Zoom Meeting

Time: 7:00 PM

Writers, Artists, and Friends,

Once again, Laura Kellen and SSWC have come through with another exciting guest speaker. Join Monday night's meeting as Kate Washington discusses her newly released book: *Already Toast: Caregiving and Burnout in America*.

If you are having problems putting together and comprehending the complex book publication world, join us and learn ... and maybe help one of us in the process. Learning as a group can save you time and money.

I hope to see everyone there,

Ronald Smith President Sacramento Suburban Writers Club where writers are not restricted, but are set free to find their writing voices.

No need to join any websites, just click the link below and learn:

SSWC Meeting May 10, 2021 07:00 PM Pacific Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81884702569?pwd=V2lISFIZSmtiOzdQblpaVHNFV0diQT09>

Or if you prefer, log into your Zoom account and enter:

Meeting ID: 818 8470 2569

Passcode: 333949

Use your cellular phone:

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,81884702569#,,, *333949# US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 818 8470 2569

Passcode: 333949

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kCoC1n7b1>



Want to watch our previous speakers we've had on Zoom meetings? Want to review what our great speakers have shared with us?

Did you know we now have a channel on YouTube? Simply go to the **YouTube site** and search for "**Sacramento Suburban Writers Club**." Options for our Zoom speakers should appear at the top of the list.

A bunch of others things opened, too. Some SSWC ... and some other writers' clubs popped up.

If you click on the link below, you get a professionally produced presentation featuring Michael Fitzgerald.

https://youtu.be/XuRacfq_kCY

MAY WORKSHOP

Gloria Cooksey

For the May meeting workshop, we will revisit the topic of POV and voice, with the emphasis on voice. Last month, we read an excerpt from the Alice B. Toklas autobiography in which Gertrude Stein employed a recursive voice device.

This month, I would like everyone to come up with an excerpt, from either your own repertoire or literature—it makes no difference, as long as it might generate discussion on the topic of Voice. Please let me know if you have something in mind.

Regards,

Gloria C. gloria.cooksey@usa.net

PUBLISHED!

John Vester

The May/June issue of the *Analog* magazine ("Home of the Finest Science Fiction and Science Fact") just arrived and my Guest Editorial, "A Frightened New World" is the very first thing in it.

It's a bit of perhaps fanciful musing on the possible lessons learned from the pandemic and potential benefits.

I hope you pick it up and let me know what your thoughts on the subject are.

Who vs. Whom - the battle rages.

Mort Rumberg

Some say that "whom" should be dropped from English because it's confusing and just not needed. Others insist it should remain because it clarifies and sounds right.

As always, be careful what you wish for.

Absolutely proper English has always been a challenge, and those two words have bedeviled me at times.

There are technical reasons behind the use of who or whom, and I'm sure a good editor can write a book about it. Oh, wait...it's already been done. but if you're like me, you don't know the technical rules as well as you should, so I have come up with a generally simple way to decide the monumental dilemma of which one to use.

You ask a question. If the answer is *he* or *she*, you use *who*. If the answer comes up *him* or *her*, use *whom*.

Some examples: Statement: The book was missing. I wonder who (or whom) took it?

Question: "Who (or whom) took the book?"

Answer: *He* or *she* did sounds better than *him* or *her* took it — so use *who*.

Question: "Who (or with whom) are you going to the dance with?"

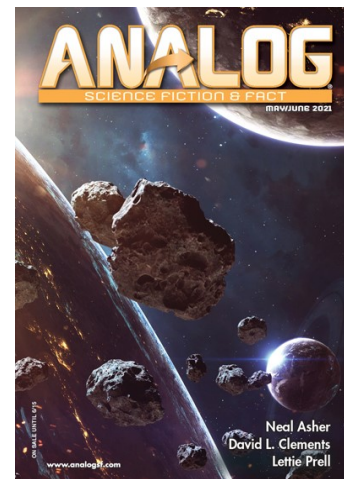
Answer: I'm going with *him* or *her* sounds better than I'm going with *he* or *she* — so use *whom*.

Shortcut:

Who = he or she

Whom = him or her

While that clears it up for me, remember that English always has exceptions and is not an easy language to master. I wonder who (or whom) said so?

**Wings of Love**

Paul Turner

On wings of love
my hopes do fly
away from me
like butterflies

Have I the grace to make love true
on wings of love
to fly to you

butterflies of breeze blown love
above the seashore's fickle sands
from ocean depths to skies above
the dance of flutterwings portends
my sea-blown grave near water's end

Grandma Waiting on The Bus Bench

Marleen Hoffman

There she sat on the shady bus bench with her valise next to her. It was a beautiful day with puffy white clouds floating in a beautiful blue sky.

“Good morning, Ma’am” the officer greeted her. “Oh, I meant to say afternoon, for it surely is way past noon!”

“Yes,” she said. “It is way past noon. And how are you this fine afternoon?”

“My feet are a bit tired, but I will be off work come sunset. Been waiting long?”

“Oh, no. Not long. My grandson will be picking me up soon in his new car. You see, he just moved here to go to college. I took the overnight bus to visit him for a few days.”

“What kind of a car did he buy?”

“Oh, he said it is shiny black. I don’t know what kind it is. It was a present from me for him graduating from high school and getting into college. I’m sure that he’ll be here soon. He’s always on time or early.”

“Very well, Ma’am. Have a good visit.” He tipped his hat and was off on his rounds.

She sat on the shady bus bench and looked down at her wrinkled old hands that had scrubbed so many hospital floors, the only job that an older woman could find after the Great Depression. Her husband killed himself after the banks collapsed and left her alone to raise their children. They all had finished college and now their children were well on their way to getting into college. Little Johnny was the firstborn grandchild. Now he was a grown-up man.

She smiled. Her mom had called that kind of wrinkling ‘shrinkled skin.’ Mom had made up the word, laughing when she said it.

“Still waiting, Ma’am?” the Officer said as he passed her again. The sun was setting and turning the sky a bright orange.

“Yes, Sir. Something must have delayed him.”

“I’m on my way home now. May I give you a ride?”

“Oh, no. I’m sure that he will be here soon.”

“May I give him a call for you?”

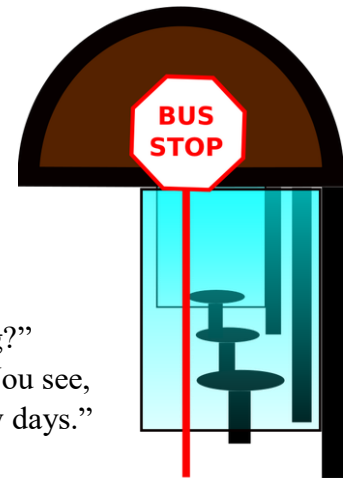
“He doesn’t have his new phone number yet as he just moved in.”

“What’s his name? I can find out where he lives on his college registration form.”

“Oh, you can?” She looked up at him with hopeful eyes. “It is Johnny Newman. He is 18. He has red hair so everyone calls him Carrot Top!”

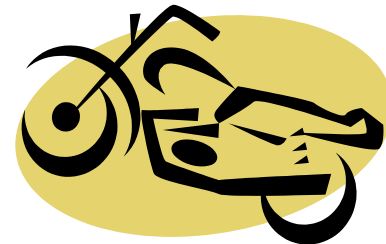
A dark cloud fell over the Officer’s face. His smile vanished. He sat down on the bus bench next to the valise as if his legs had been knocked out from under him. Just how does he tell her that several young men were in a new black car, went off of the road not twelve hours ago, and all were killed. The driver was Johnny Newman with red hair.

The old grandma saw the despair on his face and realized something was very wrong. She began to cry, took a deep breath and slowly let it out. With that, she silently went to join Johnny.



Upcoming Publication

Kimberly Edwards



I am happy to announce that my book, SACRAMENTO MOTORCYCLING: A CAPITAL CITY TRADITION, is scheduled to come out July 5.

This was the biggest I've ever taken on. Small discoveries 1910-'60 kept me going. Who would have guessed that a motorcycle raffle served as an incentive to draw women into a K Street shoe store in 1910! In the 1930s, Hughes Stadium attracted racers from all over the world. In the 1950s, a stallion named Comet raced a motorcycle at Selby Ranch during intermission. What I couldn't include was the sighting of the nude woman crossing a Bay Area bridge while riding a motorcycle. Many dutiful policemen followed, but they didn't catch her.

Thanks to all the local experts who helped me identify people and motorcycles, especially Rich Ostrander of Ft. Sutter Chapter of the AMCA, Ralph Venturino of Capital City Motorcycle Club, Ken Magri of Armando Magri, and Michael Blanchard of Scooter City.

Check out Kimberly's Facebook page. Just click below:

<https://www.facebook.com/KimberlyAEdwardsauthor>

Contact info for April Speaker Emily Blodget

There was SOOO much information shared by Emily. To make things easier, here is contact info for her and for the library.

California State Library
www.library.ca.gov
 914 Capitol Mall
 Sacramento, CA 95825

Mailing address:
 P.O. Box 942837
 Sacramento, Ca 94237-0001

* * * * *

And someone mentioned a music video???

Chief Operator music video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Obml0MsgxVk>

Government Publications
gslgps@library.ca.gov
 (916 323-9845)

Emily Blodget
Emily.Blodget@library.ca.gov
 (916) 894-6562

https://castatelibrary-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/emily_blodget_library_ca_gov/EZ9WhdhD9XZAqTwKP9IshAMB1jTtLUTZxVdasqsYYnx7A?e=uR77tG

Word Search — Genres

M. L. Edson

Need another excuse to avoid writing your poem, short story, or book? Here's an opportunity just for you.

Circle the words in the grid that are listed below. They can be frontwards, backwards, or diagonal.

S	T	C	R	E	R	R	Y	W	S	Q	N	S	Z	T			
P	C	S	O	O	M	R	E	U	Y	O	Z	Y	M	I	Biography	ChildLit	Cooking
O	P	I	M	O	E	I	S	L	N	B	H	A	F	L	Crime	Essays	FairyTale
R	E	U	E	T	K	P	R	F	L	O	D	S	A	D	Fantasy	Fiction	HowTo
T	H	T	S	N	E	I	I	C	W	I	U	S	I	L	Humor	Magic	Memoir
S	B	Y	S	N	C	C	N	T	E	O	R	E	R	I	Mystery	Nonfiction	Politics
F	M	Q	S	Z	T	E	O	G	S	I	M	H	Y	H	Romance	Science	SelfHelp
I	G	E	R	I	E	S	N	E	P	S	U	S	T	C	Sports	Suspense	Suspense
C	P	R	O	M	A	N	C	E	N	F	O	M	A	T	Thriller	Travel	YoungAdult
T	R	N	T	L	U	D	A	G	N	U	O	Y	L	R			
I	B	I	O	G	R	A	P	H	Y	Z	P	M	E	A			
O	H	U	O	M	A	G	I	C	S	K	A	P	F	V			
N	A	H	V	M	P	L	E	H	F	L	E	S	W	E			
N	L	P	S	Q	E	S	C	I	T	I	L	O	P	L			
W	T	Y	E	O	X	M	F	A	N	T	A	S	Y	B			

PLEASE READ **** COPY AND DEADLINES **** PLEASE READ

Submit **original writings (by you!)** ... written and edited/corrected ... such as: poems, letters, book excerpts, articles, book reviews, humor, web sites to visit, general information, fun stuff to share — almost anything **written by you**. Also, please share info about book completions and launches, other meetings, apps, contests, books, book signings, classes, etc. — **written by YOU**. If you find something great on the Internet, **DO NOT COPY** and send it. Send the **LINK** so others can find it. **DO NOT COPY** stories and articles off the Internet. **Send the link.** (Writing your own material avoids copyright issues and lawsuits and expands your brain! YOUR brain!)

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.

Computer Frustration ... Computer "Magic"

Mary Lou



Do you get different quotation marks when typing your story in Word? Do you sometimes see straight quotation marks (" ") and sometimes the curly quotes (“ ”)?

I found an easy fix. Simply click on Replace (or use ^h, that's "ctrl-h"). Put in a quote mark in the *Find* area. Put in a quote mark in the *Replace* space. Then click on *Replace All*.

Poof! Bingo! Done. That automatically changes ALL the double quote marks with the "other" font. The same thing can be done with the single quote marks.

This worked in the Microsoft Word program, at least. Unfortunately, it didn't work for me in my Publisher program.

Wow! What a Website!

Contributed by Wes Turner

Check this one out. It tells about the longest novel. It is really long. Really!

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/645870/longest-novel-ever-published>

Blogs Anyone?

If any of you members of SSWC have a blog, let me know, and I'll post it here in the newsletter each month.

A blog can increase your visibility as an author, gain followers, and maybe even increase sales.

Here are the two I have.

Dave Wheeler has this one:

TheWriteDave.com

Andrea Roth's:

mydiabeticsoul.com

**Let me know what your blog link is,
and I'll add it to this list.**

Fun from the Internet

Why is noon like the letter A?
Because it comes in the middle of the day

What letter isn't found in the alphabet?
The one you put in the mailbox.

How does a house freshen its breath?
With apart-mints.

Where do ants come from?
Antarctica

Why was the astronaut hungry?
Because it was launch time.

How can you make a road broad?
Add a B

Why is the letter B like fire?
Because it makes oil boil.

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 a copy, 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!



Uninspired? Me too.

Can't think of anything to write? Perhaps try these:

Go for a walk. Call a friend.

List your hates. List your likes. (Do they overlap?)

Take a nap. (My personal favorite!)

Go ahead and do those things that keep you from writing: dishes, laundry, gardening. Get them done so you no longer have those excuses.



MEETING INFORMATION

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Next meeting:

Monday, May 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!***