

June, 2021

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

sactowriters.org

Gail Carriger will speak on Monday, June 14 at 7 p.m. ... On Zoom.

Gail has published several books and will share what she has learned about writing, publishing, and marketing. The presentation should be very informative and interesting.

Are you using an author newsletter? If not, you're missing out on one of the most powerful marketing tools that you have available to you as an author!

Newsletters are easy to get started and easy to maintain. They build your credibility, give your fans something to connect to, and give you a platform in which to stay relevant and fresh. Most importantly, this is one of the top ways you can encourage your readers to buy and read your books.

Still not sure? Don't just read this introduction — listen to our June speaker, Gail Carriger. Gail will cover the subject of newsletters (with hard data!) and also touch on the finer points of websites, social media, and Amazon Author Central.

Gail writes comedies of manners mixed with steampunk and urban fantasy (plus sexy queer joy as G. L. Carriger). Her books include the *Parasol Protectorate*, *Custard Protocol*, *Tinkered Stars*, and the *San Andreas Shifter* series for adults, and the *Finishing School* series for young adults. Also, she has written nonfiction: *The Heroine's Journey: For Writers, Readers, and Fans of Pop Culture*. She is published in many languages, has over a million books in print, over a dozen *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestsellers, and starred reviews in *Publishers Weekly*, *Booklist*, *Kirkus*, and *Romantic Times*.

Her debut made Audible's Best list, was a Publishers Weekly Best Book, an IndieBound Notable, and a Locus Recommended Read. She has received the ALA's Alex Award, the Prix Julia Verlanger, the Elbakin Award, the Steampunk Chronicle's Reader's Choice Award, and a Starburner Award. She was once an archaeologist and is fond of shoes, cephalopods, and tea.

Learn more about Gail at: www.gailcarriger.com

Gail also has many resources available for writers on her website:

<https://gailcarriger.com/resources/>

Gail Carriger is a very organized presenter and has asked the group to submit any questions that you may want to ask her. Send questions to misslaurakellen@gmail.com



Zoom Meeting Info — Briefly

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

About 6:55 pm. **CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE 7 pm MEETING** —

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81327566290?pwd=SIZPUERNRfdBdk02OXNrOHhsNWIIUT09>

More details for joining the meeting are on page 2.

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ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS FOR JOINING MONDAY'S SSWC MEETING

Date: Monday, June 14, 2021

Time: 7:00 PM

SSWC welcomes everyone. We will meet on Zoom with another great guest speaker. As the world opens, so can our in-person meetings. **Please respond to Ron's email address below and let him know if you are willing to meet back at the church in one of the following three ways.**

1. **Not meet in person.**
2. **Meet with everyone fully vaccinated.**
3. **Meet with not everyone fully vaccinated.**

Please remember that every members' medical history is private and will not be asked, so answer accordingly. Email me at ronvws@hotmail.com

Take care,
Ronald Smith, President Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81327566290?pwd=SIZPUERNRFdBdk02OXNrOHhsNWIIUT09>

A second easy method to join Zoom meeting, log into your Zoom account and enter:

Meeting ID: 813 2756 6290

Passcode: 196362

Mobile phones use One tap mobile:

+16699009128,,81327566290#,,,,*196362# US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 813 2756 6290

Passcode: 196362

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kMEZlJz9o>

SPECIAL NOTE: This session will not be recorded. Please attend live!



Any Crime Writers in the Club?

This year, the California Crime Writer's Conference is both virtual and free! This year's conference is headlined by Cara Black, the author of the popular, ongoing Aimee Leduc series (19 books and counting!) Other popular speakers will be Jeffrey Deaver, S.A. Cosby, Anne Perry, and Victoria Thompson.

The next California Crime Writers Conference, co-sponsored by [Mystery Writers of America SoCal Chapter](#) and [Sisters in Crime/Los Angeles](#) will go live on **June 12, 2021** virtually via the magic of the Internet. Better yet, **it's free!**

Our Guest of Honor this year will be **Cara Black**. Come see our amazing collection of authors talking about [research, romance, and writing about cops in today's world](#). Our panelists and speakers include Jeffrey Deaver, S.A. Cosby, Anne Perry, and Victoria Thompson.

The conference will take place on June 12, 2021. Register here: <https://ccwconference.org/>

Tales of the Bermuda Triangle

Michael Brandt

It was a beautiful, warm sunny day in Bahamian waters where things are not always what they seem. I was aboard the cruise ship *Regent's Navigator*, May 2017, headed southeast for St. Bart's, French West Indies, but more importantly, I was in the Bermuda Triangle.

There was a hypnotic spell about being on the open seas, captivating, alluring, and even seductive. I decided to walk, rather than run on the ship's track due to the choppy Atlantic waters. The track was 1/10 of a mile around for one loop and ten loops for a mile. It was a well laid out track, freshly painted sea blue against the white backdrop located on the upper deck overlooking the pool. There was a mild fragrant sea breeze blowing from port to starboard.

I tracked my mileage using my iPhone's GPS and found that in a short time I had walked faster than a running cheetah in search of a tasty Thompson's gazelle – at the age of 75! In no time, my GPS captured six miles – in twenty minutes? A qualifying time set for the Guinness Book of Records without even breaking a sweat. It then dawned on me that I was recording the ship's movement and not my walking. After a good laugh, I resumed my walk counting laps. Welcome to the mysteries of the Bermuda Triangle, or was I bending time?

GRAMMAR GUARDIAN'S RANT

The Grammar Guardian
M. L. Edson



I just saw it again, and I just *have* to speak up. Something is not right in the world.

What is this unimaginably wrong happening during these disruptive times?

It's the apostrophe appearing where it should not. Once again, "*it's*" was used as the possessive and not the contraction "*it's*" actually is. And, it was written for the world to see ... it was on the Internet! This is soooo wrong and needs to be corrected immediately!

It's = it is. The possessive form of it is like theirs, yours, his, hers, ours. There is no apostrophe in those possessives. There is no apostrophe in the possessive form of "it."

What's weird is that "it's" was used correctly and incorrectly in the same article, in two sentences close together. The Yahoo screen shows: "A thyroid medicine's third recall: **It's** (correct—it is) too weak" and just below that, it reads: "... Pharmaceuticals can't seem to get **it's** (incorrect—should be 'its') thyroid medicine right." This would be read as: "... can't seem to get *it is* thyroid medicine..."

Save yourselves! Save each other! Save the world from incorrect punctuation usage!

DO NOT PUT AN APOSTROPHE IN THE POSSESSIVE ITS. Save the apostrophe by using it ONLY where it belongs. **Again: it's = it is ... it-apostrophe-s equals it is.**

Writing Success

Bonnie Bair

It has been five years since I left Sacramento, heading back to my hometown of Vancouver, Washington, to make some big decisions: “What I am I going to be when I grow up?” aside from a best-selling author 😊. Once I chose, I had to take about two years’ worth of pre-requisite courses so I could apply to graduate school. Fast forward to the present, I’ve finished a Master’s degree in Occupational Therapy from Eastern Washington University and completed two more ABC books, in addition to the *ABCs of Sacramento*.

The ABC book idea started with the desire to create books for children, but once I started researching places around Sacramento and learning the history of each site, I couldn’t just leave it as a picture and one word. What emerged was a 30–40-page travel-sized, A-to-Z-formatted guidebook to help both resident and visitor alike learn about their city and get out and explore all it has to offer.

Many years ago, I attended an SSWC-sponsored meeting with Bud Gardner regarding the joys and challenges of self-publishing, and I have definitely found this to be true in recent days. Recently I finished the *ABCs of Spokane* and decided to market it to gift shops near Riverfront Park in Spokane. About a week after sending out inquiries, I received two emails back from businesses! Never having been in this situation, I was wondering which store to choose to sell my book. After reaching out to Mary Lou Anderson and my entrepreneurial-minded father, I chose to take them both on.

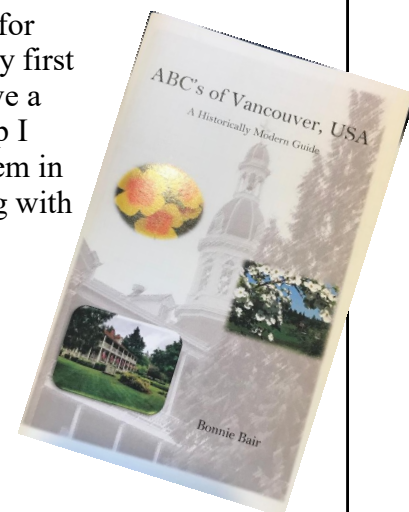
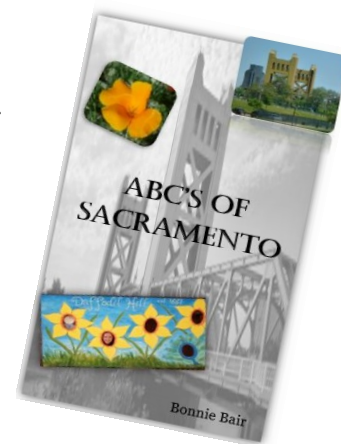
The success was addicting, so I decided to reach out to Sacramento businesses featured in the *ABCs of Sacramento*. Much to my surprise, the Effie Yeaw Nature Center responded enthusiastically one day later. After receiving a copy, the gift shop manager put in an order and recently communicated to me that she sold two copies within the first day of putting it out! With the increasing momentum, I decided to revise my *ABCs of Vancouver, USA*, completed in 2019, and again reached out to local people by metaphorically pounding the pavement and knocking doors to share my book. While I received several “no thanks,” I wasn’t too discouraged. I emailed a local urban forestry representative for information regarding a local tree during the revision process, and she agreed to meet with me. After perusing my book, she was so impressed that she said she would mention it in her monthly newsletter which reaches roughly 1,000 local residents! Currently I am selling the *ABCs of Vancouver, USA* at two locations in the area.

While I am still studying for the National Occupational Therapy Board exam in order to pursue the career I worked so hard to achieve, I have been able to reignite my love for writing and discover the same emotion for selling. It’s not perfect yet, but the elevator speech I gave at my first SSWC meeting has definitely improved since those days. I owe a great deal of gratitude to the SSWC for the fantastic critique group I worked with, for the great speakers at the meetings, for the opportunity to see my poem in print as part of the 2014 Anthology, and for the great friends I met while participating with the club. Thank you, Sacramento Suburban Writers’ Club!

Bonnie Bair

bonniebair@yahoo.com Contact Bonnie if you would like to buy her book(s).

Website under construction so check back: bonniebair.com



Grandpa's Gift of Germany (Part 1 of 3)

Andrea Buckroth

Oh My Gosh! I'm going. I'm really, really going!

This huge decision of mine to visit Germany came about due to the death of my grandfather. His quick demise through heart failure saddened my spirit, my heart, the core of my being. Our times spent together, the private, personal conversations we shared remain invaluable and unforgettable.

"What would you like to do, Andrea?" he seriously asked me, looking me in the eyes during a visit to my grandparents' home in Hyde Park, Massachusetts.

"I'd like to travel, Grandpa. I'd like to visit Germany, maybe Poland, too. Find some family roots, ancestors...."

A recent high school graduate, I was eighteen when Grandpa and I had that conversation. Pondering that happy scene, I remember sitting on the swing in my grandparents' back yard.

"*Riiiiing. Riiiiing,*" went the telephone, shattering my thoughts. This was an unexpected call from Grandpa's attorney. He wanted me to meet with him to discuss my grandfather's will. Evidently, I was chosen as a beneficiary. Once there, I learned that Grandpa left me some money — \$5,000 to be exact. Specifications in receiving this gift mentioned that I visit Germany, a once-distant dream I had shared with him those eight years ago. As a history buff, this country deeply intrigued me due to ancestral roots.

Getting over the shock of this "present" and feeling richer for it, my research for a trip to Germany began. Suddenly affordable through Grandpa's bestowal, my limitless imagination, excitement, determination with courage became strong.

At the age of twenty-six — attractive, single, smart, independent, and a college graduation — my endeavors led me to a career as an Executive Assistant for four years. My salary was acceptable; my apartment was humbly comfortable; best of all, my employer allowed me two weeks paid vacation time. Two weeks! Paid!

So many preparations to make. What to do first?! Where will I stay? What about a passport? Find and speak with a travel agent — √. Change United States currency into German marks — √. Learn the language — enough to find a restroom, ask for directions, figure out a food menu, locate train stations, the use of Germany's transportation network, to politely greet, speak plainly, complimentarily, and simply to townsfolk — √. Wowiee!

After gathering numerous compelling and informational travel brochures about Germany through my membership with an auto club, I had to calm down enough to organize this trip, to focus on where I wanted to go. All of the brochures displayed magnificent pictures of castles, museums, inviting landscapes, shopping centers, restaurants — anything and everything a visitor would enjoy. My excitement was overwhelming. This became a commitment — a commitment to myself.

First, accommodations.

Robert immediately came to mind. Robert Elman, U. S. Army Captain, stationed in Aschaffenburg, Germany. He and I discussed this possibility — I remembered his personal invitation to me — when he came home on leave the last time. Through that, I decided to contact him. Although we had a friendly, yet casual relationship, beginning in high school and lasting through adolescence (my high school prom, his military cotillion, movies, and fast-food dates, working together at a local grocery) I had to contact his parents for his present address. Residing in the same city, I knocked on their door without an invitation. They greeted me with whole-hearted and joyous enthusiasm.

"Andrea, it's been a while since we've seen you. Come in! Come in!" The exuberance of seeing them again brought tears to my eyes. I truly did not know what to expect. This charming couple recalled my youthful days with their son. Delightfully, Robert's contact information became available to me without any qualms.



Elk Grove Arts Commission

CITY OF ELK GROVE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

Elk Grove Writers Guild
Writers Helping Writers

GREAT READ BOOK FAIRE

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 9, 2021
10am - 4pm

District 56 Campus
8230 Civic Center Drive,
Elk Grove, CA 95757

Brought to you by the
Elk Grove Arts Commission.

A day when imagination soars as authors,
readers, and beginning writers come together.

Short Story Contest • Book Fair • Writer's Conference • Children's Hour

Be part of the literary excitement as a participant or a browser. Choose a book to read, sell your novel, enter a short story contest, or learn writing skills.

Short Story Contest

- First Place \$200
- Second Place \$100
- Fiction or non-fiction
- 2,000 words or less
- Story must have a connection to Elk Grove
- Manuscript must be in a PDF format
- Writers need a cover page with the title of the story, the author's name, and contact information. No author's name on story pages, just the title on each page.

Entry Rules

- Open to all age 18 and over
- \$10 entry fee (to be paid at manuscript submission). Fees must be submitted with applications and paid by credit card only
- Deadline for submissions is **August 1, 2021 at 5:00pm.**
- Entries will only be accepted electronically
- No submissions will be accepted after Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 5:00pm.
- Winners will be announced on Saturday, October 9, 2021 during the Great Read Book Faire located at District 56 (8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove).
- Information on how to submit is available at elkgrovecity.org/bookfaire.

Writer's Conference

All day workshops with successful authors and agents. For information on the conference visit the Elk Grove Writer's Guild website at egweg.org.

Author and Book Vendor

- Vendors must bring their own tables, chairs, canopy (optional)
- No access to electricity
- Spaces are assigned by EG Arts Commission
- Outside 10 x 10 booth space fee \$25 or limited to 5 Inside both spaces for \$50
- Information available at elkgrovecity.org/bookfaire

elkgrovecity.org/bookfaire

SSWC 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.

Blogs Anyone?

Reminder — Send info about any websites, newsletters, podcasts, or blogs you have. The information will be posted in the newsletter each month.

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

Dave Wheeler has this one:

TheWriteDave.com

Andrea Roth's:

mydiabeticsoul.com

I'm waiting to hear from the other member to be sure she's willing to have it listed here.

Let me know what your blog or other social media's link are, and I'll add it to this list.

Remember—

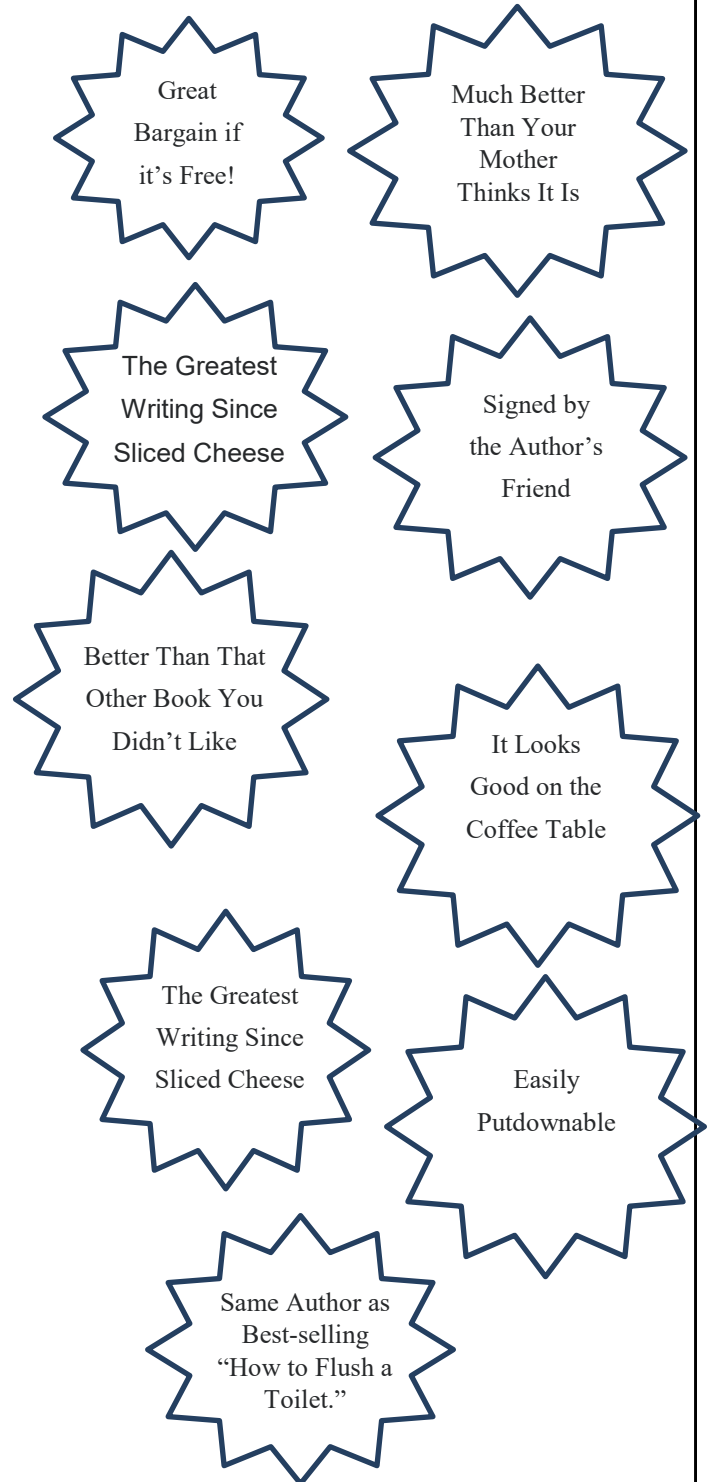
The meeting on Monday will not be recorded, so be sure to attend.

Please respond to Ron's question about meeting again ... in person ... or not. See page 2.

Send Laura any questions you have for our speaker. She would like to have them **prior to the meeting**. See page 1.

STICKERS FOR YOUR BEST-SELLER

Mort Rumberg's Suggestions
for Award Stickers



**Order these stickers from Mort at
your own risk!**

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!



Writing Prompt

(From the Internet)

Write about someone making a seemingly inconsequential decision, which goes on to have important consequences.



MEETING INFORMATION

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Next meeting:

Monday, June 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!