

July, 2021

Suburban Scribe

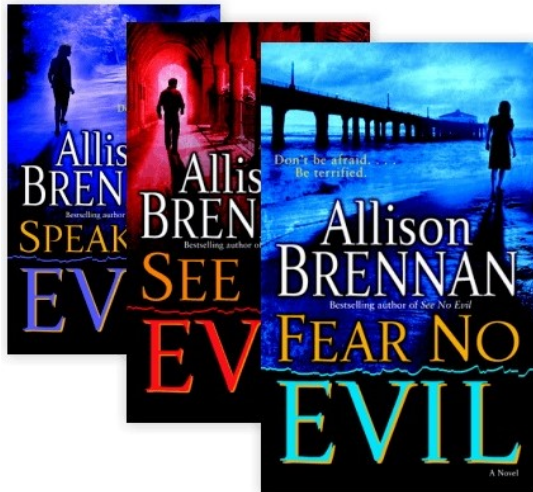
Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

sactowriters.org

Allison Brennan, *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author, will speak to SSWC on July 12 via Zoom.

Allison Brennan believes life is too short to be bored, so she had five children, and writes three books a year. She has either been a finalist for, or winner of, multiple awards, including the RITA Awards (Romance Writers of America), Romantic Times Reviewers Choice Awards, the Daphne du Maurier Award, the International Thriller Writers Awards, and a Borders Bestselling Debut Author. Although she is best-known for her Lucy Kincaid series (17 books and counting!), she has written several other series, such as her new Quinn & Costa FBI thrillers, the Maxine Revere series, the Prison Break trilogy, and Moreno & Hart mysteries (with Laura Griffin.) Her most recent book is TELL NO LIES, and her next book is a stand alone mystery, THE SORORITY MURDER, due out at the end of the year.

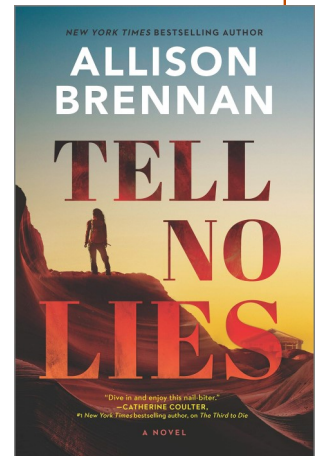
Allison Brennan is originally from San Carlos, California, and moved to Elk Grove in 1995 before relocating to Arizona two years ago. She launched her writing career while working full-time for the California State Legislature and raising five children. Ever wonder how she did it? (Hint: it involved giving up television.)



For answers to these exciting questions and more, be sure to attend our July meeting! Allison will talk about her history as a writer and cover topics such as finding the time to write and learning how to critique and self-edit. Her session will also feature Q&A, so be sure to bring questions!

For more information, check out the author website at: <https://www.allisonbrennan.com>

NOTE: This meeting will not be recorded, so be sure to attend live!



Zoom Meeting Info — Briefly

Join us on Monday, July 12 at 7 p.m. for the next SSWC meeting time.

ABOUT 6:55 pm. [CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE 7 pm MEETING](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86303473380?pwd=a0VybfVhWTA2S3ovQjZJSWtiaWUyQT09) —

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86303473380?pwd=a0VybfVhWTA2S3ovQjZJSWtiaWUyQT09>

More details for joining the meeting are on page 2.

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ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS FOR JOINING MONDAY'S SSWC MEETING

Topic: SSWC Club Zoom Meeting with Allison Brennan

Time: Jul 12, 2021 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)



Hello, All ... this message comes from Texas,

As everything is bigger in Texas, so will be Sacramento Suburban Writers Club's July 12th Zoom meeting. I will be back home just in time to learn and see everyone.

Allison Brennan, *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author will cover topics such as finding the time to write and learning how to critique and self-edit, along with taking questions. Please note this meeting will not be recorded so everyone must be present to see and hear Allison Brennan. So rustle up some grub early and join SSWC's monthly Zoom meeting, July 12th, Monday night at 7pm. Easiest way to join the Zoom meeting is click on the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86303473380?pwd=a0VybFVhWTA2S3ovQjZJSWtiaWUyQT09>

Ronald Smith, President SSWC

THIS MEETING WILL NOT BE RECORDED, SO DO NOT MISS IT.

Who is next? The editor/publisher of the newsletter is retiring, so "applications" are being accepted for the job. The "plusses" of this volunteer position really do outnumber the "minuses" — so ... WHO'S NEXT?

August Meeting Information

Laura Kellen

Join us in August as we return to a semblance of normalcy and begin to hold club meetings in person again!

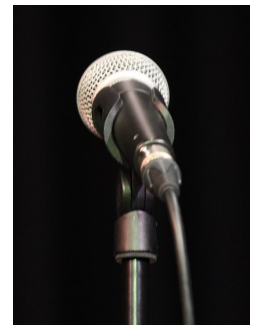
In order to create a fun and low-pressure social environment in which we can come together after more than a year of Zoom meetings, we will be featuring an open mic night!

What is an Open-Mic Night?

Traditionally, an open mic night is held in a coffeehouse. A solitary microphone is placed at the center of the room, and the floor is open to anyone in which to share spoken word, poetry, stories, rants, or just stream-of-consciousness.

We're bringing this same concept to the fellowship hall, and opening the floor for any SSWC attendee to command the attention of their peers and regale us all with your stories, poetry, fiction pieces, impromptu writings, or just giving everyone in the room a piece of your mind! Also please feel free to share your personal writing experience and thoughts, as a member has already expressed interest in hearing from those who are self-published.

We look forward to seeing you — in-person — in August! In the meantime, we will continue to explore Zoom and hybrid options so that meetings will be open to all.



"Project 365 #317: 131114
Microphone" by comedy_nose

Workshops

Gloria Cooksey

The monthly workshops, however limited, are an important part of each meeting. The workshops provide an opportunity to isolate and reflect on one of the myriad aspects that contribute to our success as writers. Beginning with next week's meeting, each workshop will begin with a drawing. The winner will receive the assignment of conducting the following month's workshop. The drawing format does not preclude a voluntary workshop leader, but up to now, our group members have been reticent to volunteer to lead the workshops, so this draft system is in order.

I will conduct the workshop this month because there was no opportunity for a drawing in advance, but the Shanghai bucket will be on the table in front of me and some lucky writer's name will be drawn to conduct the August workshop.

Smile ☺👁

The Artist

Veatrice Chapin
Aka Linda Covelli

The artist sits in a golden sunlit room as a young woman walks across the floor of his second story studio.

Leonardo's eyes lock onto her, watching her velvet dress move with her every step.

Not a line of life has yet cut into her porcelain face. She's exactly what he wants, He will charcoal her first, trying to capture her breath onto his canvas. Where did he find such a beauty? Surly she's a woman of means, unlike the whores he is used to painting.

Hands softly, not showing signs of any labor, lie quietly in her lap.

Her gaze captures his eyes. Spellbound he cannot move. An eternity passes, heating the room with desire.

Outside, the sound of birds chirping, making their nest in the grape vines that hug the outside walls. The smell of fermenting grapes from the wine troughs in the courtyard below adds to the intoxicating moment.

Who is she, I wonder?

(An excerpt from Linda's ... er, Veatrice's ...next book.)

Poetry Class

Want to learn about poetry? Want to write more of it? Then this is for you:

Susan Wiedner is offering a four-week Zoom workshop — Introduction to Writing Poetry Class — where she will discuss the basics of poetry. A different style of poetry will be covered each week for four-weeks on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8pm. It will start on Aug. 4 and end Aug. 25, 2021. First class is free, then cost is \$25 per class. Pay-as-you-go.

For more information, class sign up, and inquiries, contact Susan at susan.wiedner@gmail.com.

Book Launch—Charity Event

CALIFORNIA AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM



SACRAMENTO, CA

The California Automobile Museum Presents
SACRAMENTO MOTORCYCLING
 A new book by Kimberly Reed Edwards
First 50 Years of the Greatest Sport in the World

Join the celebration
 July 17th, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
 2200 Front St., Sacramento
 Mark S. Allen of ABC 10 to M.C. the event!

Hear the author speak on
Early Pioneers
 See antique motorcycles and meet experts!
 An event that will please motorcycle enthusiasts!
All book proceeds go to the California Automobile Museum.

Fun ? ... Quiz ?????

What is the Oxford Comma? When might it be necessary?

What is an interrobang? And what key is used to make it?

(This works on my Word program ... but maybe not on others: Font -Windings2

... tap the tilde `/~ key (next to the 1/! key in the number row — far left) **?**

Grandpa's Gift of Germany — Part 2

Andrea Buckroth

After I sent a cheery, flower-covered note card to Robert, practically inviting myself to stay at his house for a visit, he called me. “Yes! Sure! You can stay with me. It’d be great to see you!” Not having spoken to or with him in at least a year, it was nice to hear his voice. Furthermore, he hinted the best days to fly, stating “not to worry about a car rental”; he explained the railway system as being “superb”; asked if I knew where I wanted to go, what did I want to see? He could use his time off to drive through some of the countryside. Wonderful! I had some ideas as to the answers of his questions. “Learn some German, Andrea,” were his last words on the phone.

Off to the library I went to get a few LP (Long Playing) albums of *German Language and Diction* to play on my turntable. It wasn’t difficult to learn and I enjoyed it. Along with purchasing an English/German Dictionary, I felt rather proud of myself for learning another language.

I was satisfied with the results of that contact effort, and my flight became my next task....

Through a travel agency, I booked a round trip flight via “Northwest Orient” from Boston, Massachusetts, at 9:40 AM on July 1, 1984, for \$432.00 USD, stopping in London, England for a re-fueling, then onto landing in Munich, Germany at 9:30 AM on July 2nd. Having dozed off and on during those hours, I occupied myself with reading a book and the occasional prayer for my safe keeping and spiritual guidance. My favorite Diet Cokes were free along with a turkey and tomato sandwich. Peanuts were handed out later during that flight.

The London, England, refueling process and time did not allow me to exit the airplane. No worries. I was happy to at least say I was there!

The twelve-hour flight left me anxious, wanting to walk briskly, jump, move my body, get my circulation circulating. Becoming moody — cranky with exhaustion — was not going to be tolerated. Looking out the airplane window, calmly flying through the cotton ball clouds, looking forward to seeing Robert and so much more brought me a calm and simple gratitude.

“Andrea! Andrea! I’m over here!” Robert called to me as I rushed through a swarm of travelers to greet him. He was taller than I remembered. And a bit more muscular, more handsome. His buzz cut blonde hair and smiling blue eyes were unmistakably those of my friend.

Small talk followed as we exited the airport area in his silver BMW and headed toward his rented cottage in Aschaffenburg located on the southwest part of Germany. Listening to Robert talk was music to my ears. The windows down, he drove me on the infamous autobahn, “the highway without speed limits.” Feeling carefree, careless with the car windows open, my long hair whipping every which way, I didn’t care. I was here. I was here with my long-time friend.

Fitfully excited, I did not want to rest or unpack. Robert could tell. After washing up and changing clothes, he took me for a ride around his neighborhood.

Narrow, black-topped streets, multiple two-story houses, mostly apartments, were everywhere. Each of these houses was surrounded by neat, bright green and spacious lawns in between. Every window of every home presented demure and patterned lace curtains. I was charmed, not only with the attractive cleanliness of such decor, but each and every outer window sill housed a wooden or colored plastic rectangular flower box full of freshly blooming, multi-colored flowers. Gorgeous!

“You’ll be able to safely walk around the neighborhood if you’d like,” Robert stated, breaking my rapt attention. “The bakery is within walking distance as is the butcher. There are no nearby Cumberland Farms stores or 7-11s.”

“Great. Do you like fish? I’ll cook us up a fresh fish dinner if I find something suitable at the butcher’s.”

“Yes. Fish is fine. That’d be nice.”

That first evening, Robert drove us to a nearby restaurant, The Schlossgasse 16, 63739 Aschaffenburg, Bavaria, Germany. It was huge! Tall. High. To me it looked like a massive hall. One room with a few doorways opposite the entrance was filled with numerous 8’ wooden, canvas cloth-covered picnic tables. Its vaulted ceiling stretched into the sky.

Attention to our entrance provided immediate service. After being seated, draft beers were immediately brought to our table. Strange. In America, water is immediately brought to a diners’ table. Here, it is beer, warm beer, golden beer with a fuzzy, frothy white, bubbly head.

Robert told me that “warm beer is the way it is here. Cold beer is considered an insult.” Hmm. No problem with me, I’ll drink it and I did. “Cheers!”

(Continued on page 6)

("Grandpa's Gift of Germany" — Continued from Page 5)

Robert ordered us each a platter of sauerkraut and sausages, not too unusual for me. Delicious. However, I like yellow mustard with my sauerkraut and sausage. "No, don't order mustard!" Robert shocked me with this excited whisper. "It is an insult. Also, eat with your left hand." Not only did I not want to experiment with the food choices as yet, I did not want to insult a soul, not knowing Germanic table etiquette.

Quite the introduction.

Returning to his cottage, his landlady and landlord pleasantly greeted us. Robert, all smiles, made simple introductions. Smiling coyly, I felt they wanted to make sure Robert was not getting into any trouble with this attractive, young, American female visitor. Mm hmm. Very nice. Respectful. Appreciative.

(Part 3 next month.)

Steering the Story: the Expert, the Path and the Zinger

Kimberly Edwards

Now that I've finished my book, I'm asked, "How did you worm your way into a completely new world?"

Well, it's not easy, as article writers know. We're expected to maneuver our way through new topics all the time. After a couple of decades of writing articles, I learned that experts serve as the light holders in the cave, so to speak. They show the way. Two decades after that, I realized that experts can help us in any kind of genre. Whether writing a short story, book, or article, we gain from finding industry leaders who deepen our perspective. These contacts and their insights help us to plan and revise. I now understand it's important to know the lay of the land – the handles to negotiate a full story – before I even begin my first draft. As they say, what we reveal in our writing is only the tip of the iceberg.

So how does a writer approach an expert? I look for local and national clubs, associations, and newsletters. And what magazines does my target audience read? Two easy leads: find an association, then look up the Executive Director and the board members. Contact at least two, maybe more. Another way is to look at magazines read by people in that industry. Find articles you like and then contact those authors.

I will approach them by saying, "I'm working on an article on _____, and I'm reaching out to some key people in the field, and wondering what you see as the top three trends...." I don't think I've ever been turned down. Most people like being asked their opinions. Another line I've used: "I enjoyed your article in _____ magazine, and since I'm working on a story about _____, I'm curious about..."

Since experts speak with authority, most will share willingly on their own or with a little squeeze. Courteousness is key. If you engage with a new contact long enough, you may get a surprise – that zinger quote to top off your work. Such a line can add zest to an opening or closing – but that's another story.

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 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	YOU ????
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!



Can't you think of something to write on your own?

Come on. Yes, you can.

Work on that short story. Your novella. Your novel. Your article for the magazine. Your blog.

Now, write why you would love to take over the newsletter. Yes, you... Please.

This editor is out. (mic drop!)



MEETING INFORMATION

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Next meeting:

Monday, July 12

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!***