

August, 2021

# Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

[sactowriters.org](http://sactowriters.org)

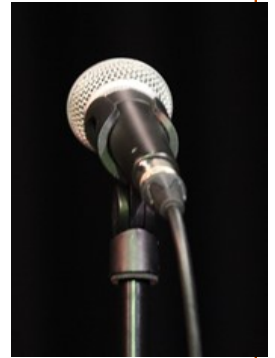
## EXCITING NEWS !!! Attempting to begin the process of "returning to normal" on Monday, August 9, we are going to try something different. (Contradiction intended!)

It has been almost a year and a half since we've been together, so we need to get to know each other again. In order to create a fun, 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! An in-person mic night.

Though "social distancing" will be encouraged, the meeting will allow discussion of lots of writing topics.

It will be held in a hybrid format — both in person in the Friendship Hall of the **Crossroads Christian Church at 5501 Dewey Drive** and **on Zoom**.

So, come if you can, log on if you cannot.



"Project 365 #317: 131114  
Microphone" by comedy\_nose

What is an open mic night?

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

We're bringing this same concept to the Fellowship Hall. We are 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 continue to explore Zoom and hybrid options so that meetings will be open to all.

### Hybrid Meeting Info — Briefly — Open Mic Night

Join us on Monday, August 9 at 7 p.m. for the next SSWC meeting time.

**Friendship Hall** of the Crossroads Christian Fellowship Church  
5501 Dewey Drive (just north of the Madison & Dewey intersection)  
**or on your computer.**

AT 6:55 pm be at the meeting hall or, from home, **OR CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE 7 pm ZOOM MEETING** —

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89642347188?pwd=RngvZEtnZFVvTW82Tk9FRDBza3JSQT09>

**More details for joining the meeting are on page 2.**

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Meetings 7—9 p.m. 5501 Dewey Drive, Fair Oaks — AND on Zoom. ONLINE.

[sactowriters.org](http://sactowriters.org)

**If you are unable to attend the SSWC meeting on Monday IN PERSON, use the following to join us on ZOOM:**

**HYBRID  
ZOOM AND  
IN PERSON**

Date: Monday, August 9

Topic: SSWC Hybrid Meeting — in person and on Zoom

Time: 7:00 PM

Hello, Sacramento Suburban Writers Club members. The time has come to venture into the unknown public world while still allowing our members to be safe at home as well. What? How? SSWC will have its first hybrid meeting for members to enjoy whether you are ready to meet people in public or still need to stay at home, safe behind the computer screen. Open mic night! All members whether at home or in person, please bring a 5-minute short story or first chapter of a longer story to read to everyone, either over the computer or live at our normal meeting location at the church. I'll only record people who would like to be recorded.

Please wear a mask when entering the church room and sitting with guests. Only when a person is standing in the front, speaking, can he or she remove the mask. Please be aware that we do not ask or require a person to be fully vaccinated. I hope to see everyone in person again so we can feel normal, if normal has ever been possible (ha!). Write with the heart and edit with the brain, but don't let the mind crush one's voice.

Meeting place: Crossroads Christian Church, 5501 Dewey Drive, Carmichael Near the intersection of Madison and Dewey.

To connect to meeting on Zoom click below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89642347188?pwd=RngvZEtnZFVvTW82Tk9FRDBza3JSQT09>

If you are using your own Zoom account, enter info here:

Meeting ID: 896 4234 7188

Passcode: 850385

By phone:

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,89642347188#,,,,\*850385# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 896 4234 7188

Passcode: 850385

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89642347188>

Take care, Ronald Smith, President SSWC

**Barbara Jodry    October 7, 1928 — July 4, 2021**

Long-time SSWC member (I mean, like a *forever* member) Barbara Jodry passed away on July 4.

Besides being sweet and nice and funny, she told great stories.

She edited and published the *Suburban Scribe*, SSWC's newsletter for decades — long before computer programs were available to do the organizing and layouts.

She was a contributor to our anthologies, writing about her wonderful experiences traveling the world with her husband.

Barbara will be missed.

No memorial events are currently scheduled.



<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/barbara-jodry-obituary?id=5972876>

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

Andrea Buckroth

Pulling the numerous propagandized brochures from my suitcase, Robert helped me set them up on his kitchen table. Together we went through them, separating intense interest with train schedules apart from any inconvenient or controversial sites. Already late, he happily offered me his bedroom while he would stay on the couch in his living room. I watched him shine his Army boots before I plopped into his bed.

My first prelude to this part of Europe was a drive to France. France! Very early two days later, we headed out the door. Throwing caution to the wind, my pocketbook holding my passport, wallet, hair brush, toothbrush, and a clean pair of just-in-case underpants, we were off.

Getting as far as Strasbourg, the closest French town to the German border, we were not allowed entrance. Don't know why.

"They probably don't like Americans today," Robert stated.

I found that odd but did not pursue his statement. However, as the Strasbourg traveler's rest area remained available, we left deposits, bought drinks and snacks, and hopped back into the BMW. Leaving Strasbourg with an expression of confusion upon our faces, Robert politely followed the border control agent's arms as he waved instructions to turn around. Robert complied. Hmm. We never found out why. Strange. Different. Disappointing. Well, at least I could say I was there — on the French-German border.

After at least a two-hour return drive, our conversation quieted. I enjoyed the scenery, the landscaped border of Germany and France. France's expansive hills, valleys and dales were adorned with grape vines. Acres and acres of grape vines intertwined on metal fencing. *Nothing like this back home, that's for sure.* Mesmerized, I became sleepy.

"Hey, seeing as we're so close to Luxembourg, I'll take you there," blurted Robert, awakening me to full attention.

Come to find out, Luxembourg is one country of many to border Germany. Along with the Baltic and North Seas, Denmark is to the north, Poland and the Czech Republic to the east, Austria and Switzerland to the south, and France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands to the west. We headed west.

Since I was unfamiliar with Luxembourg, Robert proudly schooled me that it is the smallest yet richest country in the world. "It is run by a prince," Robert continued. Luxembourg City, specifically, attracted my attention from afar. Perched on a cliff, in shades of age and discoloration, this area of the city's walls were built and fortified with large boulders squared and rectangular.

Not wanting to spend too much of our limited time, we came upon Roman baths. Built from stones in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, they were evenly placed stone-against-stone, about twelve inches high, each cut and carved about four inches thick. Access to such a bath would require a person to literally climb inside any one of the expansive stone cutouts. Naked? I don't know and didn't ask. That's how you take a bath, though, right? Naked?

Their spacious yet separate allotments remained close together, snug, large enough for a family of five to sit in, causing me to visually wonder how such a place could function. Certainly not like my bathtub at home, my space of isolation and quiet reading, alone-ness, relaxation. Oh, no.

Although the Roman Baths in Luxembourg were overgrown and worn by the ages of storms, precipitous

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3 - "Grandpa's Gift")

factors, insects, animals, these numerous rectangular spaces granted no bottom comforts. Surrounded by what seemed to be a small forest of trees, sitting on the ground to bathe seemed senseless, ludicrous — at least to me. But what did I know about the 10<sup>th</sup> century and its human inhabitants? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. However, the little I saw and learned about Luxembourg caused me to fall in love with the country, with its simplicities — a simple, historical bath, for instance.

Back on the road, Robert explained his week's work schedule and encouraged me to travel by train. That's what I did, with his kind offer to call him when I was ready to be picked up.

Walking the mile to Aschaffenburg's center, as Robert told me, was a pleasant experience. He also told me that the trains depart and return in the heart of every city. I found this town to be daintily attractive, neighborly, and just plain sweet. The weather so far this week was cool with low-lying clouds, highs of 75° Fahrenheit with a mixture of gray and yellow muted sunshine. Too cool to bring home a tan.

Returning to reality in Robert's cottage, I needed to focus on my return trip. Before laundry and packing, I enjoyed another brisk walk to the butcher's shop for fish, the next door bakery for some freshly baked bread, and some lovely fresh carrots from the landlady's garden. We were both delighted with the outcome and the pleasure of each other's company.

An early night led to an early morning for another 12-hour flight home for me and back to the military base office for Robert.

*Auf Wiedersehen, lieber Freund. Vielen Dank für Ihre Gastfreundschaft.* (Good bye, dear friend. Thank you for your hospitality until we meet again.)

And Grandpa? Thank you. I miss you.

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## 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. Being published in the club's newsletter is a benefit of being a member of SSWC.

**Remember to put SSWC Newsletter Submission in the subject line ... PLEASE!**

Contact: Contact is someone new. Please find out who that person is and send your submission to that member.

Deadline is about two (2) weeks prior to the meeting date.

## Workshop

The workshop for August will cover writing. Surprise! Yep. Writing.

Do you include characters in your stories? Can your readers easily distinguish one character from another? Or does their language, their speaking sound like the other characters. YOU write the characters, but they cannot all *sound* like you.

Mary Lou will give ideas and suggestions for making your characters human. Individuals. Different one from the other, and different from the author, with writing techniques.

Join the meeting either in person or via Zoom. Either way, **come with questions**. She *might* have the answers.

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## Punctuation Review — Dash or Ellipsis?

The Grammar Guardian

M. L. Edson

Exactly when do you use a hyphen, a dash, or an ellipsis? Well, there are a few ways to remember.

The hyphen ( - ) is used to combine two words into one (self-admiration) or to divide a word at the end of the line of text so the line's length is more consistent. You can set your computer to do it automatically or turn them off completely.

A dash can be an "n-dash" ( – ) or an "m-dash" ( — ) depending on length. The shorter one, the n-dash, is used to indicate a continuation of time, as in: "The meeting will be held 4 – 5 p.m." The m-dash, the longer dash, would be used in an interrupted line of dialogue, as in: "Do not ever say that aga— "

The ellipsis would be used to indicate fading dialog or something omitted from a quote. I use the mnemonic "dash-teruption" to help me determine if it should be the dash or the ellipsis.

(Boring history stuff: The n-dash is called that because it is as long as the "n" is wide. The m-dash is as long as the width of an "m.")

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## Make plans — upcoming SSWC meetings for the rest of the year:

September - Wes Turner  
October - Laura Kellen  
November - Leanne Watkins  
December - Holiday Party

**MARK  
YOUR  
CALENDARS**

## 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](http://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](mailto: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	<b>YOU ????</b>
Nominations	<b>YOU ????</b>
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

**Write an outlandish excuse for missing an important meeting.**

Imagine you missed a meeting with your child's teacher.

Or you were 15 minutes late for an important job interview.

Or you missed that congratulatory phone call from someone important.

Be creative with the meeting that was missed and the excuse you would give.



### MEETING INFORMATION

**7:00 - 9:00 PM**

**Next meeting:**

**Monday, August 9**

Location: 5501 Dewey Drive, Carmichael  
Near the intersection of Madison and Dewey

Or via Zoom

*All writers are encouraged to attend.  
Membership is not mandatory  
but brings privileges — like  
**publication in the newsletter!***