

Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club

sactowriters.org

Our guest speaker for March 14, 2022 is Gini Grossenbacher.

Gini Grossenbacher, novelist, poet, certified editor, educator, publisher, founded Elk Grove Writers and Artists and JGKS Press in Sacramento County. She has thirty-six years of experience teaching English/language arts to adolescents and adults. Her debut American Madams series novel, *Madam of My Heart*, was a silver medalist for historical fiction in the 2018 Independent Publisher awards; *Madam in Silk* was runner up for historical fiction in the 2020 National Indie Excellence Awards.

Her third novel, *Madam in Lace*, was published in December 2021 to positive reviews, and *Glimpses*, her first poetry collection, will publish in September 2022. She is a veteran book reviewer, having published quarterly reviews in *The Historical Novel Society Magazine* and *The New York Review of Books*.

As well as offering virtual fiction workshops for aspiring writers, Gini provides developmental, copyediting, and collaborative publishing services to novelists and poets. She received her UC San Diego editing certificate in 2021. Her presentations include the California Writers Club, the 2017 Historical Writers of America conference, the 2018 Great Valley Bookfest, and the 2018 Elk Grove Writers Conference; Gini served as an editor for the San Francisco Writers Conference in 2018 and the Elk Grove Writers Conference in 2021.

A proud grandma, Gini enjoys spending time with her children's families in the Bay Area, as well as taking trips and watching hit movies with her husband, Karl. Her beloved Cairn Terrier, Murphy Brown, is her writing dog and faithful walking companion. She also works out regularly at her local gym.

The California Writers Club presented Gini the Jack London Service Award in 2017. Her JGKS novels book booth will be featured in the Authors Pavilion at the Berkeley Bookfest in May 2022. Please drop in for a chat! Please don't hesitate to contact Gini with any questions you might have.

Email: ginis.writers1@gmail.com

Website: <https://ginigrossenbacher.com>

Books: <https://www.amazon.com/GiniGrossenbacher/e/B01N6ZFB5N>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ginigrossenbacherauthor>

Editing/Publishing Services <https://www.jgkspresmystrikingly.com/>

Meeting Info — Briefly —

Join us on Monday, March 14, at 7 p.m. for the next SSWC meeting time.

On your computer.

AT 6:55 pm [CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE 7 pm ZOOM MEETING](#) —

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2521715779?pwd=aXdYM1FLRStzVnZqYlZyYzZ3OUUpudz09>

Hybrid Meeting: See page 2 for complete Zoom & Location details.

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Hello fellow writers and artists of all walks of life,

To members and guests, March will be a hybrid meeting, either through the Zoom link below, or in person at 5501 Dewey Dr., Fair Oaks, CA, in the Hall straight back from the road and parking lot, through the white picket fence gate at 7—9 pm on Monday, March 14, 2022. Or, just click on the link below, and you will be connected to the Zoom meeting. - Ronald Smith, President SSWC



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2521715779?pwd=aXdYM1FLRStzVnZqYlZyYzZ3OUUpudz09>

2nd way to join the online meeting, log into your Zoom account and enter:

Meeting ID: 252 171 5779

Passcode: 7JjTpg

Cell Phone use:

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,2521715779#,,,,*816451# US (San Jose)

Or, Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 252 171 5779

Passcode: 816451

Milestones

A sad milestone of a good man: **John Robert Powell**. John Powell was born November 10, 1938, and passed away on January 14, 2022. He was laid to rest at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, California, with full military honors.

John was instrumental in creating and serving the Aerospace Museum of California (AMC).

He was born in the Bronx, New York. His working career began as a boy working in the Brooklyn shipyards, building ships. John had an illustrious military career spanning 32 years in the Air Force and Air Force Reserves. He had two tours of duty during the Viet Nam era.

John was also successful writer and columnist. He was for many years as active member of the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club. The subject of his writing was mainly gambling. This came about while on an inspection tour in Panama, when he noticed many of the enlisted men frequenting Manuel Noriega's casino. When he noticed a rare poker hand come up many times there, allowing the house to win, he decided he needed to school the troops on how not to get cheated. The first lesson was not to play at *that* casino any more.

He began with classes and then books and columns, work that he continued almost to the end of his life. His massive "Kiss Guide to Gambling" was his second book. It was written under the pseudonym of John Marchel — using his wife's maiden name, because casinos don't like gambling book authors to play. At 352 pages, it was a success and established his reputation. As part of his "research" he would visit casinos all over, including a yearly trip to Hawaii with his wife Shirley. But he gambled only for enjoyment and to learn, and to help teach others.

His involvement with the AMC began while stationed at Hamilton Air Force Base in Novato, California. Hamilton Field was decommissioned in 1974, and put into a caretaker status with the Air Force Reserves until 1976. In 1979, before the base was turned over to the Army, John Powell saw that a loose collection of aeronautical memorabilia needed a new home. He arranged for it to be transferred to McClellan Air Force Base, where it formed the nucleus of the McClellan Aviation Museum, which opened in 1982. Later, after the base closed as a military facility in 2001, it became the Aviation Museum of California.

John Powell was a docent, work he did for fifteen years, allowing him to see the growth and development of the museum, culminating in the AMC. He loved showing people the treasures out on the flight line. He talked about the airplanes and jets and seemed to know each one intimately. Some docents and volunteers today remember the pamphlets he wrote and would give out, listing every significant date in the history of aviation.

Twenty-five years ago, John began working with his son, John Powell, Jr. "Sr.," as we volunteers called John, had taught Jr. the lessons of perseverance and never giving up. So today, after many years, JP Aerospace still survives in Rancho Cordova. (continued on P. 3 Left-hand column.)

WORKSHOPS BLURB

Gloria Cooksey, Chair

SSWC Workshops kindly requests your presentation. Teach us something you know, or suspect you know. Tell us of your experiences in writing and in life. Perhaps an incident in your life will inspire others to write about similar happenings or entirely opposite ones.

The March 14, 2022, Workshop (see, p.4) by Cle Curbo covers the value of using the newly merged entity of Draft2Digital and Smashwords to publish your books for free.

John Powell Eulogy and History Milestone (continued)

On many missions, John Sr. could be seen doing whatever his son asked of him, and taking charge of every assignment like the well-liked, military man-in-charge he was.

On the last few missions that he participated in, he would be in charge of inflating the helium balloon. He and Shirley were beloved members of the JP Aerospace team.

John was known as a prankster in his days in the military. He once was charged with transporting a backup Fat Boy shell casing from Hamilton to McClellan. He briefed the pilot and co-pilot that it was only a casing. No radioactive material. It was only an item for display, but he told the crew that the mission was sensitive and top secret, and left to their imaginations whether there was an actual A-bomb inside. A good laugh and possibly some grey hairs for the crew when they landed in Sacramento.

But his buddies from the military valued his friendship and guidance, and will remember always the opportunities John sent their way.

John is survived by his loving wife Shirley, three sons, a daughter, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The family and the museum will miss him.

- John Vester

Left: John Powel helping out at Area-42, the JP Aerospace Launch Facility in Nevada.



Below: John Powell as a young USAF Airman.



Milestones, Pebbles, and Bumps in the Writing Road

Cle Curbo is hard at work to publish first sci-fi novel. He expects completion in 75 to 90 days, which would be a record for him. His first sci-fi novella published in December, 2021, was about a 3 month endeavor.

Dear Members, send in your poetry, your song lyrics, memoir pieces, flash fiction, or a writing prompt that other members might write a response to.

We miss you,

John Powell.



WORKSHOPS

Gloria Cooksey

Our March 14, 2022, Workshop below is presented by
SSWC Member Cle Curbo

The evening's Workshop is "One Way to Publish Free of Charge." The Draft2Digital purchase of Smashwords has combined the best of each company. With Smashwords, authors can reach across the world through a number of e-book platforms, including Nook, Kobo, and at least one in India. Using D2D, an author may self-publish by letting D2D do the formatting. And, D2D offers POD (Print On Demand) for physical books. D2D books can be accessed by bookstores using Ingram and other distributors. All this is free. D2D/Smashwords gets a percentage of each sale. Authors get the rest.

Advanced Writers Techniques Prompt for March 14, 2022

Here's the Advanced Writers info for the March 14, 2022. SSWC Meeting. Anyone can join the Advanced Writers meetings, which start at 6:15 p.m., in the Fellowship Meeting Hall kitchen, and last until 6:45 p.m.

The AWT writing prompt for March is brought to you by **Mike Brandt**,

Every month AWT meets independently of the regular meeting and discusses advance writing techniques. We share ideas of how to tell our stories better, with more interesting characters, dialogue, scenes, plot, etc. The AWT group meets between 6:15 P.M. and 6:45 P.M., at the Crossroads Christian Church, Fellowship Hall. Learn how to be innovative while cultivating your skillset to create a book, short story, poem, or anthology that readers will love.

March's AWT session focus and prompt — **Historical Fiction & Research**. This is an interactive session, so contributions are greatly appreciated.

Writer's Conference coming up. "Our Life Stories: A Cross-Generational Writers' Conference," on Saturday, April 30, 2022, on Zoom. This conference is sponsored by the City of Sacramento's Hart Senior Center and Consumnes River College, and with the support of the ACC senior Services. This annual event focuses on the collecting and writing of family stories and memories.

Maeley Tom is keynote speaker. Experienced and nationally recognized writers will lead the workshops. More information, visit www.ourlifestories.org or email: hart-crcwritersconference@yahoo.com. Or call Janeen Thorpe or Linda Thao at 916.808.5462.

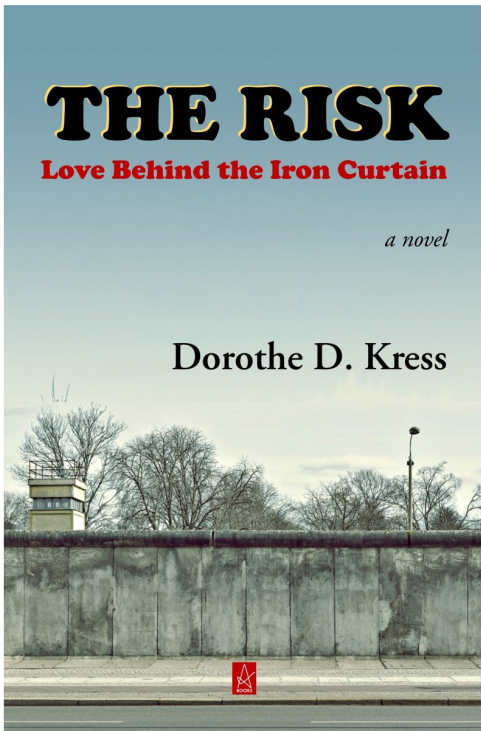
Sacramento Suburban Writers Club Members

Do You Have a Recently Released Book? If so, please bring it to the attention of the

Newsletter Editor, L Paul Turner,
at balloonwhisperer@gmail.com.

Books of Interest

is a new column for the SSWC Newsletter. Let us present to the world your new publication, whether it be non-fiction, fiction, chap book, book of poetry, or even a new song with lyrics attached. - L Paul Turner, Editor



Adelaide Books released a novel by **Dorothe D. Kress**. The title is
THE RISK: LOVE BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

Available in bookstores as of February 12, 2022.

A thriller of a story, this book begins slowly and calmly, and builds with powerful tension to an uncertain ending. Based on a true story, Kristina has grown up in the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), comfortable and unquestioning of the totalitarian system that governs and controls her life. Being a model citizen, the terror of the Secret Police, Stasi, has always been only a quietly frightening background noise in her otherwise peaceful, productive life. But when she falls in love with an American man, the Stasi begins to take increased interest in her and her frequent visitor. When she decides to leave the GDR, she discovers just how all powerful, arbitrary and menacing a police state can be for those who challenge the system. A great read that you will not want to put down until the suspense filled end. This compelling love story is inspired by the author's own file the Stasi of East Germany kept on her.

Dorothe D. Kress, herself a former citizen of East Germany, weaves an accurate depiction of East German life with the frightening actions of the Stasi into a suspenseful story of love behind the Iron Curtain.

Available for purchase at Amazon.com. Barnes & Noble, and other booksellers in US and worldwide.

Booksellers and Librarians may place their orders through INGRAM or by writing to:

orders@adelaidebooks.org Website: www.adelaidebooks.org

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	Paul Turner
Nominations	YOU ????
Prgm/Speakers	Laura Kellen
Publicity	Paul Turner
Raffle	YOU ????
Sunshine	Nan Roark
Website	Wes Turner
Workshops	Gloria Cooksey

**There's a spot in the list
above for YOU!**



WRITING INSPIRATION

Keep at it. You will finish that book you're writing or planning to write.

Keep at it, you will become a published author.

Got a story?
Put pen to paper.



MEETING INFORMATION

7:00 - 9:00 PM

After March, our Next meeting is:

Monday, April 11, 2022

On Zoom, and Possibly In Person

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