

February, 2023

READ ME!

# Suburban Scribe

READ ME!

Sacramento Suburban Writers Club (SSWC) | Newsletter

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

**Join us on Monday, February 13** for a sensational speaker. **Dana Peterson** will appear on the big television screen in the Fellowship Hall — a **BIG** television. Have fun again with other members of SSWC. Relish the camaraderie. Share stories with other members. Eat snacks that will be available. See what is available on the raffle table. (Thanks to Laura Kellen for scheduling this speaker!)

## Public Safety Stories: When Truth is Stranger than Fiction

Calling all writers of police and detective fiction, mysteries, thrillers, true crime, suspense, disaster, pandemic, and post-apocalyptic works!

Looking for inspiration for your next story? You'll be on the edge of your seat as you listen to true tales from a public safety expert!

**Dana Preston** is a public safety professional with a background in law enforcement, missing persons, air medical, and disaster response. Dana will take us from his early experiences of establishing a full-service missing persons agency in New England to his time as both a sworn and non-sworn law enforcement officer, to serving in a "boots-on-the-ground" role in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew, to his current work as part of a disaster response team covering the State of California. Dana will share stories that are serious, sad, funny, or surprising, proving that in some cases "truth is stranger than fiction."

Dana Preston has worked as a security officer, security manager, parking enforcement officer, campus patrol officer, police officer, missing persons investigator, radio communications consultant, amateur radio operator, and communications director for air medical. Dana volunteered with the American Red Cross Disaster Service for seven years as a Disaster Action Team responder and leader. Dana also has extensive volunteer work with CALSTAR (California Shock Trauma Air Rescue) and has received recognition from Air Angels. Dana is a part of the California Department of Social Services Volunteer Emergency Services Team (VEST) and has taken part in disaster drills and disaster response at the Office of Emergency Services State Operations Center. Dana's extensive work and volunteer history can be found on his website: [www.danapreston.com](http://www.danapreston.com)

In his spare time, Dana designs public safety related patches, badges, logos, and print material. These can be found at [www.prestongraphics.com](http://www.prestongraphics.com). He also runs a website on the history of the New England Missing Persons Bureau at [www.nempb.com](http://www.nempb.com). Finally, Dana consults with law enforcement and families of missing persons on active cases. More information can be found at: [www.missingpersons bureau.org](http://www.missingpersons bureau.org).



## Meeting Info — Briefly

Please join us **in person** on Monday, February 13 at 7 p.m. for the next SSWC meeting. It is held in a large room with good air circulation. Masks are optional.

It is held at the Christian Crossroads Church Fellowship Hall at 5501 Dewey Drive, Fair Oaks ... through the gate in the white fence.

**See page 2 for info on attending on Zoom.** Ron Smith will email the Zoom link to members. Non-members, contact: [mledsonanderson@yahoo.com](mailto:mledsonanderson@yahoo.com) a day or two before the meeting.

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Hello, fellow writers and artists of all walks of life, members, and guests —

**Please join us in person at 7 p.m. at 5501 Dewey Drive, Fair Oaks in the Fellowship Hall of the Crossroads Christian Fellowship Church behind the white fence at the edge of the parking lot on February 13 even if it will be a hybrid meeting. EVERYONE IS WELCOME, NO MATTER YOUR ... WELL, NO MATTER YOUR ANYTHING!**



For meeting in person, please arrive by 7:00 p.m. at 5501 Dewey Drive, Fair Oaks in the Fellowship Hall behind the white fence at the edge of the parking lot. The room has a super-large television for viewing the speaker while enjoying the camaraderie of other members.

If you MUST join on Zoom 7-9 p.m. from home, President Ron Smith will send members a link by email. Non-members and guests can contact [mledsonanderson@yahoo.com](mailto:mledsonanderson@yahoo.com) either the day before, or the day of, the meeting.

Ronald Smith, President SSWC

### Fly To Your Destination

Karen Sepahmansour

October 7, 2020

Acknowledgment is from the early morning sun,  
Or when you're beginning your run.  
It's from the turkeys in the grass,  
As they collaborate in mass.

It's from your inner core  
That desires and continues to learn more,  
It's not from the external media which often hides,  
Although you often see its sides.

It's from your heart that you proceed,  
Without amassing too much greed.  
What motivates you with so much fuss?  
To establish your goals with all your gust.

Can you continue walking in the pouring rain?  
Can you forget about whatever pains?  
Then get up and push and tug  
And get rid of that grimaced mug.

Maneuver your plane with precision and care.  
Sometimes turbulences will come and dare.  
Keep your focus and act with caution swiftly.  
Your decision to move will get you there in a jiffy.

Reasons to attend the meeting in person:

- Camaraderie
- Food
- Seeing friends
- Sharing ideas
- Boasting of your writing progress
- Getting the latest gossip
- Actually *seeing* other humans
- Sharing a smile
- Realizing life exists beyond computer screens

(Your choice, mask or no mask.)

### SHE

Jeannie Turner

She'd rather be warmer than cold  
She'd rather be younger than old  
But if there's a chance  
To go to a dance  
She would! She's exceedingly bold



The day after our meeting  
is Valentine's Day.

Do a good deed for  
someone ... anyone. It just  
might bring a smile to  
everyone in the world,  
including you.

## No. Calif. Publishers & Authors' Table at State Fair 2023 Call for Submissions

If you've ever been interested in selling your novel at the California State Fair, Michelle Hamilton is looking for new authors to add to our list for 2023. In particular, She is looking for YA or middle grade authors. If you are an author and are interested in participating, please contact her at [authormlhamilton@gmail.com](mailto:authormlhamilton@gmail.com)

Michelle is ONLY recruiting new authors who have never been in the booth.

If you are interested, please make sure you are able to participate. You will need the following:

- a California seller's permit (editor's note: temporary permits are available at no charge)
- be able to work at least one eight hour shifts from 2:00pm to 10:00pm
- able to have enough books to sell at a reasonable price
- willing to work your complete shift and be on time
- able to give personal information for Amber's Law to the State of California
- have an active email and a phone number that you check regularly
- suggested you have a working website address



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ME!

### WORKSHOP at the Next SSWC Meeting

Let's start at the beginning for our workshops in 2023 ... No, not millions of years ago ... the beginning of a story, a book, an article.

The first workshop will be to write a hook (no, not Book ... a **H**ook), a line that will grab the readers' attention and convince them they just HAVE TO read your story.

Write a couple of hooks for your books or stories and share them at the meeting.

### HELP !!!

Calling all members — SSWC is in need of volunteers. You do have a few extra minutes once in a while, right?

Well, there is need for:

**Newsletter Editor/Publisher**  
Snacks/Refreshments  
Historian

Membership Chair  
Publicity  
Nominations

No individual job takes a lot of time, and you learn a lot about the club, our members, and even more about writing by helping out.

Contact Ron Smith ... or any other Board member as listed on the last page of this newsletter.

People from many different industries have watched the rapid erosion of Twitter. While it remains up and running as of this date, millions of people have abandoned or shut down their accounts for reasons ranging from owner Elon Musk's reinstatement of former president Donald Trump's account to overall disenchantment with the role social media plays in our lives. But not Bethanne Patrick.

Bethanne is @BookMaven with 200,000 followers. I believe the most important aspect of Twitter for her has been #FridayReads, where professionals in the book world share titles of tomes they are currently reading. Other connections through Twitter have added to her professional life. Here's a link to the article, which was carried by Publishers Weekly:

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/columns-and-blogs/soapbox/article/91252-finding-connection-on-twitter.html>

**Cle Curbo**

## Save the Date (In May)

Laura Kellen

SAVE THE DATE! SSWC is having a special meeting on Wednesday, May 17, at 7pm on Zoom to record the talk of an author with a restricted schedule.

The author is Leticia Ordaz: KCRA news anchor, children's book author, and owner of Cielito Lindo Books Publishing House. Her website is <https://cielitolindobooks.com/>.

Please look for the announcement with a Zoom link in your email as we get closer to the date. If you cannot make it, this recording will be played back in its entirety at our regular June meeting.

Would you all please mark your calendars, if you're willing to attend as a live audience? We'll record it, and then we will play it back at the June meeting for the rest of the club.

## Choose your Mnemonics Wisely

Jeannie Turner

Summer jobs of my high school friends included ushering or selling popcorn at the movie house, and detasseling corn. But not me! I worked in my daddy's grocery store—that was a privilege and a lot of fun.

At that time, most of our customers paid at the end of the month, so we had to keep our customers happy *and* keep accurate records. It was essential to know their names and enthusiastically greet them by name. I found this easy for some of our customers, but for some, I did not.

One of my problems came with Mrs. Stuckey—because there were *two* Mrs. Stuckeys. But my daddy could solve any problem. He said, “Jeannie, just remember, Mrs. ED Stuckey always wears a hat on her HEAD. Ed, Head, get it?”

I nodded and asked, “But what about her?” unobtrusively indicating the lady picking out her oranges.

“That's easy,” he said. “What do you notice about her at first glance?”

“Uh, she's kinda fat?”

“Yes, but where is she the fattest?”

“Her middle.”

“Yes, it's her stomach, and her name is Mrs. Hummock, and that rhymes with *stomach*. Hummock, stomach. Get it?”

I got it. Many a time, Daddy's ways to help me remember who-is-who saved the day for me because the right people got charged for what they bought.

One day I was clerking, and a lady entered the store. I couldn't think of who she was. We were always to greet each customer by name and with a cheery comment, so I looked at her hard and, seeing her protruding belly, I cheerfully, courteously, almost reverently because she was a good customer, said, “Good morning, Mrs. Kelly!”

**Follow the SSWC podcasts at:**

<https://anchor.fm/sactowriters>

**Spotify** (<https://open.spotify.com/show/0UHX19RTviPkRXMzkysg6V>)

**RadioPublic** (<https://radiopublic.com/sactowriters-694Q1Z>)

**Pocket Casts** (<https://pca.st/z1e83qlq>)

## Which Club Members Have Published?



Check out the SSWC website. You will find a list of members and their book on our club's website: <https://www.sactowriters.org/books-by-our-members/>

If you are a member and have published material, send the information to Wes Turner, including any links to your own website and/or to a site that sells your books (eg Amazon). His email is listed in our club roster. Wes will add your book(s) to the list.

## R U Done Yet?

Have you finished another book? Had an article published recently?

Are you holding a Book Launch to let the world know what you have accomplished?

Let the other members and readers know.

Send a brief announcement (including links and your contact information) to [mledsonanderson@yahoo.com](mailto:mledsonanderson@yahoo.com) and have it included in the next newsletter.

Please include a copy of the cover.

## Members — Wanna be Published?

Submit your own short story, article, poem, excerpt of your own book to the newsletter for publication. (Please keep it to under 450 or so words ... or it will have to be serialized.)

It would give you bragging rights as being published if you are going to be in contact with an agent and/or publisher.

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Note that the article to the left is directed to "members."

So, if you do *wanna be published*, make sure your dues are up to 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](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	
Treasurer	Mary Lou Anderson

### Chairs:

Coffee/Treats	Al Gilding
Conferences	
Critique Groups	Brittany Lord
Historian	
Librarian	Ron Smith
Membership	Jeannie Turner
Newsletter	
Nominations	
Prgm/Speakers	Laura Kellen
Publicity	
Raffle	
Sunshine	Nan Roark
Website	Wes Turner
Workshops	

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



## WRITING PROMPT

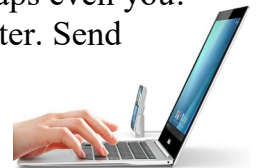
A friend says she has the perfect housekeeper and shares her contact info with you.

She comes once and does a perfect job. The second time she arrives, you need to leave but trust her to clean everything perfectly again. However, you return home an hour later and your house/apartment is \_\_\_\_\_ ??? \_\_\_\_\_.

Finish this with a short "flash fiction" story (about 100 to 200 words) that will surprise everyone, perhaps even you!

Let's include some in next month's newsletter. Send the finished/edited story to:

[mledsonanderson@yahoo.com](mailto:mledsonanderson@yahoo.com)



## MEETING INFORMATION

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

**Future Meetings:**

**February 13**

**March 13**

*We meet the second Monday each month, year round. Same time. Same place  
5501 Dewey Drive, Fair Oaks, CA  
All writers are encouraged to attend.  
Membership not mandatory but brings privileges  
**like publication in the newsletter!***