

March, 2023

# Suburban Scribe

Sacramento Suburban Writers Club (SSWC) | Newsletter

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

**Join us on Monday, March 13, Danielle Potter will speak to us about ...**

## On the Road with Danielle Potter

In the same vein as Jack Kerouac's famous 1957 novel, *On the Road*, where he shared experiences he had while traveling across the country on a quest for meaning and true experience, Dani will give an exciting talk about learning how one writer's journey *on the road* led to the completion of her MFA, and so much more...

Creative nonfiction and memoir are about discovering the truth and beauty in the everyday, in the personal, in the mental meanderings. The objective is to search for meaning with the understanding that we may never get it.

As the saying goes, it's not about the destination.

Danielle (Dani) Potter considers herself a life-long lover of writing, but only more formally approached the craft in 2016 when she began her MFA in creative writing at Fresno State University with a focus on creative nonfiction and an emphasis in editing and publishing. When the completion of her degree was on the horizon, she packed up a tent, a few necessities, her dog Thor, and hit the road for a month in June of 2018. Pre-pandemic, pre-a lot of things. They began the journey in search of material for Danielle's thesis, but came back home with so much more.

Danielle is currently a teacher at Sanger High School in California. In the past, she taught for two years at Fresno State University, was an editor for *The Phil Levine Prize for Poetry Contest* for three years, and has been published in a handful of literary journals such as *Free Spirit*, *Meridian*, and *Io Literary Journal*. In her spare time, she enjoys painting, her cat's company, and thinking about her next adventure.

See pages 5 and 6 for more pictures of Dani, her dog Thor, and places she has visited.



Dani and Thor

## **FOOD FOOD FOOD (Yes, we are tempting you, encouraging everyone to attend in person.)**

**Food** will once again be furnished by the club. Last month we had pizza and sodas, and several members brought cookies for us (who were there in person! neener neener!) to all enjoy.

### Meeting Info — Briefly

Please join us **in person** on Monday, March 13 at 7 p.m. for the next SSWC meeting. We meet 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 March 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**

#### Reasons to attend the meeting in person:

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

(Your choice, mask or no mask.)

#### WOMEN'S NATIONAL BOOK ASSOCIATION'S PITCH-O-RAMA

The Women's National Book Association, San Francisco Chapter, is celebrating its Twentieth Anniversary Pitch-O-Rama. It will take place via Zoom on Saturday April 29, 8 am - 1 pm (PT). At Pitch-O-Rama, up to 100 writers pitch their books to publishing professionals. Ever since 2020, Pitch-O-Rama has been held online, allowing each writer to pitch to and receive feedback from up to 7 agents or publishers. Before the event, WNBA provides support for preparing your pitch, advice on how to get the most from the event, and discussions with book professionals.

At the event, authors can go into breakout rooms to speak to a book coach or a marketing expert. Agents and publishers circulate among the breakout rooms to hear writers' pitches. Pitch-o-Rama is open to all writers seeking representation—nonfiction, fiction, YA or children's literature.

This event has limited capacity, so it's advisable to register soon to secure a spot. Here is a link to register: <https://wnba-sfchapter.org/save-the-date-register-for-virtual-pitch-o-rama-2023/>.

#### TESTIMONIALS FROM PAST PITCH-O-RAMA ATTENDEES:

“Besides meeting three charming writers, I received useful feedback from professionals in the industry, and received a request for my book proposal. One publisher has even already given me great feedback on my query letter. And I still have other leads to follow up on!” - Anniqua Rana

“Going through the day with the same group of writers made a huge difference. Practicing seven times in five hours really helped me hone my pitch. The format and price make this conference perfect for getting your pitch polished before attending a high-dollar conference and attempting speed-dating with agents.” - Rebecca Inch-Partridge  
 “All the agents were eminently supportive, and I received great advice. My pitch evolved with each agent as I experimented and learned. Sometimes I read from my script, sometimes I winged it. By the end, I was plunged into existential questions about what I want my novel to be and do— invaluable.” - Renée J Anderson

Thank you for your support! Kind regards,

Isidra Mencos WNBA-SF Board member

## Northern California 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 shift from 2 pm to 10 pm
- 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

Contact Michelle at [authormlhamilton@gmail.com](mailto:authormlhamilton@gmail.com) if you are interested. She is taking all genres, but is particularly interested in YA or middle-grade novels.



### WORKSHOP at the Next SSWC Meeting

Is your character a trope? A lot of tropes? Have you ever looked into it?

A trope is storytelling shortcut to describe a situation that most people are familiar with. Unlike clichés, these can be new or old ideas that further the story along. At this month's workshop, we will explore tropes and how to use them to develop your characters.

~Brittany Lord

### HELP !!! VOLUNTEERS

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.

## Backyard Adventure

Geisla Butler

Where I live, behind my backyard there is the huge greenbelt. Last year the city cleaned all the brush and berry bushes out, and it looks very clean and fresh. I could take a cool walk in the park. We also have a little creek behind us called Cripple Creek. The city did a marvelous job to make it so nice.

I called my girlfriend and asked her if she would like to go with me for a walk, but we have to go over a creek. She happily agreed and we set out for our adventure. I opened my back door in my yard and we were on our way.

My friend has three years on me so I walked slowly. The grass was tall and lush. I kind of noticed that my skinny friend had issues with lifting her feet to make sure the sticks were not hurting her legs. We finally found a place where the creek was low, and we both could jump over and take our mile-long walk. The creek bed had two huge barriers — one bank went down and the other one went up. I crossed the creek and waited for her to do the same. My friend got stuck and could not move down or up. I went back down the embankment, across the water, and up, but I could not get to her arms to pull her. She could not climb because she was lying flat on the embankment.

As she was sitting on her knees, she could not lift herself up and by now we both were worn out.

I suggested that she hold onto my legs to pull herself out of her kneeling position. After about ten minutes, we had it mastered, and she finally pulled herself up holding onto my ankles.

We went back to my house and looked at her clothes — a little dusty. We smiled.

This little walk became such struggle. My friend apologized that she was so out of shape. We are both in our 80s.

I am still looking for someone to walk with me.

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### Public Safety Writers 2023 Conference

July 13<sup>th</sup> – July 16, 2023  
Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

**The conference is open to law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMTs, and anyone writing crime and mystery fiction or non-fiction, technical writing for public safety magazines in print or online, or anyone interested in writing.**

*This conference is attended by SSWC members.*



# Dani's Travels



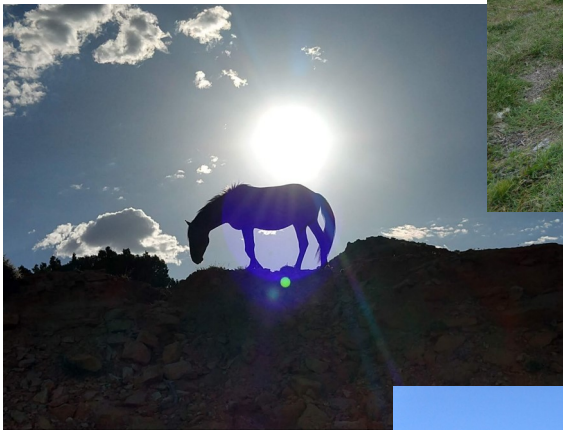
Dani and Thor



Bad Water Basin



Horse on Ridge







## 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.

## Future Speakers / Events

Here is our upcoming roster:

March - Dani Potter, MFA in Creative Writing and Writing Instructor

April - Rebecca Inch-Partridge - Editor and Author (Thanks to Paul — he's handling this booking!!)

May - Banquet

June - Leticia Ordaz (not live; played back from our special 5/17 meeting)

July - TBA

August - TBA

September - Tatiana Villa (this is a rebooking from when she couldn't make it last year)

October - Marshall Patrick Garvey, Sports Writer

November - Lee Herrick, California Poet Laureate

December - Annual Party

## I STREET PRESS—*GONE!*

Laura Kellen

*Stop the Presses!* — literally. News Flash — I Street Press Closes

The I Street Press, a local printing press that was popular with self-published authors, recently closed — for good. The Sacramento Public Library made the following announcement:

We have recently retired the I Street Press after 11 years due to inconsistent access to printing machinery parts, making it impossible to offer a consistent quality product. While we are no longer taking new orders, please see this list of resources for some other options in the Greater Sacramento Area and beyond: <https://www.saclibrary.org/Education/Tech-Creation/I-Street-Press>

This page is intentionally repeated from last month's newsletter.

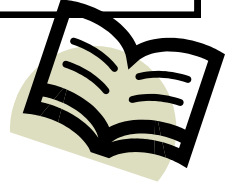
### Follow the SSWC podcasts at:

<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* in any future newsletters, 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  
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

Well, exactly zero, zilch, no submissions. No one sent in a short flash fiction about a new housekeeper "cleaning" your place for inclusion in the newsletter. Sigh.

Promise of publication, perhaps world-wide acclaim for successful writing obviously isn't enough for *you*, Ms or Mr member.

We are a *writers'* club. That implies that the members *write*. Sigh.

This newsletter is sent to other states and is on our website *forever*. The WORLD could see your writing ability.

Submit an excuse for not writing for use in next month's newsletter ... a good one or a funny one. A lie or ???

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



## MEETING INFORMATION

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

**Future Meetings:**

**March 13**

**April 10**

**May 8 — Banquet**

*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*