

Suburban Scribe

Sacramento Suburban Writers Club (SSWC)|Newsletter

sactowriters.org

APRIL FOOLS' EDITION — thar be errors in this newsletter. Thay be intentional ... most of them, anyways. No, there ain't no contest for finding the mostest, the publisher is jest releasing her strong desire to find someone else too do the newsletter.

Join us on Monday, April 10, Rebecca Inch-dge will speak to us about

SPECULATIVE FICTION: NOT YOUR GRAMPA'S SCI FI

Come learn how to stretch your writing into the fantastical. Paranormal romances and mysteries have become popular among mainstream readers, and now readers have discovered magic realism. These days speculative covers such a range of sub-genres beyond the classic sci-fi space opera that writers need to at least be aware of what's happening in the industry.

During this presentation, published science-fiction author, Rebecca Inch-Partridge will give an overview of the wonderful world of speculative fiction. We'll discuss the classic and what's new in the field. We'll cover the benefits and pitfalls of writing speculative fiction. You'll learn what's hot and what's not and some tips from breaking into the market.

Rebecca Inch-Partridge is a freelance editor who specializes in speculative fiction, mysteries, and memoirs. She served as a slush pile reader for *Amazing Stories*, the world's oldest science-fiction magazine. Her experience also includes writing blogs for a biotechnology trade-show company about biomedical research. She's been a finalist in the Writers of the Future Contest three times and is a frequent panelist at science fiction conventions.

Several of her short stories and articles have appeared in online and small press magazines. Her first YA science fiction novel, *Escaping the Dashia* came out in March, 2023.

Rebecca serves as director of critique groups for Gold Country Writers and cohost for "Open Mic for the Spoken Word" at the Auburn Library. For more information and to visit the Paraxous Star Cluster, she invites you to check out www.ripartridge.com



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

Food will once again be furnished by the club. In February we had pizza and sodas, and in March we enjoyed Chinese dishes. Join us and enjoy some delicious food next Monday.

Meeting Info — Briefly

Please join us **in person** on Monday, April 10 at 7 p.m. for the next SSWC meeting. We meet in a large room with good air circulation.

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 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 April 10 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 either the day before, or the day of, the meeting.

Ronald Smith, Past, Present, and Future President of SSWC

Make-Believe Reasons to Attend the Meeting in Person (or maybe not *make believe*):

See your frenemies	Food (non-poisonous)
Gossip about someone not there	Make up information
Lie about your writing progress	Growl at others' success
<i>Seeing</i> other members, even if they're not there.	Eat enough snacks you aren't hungry
Realizing that life just might be worth it with just a computer screen.	

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

WORKSHOP at the Next SSWC Meeting

Eva Wise will discuss long sentences and how they work in some areas in writing but not in others.



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.

Any member who has a bit of time available ... nothing takes a lot of time, especially if many members step up to help out ... anyone could be a great help to our club by doing a little bit.

The **newsletter editor** position is open. It is a great place to practice your writing skills and even learn a bit in the process. It just might look good on your resume for your next job or make a book publisher know that you can write good, er rite bestest, um ... write well.

The other positions listed above also do not take a great deal of time, but can help a great deal with making the club great.

What's in a Name?

Jeannie Turner

Nothing much, according to Shakespeare, for as Juliet says,

*What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet.*

But as for the name of a book, not “any other name” does “smell as sweet,” nor, more to the point, interest readers.

Suppose an author has written a book about tomatoes. He's done a lot of research and polished his discoveries. The information that he wants to announce with his title can be stated so many different ways.

Let's try some titles for his book.

Tomatoes – that at least lets us know what the book is going to be about, but all it calls forth is a shrug of the shoulders.

Tomatoes Down through History – ah, this tells us a bit more about the book and lets us know that it is going to be a history book, or at least contain history.

Tomatoes and Pasta – sounds like it might be a cook book. Misleading, even if it does include a few recipes.

The Influence of Tomatoes – not bad, but rather boring.

How Tomatoes Changed the World —catchy, but could be better.

At this point the author might lay aside his work on the title for a while and let thoughts run around in his head, and, he hopes, come up with a good one. *After all, he thinks, the ones I was coming up with so far seemed to be getting better. At least I'm heading in the right direction.*

When he returns to the necessary chore of creating a title, he thinks making it more specific would be good. *A number is specific. Would that help?* He looks again at his manuscript. Counts the chapters. Hmmmnn. Ten chapters. Ten is a good solid number. *Should include an action word. And something inclusive... world?*

I will call it **Ten Tomatoes that Changed the World.**

And he did.

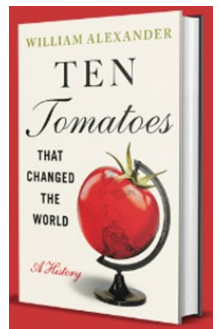
And I read it.

What a book! I cannot recommend it too strongly. Fascinating facts painlessly shared. Skillfully crafted sentences. The author speaks to the reader as though they were sitting together around a fireplace. History, Geography, Science, and laughs—all in one book!

You don't believe me? Read it yourself.

Ten Tomatoes that Changed the World, William Alexander. https://www.amazon.com/Ten-Tomatoes-that-Changed-World/dp/1538753324/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

One little caveat: From beginning to end this book is laced with humor. Don't make the mistake that I did by reading it in the doctor's waiting room— too many times I embarrassed myself by laughing out loud.



Public Safety Writers 2023 Conference

July 13th – 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.

THANK YOUs ARE IN ORDER
Some Special News
That Should Have Been Shared
A While Ago

Two donations have come to the club.

Karen Sepahmansour's family donated a generous amount of money to help us continue our scholarship for the next few years. The money was deposited a couple of months ago, making it possible for SSWC to offer a \$1000 scholarship to deserving students. The date of the first scholarship will be either this year or next, depending on getting the information out to the schools and the receipt of applications and essays collected while allowing enough time to fairly evaluate the submissions.

Also, Brittany Lord made a donation to the club to help cover the costs of feeding the members who come to our meetings in person.

Thanks go to our generous members.

\$1000 Writing Scholarship!

Awarded by Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club
The 2023 Scholarship for High School
Seniors is now open for submissions



Read all the details at:

<https://www.sactowriters.org/2023-scholarship>

And submit your work early to:

scholarship@sactowriters.org

Final Deadline: April 30, 2023

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:

May - Banquet

May - "Special Meeting" — see above article

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

Some sad news — Bud (Melvin) Gardner, valued emeritus member for years, died March 16.

He taught at A.R. College for years and was a great advisor to SSWC. He was an inspiration to many, many writers.

From the Sacramento Bee:

Marion Melvin (Bud) Gardner ... November 1, 1934 - March 16, 2023

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sacbee/name/marion-gardner-obituary?id=50841844>

Originally from Kansas, Bud Gardner became an "institution" to the writing community in the Sacramento area.

He was a co-author to *Chicken Soup for the Writers Soul*. He was a well-respected author and teacher (40 years!) and will certainly be missed.

This page is intentionally repeated from last month's newsletter. I'll keep including it until a few members respond!

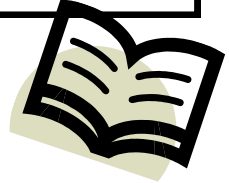
Follow the SSWC podcasts at:

<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 and have it included in the next newsletter.

Please include a copy of the cover.

Someone must be working on a book ...?
Where do you stand in the progress?
50,000 words in?
Searching for a publisher?
Just starting?
Almost done?

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

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
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
Scholarship Karen Sepahmansour & Bernard Wosney
Sunshine Nan Roark
Website Wes Turner
Workshops

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



WRITING PROMPT

New member Robert Austin sent this in, inspired by a recent writing prompt:

You return to your house and it is...

....burnt to the ground. A racing forest fire swept thru taking everything I own with it. I am without so much as a bar of soap, a tube of toothpaste, a change of underwear, or a place to lay down my head. I am choking in the smoke, covered with black ash, alone without family, or friends.

Now what do I do?

Send other ideas to mledsonanderson@yahoo.com



MEETING INFORMATION

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Future Meetings:

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
like publication in the newsletter!*