

May, 2023

# Suburban Scribe

Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club Newsletter

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

**Join us on Monday,  
May 8, at 7 p.m. at  
The Old Spaghetti Factory**

(No Zoom Meeting Monday.)



**Hear ye! Hear ye! Come one, come all, to the best meeting of all!**

That's right. It's May again and time for our annual May Banquet. Unlike our other meetings, this one is held only in person at a restaurant where we can gather, make merry, and break bread together. Friends and family are invited too. This is the best meeting for them to meet everyone and have a good time. There is no speaker so that we can spend our time catching up with one another, something we don't get to do as much of since 2020. Then, as it gets later and the restaurant quiets down, some of our members will entertain us with their short stories and excerpts from their books. Trust me, you don't want to miss this meeting.

We will be gathering again at 7 p.m. the Old Spaghetti Factory in Roseville at 731 Sunrise Avenue, Roseville. Due to inflation, the prices have gone up just a bit, but still remain affordable. It's \$25 for members and \$27 for non-members.

**We all hope to see you there.**

## Meeting Info — Briefly

Please join us **in person** on Monday, May 8 at 7 p.m. at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 731 Sunrise Ave., Roseville, for the next SSWC meeting.

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## Save the Date Wednesday, May 17, 7 pm

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. This presentation will be recorded in May and then will be played back in its entirety at our regular June 12 meeting.

**Please mark your calendar** 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.

### Hanging on a Limb

Karen Sepahmansour

May 1, 2023

I looked outside as the palm trees swayed in the wind.  
Counting time as if it would stay, shining as if the sun was forever.

Birds perched on branches singing and my mind was not free  
How long would the limbs remain, sustain, be?

The moment is now here and will change with reason  
I cast off the spells and begin a new season  
Leaves will fall in the rain so fast but plants will grow green  
Newborn chickens scurried behind mom hardly to be seen.

I poured the food and the chicks scurried past  
Mom made sounds like hurry the food won't last.  
The mom looked up as I watched on the balcony  
Wondering if that is all I wanted to see

Guarding her chicks until they were satisfied  
She walked in front of her chicks with such pride  
I watched them march behind mom in zest.  
And soon the babies will walk in front as mom rests.



## Grammar Guardian

Mary Lou Anderson

An "em" or "m" dash is used to include additional information, explain something, in your story or article. It is usually "stronger" piece of punctuation than a comma).

To "type" the "em dash" —

**For desktop PC:** press the "alt+ctrl+minus" on the numeric keypad (the number section on the far right of your keyboard).

**For Mac:** press "option+shift+hyphen key" at the same time

For the "n dash" —

**For desktop PC:** press the "ctrl+minus" on the numeric keypad

**For Mac:** press "option+hyphen"

Examples:

Hyphen - co-host or splitting a word at a syllable break at the end of a line "Artificial intelligence" may be an oxymoron, or maybe simply moronic. But it may overtake us all.

Dash (n dash) – from 9 – 5

Dash "m" or "em" dash — They ate a typical breakfast for their planet — bacon from a cachesttttsy hog, toasted walcan nuts, and juice from the orlemine fruit.

## HELP !!! VOLUNTEERS

### This is getting serious, folks ...

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.

## 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.* <https://policewriter.com/conference/>

### SSWC SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

The deadline for submissions for the Sacramento Suburban High School Writing Scholarship was April 30. Bernard Wozny, Wesley Turner, and Karen Sepahmansour have helped with website modification and submissions' outreach as a team.

Despite our efforts as a small group, we did not receive the expected number of entrants. Nevertheless, the committee has decided to award the scholarship to our best entrant. The decision will be announced before May 8. We will publish the student who receives the scholarship as soon as we finalize the decision. We believe that next year, with an earlier start for advertising, there will be more submissions.

We welcome club members' input in extending interest and/or outreach. Our mission is important in helping youth with their goals of improving communication through writing, establishing themselves in satisfying educational paths and careers, and providing community support.

Thanks to team members, Wesley and Bernard. They have followed up and are doing a wonderful job of helping put this program together, Thanks to Ronald Smith, our President, for supporting our team efforts. Jeannie Turner has been excellent in informing membership. Mary Lou Anderson has drafted and edited excellent newsletters to get the word out also. Any suggestions or questions related to the writing scholarship can be answered by:

Karen Sepahmansour  
SSWC High School Writing Scholarship  
hsscholarkaren@gmail.com

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### Future Speakers / Events

Here is our upcoming roster:

- May - Banquet, 7 p.m., The Old Spaghetti Factory, Roseville
- June - Leticia Ordaz (recorded on 5/17)
- July - TBA
- August - TBA
- September - Tatiana Villa, Cover artist (rebooked from last year)
- October - Marshall Patrick Garvey, Sports Writer
- November - Lee Herrick, California Poet Laureate
- December - Annual Party

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Karen Sepahmansour shared this link for stroke information. Informative, Life saving. Important. Click on this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/1638147381/posts/10219005526922625/?sfnsn=mo&mibextid=6aamW6>

(Editor's Note) I can attest, first hand, how important this information is. Within the first few minutes, and lucky I was still alert, I realized a stroke had hit me ... hard.— blind in one eye. Vision gone! Like a television screen that's lost connection.

I took two aspirin almost immediately and got to the hospital within the first half hour or so. Everything there was handled quickly. There are no residual affects at all.

## The “HEAD-SMASHED-IN” BUFFALO JUMP

Pat Biasotti



For over five thousand years the Plains Indians relied on buffalo for their survival. Stone spears, bows and arrows would not have made much of a dent in these massive animals, and long before they secured horses and guns from the White Men, they developed a unique way to kill the buffalo—driving them over the cliffs. But how? Buffalo weren't stupid.

These buffalo jump cliffs extended all across the Great Plains in the foothills of the Rockies. Today one of the best preserved and documented is the *Head-Smashed-In-Bufferalo Jump*, a

UNESCO World Heritage Site near Fort MacLeod, Alberta, Canada. The museum and interpretive center is in itself remarkable. It blends in so well that one barely notices, until in close proximity, this notable union of nature and architecture—a five-story building in a cliff. It has garnered many architectural awards.

The Indians had a great respect for the natural world and the Great Creator, who provided for their sustenance. They considered the buffalo a gift from the god and utilized all parts of the buffalo: the hides for shelter and clothing, the meat for food, the horns for toys, spoons and cups, the bones for tools and weapons—even the tail for a fly swatter and whip. There were numerous Blackfoot Indian tribes inhabiting this region, which necessitated killing hundreds of the animals. However, they killed only what they needed.

Each fall the tribe would scout for herds of buffalo, well-fed and fat from feasting on the summer grasses. Before they started herding the animals, they made camp in the vicinity of a particular cliff, then staged days of fasting and ceremonial dances beseeching the Creator for success in the hunt.

Several miles back from the cliff, and leading toward it, the tribe erected two rows of stone cairns on either side of a drive lane. Into these cairns they stuck live tree branches to trick the animals into believing they were hemmed in by a forest on each side. This drive lane gradually narrowed into a V as it approached the cliff. When all was in place the Indians started corralling the buffalo toward the drive lane and the "jump."

However to get the animals to panic and race toward the cliff, the Indians selected a young boy from the tribe and trained him to be the "lost calf." The buffalo herd had a tremendous maternal instinct and would go to extraordinary lengths to seek out and return a lost calf to its mother. Thus this boy—the "lost calf"—disguised in buffalo skins and rubbed with their scent, would get ahead of the herd and bawling loudly, lead them into the drive lane and ever closer to the cliff.

As he got closer to the edge, the "lost calf " started running as wild shouts and noises suddenly erupted from young braves hiding behind the cairns. Startled, the buffalo stampeded and thundered ever closer to the cliff with clouds of dust obscuring the edge of the precipice. At the last moment the young boy threw off his buffalo skins and darted behind one of the cairns as the buffalo plunged to their doom.

Immediately the whole tribe descended the cliff and they speared the few animals barely alive. Then both men and women started butchering. They relished eating as treats the warm heart, liver, kidneys and brain.

The provocative title? Legend has it that a young boy wanted a good view of the buffalo falling off the cliff, so he hid under a ledge below. As the animals bodies piled higher and higher some rolled back onto him. Much later as the tribe butchered the buffalo they discovered him, his head smashed in.

This page is intentionally repeated each month. .

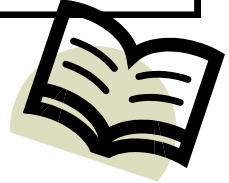
### Follow the SSWC podcasts at:

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

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



## WRITING PROMPT

What have you found to be your most-used go-to excuse for not writing? Explain. Rationalize. Defend your reasons.

Mine is ... Well, procrastination works well for me. I'll expand on that later ...

Send your excuse(s) to:

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

(No, not next month ... now!)



## MEETING INFORMATION

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

**Future Meetings:  
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!***