

August, 2023

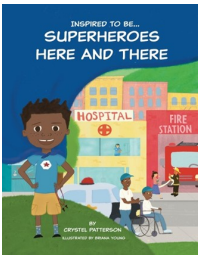
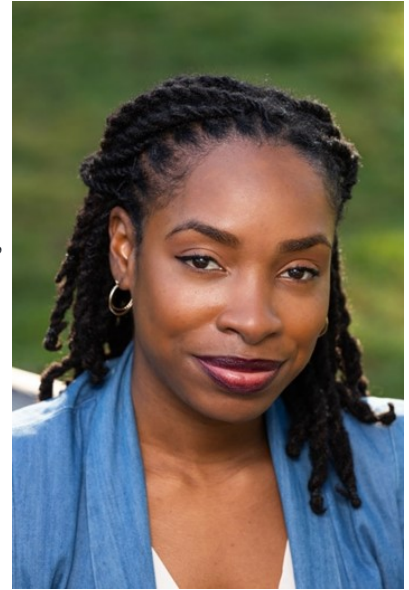
# Suburban Scribe

Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club Newsletter

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

## CRYSTEL PATTERSON will be our speaker on Monday, August 14, at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall at 5501 Dewey Drive, corner of Dewey and Madison.

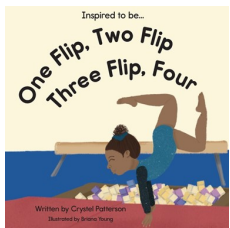
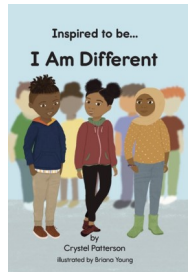
Meet Crystel, a Technology Consultant, author, and proud mother of two boys. Her "Inspired to Be..." book series amplifies positive narratives of Black people and inspires children with real-life stories that show them they, too, can achieve great things. While Crystel has a degree in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research from UC Berkeley, her perspective and experience in writing uplifting children's literature stem from her role as a mother and her passion for inspiring the next generation.



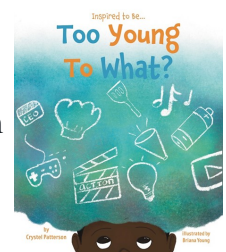
Crystel's work has earned her widespread media coverage and the title of Community Champion by KCRA3. Her books have received critical acclaim and awards from The Bookfest Awards, the Independent Author Network Book of the Year Awards, the National Indie Excellence Awards, and the San Francisco Book Festival, for their universal messages that empower children of all races.

During the August 14 meeting, Crystel will share her journey to becoming an author and how she sees her book series empowering and uplifting children to follow their dreams and make a positive impact on the world.

To learn more about the "Inspired to be..." series visit [www.crystelpatterson.com](http://www.crystelpatterson.com)  
News articles and stories can also be found at [www.crystelpatterson.com/about-theauthor](http://www.crystelpatterson.com/about-theauthor)



Crystel's books are available online wherever books are sold; however, in an effort to support the author, we are asking that books be ordered directly from Crystel's website ([www.crystelpatterson.com](http://www.crystelpatterson.com)). When checking out, you'll have the option to select "Pick up" as an option. If you select this option, the shipping fee will be waived, and Crystel will bring your order with her for distribution at the August 14th meeting. Also, if you would like Crystel to autograph the book, please be sure to select that option on the check out page.



### Reasons to Attend Meetings In Person

- Learn to Ride a Frumious Bandersnatch
- Hire Jub Jub Bird Protection
- Boasting of your skill especially if you've slain a Jabberwicky
- The Queen of Hearts won't ... well, let's just say it's particularly gruesome and entirely unpleasant.

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**Hello, fellow writers and artists of all walks of life, members, and guests — EVERYONE IS WELCOME, NO MATTER YOUR ... WELL, NO MATTER YOUR *ANYTHING!***

**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. We meet on the second Monday of every month except May when we meet at a local restaurant.**

**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 and feel free to show up a smidge early for the chance to talk to some of the coolest cats this side of the Sierra Nevada mountains.**

**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.**

This space is reserved for your  
short story or poem next month. It can't be as  
bad as Vagon poetry, of that I'm sure.

Please email your submission to

[kevincastle32@gmail.com](mailto:kevincastle32@gmail.com)

(If you're nice to him, he won't demand a newsletter troll toll fee.)

### Writing Tip from the Grammar Guardian:

Pet Peeve -- **These ones**. I hear this frequently, which means it is entering our daily lexicon. However, "these" is plural and "one" is singular

I don't care if there is an "s" at the end — unless you are talking about a bunch of numbers, it is contradictory. If you use it in your stories, let it be spoken by a lesser-educated character.

This would be correct: "There is a list of ones, and these ones are bold; those ones are not."



## My Great Mnemonic

By Jeannie Turner

Do I ever get out the door without forgetting something? It doesn't seem that I do. What was it this time? My keys? My sunglasses? My purse with the phone? Or maybe it's a bathroom trip. How am I going to remember it all?

This morning as I'm heading for a meeting I get out to the car and discover that I do not have my keys. Fortunately, I keep a spare emergency key in the shed. I just turned right around to go get my secret key out of the shed, and I did—but that secret key is for the front door and I had just come out and locked up the back door. That's ok, I'll just go around. On my way to the front door the sprinklers, getting out of their prescribed arcs and hitting the sidewalk, got me—soaked my shoulder and the bottom of my skirt. But I did get in and get my key ring.

On the way home from the meeting, I'm thinking *so how can I prevent this from happening? How? How? How?* Suddenly I remember that fun little children's song, "Head shoulders, knees, and toes." OK, I can use that!

Head - check my sunglasses

Shoulders - check the shoulder strap on my purse that carries my phone

Knees - check my keys

And toes? Hmm. Let me think...OK, that will be my cane.

Now I got it!

♪Head shoulders, keys and cane, keys and cane, keys and cane, ♪

♪Head shoulders, keys and cane, and don't forget the bathroom! ♪

## HELP !!! VOLUNTEERS

### Gondor Calls for Aid! Will You Answer?

Calling all members — SSWC is in need of volunteers. (Yes, that means you.)

Snacks/Refreshments

Publicity

Historian

Membership Committee

Nominations

There was a Newsletter position, but that spot has been taken by a Maniacal Mad Man.

No individual job takes a lot of time, and you learn a lot about the club, our members, and about writing by helping out. Plus you get Gold Stars which we may or may not keep track of.

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

# The Elk Grove Writers Conference

## Conference

The Elk Grove Writers Conference is **September 23, 2023**, at District 56, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Participants will enjoy a complimentary breakfast, lunch, and a comprehensive program on the Craft of Writing. Register now at [egweg.org/23conf](http://egweg.org/23conf).



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER GREGORY RANDALL**, a multi-published author of thrillers like, "This Face of Evil," and "Pawns in an Ancient Game," will provide a riveting presentation on "What's New In the Writing and Publishing World in 2023."



If you're a writer, the word "editing" causes goosebumps. **KRISTEN TATE** has the cure. With a PhD in English from Columbia University, success as an author of "All the Words: A Year of Reading About Writing," and a successful editorial service called the Blue Garret, she will help class participants transform their work from rough draft to finished book.

**KAKWASI SOMADHI** is the author of "Coming Forth by Day," and several children's books such as "The Peacemaker and the African Beetle." As an experienced teacher of Creative Writing at Cosumnes River College, she can show participants how to write a complex scene that moves their story.



**JOEY GARCIA** says, "Writers struggle with writing copy for the back cover of a book." Joey is an editor and professional Author Platform Coach who help writers get known, so when their books get written, an audience is waiting to read it. Bad copy could kill the sale of a book. In Joey's interactive session, attendees will learn o draft enticing back cover copy, and receive useful feedback.



**CHRIS HENNESSY**, filmmaker and TV producer, is writing, "Touched by Hannah," a book on a man with cancer, his one- pound newborn, Hannah, and their fight for life. It was featured on NBC News and is slated for release in 2024. He will then convert the book to a Netflix film. His experience and expertise will be reflected in his presentation on "How to Build a Media Platform."



**JUDITH STARKSTON** taught college writing and publishes fantasy and magic in a Bronze Age world. Her novel, "Hand of Fire" was a semi-finalist with the Bennet's Award for Historical Fiction. Her novella, "The Scent of Slaughter and Love," shows she's mastered the art of inserting emotion into a story. The net effect? Her readers feel her characters' fear, love, hate, sexual attraction and more. Learn how to do this, and your words are sure to sell.

**KAREN PHILLIPS**, of Phillips Covers, is a graphic artist and professional book cover designer with a degree in Applied Art & Design from Cal Poly. She has worked with many indie authors, and small publishers including Poisoned Pen Press and Blue River Press. She enjoys creating covers for all genres, and her presentation on book cover design is sure to help her class participants sell more books.



REGISTRATION:

[egweg.org/23conf](http://egweg.org/23conf)

For more information on the Conference, go to [egweg.org](http://egweg.org) or email [loyholder77@gmail.com](mailto:loyholder77@gmail.com)



## Appaloosa Radio

*Jim Miller*

I have introduced a new feature to my Appaloosa Radio webcast site called **90-Second Stories**. These are complete fiction stories that run about 90 seconds to listen to. Typically, this runs 250 to 350 words. It is an exciting genre to write in. Concise and pithy stories that carry an impact.

I am inviting the Club's members to submit their own 90-Second Stories which I'll convert into audio.



I have been webcasting the stories on both my podcast (Appaloosa Radio Podcast) and on my main site (Appaloosa Radio Productions). Of course, the podcast is always available on services such as Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Amazon Music, Overcast, etc.

**Appaloosa Radio—James Joel Miller** [Jim.mount.miller@gmail.com](mailto:Jim.mount.miller@gmail.com)  
*online audio theater where original stories come alive!*

Appaloosa Radio is a production of the Appaloosa Springs Audio Theater, a volunteer collaborative whose purpose is to create, produce, and share original story content through webcast radio experiences. We offer a **permanent archive** of our original audio stories at Appaloosa Radio Productions ---

<https://appaloosaradio productions>

We also offer a **podcast** service that adds new episodes each week. The podcast host is at ---

<https://appaloosa radio.buzzsprout.com>

Principal contact: [jim-j@appaloosaradio productions](mailto:jim-j@appaloosaradio productions)

*Behind every door is an untold story . . .*

~ Jim Mounts-Miller ~



At the last meeting, three of our Fearless Leaders (Brittany, Ron and Mike) performed a skit about proper critique group etiquette. Emily Post would be proud.

## Future Speakers / Events

Here is our upcoming roster:

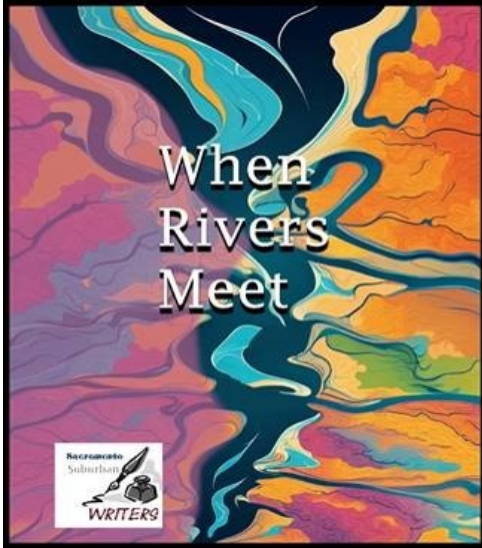
August - Crystel Patterson,  
children's book author.

September - Tatiana Villa, Cover  
artist (rebooked from last year)

October - Marshall Patrick Garvey,  
Sports Writer

November - Lee Herrick,  
California Poet Laureate

December - Annual Party



## When Rivers Meet

The Sacramento Suburban Writers Club is going beyond print to sharing our stories by audio and video. We will host a story-sharing platform that will webcast our audio stories to services such as Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Stitcher, iHeartRadio, TuneIn, Alexa, Overcast, PocketCasts, Castro, Castbox, Podchaser, etc. That means that anyone can listen to them on their smartphone or in their car wherever they may be in the world!

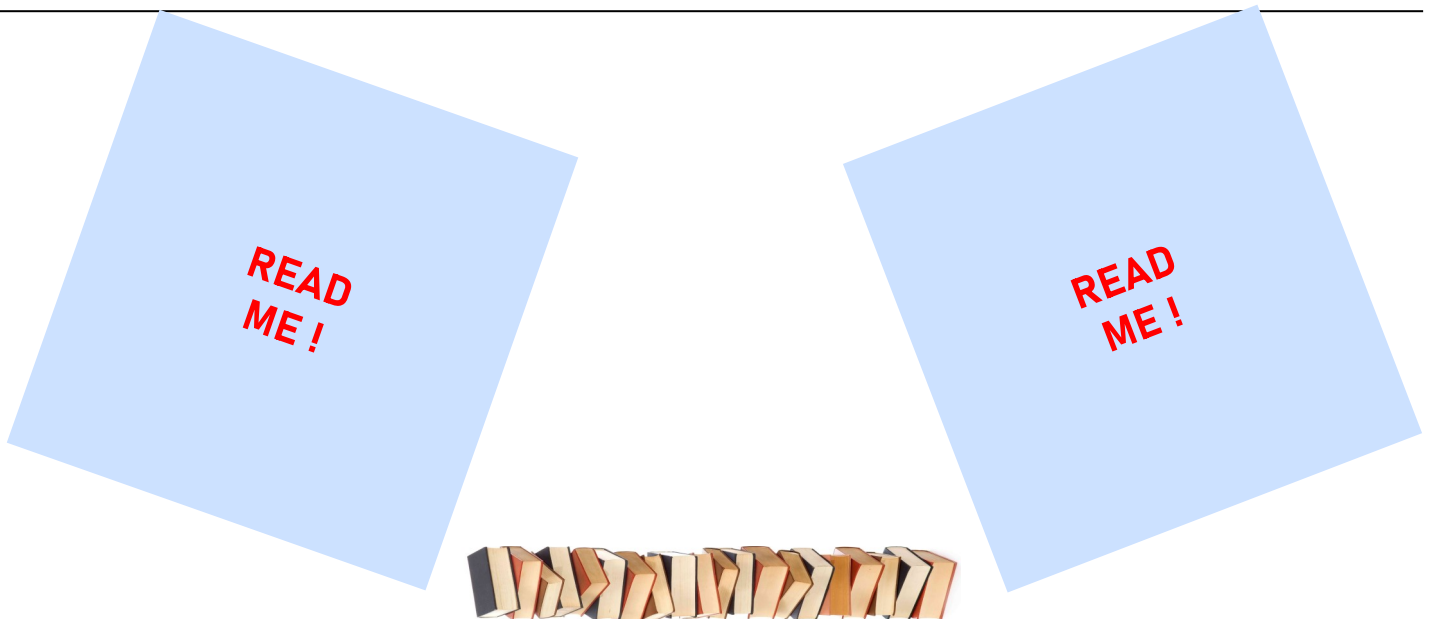
We are also posting the same stories to a YouTube channel that will also feature other stories written by the Club's members. That option opens even more opportunities for sharing our tales. The Board has decided to begin by webcasting stories previously published in one of our anthologies.

Thus...

If you have written a story that has been included in any of our published anthologies, please contact Jim Mounts-Miller at [jim-j@appaloosaradio productions](mailto:jim-j@appaloosaradio productions) or Brittany Lord (a.k.a. tealya) at [tealya@hotmail.com](mailto:tealya@hotmail.com) to confirm that you wish to have your story (or stories) webcast on these new platforms.

We are calling this an audio-anthology and we have tentatively named it, "***When Rivers Meet***" and the subtitle is "Fiction from the Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club."

There is no charge for webcasting your stories on any of these platforms.



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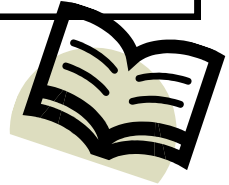
### Follow the SSWC podcasts at:

<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 [kevycastle32@gmail.com](mailto:kevycastle32@gmail.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.

Send all Submissions to Kevin The Newsletter Goblin: [kevycastle32@gmail.com](mailto:kevycastle32@gmail.com)

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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	Kevin Castle (New)
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 (450 Words or Less)

Think of a plain mundane and ordinary Person, Place, or Thing. Now describe it using made up words, yet still keep it recognizable. Example: The wibwab walk of the fiviferous billowtailed ostritch.

The purpose is to stretch your imagination and help you think outside the box. **Make sure to Submit it for next month's Newsletter!** (Yes, even you.)



## MEETING INFORMATION

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

We meet the second Monday each month, year round. Same time. Same place:  
5501 Dewey Drive, Fair Oaks, CA  
Just north of the Madison/Dewey intersection,  
across from the Safeway.  
In the Friendship Hall through the white fence.

*All writers are encouraged to attend.  
Membership not mandatory but brings privileges  
such as publication in the newsletter!*

