

September, 2023

Suburban Scribe

Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club Newsletter

[sactowriters.org](https://www.sactowriters.org)

Tatiana Villa will be our speaker on Monday, September 11, at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall at 5501 Dewey Drive, corner of Dewey and Madison.



The best writing club this side of Mars is thrilled to have Tatiana Villa speak at our next meetup. Tatiana is an amazing artist and book cover designer whose website and design work has made quite a few top 10 mention lists. See her beautiful website and all of her client testimonials at <https://www.viladesign.net/>

In a world where 4,000,000 books are published every year (that's 7 books every minute) you need to be able to stand out from the crowd, and that's where Tatiana comes in. She works with authors on many aspects of bringing a book to life, including Ebook cover, paperback cover, hardback cover, dust jacket, audiobook cover, and marketing materials. Authors can help the process by providing an existing book cover that they wish their cover to emulate.

Tatiana's wonderful skill is in great demand and with very reasonable prices. She hates when newbies are taken advantage of, and will work with an author until they are 100% satisfied! She welcomes your emails at villatat@gmail.com.

Last year she was scheduled to come but was delayed by a Force Majeure event. But as all great wizards, writers and artists will tell you, she will arrive precisely when she means to. So don't miss this opportunity to come in person and talk to Tatiana to ask her all your burning questions about the design and writing process!

Reasons to Attend Meetings In Person

- You may find Buried Treasure at our location
- Get your free complementary Bigfoot protection
- See your fearless leaders perform acts of heroic courage
- Get your pet Zombie certified and trained

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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.

We HIGHLY encourage meeting in person. The room has a super-large television for viewing the speaker if they are not in-person, plus there are usually goodies you can snack on. Feel free to show up early for the chance to talk to some of the coolest cats this side of Mars.

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. Make sure you close all your browser tabs and eliminate potential distractions.

Ronald Smith, President SSWC

This space is reserved for your
short story or poem next month.

It can't be as bad as the singing of Milli Vanilli,
of that I'm sure.

Please email your submission to

kevincastle32@gmail.com

(If you're nice to him, he won't demand a payment of Cheesecake.)

For Your Eardrums

There is a podcast called the **Self Publishing Podcast Show** - which comes recommended by our member Jim. The show is hosted by two writers, James Blatch and Mark Dawson. James writes Crum Fiction and Mark writes Fantasy. Within the show, they openly talk about their entire process, including marketing their self-published books and the good/bad of traditional vs self publishing.

**READ
ME!**



Scholarship Update

Our lovely Scholarship winner Kate Rowberry has started college at Brown University. Recently she joined the staff of an international literary magazine called Writeadelic who just hosted a writing camp for people aged 13-21.

You can find the magazine here: <https://www.writeadelic.com/>

The Pale Blue Eye

By Kevin Castle

(Based on the Tell-Tale Heart by Edgar Allen Poe)

Thump, thump, thump... I still hear his heartbeat. Loud and arrhythmic, like a dying deer. After all these years, it still haunts me just like the day I tore it out of him and hid it under my floorboards. His heartbeat never stops even when I sleep. *Thump, thump, thump...* I tried for years to tell someone, anyone, but they derided my demons. 'Just the ravings of a madman' they said.

Madman, as if I am crazy like the lunatics around me who incessantly babble and drool. The doctors declared me insane! Can you believe it? I refused their medicine of course - if you could even call it that. It was pure poison. I know because I watched it shut down the minds of the other residents around me. I am no fool, and I will not be mindless. Of course, I would appease the warden by pocketing the green pill in the corner of my mouth below the gum line. The fool was satisfied, and I spit it out later.

You may not remember me; no, I expect you wouldn't. I am no one, an old man they have long since forgotten and stopped telling lies about. I can tell you that time has not been kind to me—my skin wrinkles and withers like a bruised rotten apple. I imagine my face is unrecognizable though I have not seen it in many years.

I do not remember when I came to this cage. There are no mirrors in my prison and I am allotted no luxuries - save for the daily reminder of my known enemy. You may have come to know him as I do: The Man with the Pale Blue Eye. I see him out of my window at night, mocking me. His eye waxes and wanes as the months pass by. The seasons bring clouds covering his piercing gaze, but I know it's there - hiding, waiting, and watching me.

If my arms were long enough, I would pluck it out of the sky and slowly squish it making sure to relish the feeling of the mealy bloody organ collapse between my fingers. His shriek would be glorious as I rid the world of him again. Yet this time, I would be careful to not reveal myself to the police constables. Fool them all, I would.

But alas, he mocks me like an effervescent annoyance and I sit in my cage, trapped, unable to send my demon to the pit of hell. *Thump, thump, thump...*

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 dastardly scoundrel.

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.



CREATIVE WRITING FALL COURSE

"Crafting Conflict: Dynamic Storylines
in Novels, Short Fiction, and Narrative Poetry"

Embark on a Journey of Creativity with the Elk Grove Writers & Artists and
Award-Winning Teacher-Novelist Gini Grossenbacher.

Wednesday Evenings, Zoom, 6-8 p.m.
September 20 to November 15, 2023

Open to writers of fiction, poetry, or both.

Explore, Write, and Share to Elevate Conflict in Your Work. Join us!
Together, we'll weave captivating scenes, breathe life into characters, and sculpt storylines that
resonate across poetry and prose. Absorb and apply tips and techniques that take your verses and
scenes from the ordinary to the magnificent.

Nine weeks, pay-as-you-go, \$25/week. Guest speaker: Judith Starkson, Author. Now taking questions
and enrolling: email Gini Grossenbacher, M.Ed., ginis.writers1@gmail.com

ZOOM

REGISTER NOW

ginis.writers1@gmail.com

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.



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

For more information on the Conference, go to egweg.org or email 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
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

Behind every door is an untold story . . .

~ Jim Mounts-Miller ~



At the last meeting, our inspiring speaker Crystel Patterson gave a great presentation and did some readings. Truly, everyone was blown away. We will update you when her new book launches!

Future Speakers / Events

Here is our upcoming roster:

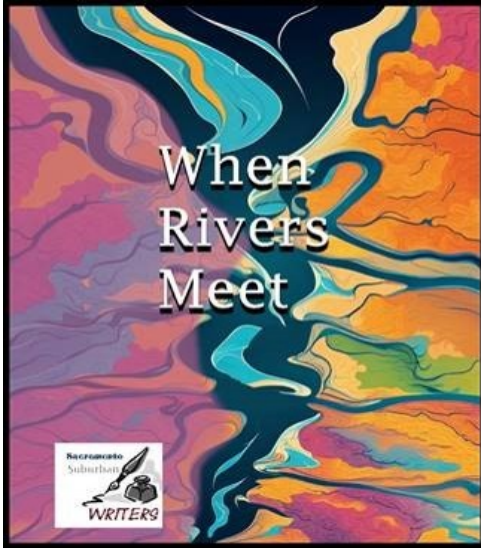
September - Tatiana Villa, Cover artist (rebooked from last year)

October - Marshall Patrick Garvey, Sports Writer

November - Lee Herrick, California Poet Laureate

December - Annual Party

January - Frank Nissen, Historical Fiction



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!

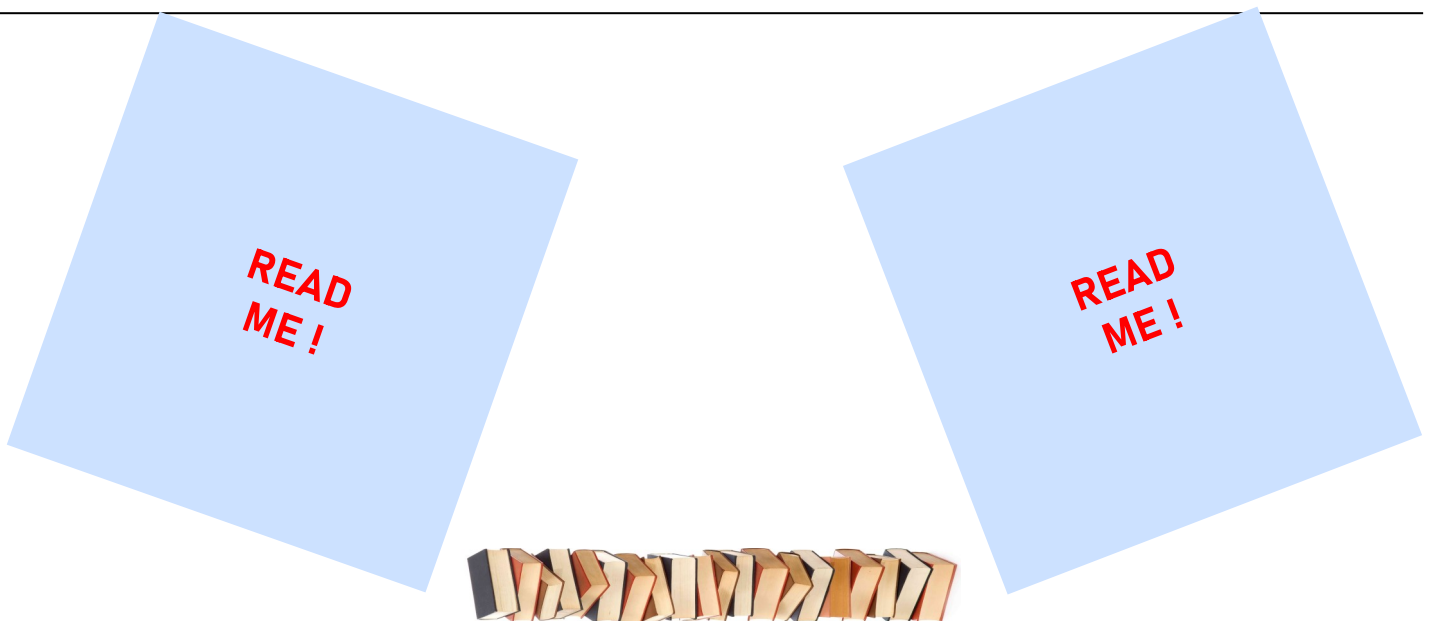
We are also posting the same stories to a YouTube channel that will also feature other stories written by the Club's members. That option opens even more opportunities for sharing our tales. The Board has decided to begin by webcasting stories previously published in one of our anthologies.

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 or Brittany Lord (a.k.a. tealya) at 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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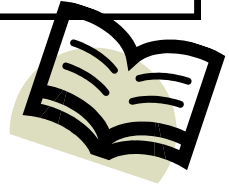
Follow the SSWC podcasts at:

<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 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

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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	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)

You can tell much about a person by the contents of their pockets and wallets/purses. For this prompt, create a character and describe what they have, why they have it, and what they plan on doing with it. It could be a note for a lover, a wad of cash for a drug deal, or the one ring to rule them all.

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. Be there or be square.

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.

(Yes, that means you!)

Membership not mandatory but brings privileges
such as publication in the newsletter!

