

October, 2023

Suburban Scribe

Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club Newsletter

sactowriters.org

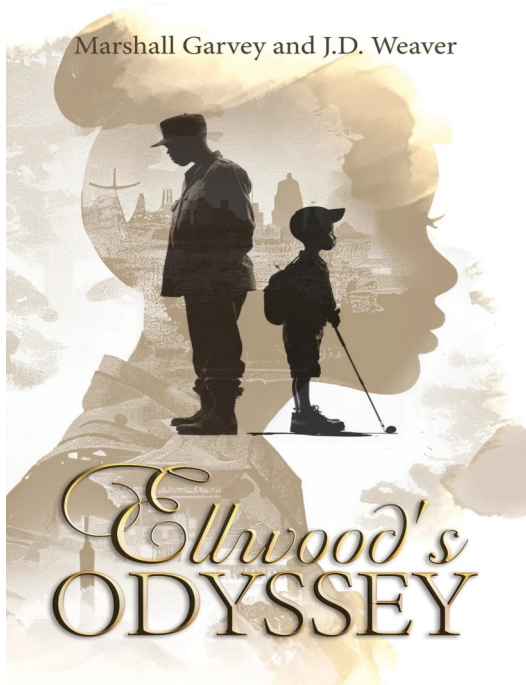
Marshall Garvey will be our speaker on Monday, October 9th, at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall at 5501 Dewey Drive, corner of Dewey and Madison.

The best writing club in all the Multiverse is thrilled to have Marshall Garvey at our next monthly meeting!

Marshall has been a writer for over 20 years of his life. Born in Orange County in 1989 and growing up primarily here in Sacramento, Marshall has developed a passionate voice as a scribe, whether it's about baseball, history, music, movies, video games, or anything else. His writing has been published by *The Sacramento Bee*, *Dodgers Nation*, *Cygnus X-1*, the Richard Nixon Foundation, the Pacific Coast League Historical Society, *Teen Ink*, and others. In 2013, he co-founded the video game blog Last Token Gaming, which just celebrated its 10th anniversary in June.

Earlier this year, he was interviewed by Reis Thebault of *The Washington Post* for an article about the "Beam Team" Kings and what they mean to Sacramento. He is currently in the finishing stages of a book about the 1985 World Series, *Interstate '85*, for which he's interviewed 27 people, including Hall of Fame baseball legends George Brett and Ozzie Smith.

Marshall Garvey and J.D. Weaver



You can read his writing at his official website, marshallgarvey.com, and his Substack, Marshall Arts. Also check out his published books, *The Hidden History of Sacramento Baseball* and *Ellwood's Odyssey*

<https://www.amazon.com/Ellwoods-Odyssey-Marshall-Garvey/dp/1669801551>

Reasons to Attend Meetings In Person

1. Find out if you've been invited to Hogwarts or not.
2. Learn to sing shanties about Halloween Town
3. Search for the Great Pumpkin with Linus and Lucy.
4. Help your friends defeat an intergalactic evil space clown.

There is so much great content and info in this newsletter that you should read every page!

Yes, EVERY PAGE!

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 the Multiverse.

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 boring as reading the entire 1967
Encyclopedia Britannica Set, 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 your best blood-
curdling scream.)

The Newest Members!

After 9 very long months, it happened. Baby Rowan Arthur Lord has entered the world, but not with a wail.

Turns out he isn't much of a crier. He even gave the hospital staff a scare because he wasn't crying, just looking around. He was fine, just quiet. He is very sweet and the Lords are so happy to welcome him into their family.

Father and Mother: Kenneth and Brittney Lord
Born September 20th, 2023

Please also welcome our newest member **Carolyn Radmanovich**, as well as **Emma Clasberry** who is returning.



The 2023 Elk Grove Writers Conference
Report by L Paul Turner
(Edited by Kevin Castle for space considerations)

Bernard Wozny opened the conference by speaking about “What’s New in the Writing and publishing World.” He is the author of *ORP Orzel* and *Girl Electric*.

He concentrated on his specialty, the intersection between writing and publishing and A.I. Artificial Intelligence was something to watch out for, but may also be of benefit. A specific example might be using A.I. video avatars to act as speakers to present a product (ie your book). Bernard is working on an ad using Revoicer and video avatars.

For use of ai in doing audios of your books, narration seems to work best. Dialog can be emphasized with emotions. You can use different voices for each character. Result can be like an audio play, and writing can be more like a screenplay. For selling your books, there are Global Markets, Booktok, Social Media, Artificial Intelligence, Audio Books.

Bern also touched on Global Markets. A writer might be interested in global markets to increase sales, credibility, and knowledge. Even self-publishing authors have the ability to tap into global markets through, for example, Kindle Direct Publishing. Also, IngramSpark for UK & EU and Blinkstor, QikInk, Printrove for India.

“Let Your Scenes Move the Story” presented by **Kakwasi Somahdi**

A critical task for the writer is to determine which of the scene requires development and which requires summary. Summary is a telling. Development is showing.

Move the story along by using summary, scene, flashback, flash forward, slow motion. Summary can condense time, decades, centuries, into a few sentences. In the fine balance between show and tell, summary tells – but hopefully with color and words that evoke the senses.

Summary accomplishes the following for a story’s content or substance: Gives information; Reveals a character’s background; Reveals a character’s motives. “Some writers have a tendency to overuse summaries, racing through more time and more events than necessary to tell the story. The danger there is lack of depth.” Burroway

Filmmaker, Speaker, Author **Chris Hennessy** presented “Build Your Platform Using Storytelling Crossover Tips.”

When you speak to an audience, you add value to your author resume; you build your email list; you build your speaking reel; you sell books and products and make contacts. Speaking is performing is an uplifting confidence booster. Try speaking. You can turn your life story into a money-making speaking career.

Continued on next page.

Start building your platform with social media, appearances on social media, and interviews. Speaking, podcasting, generating a website, newsletter, and an email list. Build each of these one step at a time. Do a similar activity thirty times, and you've built a habit. Be consistent, and be your real, authentic self, especially as you engage with posts by others, such as in Facebook Groups. Look everywhere for photo-video opportunities.

Joey Garcia, "How to Write a Blurb. It's Easier Than You Think."

The best presenter was from local Fox-TV, their relationship guru, the ever-helpful Joey Garcia was next. Her topic at the conference was "How to Write a Blurb. It's Easier Than You Think." The Blurb referred to was the back cover blurb. She said that when we pick up a book we read the back cover as a skim read. Therefore, use short sentences. A blurb that is written with clarity is more important than a blurb that is clever. Clever may not be understood and takes the potential buyer too long to read and figure out.

You have 3 to 10 seconds to catch the potential reader's attention. Use 150 to 200 words max. The blurb should make the reader impatient to look inside the book. The book cover copy (blurb) is the most important tool for sales.

The blurb should match the genre of the book. For novels, a short description which teases the main concept. Tell the main plot points, a short description and a hook. The back cover blurb of Katie Khan's book, *Hold Back the Stars* is an example which seems to follow all the rules to deliver its thrilling message.

Items to leave out of your blurb: how many years it took to write or publish your book; any award that is not a nationally recognized award; that the author writes from Sacramento. For nonfiction back cover blurbs, you can use just bullet points. a professional photo is a plus. Put in only that portion of your background that is pertinent to the book. A long bio is usually the sign of an amateur. You can include references and reviews.

Do a short author bio by stating your accomplishments: credible awards; why this book now. Use only one or two sentences. For an author bio, be modest, and write in the third person point of view. It's good to have a professional photo with the bio. If you are a self-published author, you can't get a review from *Publisher's Weekly*, but you can get a review from *Booklife*, an arm of *Publisher's Weekly*. Book reviews from *Publisher's Weekly* are for only traditionally published works.

Kristin Tate is the chair for organizing all sponsorship conferences for the Editorial Freelance Association. She discussed working with Freelance Editors. Questions to ask yourself before finding an editor: What kind of editing do you need— Content, Copy, Line, Proofreading? What kind of Budget do you have?

Karen Phillips (PhillipsCovers.com) spoke about making a good cover for your book. Presentation is everything, and that some will not bother with a book if the cover is not well done. Genre matching: first fit in; then stand out. Matte finish cover is traditional for fiction books. Have a teaser to grab the reader; then have a short blurb.

Editor's Note: There was so much more material that couldn't fit. Thanks Paul! Fantastic job!

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.



Happy Awareness Day

Mary Lou Anderson (aka M. L. Edson)

Many designated events, professions, and issues are observed throughout the year. In October, issues such as dyslexia, mental illness, and liver cancer are given special attention.

One issue stands out to those of our ilk. October is National Book Month. And another we should note is Disabled Authors Day on October 2 which celebrates accomplishments of authors with disabilities and those who feature disabled characters in their writing.

Did you know there is one day devoted to vegetarians? That would be October 1st. And one day is devoted to our pets with October 4th being Kindness to Animals Day. Did you know that “unhoused” people also get a day? World Homeless Day on October 10th. But then, teachers only get one day too. That would be World Teachers Day on October 5th.

The idea that many worthy causes are given a day to bring awareness to issues and professions is good, very good. This may sound impressive, but please note that junk mail, yes junk mail gets an entire week, October 1 -7.

Milestones of Members

This is a new section where members can share their major writing milestones.

Paul Turner aka Clé Curbo finished the main narration of his sci-fi masterpiece *Quest for Sylvane!*

Next is the quality control checks and the upload to Findaway Voices who will then distribute the audiobook to any number of outlet vendors. Findaway Voices also can connect with libraries.

If you want to share your big milestone all the groovy cats of the SSWC, let Kevin The Newsletter Goblin know at: kevincastle32@gmail.com

Out in the Community

In September, our very own Barbara Young published her first children's picture book, *Grandma Lost Cuddles!*

This is one of five books in her social emotional learning series, "Adventures with Dementia," for ages 4-10. She has received generous positive feedback for this book and a lot of encouragement in anticipation of the full series. Parents, teachers, social workers, nurses, and family members of people with dementia say this is a much needed book for children on a topic that is difficult to discuss. They also say the story is delightful, the illustrations are colorful, and Emmy, the protagonist, is an adorable role model for children who's life is touched by dementia.

Grandma Lost Cuddles! was awarded a second place ribbon at the Harvest Fair during the Draft Horse Classic at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in September!

You can purchase the book here:
<https://amzn.to/48DbZee>



READ
ME!

Book Launch Announcement!

By Carolyn Radmanovich.

READ
ME!

I am excited to announce that my new novel, *The Mummy's Gift*, will be available for a pre-sale Amazon purchase on October 15, 2023. This gripping tale takes place in the California Gold Rush era of the late 1840s. Two sisters time travel separately to find one another. Each encounters romance, danger, and mystical insights through shape-shifting or visions. Heather's world turns upside down in the jungles of Ecuador as she attempts to return a belt to a mummy at the top of a volcano to stop her husband's curse. Arsonists, grizzly bears, and a wounded husband besiege Angelica. Both sisters must tackle a common enemy who aims for vengeance.

Please save the dates for my exciting Zoom book launch and giveaway on Sunday, November 5, from 1-2:30 p.m., and the intimate, in-person book launch on Sunday, November 12, from 1-3 p.m. at 2813 Fox Den Circle, Lincoln, CA. More information will be forthcoming. Please contact me at carolyn@carolynradmanovich.com to let me know which one you will be able to attend.



Halloween Corner!

Since Halloween is my favorite holiday (and I'm the editor), I wanted to include some fun Halloween dad jokes, but you might not find them very Humerus.

Why did the ghost go into the bar? For the boos.

Where does a ghost go on vacation? Mali-boo.

Who did the little monster ask for when he was scared? His mummy.

How do vampires get around on Halloween? On blood vessels.

Why are vampires bad at art? They are only able to draw blood.

What do you call two witches who live together? Broom-mates!

Did you hear about the coffin sale? That's the last thing I need.

What do vegetarian zombies eat? Graaaains!

The ABS Service

By Emma Clasberry

Kpa Kpa Kpa
 What is that?
 No-one knows
 Kpa Kpa Kpa
 It sounds again
 It sounds like a gunshot.

Wau Wau Wau. The victim wails
 He screams and pleads for his life
 To no avail, he continues to plead
 He staggers and crawls for help
 But slumps and collapses
 That ends the show.

Who performed the show?
 The ABS Service

They waylay and pursue
 But who really cares?
 What really matters
 Is to take the spoil.

Who is the victim?
 The father of a child.
 The orphan cries and weeps
 Over his father's death
 The widow mourns and howls

'Cause she lost her friend
 A friend who is now gone
 And never to be seen again.

Who did the job?
 The ABS Service

They build a house, and drive some cars
 The best in modern days
 What do they do to end a living?
 To catch, kill and sell the parts
 And cut the head, if need be.

If a female, they invade her tini tini
 They tear her apart and leave her wide open
 At the market square, they leave her naked
 For the public to view her torn-up tini tini
 As if they did not come out from there.

They forget the blood of innocent folks
 Crying for them in the grave
 Do they really care? Not at all
 What matters to them? To kidnap and kill
 And amass some wealth as much as they can.

Who are doing this?
 The ABS Service.

They are young, vibrant and love to kidnap
 And kill for fees that are long gone
 Do they have pension when they all retire?
 No-one knows.

"What are we going to do?
 When our master leaves the scene?"
 They brainstorm, brainstorm and brainstorm.
 Still, they have no answer.

A concerned citizen tries to answer for them
 Maybe in asylum to clean up their brain
 Maybe in a church to ask God for forgiveness.
 Maybe in prison to recollect their thoughts.

You were misled, I understand
 By him who was equally blind
 You can still make amends
 If you really mean to repent
 Talk to HIM to hear your cry
 HE will surely forgive your sins

Oh lost generation of our youth!
 What are we going to do now?
 To reclaim our youth and all of us?

Something You May Want to Do

5 Week Workshop

Rewrite That Book!

Are you 55 or better and have a draft book you're ready to rewrite? Then this workshop is for you. A professional editor will teach you how to bring the rough draft of your book to the next level. Topics include: character growth, upping the stakes, self-editing. This hands-on workshop is designed for novelists and memoirists with a completed draft of their manuscript.

Dates: October 24th to December 5th

When: Tues 10:00 AM – 12:15 PM

Where: Lincoln Public Library at Twelve Bridges
(Zoom option available upon request!)

How to register: Go to www.campusce.net/sierraolli become a member, and then sign up for the “Rewrite that Book” workshop under “Literature and Writing”

Questions: contact the instructor,
Rebecca Inch-Partridge
(530) 906-2005 or rebeccapartridge@att.net



\$1000 Writing Scholarship!

Awarded by Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club

The 2024 Scholarship for High School Seniors is now open for submissions



Read all the details at:

<https://www.sactowriters.org/2024-scholarship>



And submit your work early to:

scholarship@sactowriters.org

Final Deadline: March 29, 2024

Appaloosa Radio

Jim Miller

I have introduced a new feature to my Appaloosa Radio webcast site called **91-Second Stories**. These are complete fiction stories that run about 91 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 ~

Writing Tip from the Grammar Guardian:

Another Grammar Guardian writing tip: Use strong “action” verbs.

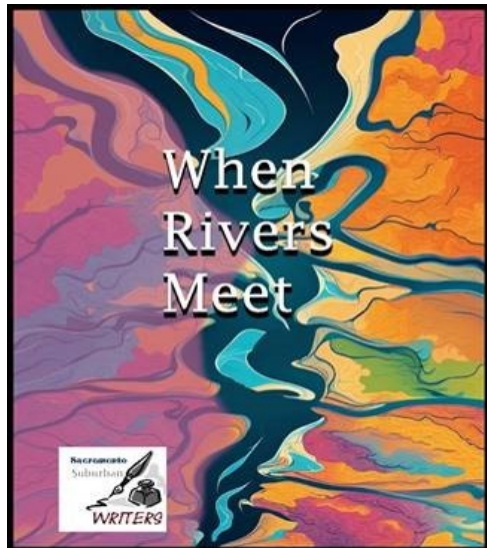
He walked as fast as he could. ... Yawn. Boring!
He ran across the yard. ... better.
He scampered like his pants were on fire. ... hmmm?
He raced like a gazelle. ... The Best One.



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 hosted a writing camp for people aged 13-21 last month.



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.

Future SSWC Speakers / Events

October - Marshall Patrick Garvey, Sports Writer

November - Lee Herrick, California Poet Laureate

December - Annual Party!!!!

January - Frank Nissen, Historical Fiction

February - Unsolved Mysteries

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 any kind of material published recently?

Are you holding a Book Launch or Public Reading to let the world know what you have accomplished? Let the other members and readers know so we can support you!

Send a brief announcement (including links and your contact information) to kevincastle32@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, or 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:
kevincastle32@gmail.com

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Note that the article to the left is directed to "members."

So, if you do *want to 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 (Goblin)
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)

Since it's October, write a spooky story in whatever genre you want. Did a ghost steal all your candy as a kid? Did the Headless Horseman visit Citrus Heights? Did your 1st romantic relationship resurface, from the grave? Only you can tell the story!

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!

