

November, 2023

Suburban Scribe

Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club Newsletter

sactowriters.org

Lee Herrick will be our speaker on Monday, November 13th, at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall at 5501 Dewey Drive, corner of Dewey and Madison.

The writing club most likely to unofficially solve a murder mystery is thrilled to have Lee Herrick at our next monthly meeting!

Lee Herrick is the author of three books of poems: *Scar and Flower*, finalist for the 2020 Northern California Book Award; *Gardening Secrets of the Dead*; and *This Many Miles from Desire*. He is co-editor of *The World I Leave You: Asian American Poets on Faith and Spirit* (Orison Books 2020).

His poems have appeared widely in literary magazines, anthologies, and textbooks including *Columbia Poetry Review*; *The Normal School*; *The Poetry Foundation*; *Academy of American Poets*; *ZYZZYVA*; *Highway 99: A Literary Journey Through California's Great Central Valley* (2nd edition); *The Place That Inhabits Us: Poems from the San Francisco Bay Watershed*; *Naming the Lost: The Fresno Poets—Interviews and Essays*; *One for the Money: The Sentence as Poetic Form*; *Dear America: Letters of Hope, Habitat, Defiance, and Democracy*; *Indivisible: Poems of Social Justice* with a foreword by Common; and *HERE: Poems for the Planet* with a foreword by the Dalai Lama, among others.

Herrick served as Fresno Poet Laureate from 2015-2017. He serves on the advisory board of Terrain.org and Sixteen Rivers Press. He has taught in Qingdao, China, and for Kundiman in New York City. In 2016, he co-founded LitHop, Fresno's free, all-day literary festival. He has traveled throughout Latin America and Asia and has given readings across the United States.



Lee was born in Daejeon, South Korea, and adopted at ten months old. He has been teaching at Fresno City College since 1997, serving as department chair twice, faculty advisor for many student clubs, and on many committees. He also teaches in the low-residency MFA program at the University of Nevada, Reno at Lake Tahoe. He is the 10th California Poet Laureate and the first Asian American to serve in the role.

Learn more about Lee and his career on his website, here: <https://www.leeherrick.com> or read Governor Gavin Newsom's press release about naming Lee Herrick as Poet Laureate here: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2022/11/18/governor-newsom-appoints-california-poet-laureate/>

Given Lee's geographical distance, he will be joining us via Zoom. Please join us in-person to view Lee's speech on the big screen!

Reasons to Attend Meetings In Person

1. Help us discover how many licks it takes to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop.
2. Get properly sorted via the unofficial Sorting Hat into your respective School Houses.
3. Search for the lost pirate treasure of Jean Lafitte.

Its NaNoWriMo month!

If you're unaware, it's a challenge to write a novel in 30 days, 1667 words a day. And thousands attempt it every year.

So get to work and start writing!
Yes, this means you!

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 hippest dudes and dudettes in the Golden Bear state.

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 stomach-churning as eating an
entire Turducken, 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 Mashed Potatoes
which are his favorite.)

Of Book Covers and Generosity

Mary Lou Anderson (aka M. L. Edson)

In September, Tatiana Villa, our wonderful speaker, was generous with her time and information about book covers. Over the years she has done several book covers for current members including Wes Turner (Westley Stark), Cathy (Catherine) McGreevy, and me, aka, M. L. Edson, and even the club's anthology a few years ago.

Besides the appreciation we showed her for all of her information, our club offered her payment for her time as we do all of our esteemed speakers, but her generosity went beyond information. She asked NOT to be paid. She shared all her knowledge, took the time to answer our questions, and gave hints as to what makes a successful cover, all without compensation.

So, please, seriously consider using her talents to promote your book with a professionally done, exceptionally designed, and very reasonably priced book cover.

Her contact info is: <https://www.viladesign.net/>

The Mother of Thanksgiving, Sarah Josepha Buell Hale

By Jeannie S Turner

Sarah was born on October 24, 1788, in Newport, New Hampshire, to parents who strongly believed in equal education for both sexes. Her mother and her brother taught her at home. She learned well, and in time, Sarah became a teacher herself. She developed a love for writing that served her throughout her life, which included poetry. She published a book of poems later for children. One of those poems may be familiar to you— “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”

She married David Hale, a young lawyer, and they had five children. David died of Pneumonia when Sarah was pregnant with their fifth child. After that, Sarah worked during the day to support her family, but at night, while they slept, Sarah wrote.

In 1827, she published her first novel, an immediate success, which led to an invitation to work as an editor at a new magazine for women, Ladies' Magazine. Here, Sarah learned the power of the pen as she wrote an editorial for each issue. She advocated for causes that she felt were important and encouraged her readers to write letters urging change for the better. Sarah would become one of the most influential women of the latter part of the 19th century.

One of her passionate causes was Thanksgiving. In the early 19th century, Thanksgiving was celebrated mainly in New England. In 1846, Sarah began to advocate for a National Day of Thanksgiving--our nation needed more than a few states honoring the holiday. She advocated for every state in the country to celebrate a unified day of thanks. Some individual states did make Thanksgiving a holiday, but the dates were scattered all over the calendar.

Sarah persisted. She believed the nation needed to come together and give thanks on the same holiday, just like a family, so she used the power of the written word and began petitioning the President of the United States for a National Holiday.

President Zachary Taylor refused.
President Millard Fillmore said no.

Years passed, and Sarah kept going. She petitioned President Franklin Pierce, and he declined to consider it.

She wrote a personal letter to President James Buchanan asking that the whole country commemorate the day on the 4th Thursday in November. President Buchanan said that he had more important things to deal with as the country grappled with the issue of slavery.

Discouraged as the country descended into a civil war, Sarah Hale made a plea to President Abraham Lincoln. “Wasn’t a National Day of Thanksgiving what the country needed at this time?” President Lincoln agreed. In 1863, President Lincoln declared Thanksgiving as a National Holiday.

Sarah Hale’s pen and perseverance over many years earned her the title “The Mother of Thanksgiving.” When we give thanks this season, let’s remember to be thankful for Sarah Josepha Buell Hale and her stubborn, righteous determination.

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 Sinister Rapsallion.

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 Theoretical Cookies which we may or may not keep track of.

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



The Tooth Fairy

By Robert Austin

It was the first of summer when we took Jake, our 7-year-old grandson, on vacation to Santa Monica. On our second day one of Jake's front baby teeth fell out which prompted a telephone call home from Jake to Mom & Dad. "Bring the tooth home," they said, "and put it under your pillow. The Tooth Fairy will give you \$5."

As a somewhat mischievous grandfather, I saw an opportunity here I could not pass up. That evening I found an understanding hotel desk clerk with whom I formed a little conspiracy. Using hotel stationery, a letter was handwritten and addressed to Jake. The letter was inserted into an envelope along with some cash and I gave instructions to deliver it to us in the morning at breakfast. Everything went perfectly.

While we were eating breakfast, a hotel clerk came to our table and handed Jake the envelope. Puzzled, Jake asked, "What is it?"

Playing innocent, I told him, "Open it and find out." When he did, a Twenty Dollar bill fell out along with this note:

May 27th

Dear Jake:

We pay more in Santa Monica

Sincerely, The Los Angeles Tooth Fairy

Jake was absolutely stunned, but he managed to ask, "But why did I get \$20 here when in Sacramento I only get \$5?"

My answer was simple, "The Los Angeles Tooth Fairies have a better union." The veracity of that statement was never questioned.

On the drive home Jake pondered for a while then asked, "What do you think the Tooth Fairy would pay in New York?"

I guess we will have to find out.

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.

Writing Tip from the Grammar Guardian:

Into vs In To

The Grammar Guardian / M. L. Edson



Use “into” or “in to”? It’s a common question. Consider the famous (infamous?) joke (rephrased) — She’s a shape shifter. She crossed the street and turned into a store.

Okay, we all know she didn’t become a store; she entered the store. So, she turned in to a store.

Silly? Yes. But it’s an example of the English language’s crazy side.

The words “into,” “in,” and “to” are all prepositions.

The site “Scribner” gives this info to tell the difference. “Into is used indicate entry, insertion, collision, or transformation. It can also be used to say that someone is interested in or involved with something. Write ‘into’ as one word when you mean it in one of these senses.”

It continues to tell us about “in” and “to,” saying that these are two separate words, two separate prepositions. The two words “should remain separate when the sense is separate” as when you turn your report in to the boss or when you tune in to see your favorite show.

Clear? Still confused? Make the easy decision: rephrase your sentence. She entered the store. She turned into a witch on Halloween. He handed in his application to Personnel just one minute before it was due. He switched channels to watch his favorite show on television.

\$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

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



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 91-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!

You can also check out the newly formed Appaloosa Radio YouTube Channel featuring some of our very own members! <https://www.youtube.com/@Appaloosastories>

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 ~

Hunting For Word Choices

By Jeannie Turner

Hunting-

Autumn is the time for hunting—unless you are a writer.

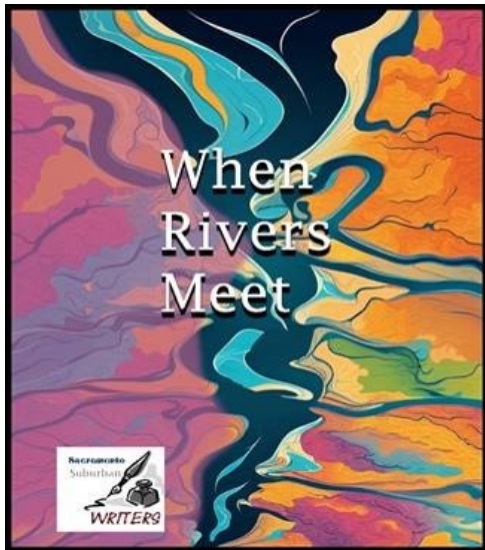
A never-ending hunt for the perfect word is a daily event in a writer's life!

Here's an opportunity to hear from some other celebrated writers as they share their quests to find the perfect word every time.

Word Choices: A New Video Series from Merriam-Webster

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/video/word-choices-season-1>

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

November - Lee Herrick, California Poet Laureate

December - Annual Party!!!!

January - Frank Nissen, Historical Fiction

February - Elena Smith, Law Librarian

March - I Don't Know is on 3rd.

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? Finished a BIG Milestone on your current project?

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 November, write about an event you or a character that you created are grateful for that caused temporary pain but became a blessing later on. Its easy to be grateful for good things, but much harder for the things that cause us to weep or keep us up at night.

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!

