

January, 2024

Suburban Scribe

Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club Newsletter

sactowriters.org

Frank Nissen will be our speaker on Monday, January 8th, at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall at 5501 Dewey Drive, corner of Dewey and Madison.

World Building Across the Genres

Most authors think of world-building as being the prevue of science fiction, but readers demand novels that can transport them to another time and place. Come learn some of the hows and whys of world-building from historical fiction novelist and Disney story developer Frank Nissen.

Frank worked in movie animation for over thirty years doing visual and story development for projects that included Disney's *Mulan*, *Tarzan*, and *Treasure Planet*.

As a member of the Placer County Historical Society and the President of Gold Country Writers, Frank grew up in the heart of the gold country, roaming the canyons through which the American River flows. This landscape served as the inspiration for his novel, *Fortune's Call*.



Reasons to Attend Meetings In Person

1. Be given a fantastic nickname that no one will remember.
2. Discover the year in which the War of 1812 took place.
3. You instantly become the bee's knees amongst your friends.
4. Find out the answer to Life, the Universe, and Everything.
5. Honestly, do you need a reason? We know your New Year's resolution was to attend more SSWC meetings anyway.

New Year's Resolutions

Most people try and fail to commit to new resolutions. Why? They try to make life-changing commitments without the habit of discipline.

Instead, just try to be 1% better every day. Break down your resolutions into tiny chunks. *Example:* Write 500 words a day. Walk around the block daily. Develop the habit, and the goal becomes easy.

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 crusty as the infamous Davy Jones,
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 pushups, of which
he himself has committed to doing an excessive amount this year.)

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 Extra lups 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.

- SPECULATIVE FICTION
- FANTASY
- ROMANCE
- MEMOIR
- MYSTERY
- HISTORICAL
- TRAVEL
- BIOGRAPHY
- CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
- CREATIVE NON-FICTION
- SCREEN WRITING
- MAGAZINES
- GRAPHIC NOVELS
- POETRY
- NOVELS
- SHORT STORIES
- AUDIOBOOKS
- ANTHOLOGIES

CONNECT WITH OTHER WRITERS

Sacramento Suburban



WRITERS

all are welcome - no charge

Our January '24

Writers' Mingle



bring a sample of your work

- Speculative Fiction
- Fantasy
- Romance
- Memoir
- Mystery
- Historical
- Travel
- Biography
- Children's Literature
- Creative Non-Fiction
- Screen Writing
- Magazines
- Graphic Novels
- Poetry
- Novels
- Short Stories
- Audiobooks
- Anthologies

buy own breakfast

CH Cafe & Grill
6215 Sunrise
Citrus Heights

no reservations needed

Saturday
Jan. 20
9 to 11

Join us for the January 2024 Writers' Mingle!

Are you a writer looking for some inspiration and feedback? Do you want to meet other writers in your area and share your passion for words? Then come to the Writers' Mingle, hosted by the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club. It's a **FREE** and casual event where you can connect and chat with fellow writers. You can also bring a sample of your work to share, if you like. We'd love to hear what you're working on!

The Writers' Mingle will be on **Saturday, January 20** from **9 am to 11 am** at the **CH Café and Grill**, located at **6215 Sunrise Avenue in Citrus Heights** (at the corner of Greenback). You can order your own breakfast from their regular menu, or just enjoy a cup of coffee.

Don't miss this opportunity to mingle with other writers and shine a light on what you're writing. No reservations are needed, just show up and join us. We hope to see you there!

THE KEYS

By Emma Clasberry

She got the keys
Ran away with them
'Cause she knew their values
And what to do with them
Beyond locking and unlocking the door.

But the owner has no clue
Of what else to do with them.
She knows not how to use the keys
To unlock the storeroom of herself.

The keys are right before her eyes.
But she spins and spins and spins,
Looking for the keys to unlock herself.

The keys are right before her eyes.
But she spins and spins and spins,
Looking for the keys to unlock herself.

May HE open her eyes
To see the multiple treasures
Lying deep inside of her untapped
And use the keys to help herself and all of
us.



Writing Tip from the Grammar Guardian:

Grammar Guardian Fights Against Abused Pronouns
Mary Lou Anderson (aka M. L. Edson)



Why is good grammar important? Communication. Correct communication. And understanding the communication.

Bad grammar is everywhere — and pronouns can contribute to the chaos. Grammar is not a “class” thing. It’s not a snobbish thing. Nor is it an East Coast or West Coast thing. It’s not even a political thing. It’s a communication thing. And we writers want our message to be sent as we intend and received as we intend.

One problem arises when “and” comes into the picture. (I know. I know. Find someone/ something else to blame.)

Too many (newscasters, actors, “people on the street,” as well as otherwise well-educated people) are using the “object” pronoun in the wrong place: He and *them* contributed to the story. The president and *him* met with several governors. (ouch!) *HIM* cannot **do** things. Neither can *us, me, her, them*.

One theory might be that “and” has magical powers, able to change the usage of words. It does not.

You and I can discuss this. Me and him cannot.

\$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 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>

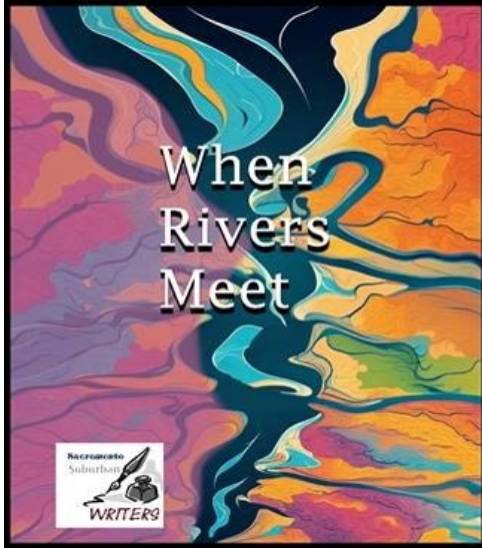
We also offer a **podcast** service that adds new episodes each week. The podcast host is at --- <https://appaloosa radio.buzzsprout.com>

Principal contact: jim-j@appaloosaradio productions

Behind every door is an untold story . . .

~ Jim Mounts-Miller ~

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

January - Frank Nissen, Historical Fiction

February - Elena Smith, Law Librarian

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

October - Shannon Dittmore, YA Fantasy Author

Elk Grove Writers & Artists



Winter

Creative Writing

Course

Intuitive

Self-Editing



Zoom | NonFiction & Fiction | Readings | Hands-on Practice | \$30/week pay-as-you-go | All Levels Welcome! |

Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. PST
Jan. 3-Feb. 21, 2024

More Info? Email Gini Grossenbacher:
ginis.writers1@gmail.com



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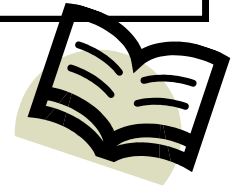
Follow the SSWC podcasts at:

<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 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 (El Capitan)
 Vice President Brittany Lord (And Lady)
 Secretary _____
 Treasurer Mary Lou Anderson
 (Money penny)

Chairs:

Coffee/Treats _____
 Conferences _____
 Critique Groups Brittany Lord (And Lady)
 Historian _____
 Librarian Ron Smith (El Capitan)
 Membership Jeannie Turner (Voice of the
 People)
 Newsletter Kevin Castle (Goblin)
 Nominations _____
 Prgm/Speakers Laura Kellen (Speaker Herder
 Extraordinaire)
 Publicity _____
 Raffle _____
 Scholarship Karen Sepahmansour &
 Bernard Wosney (The
 Dynamic Duo)
 Sunshine Nan Roark (The Good Witch)
 Website Wes Turner (Technowizard)
 Workshops _____

There's a spot in the list for YOU!

WRITING PROMPT

(450 Words or Less)

Since it's January, You should be writing. Yes, *you*. No, I'm not speaking to the person standing behind you or the former shadow of who you used to be last year. YOU! Be a new you! A better you this year! Put those fingers to the keys, the pen, or the quill—those empty pages won't fill themselves.

Make sure to Submit something 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!