

February, 2024

Suburban Scribe

Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club Newsletter

sactowriters.org

Elena Smith will be our speaker on Monday, February 12th, at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall at 5501 Dewey Drive, corner of Dewey and Madison.

Legal Research with Elena Smith, Law Librarian

Looking for a way to sharpen your writing? Learn how to add complex, interesting detail to your fiction by creating real-life, legal consequences for your fictional characters! For example, are you writing a swashbuckling romance? Do you know what procedures the ship's captain must observe before hanging the rogue pirate? Or what about a mystery or thriller? Do you know what laws your amateur sleuth is breaking when they pick the lock on a suspect's front door and enter the premises? This presentation even applies to the casual fan-fiction author. Say that you wrote a fan fiction story that includes a very minor character from a traditionally published work. Are you then allowed to publish your own story?



Learn the answers to all of these questions, other writing scenarios, and the intricacies of copyright law with law librarian Elena Smith. Elena will also provide information on how to search popular legal databases, publicly available online legal sources, and provide a quick tutorial on federal regulations, California regulations, legislation, case law, and other types of law. Join us for this exciting, in-person presentation!

Please note: although there will be a Q&A, Elena is not able to give legal advice!

Reasons to Attend Meetings In Person

1. Find out where in the world is Carmen Sandiego.
2. Discover why the Sphinx got a terrible nose job.
3. Finally understand why Indiana Jones keeps coming back from the dead to make terrible movies.
4. Brainstorm different ways that the Freemasons have hidden away the world's treasures and convinced everyone the world is flat and terribly boring.

Editor's Note:

It's that special time of year where Cupid keeps shooting people's butts with arrows to torment them.

So on this Valentine's day, find someone unloveable and love them anyway. Like Zombies! Even Zombies need love.

Braaaaiiiiiins.

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. Please note, our last meeting with Zoom will be on 4/8/24.

Ronald Smith, President SSWC

NOTE: OUR LAST MEETING WITH ZOOM WILL BE 4/8/24.

The Four Letter Word

By Jeannie Turner

The four-letter word that begins with an F,
It's going to be my demise.
I've tried to remove that bad F from my life,
I tried doing that more than twice.

But here it comes calling once more now to me,
I fall again under its spell.
If I follow this word all the way where it leads,
I'll probably end up then in . . . well . . .

It calls me again and it calls and it calls
And says, "just buy two, and get three!"
I love to save money and so I succumb.
Oh, what will become now of me?

If I buy a small soda and buy French fries, too,
I'll walk out with a burger in hand.
That F word on coupon has got me again.
In this case that F word is grand!

I stay with one tire place through thick and through thin,
Not liking the tires I get there.
But whene'er I stop by their place, any time!
They gift all my tires with F ___ air.

I guess now you know what's that four-letter word
That's so nearly—not quite—conquered me,
Got me in its clutch, I don't like it much.
That four-letter F-word is . . . FREE!

READ ME!

Join us for the February 2024 Writers' Mingle!

READ ME!

Are you a writer looking for some inspiration and feedback? Do you want to meet other writers in our area who 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, February 17 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 have some fun. No reservations are needed, just show up and join us. We hope to see you there!



CONNECT WITH OTHER WRITERS

all are welcome - no charge

Writers' Mingle

bring a sample of your work



*Saturday
February 17
9 am to 11 am*

buy own breakfast

**CH Cafe & Grill
6215 Sunrise
Citrus Heights**

no reservations needed

focus: TECHNOLOGY

We're Back Baby!

Linda Villatore

Notes on the first Sacramento Suburban Writers' "Mingle" held yesterday at the CH Café & Grill, from 9am to 11am.

About fifteen of us slid in from the rain to a long table full of enthusiasm and goodwill. Having attended small meetings at the church, I was delighted to hear each cogent summary of members' work in history, fiction, and fantasy.

When my turn came, I struggled to define my project, as I was still smarting from a recent bruising in a non-related critique group. Yet here, I was met with kindness and interest. Read ...sigh of relief.

Jim Miller's eloquent introduction to free, text and image generating software was startling. It advanced my thinking about how I might use such technology, and yet be aware of its danger.

Mary Lou's reminder of how to behave in a critique group is always worth the review. Writing is solitary. We are social beings. Being together was nurturing. I urge you to come.

Our Next Mingles

Be there or be a palooka

February 17 - Technology

March 23 – Marketing

April 20 - Support & Critique Groups



SSWC \$1000 Scholarship

The 2024 Scholarship for High School Seniors is now Open for Submissions!

Read all the details at: <https://www.sactowriters.org/2024-scholarship/>

Submit your work to scholarship@sactowriters.org

Final Deadline April 19th



The Sea Captain Statue

By Pat Biasotti

Outside an apartment at a Roseville senior retirement community stands an imposing sea captain statue on a unique pedestal. A fascinating history links it to former Hollywood stars. The occupant and her husband (now deceased) owned a Los Angeles and Oregon boat business. Her husband serviced the engines of many movie stars' "fishing boats" (their yachts), while she cleaned the interiors.

When they retired, the stars whose yachts they had serviced presented them with the statue and pedestal in appreciation.

At that same time, John Wayne (known for his generosity) came up to them, and gruffly remarked, "I don't want you touching my engine, and turning to her, I don't want you cleaning inside my yacht." Then he laughed, "Just kidding. I am giving you the use of my yacht for two weeks to go anywhere you want. My captain will preside at the helm, and I have a chef and housekeeper who will do all the cooking and cleaning. You just relax and enjoy!"

Thus, the Sea Captain Statue stands by her door guarding her many precious memories.



UNTIL YOU GET THERE

By Emma Clasberry

We know not, until we get there.

The pig's young once asked his mother: Why does your mouth always point toward the ground? The mother replied: My child, when you grow up, you will come to see or find out what I have seen or gone through.
He knows not, until he gets there.

Young boys and girls always think that when they grow up, they will fly and touch the sky and the stars. But soon, they discover that the sky and the stars are not as near as they thought.
They know not, until they get there.

The bird sings in a melodious voice
When he has not yet swallowed a bone.
It knows not, until he gets there.

We may wobble to the right and to the left.
We may stagger like a drunk.
We may crawl, jump, walk or even want to fly.
So as to get there as soon as possible.

We may blow a horn with our hand and mouth.
We may whisper or scream out aloud and imagine.
If we can only get there, everything will be okay.
We may dream about it or lose our sleep to it.
We know not, until we get there.

Never say to yourself I can't
Never say, never say
Never say to yourself
I can't when you have not yet tried.
Whatsoever man can do
Man can do. Man can do
Whatsoever man can do,
I too, I too can do it.
You know not, until you get there.

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.



Writing Tip from the Grammar Guardian:

Purple Prose

Mary Lou Anderson (aka M. L. Edson)

Years ago, Joe C. was a member of our critique group. He was a fun and interesting fellow who wrote great stories.

One of his favorite things to do was to call us out on our purple prose we happened to include in our writing. Even more than that, he loved to write his own purple prose so we could all have fun fixing it.

So, exactly what is purple prose? A changed font color? No. A style choice for words? No. Nothing to do with color or fashion.

It's all about the words you pick.

Google it. (Yes, I'm using the noun as a verb.) Up pops the following: "Purple prose is flowery and ornate writing that makes a piece of text impenetrable. It is characterized by long sentences, multi-syllabic words, excessive emotion, and a plethora of clichés. It's typically melodramatic and often too poetic."

The blustery, windy, stormy, moonless, dark night left the distraught, frightened and scared teenaged young people worried about going outside into the overwhelming weather front approaching their small, yet charming, tropical island where they lived in native, locally built grass huts.

Pretty bad, right?

Just be sure to read your own writing creations then rewrite, double checking your punctuation to avoid purple prose.



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 ~

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

It can't be as verbose as the song that never ends, of that I'm sure.

Please email your submission to

kevincastle32@gmail.com

P.S. If you're nice to him he won't demand a writ of assistance for your tea from the East India Trading Company.

(Submissions are for members only. Annual membership is super cheap. Feel free to email

Kevin the Newsletter Goblin with questions.)

ELK GROVE WRITERS GUILD PRESENTS
SPRING SEMINAR



APRIL 13, 2024

Elk Grove Community Center, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Suite 140, Elk Grove, CA 95757.

Registration Begins 1/20/24.

Registration Fee is \$35.00.

Program:

12:00 – 1:00 PM - Check-In and Pizza Lunch

1:15 – 3:30 PM - Gini Grossenbacher, M. Ed, Speaker Presents:

Exploring Deep Point of View: Fiction and Memoirs

Join Us!

Our class on Deep Point of View (DPOV) in fiction and memoirs delves deeply into the perspectives of your characters.

The course begins by laying the groundwork of Point of View (POV), differentiating between First Person (1st POV) and Third Person (3rd POV). We examine the specifics of each, covering aspects like pronoun usage and narrative perspective, and offer insights into crafting engaging stories using one of the other POVs.

The focus then shifts to DPOV, a narrative technique that immerses readers by merging the narrator's and protagonist's viewpoints. This section discusses DPOV's benefits in enriching reader engagement and its implementation in notable literature.

We study the common challenges in maintaining a consistent POV, highlighting frequent mistakes and ways to rectify them. Please bring your work-in-progress to practice refining DPOV.

By the end of the class, you will have a thorough understanding of DPOV, gaining the ability to create stories that vividly portray characters' inner worlds. This knowledge is crucial for those aiming to write engaging novels or memoirs, making DPOV an invaluable element in your writer's toolkit.

© 2024 Gini Grossenbacher, Author-Editor-Educator, <https://ginigrossenbacher.com/>

Please email loyholder77@gmail.com with any questions or comments. Hope to see you there.

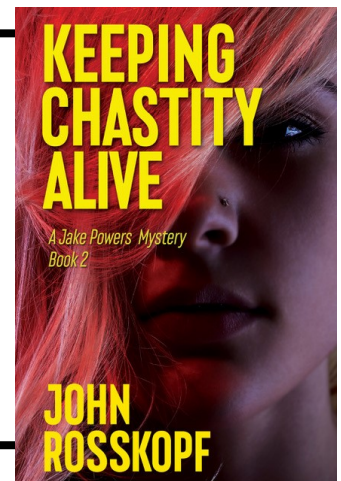
Author Milestone!

For John Roskopf

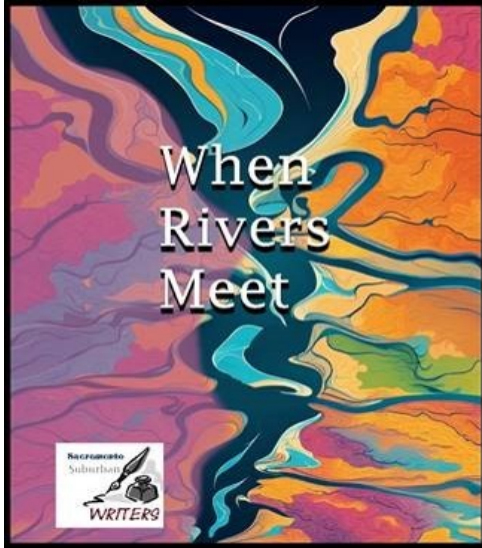
I have published on Amazon my second book in the Jake Powers Mystery Series.

In this novel, private investigator Jake Powers is approached by a young working girl, Chastity Blaise. Chastity wants Jake to find her roommate, who has gone missing. When the roommate turns up dead, the nature of Jake's work changes. Now Chastity wants him to find her girlfriend's killer. Can Jake, literally, Keep Chastity Alive?

You can purchase the book here: <https://www.amazon.com/Keeping-Chastity-Alive-John-Roskopf/dp/B0CPWFNYX5/>



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

February - Elena Smith, Law Librarian

March - Marianne Russ Sharp and Amy Quinton, UC Davis Podcasters

April - Krysta Tawlks, YA Fantasy Author

May - Annual Banquet

June - Kimberly Watkins, Educator in Language Arts

July - Joan Griffin, Author and Editor

Future SSWC Speakers / Events

August - Susan Osborn, Freelance Writer and Storyteller

September - Barbara Young, Children's Book Author, Non-fiction, Short Stories

October - Shannon Dittmore, YA Fantasy Author

November - Chris Hennessy, Filmmaker

December - Annual Winter PARTY!

This page is intentionally repeated each month.

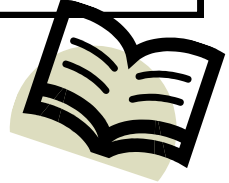
Follow the SSWC podcasts at:

<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 (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
above for YOU!**

WRITING PROMPT

(450 Words or Less)

It's Super Bowl Time! And everyone knows the best part of every Super Bowl are the ads.

For this month, create a 30 second commercial for a real or imaginary product. The best ads elicit emotion and have a call to action. Does your ad make us laugh, cry, or feel cool like Steve Mcqueen?

Marketing is often icky for writers, but in order to be successful in this age, we have to market our own stories.

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!