

March, 2024

Suburban Scribe

Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club Newsletter

sactowriters.org

Marianne Russ and Amy Quinton will be our speakers on Monday, March 11th, at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall at 5501 Dewey Drive, corner of Dewey and Madison.

Podcasting with Marianne Russ and Amy Quinton

Come learn about podcasting with the producers of “Unfold” – an award-winning podcast about groundbreaking studies and the human stories behind them. Co-hosts Marianne Russ and Amy Quinton, of UC Davis, have produced several seasons of a podcast which have won awards and attracted an audience for its excellent reporting, as well as its humor and rapport between the hosts. Listen to audio samples of their popular podcast, learn how they break complex research into a storytelling format, and ask questions.

Want to learn more about how “Unfold” came into existence? Read the Sacramento Magazine article here: <https://www.sacmag.com/post/listen-here-unfold-podcast>

Want to listen to Unfold? Check it out here: <https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/podcasts-and-shows/unfold>



Reasons to Attend Meetings In Person

1. Learn why Second Breakfast is always better than First Breakfast.
2. Test whether you can survive off of the dew of a single ginkgo leaf and the energy of the universe.
3. You'll finally understand the difference between duty and doody, why sometimes your duty feels like doody, and how some people's duty is literally shoveling doody all day.

Editor's Note:

March brings us seed planting, drunken revelry, and a long goodbye to gloomy winter days.

So whether you stay cloistered inside and drugged up on antihistamines, or you frolic through fields like the Tasmanian Devil, just remember to stay classy, friends, and Party On!

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.

Alone Before the Bridge

By Karen Sepahmansour

Lonely, I made that decision
Not to crash into the boats of others
At first just listening as if the words
Were inside of me, coming from the
Unlivable waves gushing, tearing, pushing.

Abandoned and like an island for a while
No sitting or shame, I don't feel the blame.
I am not a dinghy to blow away
With one strong wind.

Proud to be the island if that takes
Courage to not swerve from fairness
In the judgments of rowboats lined up the same
Proud to be in calm waters that sway lightly
Rather than with loud, shakes and noisy ferocity.

The hurricanes did not turn the boats around
Ferocious made buoyant with soft hearts within
Will not bleed for eyes that do not see
The change of calm, the steady floating.

The water flows through the different
Islands, sometimes in erratic waves but
It can move in a soft flowing music
That moves toward a bridge amongst
The boats who venture to warm the currents.

**READ
ME!**

Join us for the March 2024 Writers' Mingle!

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, March 23rd 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!



Our Next Mingles

Be there or be a clodhopper

March 23 – Marketing
April 20 - Support & Critique Groups

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.

\$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



Awards Luncheon: May 11, 2024, Saturday

Deadline extended: **April 19, 2024**

Prolific Writers Section of SSWC and the Amazon Series Webpage

By Cle Curbo a.k.a. Paul Turner

To join the Prolific Writers Section of SSWC, simply send a request to be a member to lpaulturner2050@gmail.com. Paul will include you on the section Membership list, and notify you when the first meeting will be held. Meetings are usually on Zoom, but at times Section Members may meet at a Section Mingle.

How to Become a Prolific Writer - whether you join the Section or not.

The first requirement to become prolific is to have the goal of writing a good number of books. For purposes of discussion, I place as 20 the number of books needed to call myself a prolific writer.

The second attribute of a prolific writer is, I would strongly suppose, to enjoy writing. Let your imagination run free, whether composing a work of fiction or nonfiction. Enjoy your present state of knowledge and research by reading to go beyond what you know. Of course, when writing fiction, you may start with your current base of knowledge, then go beyond it as you tell the story.

One achievement for writers, as a useful first goal, is to write a series, either fiction or nonfiction. The fiction writers are given an advantage on Amazon, because if you have a series, you may be eligible to have your own series webpage on Amazon. The series page is more or less exclusive to you. I hedge my statement here because I haven't achieved a series page yet. Will Amazon show some other book on my series webpage?

Taken from the Amazon Series Webpage at https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/help/topic/GMFKBUS43QQ5AJ5A

“There are two ways to create a series through your KDP account:

1. Click the + **Create New** section on your Bookshelf and select **Create series** page.
2. Add a title to a new or existing series by clicking the ellipsis button (...) next to the book you want to update. Click **Add to series**.

Continued on next page...

If your series has live titles, the series page will appear within 72 hours. If your series doesn't have live, main content titles, the series page will appear within 72 hours after your titles are live.

One joy of a series writer is that you get to have your own webpage on Amazon.com with your series as top billing.

There are some requirements such as you must have three books in your series completed before you can have a series webpage.

KDP allows you to create a book series and sell it on Amazon. You can start a series with any book format (i.e. eBook, paperback, or hardcover). And you don't need to have all books in your series complete before creating one. Books can be added or removed from a series at any time.

If you have a different formats of a book, link them on your Bookshelf and then add either format to your series. Any linked format will be automatically added to your series.

Amazon says that you may start a series without having completed all the books in that series. However, you don't get your series page until you have at least 3 books in at least one series. Your series page location will be found for Amazon.com markets in your account page. For other Amazon marketplaces, follow the directions on the Amazon series page at https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/help/topic/GMFKBUS43QQ5AJ5A

Remember, the most important starting ingredient is to have fun writing your series.

Editor's Anecdote: I have a friend of the family who was never a big name writer. In fact, I can't even recall his name off the top of my head. But he made a living writing and selling books. How, you might ask? It's due to the fact that he was a prolific writer. I have also been to writing conferences and have heard similar stories.

None of his books were big sellers, but he had over 20 books published in addition to various short stories published in magazines, etc. And ever year, the same thing happened: Some of his books sold a few hundred copies, some of his books sold a few dozen copies, and very few of his books sold a few thousand copies. It took him nearly 2 decades, but he eventually cobbled a living together and retired from his day job to pursue writing full time.

He was nothing special; but if he could do it, so can we.

Writing Tip from the Grammar Guardian:

Communication and Punctuation Marks

By M. L. Edson (AKA Mary Lou Anderson)



English grammar rules. *Yawn*. Punctuation marks ... *double yawn* ... until you need grammar and punctuation to clarify what you want to communicate to others.

And THAT's the purpose of language ... **communication**. If you can't put what you mean into words and formats that others will understand, your message won't be delivered as you intended.

When you quote someone who is telling the reader what someone *else* said, you need double *and* single quotes. This rule changes *across the pond*, so pay attention. You can tell where a book was published by the quote marks, not just by the info page in the front of the book.

From a book published in America: Marty jumped up. "No. Smudgy didn't say that! He yelled, 'Get out of here! Now!' He did not whisper, 'Please leave,' to us."

Get it? Double quotes for the person talking and single quotes around what the speaker says someone else said ... inside the quotation.

British/UK/England ... wherever ... it's the opposite. Single quotes for the person talking and double quotes inside the single quotes. I won't even include an example here because all of you can read or you wouldn't be members of this writing club.

Then there's the question: Where do the quotation marks go if the quote covers more than one paragraph. Answer: Opening quotes at the beginning of *each* paragraph but only one closing quote at the very end — at the end of all the paragraphs quoted. Got it?

Any questions? Yeah, I understand. *Sigh*.

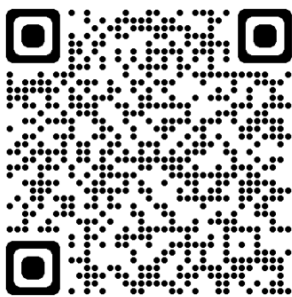
Oh, BTW – pay attention to the commas. They can be important too. (Or is that, "They can be important, too.")

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 anemic as the Sphinx cat, of that I'm sure.

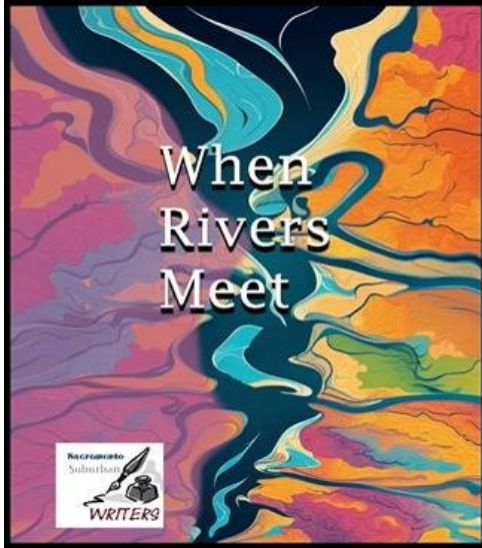
Please email your submission to

kevincastle32@gmail.com

P.S. If you're nice to him he won't ask you to recite the alphabet backwards, in Klingon.
(Submissions are for members only. Annual membership is super cheap. Feel free to email

Kevin the Newsletter Goblin with questions.)

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-i@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

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

August - Susan Osborn, Freelance Writer and Storyteller

Future SSWC Speakers / Events

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!

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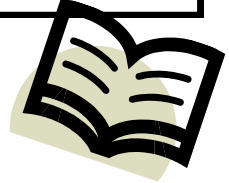
Follow the SSWC podcasts at:

<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
(Moneypenny)	

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)

Since Spring is in the air (achoo!) write a fun story or poem about being sick and/or having allergies. Did you spend a day at home sheltered inside from the Big Scary Pollen Monster? Did you smell a rose only to sneeze and blow off all its petals? Have you faked being sick so you can stay home like Ferris Bueller (I have.)?

Oh, the choices you have to write about!

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!