

May, 2024

Suburban Scribe

Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club Newsletter

sactowriters.org

**YOU will be our speaker on Monday, May 13th,
at 7 p.m. at The Old Spaghetti Factory at
731 Sunrise Ave, Roseville 95661.**

Come out for Food, Fellowship, and Rabble Rousing.



Reasons to Attend Meetings In Person

You really need a reason to go to the Old Spaghetti Factory? Eat great food and give yourself a food coma!

But here's what will happen if you don't go...

1. They declare Martial Law. "They" are very powerful people.
2. Wizards will summon monsters to attack the city.
3. Skynet will be unleashed upon civilization.
4. All of your type fonts will revert to Wingdings.

Editor's Note:

By far according to the list to the left, the last one is the scariest.

**READ
ME!**

Join us for the May 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 with everyone, if you like. We'd love to hear what you're working on!

The Writers' Mingle will be on Saturday, May 18th from 9 am to 11 am. Due to the environment, we had to change locations. For now, our member Mary Lou has graciously opened her home to us. Please contact her at mledsonanderson@yahoo.com or look for her address in the membership directory on the website. She is in Citrus Heights not far from our normal meeting location. If you would like to help out and bring coffee, please shoot her an email.

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!



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

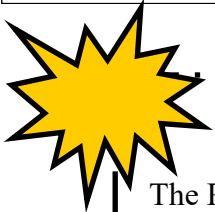
Membership Committee

Nominations

There was a Newsletter position, but that spot has been taken by a Sinister Rapscaillon.

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.



Prolific Writers Section of SSWC

The Prolific Writers Section will meet Thursday, May 23, 2024 on Zoom at 6:00 p.m. for something less than an hour. We'll talk about various ways to start to become prolific, such as: Writing brief stories, often called flash fiction. Although one could call them flash stories, especially if non-fiction stories are included.

Writing anything short, such as lyrics for songs, or simply lyrics which might also be poems. I've found that I can create up to about seven lyrics in a single morning.

Writing romance novellas or novelette. Novellas are generally between 17,500 words up to 40,000 words. Novelettes are shorter, about 7,500 words to 17,500 words. However, The Writer, a novelette could be about 7,000 to 20,000 words.

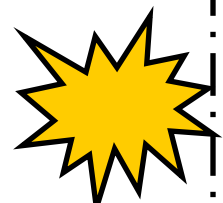
Despite differences in the opinions of others about what is and is not a novella or novelette, if you write a book that fills 24 pages of printed material when in book form on Amazon, Amazon will allow you to publish it (assuming all other requirements are met).

Writing one book a year for 20 years. Well, this brings us to the question of how many books, magazine articles, blog posts, or newsletters would qualify a writer to be called a prolific writer. The answer to that is to be decided by each and any of us.

One does not have to be a prolific writer to join the section nor does one need to be a member of SSWC. If you wish to be in the Zoom meeting, please email me at lpaulturner2050@gmail.com and I will send you the Zoom join link. - L. Paul Turner

A Note of the Success of Writing Lyrics

For much of March and April, I've been writing lyrics to go with my suno.ai songs. So far my studio wizard Devin Ford of Smalz Studios and I have placed 2 songs on various streaming platforms, including Apple Music, CD Baby, YouTube and a number of other places. The video was created by John M. Powell, son of our dear former member John Powell. You can listen to it here on Youtube: <https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=u6hjoFxK0ZE>



Scholarship 2024 Results

The Scholarship Committee just finished our last meeting... finally deciding on a winner!

We had eleven entries from ten different schools in the area. Most of our entries arrived after the middle of April (the deadline was April 19), but we did have a few who sent in their stories much earlier: one in March, one in February, and even one waaay back in December.

The entries averaged just over 2000 words (the limit was 3000). We did have one at the low end (492 words), but a few were over 2500 words, so we had a lot of reading to do.

We talked about giving individual feedback, but due to the number of entries, detailed comments on the writing will only be given to the top few entries. The topics ranged from discussions of politics to time travel, and beyond. Here are the titles of the various pieces: My Jewelry Box, We Hide from the Dark, Selene, Essay, The Professor and The Snail, A Blood Stained Hood, A Murder, Blue Hail, In 1971, Time Safari, and The Light. As you can see, we had plenty to discuss at our judging session.

The scoring focused on a variety of writing concepts, such as: Opening, Ending, Mechanics, Writing Quality, POV, Originality, Believability, Element Of Surprise, Presentation, Setting and Atmosphere, Characterization, Plot, Dialogue, Theme, Passion, and Marketing. It was a learning experience for all.

The scoring was done by each judge independently of the others... then we sat down and compared our results... it wasn't easy, as one person's highest score was someone else's lowest. There wasn't a clear-cut winner, in fact the overall winner wasn't anyone's highest score, but it had the fewest low scores. Good thing someone in the group likes spreadsheets!

All the entrants will be invited to the banquet this month, but no one will know who the winner is until the announcement at the meeting... just like at the Oscars.

Writer Milestone! *Brandon Michaels*

As brick-and-mortar stores are closing nationwide, I am happy to announce that Appaloosa Radio Online produced the first chapter of my book *Cherry Blossoms at Night*, a biological warfare mystery thriller set in contemporary San Francisco. The twenty-five minute audio story was written by Brandon Michaels (AKA Michael Brandt). Brandonmichaels119@gmail.com *Cherry Blossoms at Night* can be found at [Cherry Blossoms at Night | Appaloosa Radio Online](#)

Editor's Note: (Yes, you can celebrate your milestones in the newsletter!)

Writing Tip from the Grammar Guardian:



“ ...” ‘ ... ’

M. L. Edson (aka Mary Lou Anderson)

Quotation marks. Double quotation marks. Single quotation marks. Single quotes inside double quotes. Quotation marks at the end of a paragraph when someone keeps talking into the next paragraph

Aaaaarrrrrrghhhh!

When? Where? How many? How often?

Simple. Don't use any. Keep your characters silent. Errr... Oops... Your story would die alone on a shelf ... on your shelf.

So, here are some suggestions for the use of quotation marks:

Put double quotes around what a character says. “Jump!” he yelled.

If one speaker says what another character says, put double quotes around the entire thing said and single quotes around what the first character tells you the second character said.

Huh? Okay, an example.

In your story, you write:

Mikayla said, “I remember the night a ghost whispered, ‘Stay out of the old mansion,’ before disappearing in a puff of smoke. I was spooked.”

How about if a quote is loooong? If a character keeps talking through multiple paragraphs, do NOT put a closing quote mark at the end of the paragraph but do put opening quote marks at the beginning of the following paragraph. Save the closing paragraph for when the speaker is all done.

Huh? All right (note that's two words). Here's an example of that:

General Slipshod said, “We'll all meet at noon to discuss the tactics we'll use in our invasion of Planet Xorbon. Everyone be ready to demonstrate your skills.

“Don't even think that we might fail. We must capture all Xorbonites and prevent them from destroying our civilization.”

And don't forget the comma after said or stated or asked before the quote.

I hope this helps. (“Even I got confused trying to put this into words, so if you have any questions, please ask,” she said with fear in her voice. “This was supposed to be simple,” she added.)

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 empty as the editor's backpocket, of that I'm sure.

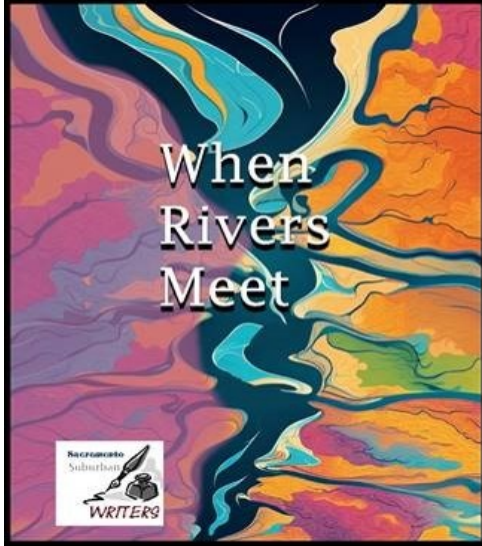
Please email your submission to kevycastle32@gmail.com

P.S. If you're kind to him he won't start a food fight at the Old Spaghetti Factory.

(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-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

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!

This page is intentionally repeated each month.

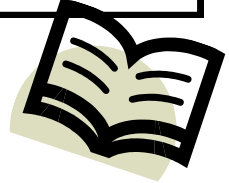
Follow the SSWC podcasts at:

<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)

Since it's my birthday month (I turn 40), write about a real or imaginary birthday party! Did you ever eat an atrocious cake, get the coolest present from your parents, or have Marilyn Monroe sing you "Happy Birthday?"

Or maybe you were born on Pluto 247 Earth years ago and are still waiting for your 1st Plutonian Birthday?

Either way, write about it!

MEETING INFORMATION

7:00 - 9:00 PM

This month of May, 13th 2024, we will meet at the Old Spaghetti Factory. The address is 731 Sunrise Ave, Roseville 95661

All writers are encouraged to attend.
(Yes, that means you!)

Membership not mandatory but brings privileges *such as publication in the newsletter!*