

June, 2024

Suburban Scribe

Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club Newsletter

sactowriters.org

Brandon Michaels (aka Michael Brandt) will be our speaker on Monday, June 10th, at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall at 5501 Dewey Drive, corner of Dewey and Madison.

Come out for Food, Fellowship, and Rabble Rousing.

June Topic: What is a Book Bible?



For writers, a Book Bible is also called a Bible, Story Bible, or Writer's Bible. It can be a collection of concise but detailed information about a particular subject, information on characters, (everything there is to know about the characters, their history, personality, motivations, and desires) settings, and other elements, especially in a book or publication. It is the elements of decoding your characters' DNA, your plot, and your book. Remember, not everything in your bible will make it into the manuscript. The path to being more efficient and effective in your writing is through better organization and managing your digital clutter.

Brandon Michaels is a retired Los Angeles police officer where he served the residents of the city for 28 years as a homicide detective. Then he became the director of the Health Care Fraud Department for 15 years, and fully retired from work in 2011. In his free time, he writes short stories, anthologies, and international travel articles. He is currently working on a mountain climbing thriller novel called *Ice Killer*.

Why Father's Day?

By Jeannie Turner

When Sonora Smart was 16, her mother died in childbirth with her sixth son. Sonora, the only daughter, then shared with her father, William, in the raising of her younger brothers, including her new infant brother, Marshall.

The first Mother's Day had occurred in 1908, and the following year, when she was 27, Sonora Smart Dodd attended a Mother's Day celebration at her church in Spokane, Washington.

Sonora, who along with her five brothers, was raised by her father alone, held her father in great esteem. Her unwavering belief in the importance of fatherhood led her to convince the Spokane Ministerial Association to celebrate Father's Day, a testament to her determination and perseverance.

That first Father's Day, a truly momentous occasion, was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in Spokane, Washington. This marked the beginning of a tradition that would gain national recognition, a tradition that we continue to honor today. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson sent a telegraph to Spokane praising Father's Day services. In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day. In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon established a permanent national observance of Father's Day to be held on the 3rd Sunday of June each year.

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 there 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, please contact President Ron Smith in advance for special accommodations.

Ronald Smith, President SSWC

NOTE: ZOOM IS AVAILABLE BY SPECIAL REQUEST ONLY.



**READ
ME!**

Join us for the June 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, June 15th 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.

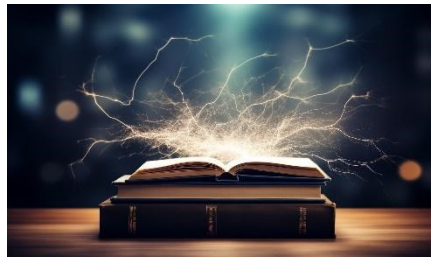
Don't miss this opportunity to mingle with other writers and have some fun. No reservations are needed, just show up and join us. We hope to see you there!



Writers' Mingle

Saturday June 15, 2024 --- 9 am to 11 am

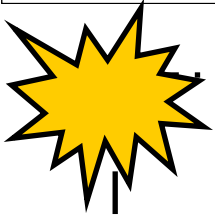
All are welcome --- No charge



Focus: Creating Story Arcs

Temporarily Meeting at Mary Lou Anderson's Home

Please contact her at mledsonanderson@yahoo.com or look for her address in the membership directory on the website.



A Blood Stained Hood

By Kyra Blacklock, Winner of the 2024 Scholarship
(Serialized by Editor due to length)

Everyone knows the innocent Little Red Riding Hood and her Granny, victims of a cruel wolf. Which are all lies. The wolves were the victims, an entire family, a pack, destroyed by those horrible people.

This is my story, the wolf, a mother. I was the largest threat and that family wrote me out of the story. Lying about who was killed and why it happened. This is the truth. The reason why wolves no longer live in that forest and no one from town ever sees Granny.

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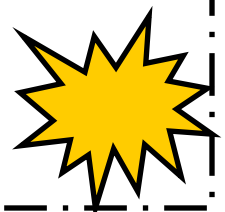
Little Red Riding Hood was wandering into the forest to go to her Granny's. She wasn't carrying bread and wine, she had a rifle and a bag to fill. A quota to meet as that retched family teased each other, killing animals and taking the skins. Leaving the body to rot as their fur sits in bags. You see, that entire family were all hunters. THE hunter in the 'original' story was the father of the child, son of Granny. Now Red, I only know her wretched nickname, was her father's prized pupil, the one who had already taken out two of my pups. Wiped out my entire first litter with two bullets. Sure, that sounds silly. A child? Hunting wolves? Ha, preposterous. But it's not.

Red was on her way to Granny's to help with the so-called 'pests.' Deer, rabbits, birds, squirrels, pretty much anything that lived in the forest that wandered into Granny's garden and ate a little snack. What did she expect? She's living in a forest, for the moon's sake!

Yet all those animals they shot and killed were what my family and I relied on for food. Maybe if they had some moral code there would have been enough, but they were bent on eradicating all the prey. My family has lived in this forest for far longer than theirs has, and yet we were being driven out. As much as I adored our home, I was ready to get my family to safety. But we couldn't leave just yet. I had a younger litter still in the den. Pups that were far too young and fragile to travel the distance we would need to be safe. So my family stayed.

One of my pups, Parsley, believed we could get through to Red. That she was simply being manipulated and we could save her from her family. I tried, desperately, to tell Parsley that humans can't be changed once they are taught, but she refused. Parsley slipped away from the pack and met Red as she entered the forest. She pranced right up to the girl and tried to explain our predicament to her. She told her we were starving and meant no harm; that we were hunting the prey they shot, not them. Red didn't believe her. Red never trusted any animal... She threw a rope around my daughter's neck and dragged her along to Granny's.

(See next month's newsletter for part 2!)



May Banquet Pics!



Writer Milestone! *Cle Curbo (aka Paul Turner)*

In the last year, Mr. Curbo has been busy. *For the Love of Maggie O'Die* was published on Amazon and Barnes and Nobles Online late 2023, along with 2 audio stories in April/May of 2024. The audio stories can be found on youtube here: <https://music.youtube.com/channel/UCWOFLWeGzUIFFH9vP-SFabA>

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

Writing Tip from the Grammar Guardian:

Pace Your Story

M. L. Edson (aka Mary Lou Anderson)



Every writer has heard that a successful novel has to start with a hook — something exciting to grab the interest of the reader — something to make the reader want to keep reading to find out what happens next.

Well, that is true of every chapter. Also true of every page. Every paragraph. Every sentence. Yet everything can't happen on every page, but something has to happen often enough to keep the reader turning the page, reading every word. Besides that, you need to remember to include aspects of the main characters so the reader (and you) will relate to them, identify with them, want to know more about them.

Too much? Naw. Your writing will make it perfect by spacing out the colossal events, revelations, actions, explosions ... even kisses and hugs and/or slaps and punches... While interspersing realistic (okay, close to realistic) incidents that the reader will relate to, feel involved in, and be a part of.

Not everything that happens has to be a tragedy, an explosion, a death. Nothing (and no one) will be left to end the story if you try that. Interspersing some humor, some every-day events into the story line will keep the readers interested. Pace the major incidents through your book with supporting events and scenes and emotions to keep the readers' interest.

Initially, let your fingers fly through the scene, putting your ideas into words and fitting them together. Then read it over. Let it rest. Re-read it. Fix the parts needing fixing. Get yourself into the story. Don't forget the feelings, the emotions, the characters' reactions. Then move on to the next scene, then the next, until you have a story, a book, a success.

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.

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.

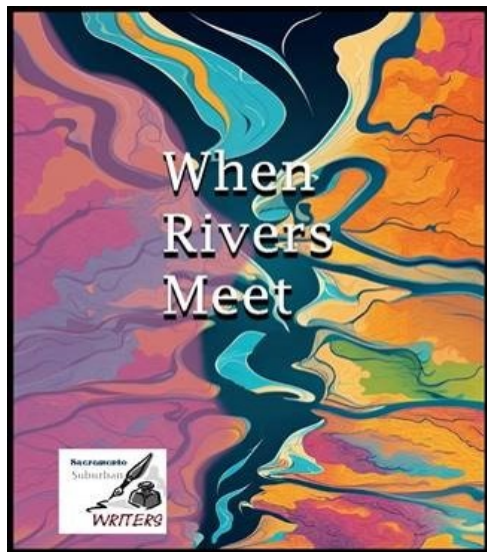
Please email your submission to kevincastle32@gmail.com

P.S. If you're kind to him he won't force you to sit in the corner for 15 minutes to think about what you've done.

(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

July - Joan Griffin, Author and Editor

August - Dena Kouremetis, Narrator and Voice Actor

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

Future SSWC Speakers / Events

October - Shannon Dittmore, YA Fantasy Author

November - Chris Hennessy, Filmmaker

December - Annual Winter PARTY!

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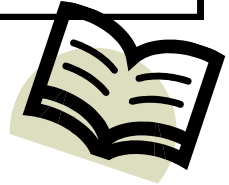
Follow the SSWC podcasts at:

<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 (Ms. 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 time to dream a little. This month is simple, describe your perfect day. Where would you spend it? What would you do? What would you eat? Where would you write? What music would you listen to? Anything that connects you emotionally and physically to that day.

For added homework, figure out how to make that plan a reality and GO FOR IT!

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!