

September, 2024

Suburban Scribe

Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club Newsletter

sactowriters.org

Barbara Young will be our speaker on Monday, September 9th, at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall at 5501 Dewey Drive, corner of Dewey and Madison.

September Topic: Building a Book Creation Team, Virtually Speaking!

Do you need an editor, illustrator, or someone to format your book?

For a self-published author, people with these skills can be expensive and challenging to find and access.

Barbara Young, author of three award-winning inspirational books, will share her self-publishing venture and how she found success working with virtual freelancers in several countries — creating her virtual book creation team. The pearls and pitfalls from her experience with hiring platforms such as Fiverr, Upwork, and Reedsy, and using collaboration software and technology are valuable if you want to consider broadening your choices for independently publishing your book.



Barbara Young, is an award-winning author. Drawing from her conscious life-style and vocations as a nurse, holistic educator, and minister of metaphysical science, she writes to inspire well-being, creativity and empowerment for adults and children.

Her published works include: *The Heart that Rocks Health Care*, *Grandma Lost Cuddles*, *Mother's Pearls: An Enduring Gift*, and various short stories in anthologies published by Northern California Publishers and Authors.

She is a member of several local writer groups including Sacramento Suburban Writers Club and VP of Internal Affairs for Gold Country Writers. BYoungBooks.com

A Reason to Attend Meetings In Person

The ripple effect of you attending meetings may inevitably save the universe by helping you avoid an otherwise nasty encounter with a hostile Magrathean who wants to cause a rift in time and space in an effort to rid the world of your specific PH balance.

Editor's Note:

Lots of great stories in this month's newsletter! Particularly on page 6...

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

STUBBORN PEDESTRIAN AND A MOTORIST

By Emma Clasberry

He loved walking to his farm, flea market and to freely stagger on the street even when he was drunk. But he felt his space was infringed upon when cars began to claim right of way.

He could not comprehend why he should give right of way to motorists. He usually stood in the middle of the road screaming, warning motorists, "If you hit me (with your car), I grab your male genital."

Why was his target for retaliation male genital? How can he get up after being knocked down or killed to grab the motorist's genital? Irrational reasoning!

Lesson: We have the choice to be right and be dead, or to be wrong and remain alive.

**READ
ME!**

**READ
ME!**



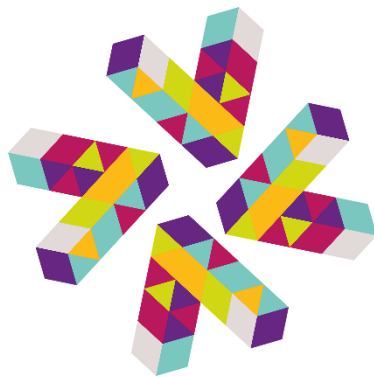
Writers' Mingle

NEW LOCATION

Now meeting at Denny's Roseville on Sunrise (at Douglas)

122 Sunrise Ave, Roseville, CA 95661

Saturday September 21st, 2024 --- 9 am to 11 am
All are welcome --- No toll fee for the Bridge Troll



This Month's Topic:

How do YOU create engaging PLOTS???

Bring your work to share and show!



Where the Mingle Mingled

Last month intrepid explorers braved the fiery sun of Roseville and gathered together at the new land of Denny's. There they shared pithy stories to all who would listen as they gathered together for a Micro Writing Challenge. The Winners, with permission, are posted below and on the follow page.



Dimensions

By Celia Glacken

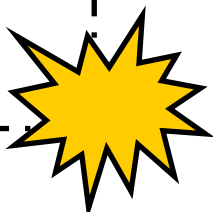
Winner of the Most Compelling Story

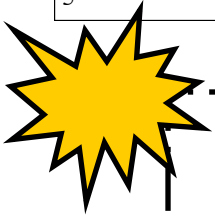
It was summer 1965. They said my lips were luscious like crushed cherries lingering in the bottom of a cocktail glass where the liquid rolled smoothly toward the tip of my tongue touching it like sea water on a dry beach.

From the splintered porch steps I saw the old moon crest, peering through the magnolia, making mysterious patterns in the dirt where the grass had vanished long ago.

The drunken bravado inside the house knew it was walking toward a mystery that would reveal the future once it arrived. The future was Vietnam.

Some would disappear briefly, some forever. The moment was blissful. It was comforting. I belonged to the dimensions of the night.





He

*By Melennie Mahon
Winner of the Most Concise Story*

Sweet born mother's son,
homestead rough, life tough.
Horse breaker, animal lover,
worn clothes, dashing cowboy.

Forever bound to sister Joy,
shared anything, took little.
Cheated death, boy and man,
rancher-farmer sailed the seas.

Saved hard, lost much;
respect earned, disloyal brothers.
Stoutly determined soft soul,
grew, pickled, killed and ate.

Lumber-mill buddies brawny men;
bar-keeper with busted knuckles.

Loved generously, hated wrong;
played square, demanded same.
Handshakes fully committed;
all children's best friend.

Country harmonica, whistle and sing;
elephant strong, **daughter's** Daddy.
Guarded trust, honor speaker;
calloused hands protected hearts.

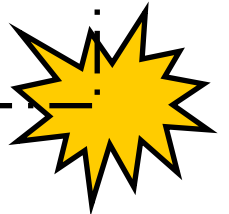
Backyard comfort, flower filled;
BBQ master, steak champion.
Lived boldly, man's man;
never cried, just inside.

He died hard, then
gently moseyed home.

Lost and Found

*By Phil Braverman
Winner of the Funniest Story and Overall Winner*

While in Costco buying a roasted chicken, Ruth Gilson lost her husband, Ralph. He wandered off, not to be seen again. She tried the police, of course. They took his description but gave her little hope. No calls or ransom note. Who would want him? Overweight, very little hair, a sloppy dresser, Ruth didn't want him much either. Now that the house was nice and tidy, she was quite relieved by his absence. Ruth never again shopped at *that* Costco—except during the first few weeks, when she went back to see if anyone had turned him. They hadn't, but they offered a free roasted chicken. She left her number with the office. And that was that.



Why We Tell Stories

By Kevin Castle

Last week I discovered that in 1903, a writer, William Wallace Ingraham, had written about my family history. Not finding a real copy, I found a reprint on Amazon and immediately bought it.

I came across this book because my grandfather, in the early days of the internet, spent countless hours on genealogy forums, networking and hunting down phone numbers of people and places on the east coast. He ended up compiling all this information and passed it down to us.

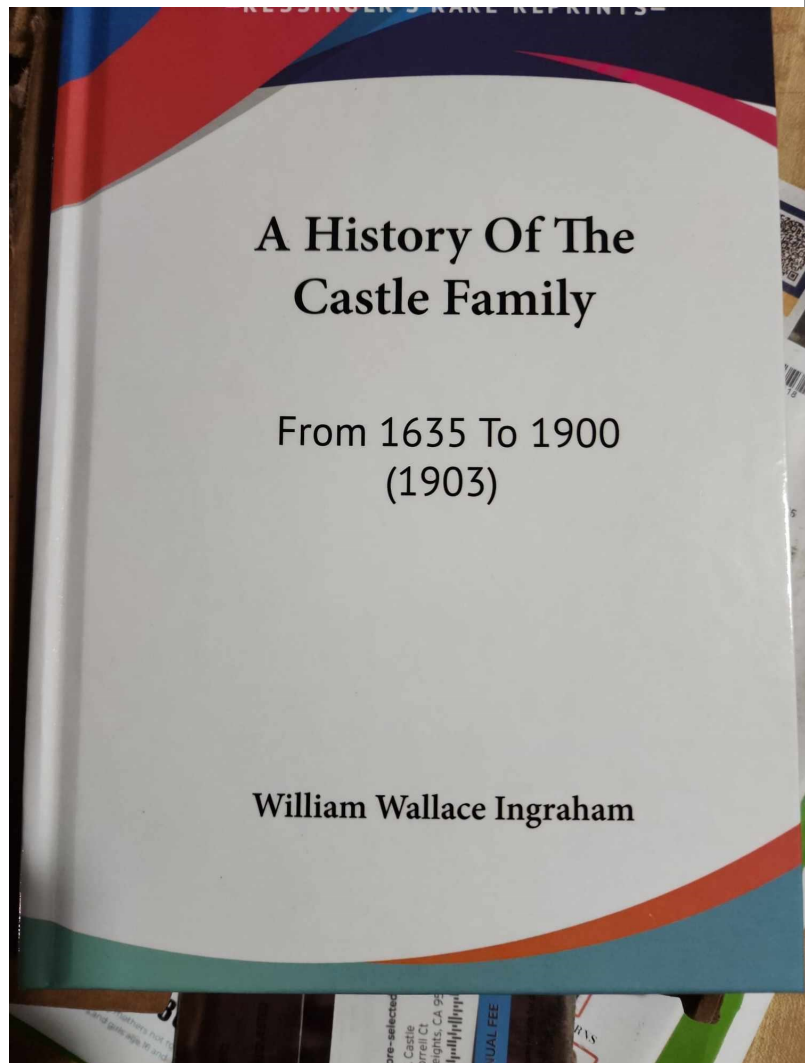
Because of his work, I learned the Castle family dates back to at least 1635 when Henry Castle, at the age of 22, sailed across the Atlantic to a New World he had never seen and settled in Stratford, Connecticut. While there are so many important figures, a couple to note: Captain Willaim Castle served nobly for the Union in the 11th regiment of the Missouri Cavalry; Edmund Castle served as Master of Corpus Christi College in Cambridge; and David Castle, though honorable, sided with the loyalists during the Revolutionary War.

Among my family were architects, farmers, civil engineers, business owners, and even chaplains to kings. We even have our own coat of arms!

As I read it, I have to wonder, what would William Ingraham think if he knew someone would be excited to read his work 121 years later? Could he even imagine it?

When we write, we write for ourselves. This is obvious, because, after all, if we don't enjoy what we write then no one else will. But the words we pen could go so much further.

If no one ever reads it, then no one will ever discover epic stories you have lying inside you. It is up to us to tell our stories, to promote our books, to pass along our words to any who would listen. Thus, we strive, and maybe, just maybe, we succeed. And who knows, maybe someone will read your work 121 years from now.



Writing Tip from the Grammar Guardian:

Meanings and Connotations

*By the Grammar Guardian
(aka M. L. Edson aka Mary Lou Anderson)*



I heard from a fan who was reading my book (Yay!). Okay, okay, it was my sister. And she pointed out an error that everyone else had missed in two, 2, yes, TWO critique groups.

(Oopsies!)

It can be rationalized that it was a minor, yet technical, error, but it was something that jumped out at her. And anything that makes a reader stop even for a moment is something that you should not include in your writing. (Like, maybe, even starting a sentence with a conjunction. ... Or, for that matter, using incomplete sentences.)

Okay, enough of that. The error was simple. I used “altitude” instead of “elevation” for information about the small, non-existent town of Cricket Creek in my *Sierra Heist* book.

What? Elevation and altitude are not synonyms? (Or should that be synonymous?) They both use distance above sea level, after all.

Well, elevation is usually used as the height of a point on the ground ... as in the height of (or on) a hill or mountain. Driving through a town and seeing the information sign, they include the elevation. (This was my mistake — I used altitude.)

Altitude is usually used when talking about the distance above sea level and is measured from the air, as in an airplane flies at an altitude of 30,000 feet.

Learn something new every day. Yep, a good thing to keep in mind, and an easy fix on Kindle.

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 Monopoly Money 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 humdrum as running a marathon solely inside your house, of that

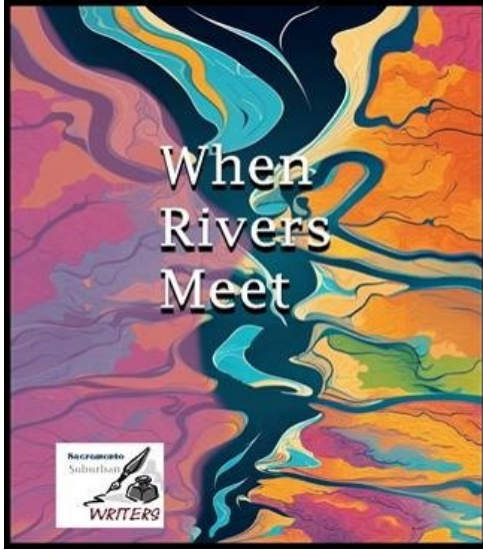
I'm sure. Please email your submission to kevycastle32@gmail.com

P.S. If you're kind to him he won't force you to recite Vagon poetry.

(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

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!

Future SSWC Speakers / Events

January - Susan Osborn, Flash Fiction

February - (**You Could Be Here!**)

March - Tim Schooley, Historical (Medieval) Fiction

2025—??? It's a twisty mystery...

This page is intentionally repeated each month.

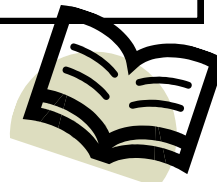
Follow the SSWC podcasts at:

<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

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

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 & Wes Turner (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)

Sniff Sniff "Pumpkin Spice is in the air. I love the smell of Napalm... I mean, Pumpkin Spice in the morning."

Whether you love it or hate it, Fall is right around the corner. Write a story involving Fall in some way. Maybe even the Great Pumpkin or Jack the Pumpkin King will make an appearance!

P.S. Don't forget to send it to your favorite Newsletter Goblin!

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!