

June 2025

# Suburban Scribe

Sacramento Suburban Writers Club (SSWC)|Newsletter

[sactowriters.org](http://sactowriters.org)

**Join us on Monday, June 9, at our monthly meeting for a presentation by Anara Guard. We meet in a wonderful community room at a local church.**

**5501 Dewey Drive, near the intersection of Dewey and Madison.**

## **Grandma Dated Tarzan: Truth and Lies in Fiction.**

Sometimes, new writers try to defend their fictional work by claiming that it was based on a real person or a true incident. They say, “But that’s what really happened!” Yet, in fiction (and poetry), facts should not be confused with truth. As Mark Twain wrote, “Never let the truth stand in the way of a good story, unless you can’t think of anything better.” What “really happened” may not make a good story. Anara Guard offers a workshop that will explore ways to uncover essential truths in our writing by relinquishing facts and distinguishing between real and realistic characters. Be prepared to do some quick writing exercises.

### **Bio:**

Anara Guard is a Sacramento novelist and poet. Her newest poetry collection, *KANSAS, REIMAGINED* (The Poetry Box, 2024) was inspired when she learned that L. Frank Baum had visited Kansas only once and vowed never to return. Her novel, *LIKE A COMPLETE UNKNOWN* (New Wind Publishing, 2022), earned Book of the Year Honorable Mention from the Chicago Writers Association, Readers Favorite, and finalist for an Eric Hoffer Award. It draws upon her memories of that city and the music that provided a soundtrack to the late 1960s.

Anara’s poems have been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and have received a John Crowe Ransom Poetry Prize from Kenyon College, a Jack Kerouac prize, and first place from the California State Poetry Society. Her *Tiny Love Story* was published in the *New York Times*. Other works have been published in *Gold Man Review*, *Tule Review*, *Persimmon Tree*, *On the Seawall*, and several anthologies.

An experienced presenter, Anara has given writing workshops for the California Writers Club, Gold Rush Writers Conference, Chicago Public Library, American River College, and elsewhere.

~Anara Guard

My second poetry collection: *Kansas, Reimagined*

<https://thepoetrybox.com/bookstore/kansas-reimagined>

My novel: *Like a Complete Unknown*

[www.newwindpublishing.com](http://www.newwindpublishing.com) or [bookshop.org](http://bookshop.org)

[www.anaraguard.com](http://www.anaraguard.com)



**ANNUAL BANQUET and SCHOLARSHIP INFO**

The SSWC Annual Banquet was held on May 12 at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Roseville. A great time was had by all. And we even have photos to prove it!

**Winners**

Gargi Jejurikar, from Rocklin H.S., wrote *The Sylvamara* and was announced as the winner of the SSWC \$1000 scholarship.

The runner-up is Schonette Sanders who wrote *Peace* and is from Grant Union H.S.

The third place winner is Audrey Baime. She wrote *1993* and is from Granite Bay High School.



Scholarship winner Gargi Jejurikar with SSWC President, Ron Smith



Scholarship runners-up Shonette Sanders and Audrey Baime, with SSWC President, Ron Smith

**S S W C SCHOLARSHIP INFO**

**The list of High Schools whose students submitted entries.**

A few schools had multiple entries.  
Here's the list:

Christian Brothers (2)	Luther Burbank
El Camino Fundamental	Meraki
Elk Grove	Mesa Verde
Folsom	Pleasant Grove
Granite Bay (2)	Rocklin
Grant Union (2)	Sacto Country Day
Interlochen Arts Academy	St. Francis



## Bye, Bye Pennies

Jeannie Turner



Did you know that penny production is about to cease? Yes! As soon as the remaining supply of penny blanks is exhausted—and the current supply is expected to run out in 2026.

Our world will never be the same.

Oh, we will miss our pennies. The penny remains deeply embedded in our American culture. Phasing out the penny, whose use has spanned over two centuries, will be a painful process. If a penny saved can no longer be “a penny earned,” and I can’t offer “a penny for your thoughts” and can never again “put in my two cents worth,” it will be painful.

It might also be painful to your wallet. Although rounding up to the nickel may seem insignificant—2 cents more here, 4 cents more there—over numerous transactions, it can add up to a substantial amount.

The value of these old coins, which will no longer be in production, may transform them into collectors’ items. The highest sale price of a single penny recently was \$12 million for a 1793 penny. However, a reputable coin dealer put in his “two cents worth” to say, “I would suggest you go buy a lottery ticket. You’d be better off.”

If you’re going through your pennies to check for ones of value, here are two of interest. The Indian Head cent, introduced in 1859, was replaced in 1904 by the Lincoln cent (also known as the wheat penny) to commemorate Abraham Lincoln’s 100th birthday. (It had, as a design element on the reverse, two ears of durum wheat.) Owners of vending and slot machines complained that these new Lincoln/ wheat pennies were too thick to fit in their machines. This dilemma sparked intense debate and considerable disagreement. In the end, the Treasury Department won—vending and slot machine manufacturers had to modify their machines to suit the new cent rather than the other way around.

So, why was the decision made to stop minting pennies now? The decision is primarily driven by cost. Each penny costs about 3.7 cents to produce, resulting in an \$85 million loss in 2024. According to treasury officials, this move is expected to save \$ 56 million annually in materials and manufacturing costs.

Results of the cancellation of our pennies? As they disappear from circulation and prices are rounded up, cashless transactions will continue to be priced at exact change. Could this encourage more people to adopt digital payment methods?

Here’s an idea all this penny purging might inspire: as we go through pennies in our jars or piggy banks, let’s keep our eyes open. Perhaps we will find pennies from the birth years of those we love. They could become unusual gifts to grandchildren — gifts that, in the future, might be shared with their grandchildren, accompanied by wondrous stories of the pennies of our past.

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*(Bye, Bye Pennies, continued on page 4.)*

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## **MINGLE IN JUNE**

By: Sylvia McBride

*Did you miss the last Mingle Meeting?*

If so, you were missed by us. But, it is not too late to join us this month for an exciting and informative discussion on Plot Development.

**\*\*A drawing for door prizes will be held. Come for your chance to win ... and learn something new (or refresh the old). \*\***

**Mingle Meeting**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2025**  
**Plot Development**  
**9:00am to 11:00am.**  
**Denney's Restaurant**  
**122 Sunrise \* Roseville, CA 95661**  
*We welcome seasoned*  
*and novice writers!*

**A Century of Writing Excellence in Sacramento**  
**October 18, 2025 (California Writers Week)**  
**North Ridge Country Club, 7600 Madison Ave, Fair Oaks, Noon – 3 p.m.**  
***cwcSacramentoWriters.org***

Dear Ron and members of Sac Suburban Writers:

We are delighted to invite you personally to share in on our 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary event, scheduled for October 18, 2025, noon-3 p.m., at the luxurious North Ridge Country Club. Our history is your history, as we salute those of all genres who value writing. Our purpose is to pay homage to the art we love. Take yourself back in time to 1925 and learn about writing, marketing, and publishing to better inform ourselves about the paths taken that have led us to the present.

**“A Century of Writing Excellence in Sacramento”** will feature a unique display of rare early magazines and books of members’ published work, accompanied by brief author bios. Some publications go as far back as 1917. We continue to search for books by early members. Attendees will also hear a program featuring a renowned line-up of prominent speakers, and will witness the Greater Sacramento awards, chosen by a Blue Ribbon panel, for organizations promoting the craft of writing improvement to children, incarcerated youth and adults, etc.

Taking the podium will be **Jack Ohman** Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist and columnist, **Sandra Proudman**, Literary Agent for Galt & Zacker, **Rich Ehisen** Editor-in-Chief of *Capitol Weekly* (and former Press Club President), **Carolyn Lynn Stevenson Grellas**, Editor for Kelsay Books, 13-time Pushcart Nominee, **Maryellen Burns**, Cultural Historian & Author/Publisher, and **Al González**, Executive Producer, Quad Air Communications. There will be more name to add.

Prestigious friends and partners include the **Crocker Art Museum; the California State Library, the Sacramento Library; and Center for Sacramento History**. Much gratitude is owed for their belief in local writers.

Learn how magazine and book writing, including memoir and poetry, intersects with journalism. By understanding the past and present trends, we can better navigate our success in the never-ending quest to improve our writing.

On the attached flyers, you’ll see a list of what attendees will receive. We surely hope to see you there, for you are an important part of the local writing legacy!

Sincerely,

Centennial Committee:

Kimberly A. Edwards Coordinator, Julie Snyder, Mari-Lynne Infantino, Ted Witt, Christine Brabham, and (100 Faces in 100 days Coordinator), on behalf of Bernard Wozny, President; Sandra Navarro Informal Consultant

### **Sampling of mid-century vintage books and magazines by Sacramento writers**

**Jenny Angel**, Elsie Oakes Barber, 1954 (made into a movie); **The Tangled Web**, Estelle Urbahns, 1943; **Treasure Magazine**, Leo Rosenhouse, June, 1970; **Young Hawk**, Edna Walker Chandler, 1957; **A Portrait of Myself**, Winifred Madison, author of teenage novels, one of the first with an Hispanic protagonist; **The World of Cryogenics**, Waldo T. Boyd, 1968; **Banner Over Me, a Tale of the Normal Conquest**, Margery Greenleaf, 1968.



## Which Club Members Have Published?

Check out the SSWC website — [sactowriters.org](http://sactowriters.org)

. 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 an article published recently?

Are you holding a Book Launch to let the world know what you have accomplished?

Let the other members and readers know with an article in the newsletter. (A new email address will be forthcoming.)

*Someone must be working on a book ...?  
Where do you stand in the progress?  
Just starting?  
Almost done?  
50,000 words in?  
Searching for a publisher?*

### Members — Wanna be Published?

Submit your own short story, article, poem, 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.

**\$\$\$\$\$\$\$**

Note that the article to the left is directed to "members."

So, if you do *wanna be published* in future newsletters, make sure your dues are up to date.

### HELP !!! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Calling all members — SSWC is in need of volunteers. You do have a few extra minutes once in a while, right?

Well, there is need for:

Membership chair/co-chair  
Snacks/Refreshments  
Historian

Nominations  
Publicity

See back of last page for others.

No individual job takes a lot of time, and you learn a lot about the club, our members, and even more about writing by helping out.

Contact Ron Smith ... or any other Board member as listed on the last page of this newsletter.

## 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](http://sactowriters.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Genres: \_\_\_\_\_

Published? Y / N (yes, includes self-published) Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Website/other info/address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

**(We need a membership chair. Any volunteers?)**

## OFFICERS

### Elected Officers:

President	Ron S
Vice President	Brittany L
Secretary	
Treasurer	Mary Lou A

### Chairs:

Coffee/Treats	
Conferences	
Critique Groups	Brittany L
Historian	
Librarian	Ron S

### Membership

Mingle	
Newsletter	Lani F
Nominations	
Prgm/Speakers	
Publicity	
Raffle	Cathy M
Scholarship	Karen S
Sunshine	Nan R
Website	Wes T
Workshops	Mary Lou

**There's a spot in the list above for YOU!**



## WRITING PROMPT

This month's writing prompt is asking you to list the ways you could help the club.

We have several "officer" openings. If you have ANY interest at all in helping the club continue to succeed as well as it has over the last 70 years, search your brain and decide how you can help.



## MEETING INFORMATION

**7:00 - 9:00 PM**

**Future Meetings:  
Monday, June 9**

*We meet the second Monday each month, year round. Same time. Same place  
5501 Dewey Drive, Fair Oaks, CA  
All writers are encouraged to attend.  
Membership not mandatory but brings privileges  
**like publication in the newsletter!***