

September, 2025

Suburban Scribe

Sacramento Suburban Writers Club (SSWC)|Newsletter

sactowriters.org

Join us on Monday, September 8. This month, **Chris Hennessy** will be our speaker at our monthly meeting. It will be held 7-9 pm, at **5501 Dewey Ave. (corner of Madison and Dewey)** in Sacramento, CA

Chris Hennessy is an award-winning filmmaker, author, and speaker. There are several points he will cover, so be sure not to miss this meeting!

These subjects will be:

Hennessy's journey with his memoir, *Touched by Hannah*, and his secrets divulged.

You will be prepared to connect with agents at Writers Conferences and on QueryTracker by crafting your one-page Elevator Pitch.

Strengthen your Query letter.

Book proposal basics.

Handling rejection is crucial.

Chris's potent PowerPoint includes clips from his award-winning films, social media posts that tens of thousands have viewed, a query, and a book proposal.

“Think and Live out of the box!”

Chris Hennessy

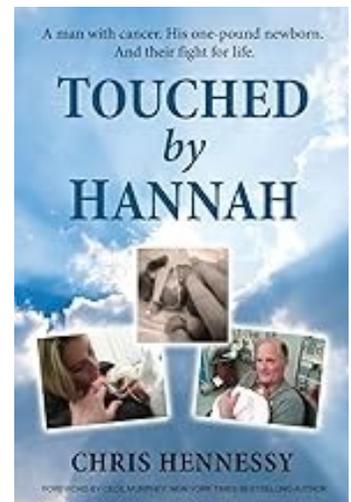
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[HennSchtick Newsletter](#)



Mingle Details on Page 3.

We always have a great time at the Mingle, and a lot of fantastic information is shared.

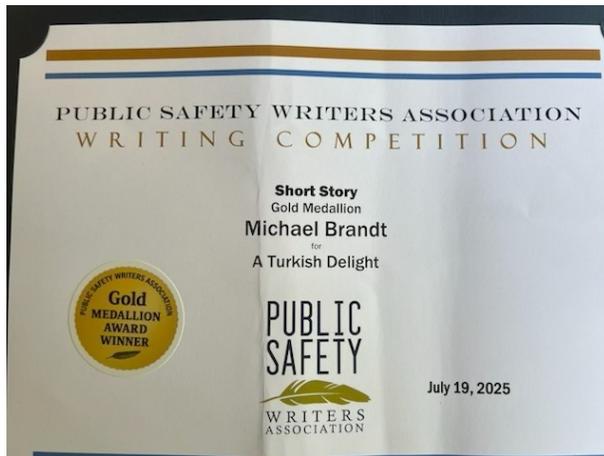
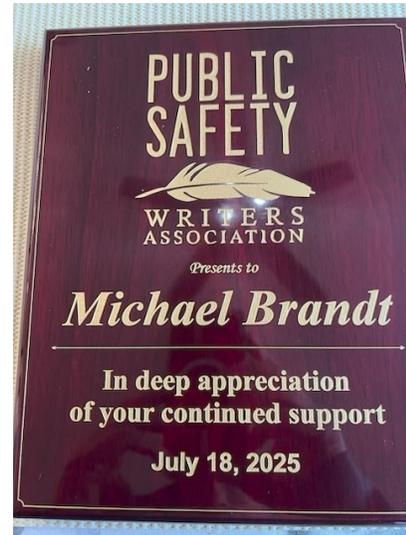
Please join us on the 3rd Saturday (9 am) at Denny's in Roseville.

Become an ACTIVE member of SSWC.

Check the list of open positions on the last page.

Mike Brandt — Award-Winning Author

Congratulations to Michael Brandt for being awarded a Gold Medallion (First place) in the 2025 Public Safety Writers Association Writing Competition, held in Las Vegas. His short story, “A Turkish Delight,” won first place.



FYI—Mike's favorite email sign-off phrase (and a great piece of advice) is from Hemingway — "In order to write about life, first you must live it."



ABANDON NOT YOUR GOOD IMAGINATION

Emma Clasberry

No good imagination ever must be demolished. .
 Do you have fire to do good things burning in your bones?
 Are you devoid of rest or peace of mind because of that?
 Your imagination may seem unachievable.
 Difficulties to get there may seem insurmountable.
 Overcoming huddles may appear to be impossible.
 You may even decide to abandon it at some point.
 You dare not relax the pursuit at that point,
 Even after you had arrived at your comfort zone.
 Why? That is not all what you are.
 Continue improving upon it along the way.
 Remember: You dare not surrender.
 Your good imagination must never be demolished.
 Pursue it, and pursue it with zest.

MINGLE IN SEPTEMBER

Mingle Meeting — FREE!

(And you can order breakfast for a reasonable price and not have to cook or clean up at home!)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

Come and learn more about meeting the challenge of writing dialogue. For example, keeping conversations plot-focused but natural. It can be a struggle to balance action with dialogue, as interpersonal conflict is easier to convey through dialogue.

9:00am to 11:00am.

Denney's Restaurant

122 Sunrise * Roseville, CA 95661

We welcome everyone interested in writing, every genre, every stage of productivity, everyone.



COMMAS

Jeannie Turner

A remarkable mark the comma is,
It can frequently save the day.
If it's precisely in the right place
It says what you want to say.

A few days ago, Bill yelled that his house
Was seriously now on fire!
I cried out "Oh no!" and I started to run,
I hoped that my friend was a liar.

If he answered "no kidding," I'd know it was true.
But a comma could put out that fire.
'Cause if "no comma kidding," I'd know right away
That my friend Bill *is* a liar.

An Untimely End to a Family Tradition

Biking for Berries

Jeannie Turner



Every summer, our five children and I would hop on bikes and head down to the American River. Oh, the thought of all those blackberries! And all that delicious blackberry jam on hot buttered toast in the mornings! This had become a family tradition, this trip to our river, for that's what we called it, *our* river. Our children had enjoyed our river all through the year, but the annual blackberry picking trips were special.

Laden with picking baskets, we pedaled happily to the river, singing on the way. We began to pick. More berries went into mouths than into baskets at first, then it was about even – one for the basket, one for the mouth. Except for our dog Fuzzy. She picked her own *with* her mouth and gobbled them right down with a smile on her lips, dripping juice!

Finally, baskets full, we cheerfully headed for home, wheeling our bikes loaded with baskets hanging from the handlebars. Oh, what a happy day—another delightful memory. In the cold of next winter, we would remember this day with its sunshine and the sparkling river as we enjoyed the delicious fruits of our labor spread on hot buttered toast or poured on waffles or pancakes.

Suddenly, from seemingly nowhere, a Park Ranger appeared. Well! We had never seen a real Park Ranger at our river before.

“Hi!” we all exclaimed, smiling and thrilled to see a real live Park Ranger in person.

“What have you got there?” he asked.

“Blackberries! Baskets and baskets of blackberries,” the children exclaimed proudly. “We’re going to make jam!”

“You can’t pick those blackberries,” he said gruffly.

“Oh, we always pick them! We make jam!” they continued with excited enthusiasm.

“Well, you can’t pick them,” he repeated, a bit officiously.

The children’s enthusiasm started to wane. “Oh, but . . . but why not?”

“Because, well, it upsets things. The birds eat them. They need them,” he said sternly.

“Oh,” said the youngest, her face falling.

Feigning innocence, I meekly inquired, “Should we . . . should we put them back?”

This caught him off guard. “Uh, well, no, ma’am, but don’t ever do it again.”

And that was the last of our joyful berry-picking bike trips to the banks of our own American River.

Workshop

Mary Lou Anderson

Since commas are mentioned in this newsletter (see poem by Jeannie Turner on page 3), let's cover them.

How many ways can you think of where you can/must(?) use commas. Try this without looking into your old English grammar book.

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): _____

(We need a membership chair. Any volunteers?)

OFFICERS HELP FILL THE VOIDS

Elected Officers:

President Ron S

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer Mary Lou A

Chairs:

Coffee/Treats

Conferences

Critique Groups Brittany L

Historian

Librarian Brittany L.

Membership

Mingle

Newsletter

Nominations

Prgm/Speakers

Publicity

Raffle Cathy M

Scholarship Karen S

Sunshine Nan R

Website Wes T

Workshops Mary Lou

WRITING PROMPT

Like an assignment on your first day back at school every year, share what exciting things you did this summer.

Camping? Travel? Staycation? Finish your most current book?

Share with a short-short story, poem, paragraph, list ... anything at all.

Could the events be woven into a longer story? A book?



MEETING INFORMATION

7:00 - 9:00 PM

**Future Meetings:
Monday, September 8**

*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!*

