

October, 2025

Suburban Scribe

Sacramento Suburban Writers Club (SSWC)|Newsletter

sactowriters.org

Join us on Monday, October 13, 2025 and meet Chloe Faulk-Burgess. 7 pm, at the Friendship Hall at 5501 Dewey Drive, corner of Dewey and Madison.

Chloe Faulk-Burgess is an artist and first-time children's book author focusing on the nearly universal, everyday joys and curiosities of life through the eyes of young children.

"Hello, Little Ladybug" was designed not only to capture the interest of infants and young children through the use of large, detailed imagery of familiar objects, but it was also designed to give caretakers every opportunity to interact with their child throughout every page. There are few things a very young child loves more than to recognize something in a book and gleefully point it out to their caretaker, who dutifully and enthusiastically names it. Or to play a game on a page, searching for the objects or creatures the story mentions, by following the cherubic little finger. This book was meticulously designed to create conversations and connections by using the thoughtful application of early childhood education principles and personal experience.

Her love for making art—specifically drawings—began as a young child, and with constant encouragement from family, it never waned. Her maternal grandparents, both accomplished watercolor artists, never let her forget that "If you make art, then you are an artist, and there's nothing more to it than that." Which certainly set her up with delusions of grandeur and incredible self-importance as a six-year-old, but at least it resulted in her never putting down the pencil.

Later, weaving prose and pictures together into a book felt like a natural progression and perfect application of creative energy. Now, one finished book has led to another in production, and a list of book ideas that is the length of her forearm.

Future books, two in the works, will continue to use the same principles of engagement to give both caretakers and the kids they read to ample opportunity to interact completely with the stories.



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, just off Douglas on Sunrise..

Become an ACTIVE member of SSWC.

Check the list of open positions on the last page.

The club needs your help.

RIDDLE! RIDDLE! RIDDLE!

Emma Clasberry
THREE CROSSED THE RIVER WITH
AND WITHOUT HELP

Three people are about to cross a river. One knows what she is about to do. She crosses the river without any help.

Another knows she has to cross the river. She knows also that she needs someone to help her cross the river. She gets the help and crosses the river.

The third person does not even know what is going on, let alone be concerned about how to cross the river. Anyway, she crosses the river, not by herself, but with the help of someone.

Question 1: Who is the first person?

Question 2: Who is the second person?

Question 3: Who is the third person?

This riddle is one of the African riddles I got from the children when I went home to Nigeria in 2014. I asked them to give me riddles they knew for 100 naira (Nigerian currency) each. Most of the riddles and folktales documented in my works were collected from them, most of which I learned from my mother when I was a child during riddling-folktales narration sessions at home. This and almost all riddles are for mental exercise.

See a hint and the complete answer below — upside down.

Hint —
I guess we might need to give a a hint like: pregnant mother.

Answer 

Answers to questions in the riddle:
The riddle is about a pregnant mother with her little child crossing a river.
Answer to question 1:
The first person is the pregnant mother who also has a small child of five year-old.
Answer to question 2:
The second person is the women's five year-old child.
Answer to question 3:
The third person is the baby in the Women's womb.
This and almost all riddles are for mental exercise.



Need Zoom information ?

Ron will send it out the day before the meeting ... Unless someone convinces me to make room for it here. (Nope, no one even tried to convince me.)

Excerpt from *When Serendipity Happened* by Al Vopata

This is from my book, *When Serendipity Happened*: Chapter Nine: Our Trips

"Old Mountain Charlie," as his fellow engineers in the Roseville, California train yards affectionately called him, Charlie Novak was the one who drove the train with exploding bombs on April 28, 1973, from Roseville to Antelope, destroying most of it at that time. Doing that probably saved many lives although there were more than 50 injuries.

Charlie, my Aunt Christina's son, grew up just two miles to the west of us along Tumbleweed Road on the way to Blue Rapids in Marshall County, Kansas. During the times we visited him in his home after the explosions, he never boasted about his heroic feat, but he gave me two twisted steel fragments from the blasts.

Unfortunately, the last time I saw him he had fallen from a step ladder while washing a camper, hitting his head on the pavement. At the time he told me, "I'm 83, but I'm going to live to be a hundred." Sadly he died soon after that.

Now that we live in Antelope in 2025, about two miles from the railroad tracks, at night I hear the trains' whistles and diesel engines, and think of our cousin, Charlie, whose spirit still rides those rails. In recent years I wrote the poem below and donated a copy to the Carnegie Museum in Roseville

The Ballad of Old Mountain Charlie

Al Vopata

Come gather around and listen
To a tale about a man
Who came to our town one fine day
And blasted most of her away.

Old Mountain Charlie was his name
Up his run to Reno
From California's capitol
On Sierra tracks he climbed,

Far from the Kansas Flint Hills,
There he first called home,
Where the Big Blue River still flows
Past Blue Rapids Town

In Roseville he mounted the train,
The Southern Pacific line,
With bombs aboard to blast a land,
Poor Viet Nam, to hell.

As those weapons began to blow,
Old Charlie took control
Of those bombs exploding faster
Than anyone could slow.

With old Charlie at the throttle
Fifty to hospitals went
When the bombs in Antelope blew
In April of '73.

MINGLE IN OCTOBER

Mingle Meeting — FREE!

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025

"Found Stories"

Creative ideas from unexpected sources.

9:00am to 11:00am.

Denney's Restaurant

122 Sunrise * Roseville, CA 95661

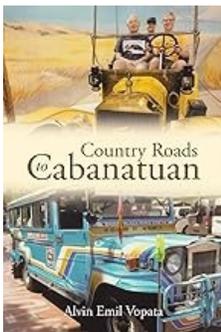
We welcome everyone interested in writing, every genre, every stage of productivity, everyone.



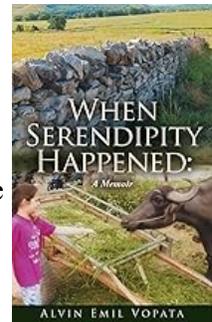
Al Vopata's Stories

Here are my descriptions of my two books.

"When Serendipity Happened" reveals the life of a man who was one of three students, including his brother, in a Kansas country school who first taught in The Bronx. It is of a man who was in Topeka State Hospital for a year before he taught special education students 45 years in seven states.



"Country Roads to Cabanatuan" was written after the author's wife, Ligaya, was in hospice, asking her visitors to sing John Denver's "Country Roads" knowing her ashes would soon be on country roads to her native home near Cabanatuan in the Philippines. Both books are available at Barnes and Noble and at Amazon.



Flower

Karen Sepahmansour
August 31, 2025



I walk along flowers and plants
Because God has given me a chance
To test my goals in sun and rain
To lift my heart from any pain

I walk along the mud and dryness
To experience the waves of kindness
Faces of ups and downs
And the nature to minimize the frowns

I walk along fruit trees bitter and sweet
And remember to forget the tweets
Except of birds flying high
So remember to continue to try

I walk alone. efforts seem in vain
That come with so many domains
As I walk along a big hill
I stumble remembering to chill.

Workshop

Mary Lou Anderson

Not sure what will be presented. Something about grammar or punctuation or writing or editing or ... or ... or something related to getting your stories done.

Any volunteers for future workshops?

RAFFLE? FUND RAISER FOR THE CLUB? FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP?

Bring "white elephant" items, even purple elephant, green, orange, or brown elephant items to the meeting to entice other members to buy raffle tickets and get to take home your once-treasured items.

Please, if no one selects your *treasure*, please help us out by taking it back home.

NorCal-Writer's One-Day and the Pop-Up Christian Book Faire



Use code OCTOBER15

Roseville, CA
Saturday, November 8
8am-4pm

www.bridgeway.church/writers

NorCal
Writer's
One Day



Susy Flory
Memoir
Proposals



Lindsay Franklin
Fiction
Time
Management



S. D. Grimm
Fiction
Author Voice



Lance Hahn
Keynote
Writer Life



Shadia Hrichi
Bible Studies
Speaking



Patrick E. Craig
Fiction



Stephanie Yttrup
Marketing



David Hyde
Screenwriting



Emma Fulenwider
Author Bios
Testimonies



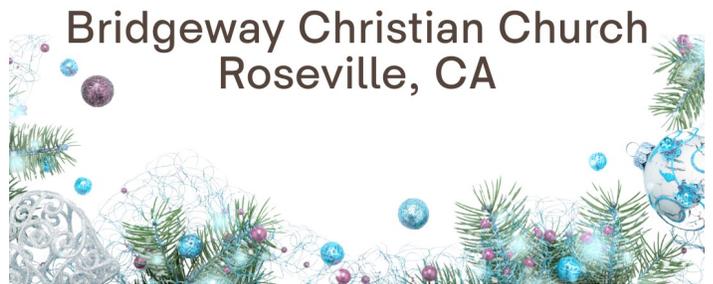
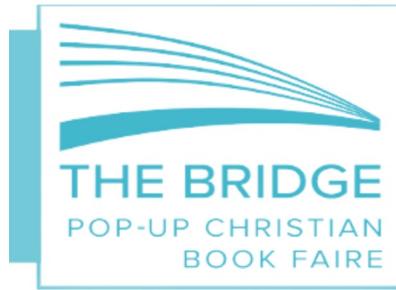
Jill Osborne
Middle Grade
Fiction



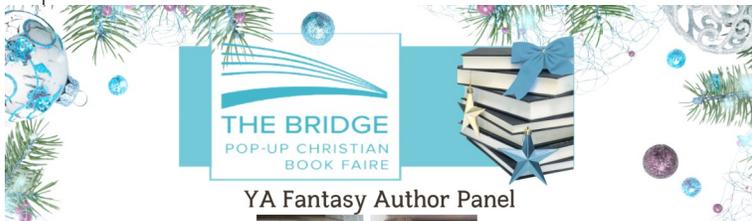
Joyce Hightower
Message
and Genre



Friday, November 7
5pm to 8pm



Bridgeway Christian Church
Roseville, CA



YA Fantasy Author Panel



Lindsay Franklin S. D. Grimm

Featured Authors



Susy Flory Stephanie Yttrup Patrick E. Craig Shadia Hrichi Emma Fulenwider Jill Osborne Joyce Hightower

Friday, November 7 5pm to 8pm Bridgeway Christian Church

NorCal
Writer's
One Day

www.bridgeway.church/writers
Saturday, November 8
8am-4pm



Lance Hahn
Keynote
Writer Life



Shadia Hrichi
Bible Studies
Speaking



Patrick E. Craig
Fiction



Stephanie Yttrup
Marketing



David Hyde
Screenwriting



Emma Fulenwider
Author Bios
Testimonies



Jill Osborne
Middle Grade
Fiction



Joyce Hightower
Message
and Genre

Yes, they sent 4 version of the flyers. So, look them through and decide if you'd like to participate.

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

I ain't got no good, new, creative ideas to put in here. The only thing I can think of is what's the worstest sentence you can wright? Even What's the worstesterest paragraph?

Share your bestest ideas with ffellow members by sending it too the new-
sletter too share with other memembers.



MEETING INFORMATION

7:00 - 9:00 PM

**Next Meeting:
Monday, October 13**

*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!*

