

October, 2026

Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club

suburban SCRIBE

Join us on Monday evening, October 12, 7 pm at the Fellowship Hall of the Crossroads Christian Fellowship Church at 5501 Dewey Drive, Sacramento (near the Madison and Dewey intersection and across the street from Safeway). EVERYONE is welcome!

Brittany Lord has a challenger for all of us. November is a special month for writers, and she wants everyone to take up that challenge.

Novel November is coming! Novel November is coming!

That's right, Novel in November is almost upon us. For those not in the know, November is National Novel Writing Month when many inspiring writers take up the challenge of writing 50,000 words in 30 days. It's a huge challenge, but with a little planning, dedication, and a big can-do attitude, it is achievable.

If you would like to join them this year or just learn more about Novel November, this month's meeting is for you. Brittany Lord will be teaching some of the basics of how to plan now so you can make it all the way to 50,000. She's made it three times before and wants to help you get there too.



**TIME
SENSITIVE !!!**

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October M I N G L E

Writers' Mingle

Body Language

Saturday, October 17, 2026, From 9:00 am to 11:00 am — 3rd Saturday

Denny's Restaurant, 122 Sunrise Ave, Roseville (Sunrise and Douglas)

All writers are welcome. No charge & this is interactive. Bring ideas and suggestions. (Order breakfast or brunch or whatever you want.)

This is an interactive discussion related to including Body Language to make your story even better.

How to show attitude, emotions, intentions, relationships, all kinds of communication with the body language of your characters.

Bring your ideas to share with everyone there.

Suggestion – if you are a member of Nextdoor <https://nextdoor.com/>, or any of the social media sites, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, Reddit, X ..., please send a notice of our next meeting ... inviting everyone to come ... everyone who wants to write the next great American novel, exposé, historic nonfiction, hysterical fiction, romance, poem, anything ...

Play by Local Author Jeremy Olson

I wrote a play. It's called *War of the Worlds: Monsters Among Us*. We take the original 1938 radio play *War of the Worlds* and weave an original story around it about a family and a world on the brink of disaster.

We're presenting the play as a reader's theatre at Imagination Theatre in the El Dorado County fairgrounds in Placerville.

The first weekend is over, but it continues this coming Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 9, 10, 11. Friday shows are at 7 and Saturday/Sunday shows are matinees which begin at 2. Our runtime is about 90 minutes and there will be a short intermission so I expect we'll wrap in about two hours. The house opens 30 minutes early.

Tickets are available at the door or online at itplacerville.org, \$18 general admission or \$15 for seniors/students....but I also have a few comps so if there's somebody from the writing club who wants a comp, reach out to me and we can work it out.

Many thanks,

Jeremy Olson

916-212-1586



THE THING

2025

Tony

The damn thing lurks there in the dark,
 Threatening me width its stealth.
 It haunts me,
 Terrifies me.

No sooner do I close my eyes,
 Than it launches against me.
 No particular shape owns it,
 Here in my sleep.

Prowling around like death itself,
 Damn nuisance.
 Why must it exist in every darkness.
 Is there no escape.

So I run to light,
 Sunshine, or man-made illuminations,
 Outdoor, indoor, Light.
 Safety from the curse.

'Tis foolishness I know
 For it often preys in the light.
 Day times are scant protection,
 The only real defense is vigilance.

The entire terrestrial surface of the planet
 Is its playground,
 Or, should I say hunting ground.
 Which renders life for me perilous

There is some shelter in the water.
 As it cannot exist therein.
 No assistance to me, tho,
 For I cannot breath where I must swim.

In my sleep, it shapes itself often as a blob,
 Other times as darkened, creeping, fingers of danger.
 There is no measure of the fear it causes me,
 As I lie there paralyzed.

In the light, I stay alert,
 Because it watches for mistakes I make,
 Which, of course are common,
 And it seeks my blunders of abundance.

They say its presence is a necessity,
 I say, that which produces such ardent fear,
 Need not to be so readily near.
 God, how I hate spiders.

Space is available for your poetry, short-short story, information, community events, suggestions for writing better.

Please send them to me — Mary Lou Anderson (aka M. L. Edson, author) at mledsonanderson@yahoo.com.

Definitely include “SSWC Newsletter” in the subject line ... p l e a s e !!!!

SSWC Authors This is shamelessly promoting members' books because they VOLUNTEER to help keep SSWC running smoothly.



Bryson Kilmer (Ron Smith) Besides the many books Ron, er Bryson still has to finish editing or add refining touches to (or are still bouncing around in his head), he has published *Point Hope*, which is available on Amazon/Kindle.

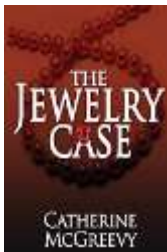
He has copies of his book, so contact him to purchase one. Or, you might be lucky and find one on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/0984604359/>

Westley Stark (Wes Turner) has published ... *Ex Terra Expeditions*.

This is a fun read, full of adventure and exciting experiences of a group of young men who found a way to visit another planet. Will they survive the situations they find themselves in? Will they be able to return to their home planet?



To find his book, go to <https://a.co/d/01JiWM9a> Or aim your cell phone's camera at the QR code.



Catherine McGreevy (Cathy McGreevy) has published several



books that are available on Amazon/Kindle. Her chosen genre has been historical fiction but is expanding into fantasy. Her books, besides being informative, they are interesting, delving into personalities of the characters. **Use the QR code to the right to access her books.**

M. L. Edson (Mary Lou) has books available on Amazon/Kindle – suspense thrillers, writing assistance from the Grammar Guardian, poetry, and more. Just **point your phone's camera at the QR code to the right** to see her books ... and maybe order something.

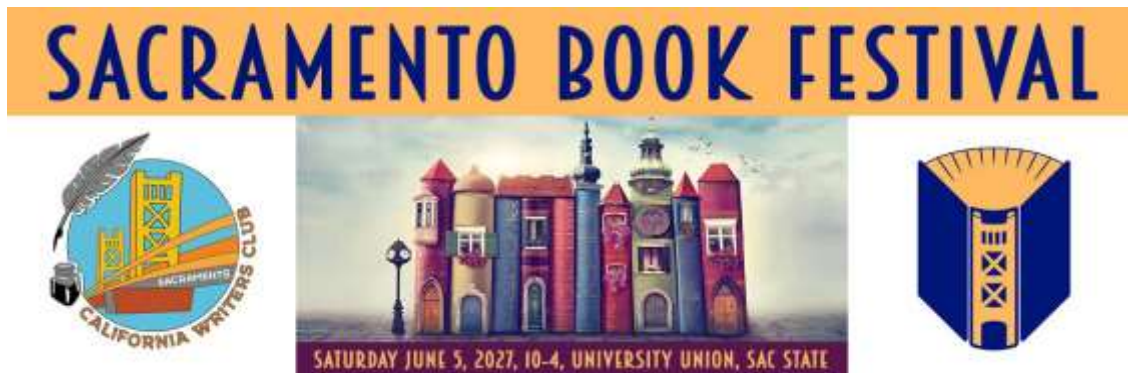
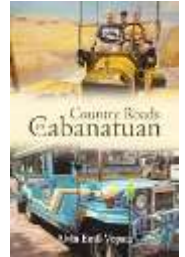


More books on the next page. Volunteer and/or submit some of your writing to the newsletter and get your book(s) listed here too.

Because **Al Vopata** submitted something for the newsletter, descriptions of his books are included:

"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.



Sign-up is this Friday morning. So, if you are interested, check it out ASAP.

SSWC is planning on having an Authors' Table for the show, but if you want your own space, you have to sign up this Friday

<https://www.sacramentobookfestival.com/>

The Ballad of Old Mountain Charlie

Al Vopata

Excerpt from "When Serendipity Happened" by Alvin Emil Vopata

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, who's 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.

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: _____

OFFICERS

HELP FILL THE VOIDS

Elected Officers:

President	Brittany L
Vice President	Brittany L
Secretary	Carol J.
Treasurer	Jake A

Chairs:

Coffee/Treats	Everyone / Anyone
Conferences	
Critique Groups	Brittany L
Historian	
Librarian	Brittany L
Membership	Cathy M
Mingle	MLA
Newsletter	YOU!!!
Nominations	
Prgm/Speakers	EMERGENCY NEED
Publicity	Everyone including you
Raffle	Cathy M
Scholarship	Karen S
Sunshine	Nan R
Website	Wes T
Workshops	Mary Lou A

When everyone thinks "I don't need to do it ... someone else will," there's a good chance **no** one will do it and nothing will get done.

MEETING INFORMATION

Future Meetings

Monday evening, October 12

Mingle, Saturday, October 17

November meeting on the 9th

(Don't forget the annual potluck in December!)

**Club meeting held at the Crossroads Church
Friendship Hall, 5501 Dewey Drive, Fair Oaks**

7 pm to 9 pm

All writers are encouraged to attend.

Membership not mandatory but brings privileges ...

like publication in the newsletter!

