

November, 2024

Suburban Scribe

Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club Newsletter

sactowriters.org

Chris Hennessey will be our speaker on Monday, November 11th, at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall at 5501 Dewey Drive, corner of Dewey and Madison.

November Topic: Create Your Book Buzz with Author Platform 101
(Presenter: Chris Hennessey)

Promote and Market You and Your book,

- Simple, stand-out social-media marketing tips to get yourself and your writings known.
- Substack basics: How to start, what to write, how to build a following, and bolster your email list.
- Speaking 101: You should be a speaker if you're a writer. Learn the basics of crafting a speech, getting gigs, building your email list, getting your name out there, and having fun.
- Create results-getting visual media at little or no cost.
- What type of videos to create and how, when to produce, then post your video(s).
- Learn how Hennessey uses his award-winning films to promote and market his writings.
- How do you connect with and get on mainstream media—Newspapers and TV news, etc.
- Hennessey's PowerPoint includes distinctive social media posts and clips from his award-winning films.

Chris Hennessey Bio

Filmmaker, author, and speaker Chris Hennessey serves on the board of directors at Sacramento Writers.

Chris recently wrote, produced, and directed four national award-winning films. His *Yolo YoYo's* cable TV show took Best New TV Series, Sacramento Access TV 2019. The twelve episodes reached 125,000 fans on Facebook. (TV stats not available.) *Yolo YoYo's* also aired four segments on GoodDay Sacramento (CBS).

Chris's upcoming memoir, *Touched by Hannah—A Man with Cancer* (Hennessey), his one-pound newborn, Hannah, and their fight for life, has reached tens of thousands on social and news media. (To be completed in early 2025)

Hennessey's monthly Substack newsletter, <https://hennschtick.substack.com>, receives commendations from his readers.



Reasons to Attend Meetings In Person

1. You may see a ghost that forgot Halloween is over and its haunting season is done.
2. You may meet someone who will one day be famous.
3. You may get an idea that will fix the big issue in the novel you've been working on for what seems like an eternity.

Editor's Note:

The 3rd reason to attend meetings was literally me last month. And it could be you this month!

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



First Day of Autumn

By *Jeannie Turner*

That first day of autumn,
It's come and now it's past.
I should have known that glorious day,
It could not, would not, last.

But it has set the pattern
For the days that are to come.

All days might not be perfect,
But surely there'll be some
that match the glory of that autumn day so fair,
That day that was so perfect—

like the answer to a prayer.



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.



Writers' Mingle

**Now At The Hippest
LOCATION**

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

122 Sunrise Ave, Roseville, CA 95661

Saturday November 16th, 2024 --- 9 am to 11 am
All are welcome --- No toll fee for the Bridge Troll



This Month's Topic:

Song Writing



Animatronic Pet

By Mary Lou Anderson (aka M. L. Edson)

Technology has reached an all-time high, and it can sometimes be impossible to tell the difference between a real, live animal and a created fuzz ball, at least at a quick glance, that is obviously too good to be true, too wonderful to be alive.

Animatronic cats are made for the elderly in nursing homes who crave the closeness of their past pets. These new “pets” are capable of snuggling, purring, cuddling — all seemingly real. They are wonderful for great-grandma and great-grandpa since the “animals” do not need feeding, grooming, bathing, or cleaning up after.

My sister has obviously mastered this skill.

She called me several months ago and told me she had a puppy for me. All I had to do was drive to Oregon to adopt him and pick him up. So, into the car my family climbed and drove the hours to the northern corner of the state to get this “free” dog, the only fees being the transportation to and from the northern part of the state and the shelter’s fee for the adoption services.

Relatively easy-peasy, especially considering the amazingly cute puppy waiting for me. My granddaughter wanted to call him “Marshmallow,” but I convinced her that the name was too long for a tiny puppy. So, “Milo” came home with us.

The “real, live puppy” slept all night the very first night he was here with me, in a new place, new people, new surroundings, new bed. That was my first clue. Beyond belief. And I missed it.

Now months later, the dog is the same size as when I got him. He hasn’t grown an iota. That should have been my second clue that this new pet was something unreal.

This “dog” hardly eats anything. He nibbles. He sips water. But never very much. My sister must have found a way to make him seem real even around food.

Others cannot tell that Milo is not real. My sister saw to it that he loves to romp with the grandkids, becoming a “Sonic Fur Ball” doing “zoomies” around the house and yard when they are here.

This puppy loves to cuddle in anyone’s lap or curl up on their feet, sometimes lying still for hours. I figure it’s his batteries recharging, somehow pulling energy from the heat of the person holding him.

He is the perfect pet — capable of snuggling and cuddling, though he doesn’t purr. My sister programmed him to yip once in a while and growl softly when he plays tug of war, gently of course, or fetch.

The groomer even clips his hair and nails as if they actually grow. She must be involved in the cover-up with my sister.

Besides sleeping through the night every night, he was also pre-programmed to go piddle outside. He’s only miscalculated the place once or twice. I figure it’s a skill that will come as the program updates itself.

Unfortunately, there is one thing my wonderful and brilliant sister did not program very well. This little animatronic pet, who is so perfect in every other way, eating very little (just to show that he is actually a living creature), and sleeping through every night, has decided that the carpet in my living room is his personal poop place. Even with an open door inviting him to go, literally to go, outside, he still leaves his contribution inside. How this otherwise perfect animatronic entity, who doesn’t eat much at all, is capable of leaving so many piles on my rug is unbelievable.

I’m having a talk about this programming glitch with my sister today.



Intelligent Life... Or Something Like It

The Fascinating Life of Fred

A Series By Kevin Castle

When Fred Levitts found an advertisement for Vega's Bartending School and decided to call them, he thought he was making a wise decision. The advertisement was plain and simple. All it said was the school's name followed by "My school is out of this world!" and a phone number. Unfortunately for him, the advertisement was literal — Vega is a near-sighted Bolaptoid with a nasty temper from the Avarix Galaxy.

The phone call Fred had placed cost Vega 267,000 krumets in interstellar distance charges (which is quite a lot in case you're not familiar with interstellar distance charges or krumets). It didn't matter that Vega had never been to the planet Earth — in fact, the closest Vega had ever come to the Milky Way Galaxy was approximately six hundred five light years). Though Vega had a decent idea of how his number somehow ended up in the hands of Fred, he lied and said he didn't. Then he complained for hours on end to a service representative, and even after all that, his phone company wouldn't budge on the issue.

How Vega's number ended up on Earth was half Vega's fault and half chance. A couple of years earlier, in a desperate attempt to meet the demands of his growing customer base, he ripped open random interstellar hyperspace holes and dumped numerous advertisements for his school into each of them. It just so happened that one opened up into the Milky Way Galaxy, an advertisement was caught in the Earth's gravitational pull and fell eventually into the hands of Fred.

After Vega paid his fees on his Alturian Visa Card (the third-best card in the universe), he made a trip through hyperspace to find the man who cost him so much money. Three Earth days later, Fred found himself face to face with Vega inside his home, which was a monument to all space exploration, movies, and novels. Fred knew the entire Klingon language, had watched every Star Trek episode known to mankind (even the unreleased ones), and had secret plans for building his own life-size Enterprise out of Lego. (For Halloween last year, even though he was thirty-six, he dressed up as Captain Kirk and went trick-or-treating alone). Quite clearly to every human, Fred was in love with space, but meeting a seven-foot, 300-pound Bolaptoid, which looked like a cross between a slug, a dog, and a millipede, was not Fred's idea of fun.

Held at gunpoint by a Bolaptoid Death Ray, model X7R43, Fred was forced to leave everything behind and pay off the debt he unknowingly caused.

Vega's Bar is located on the planet Vandragoth, a desolate waste basket for the rest of the Avarix Galaxy. Farriages, also known as Heapers in common slang, collect garbage and sewage from central places on other planets and dump it on Vandragoth's barren, sweltering landscape.

Nobody wants to live on Vandragoth, which is the closest planet to the galaxy's three suns. Each sun has been strategically placed by the Soleare Company, which specializes in creating suns, to cast perpetual sunlight across many of Avarix's planets. This also makes Vandragoth hotter than Hell.

The galaxy is home to no race but houses many. For example, Asranon, which is the fourth planet down the line, is covered in swamps and muddy water; where the Dollopians settled after their home planet was eaten by a swarm of Zeebles.

How Vega ended up on Vandragoth is only known in rumors and tales. There is only one thing that's known for sure- he wasn't born there as the home planet of the Bolaptoids is over 1,673,284 lightyears away.

After Fred's shock wore off from being the only human within a billion light years of his home (that's not an exaggeration), he got to work immediately learning his new profession from his very own newly created employee handbook.

The handbook is actually a mini computer with numerous buttons that tell you everything there is to know about bar-tending. For instance, if you were to look up how to make a Tardaran Comet Tail, it would tell you how to make the drink and what its effect would be, and in this case, the drink would make you feel as if you were attacked by a swarm of killer bees, which was quite a pleasurable thing to the Tardarans. Also, it would tell you in perfect English what other species would like that particular drink, what time of day you should serve it, what a good chaser for the drink would be, and finally how many times on average the drink would be ordered in a day, week, month and year. It also did this with the other 3,784 drinks he was supposed to learn.

Very quickly Fred memorized all the ingredients in the most common drinks, like a Vevarian Haze or a Lymhon Tentacle, which would either make one feel like they were made out of bricks or clouds respectively. A couple of the more uncommon drinks he memorized are Parasite Defecators and Brick Faces, neither of which would be very polite to explain.

After his two-week training was over, Vega decided to pay Fred 200 krumets an hour, which is a very low wage for any galactic bartender. Fred never sees any of it and he doesn't expect to. However, he doesn't care as he feels the benefits of his job are amazing. He only works two hours in Vandragoth time a day, though one Vandragoth hour is the equivalent to six Earth hours. Opportunities to meet new people are always present and the job has awesome health and vision benefits. Plus he gets a free room right above the bar.

After a week of work, he fell in love with his job, and often when Fred reflects on his previous life, he realizes that this is exactly what he had been looking for all along.

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 horrifying as waking up early and discovering the fact that you are out of coffee, of that I'm sure. Please email your submission to

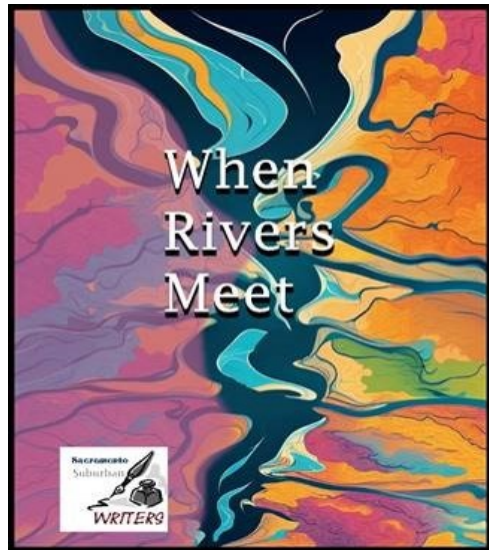
kevycastle32@gmail.com

P.S. If you're kind to him, he won't change all your passwords using a random generator.

(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

November - Chris Hennessy, Filmmaker

December - Annual Winter PARTY!

January - Susan Osborn, Flash Fiction

Future SSWC Speakers / Events

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

March - Tim Schooley, Historical (Medieval) Fiction

2025—??? It's a twisty mystery...

This page is intentionally repeated each month.

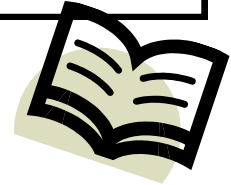
Follow the SSWC podcasts at:

<https://anchor.fm/sactowriters>

Spotify (<https://open.spotify.com/show/0UHX19RTviPkR XMzkysg6V>)

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

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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, Wes, and Linda (Cerberus)
- 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)

It's Stuffing Season! Or Stuff Your Face Season! Or Both!

Assuming we survive this election season (regardless of your political views), we can always find something to be thankful about. Family, friends, food, or simply the fact it's not 100,000 degrees outside. So write about it!

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!*