

January, 2025

Suburban Scribe

Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club Newsletter

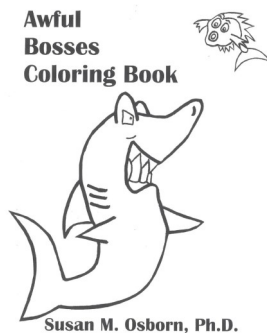
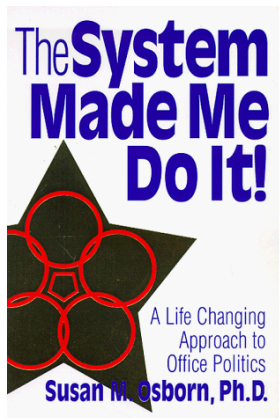
sactowriters.org

Susan Osborn will be our speaker on Monday, January 13th, at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall at 5501 Dewey Drive, corner of Dewey and Madison.

January Topic – Creating Flash Fiction

Are you aware there is a huge market for flash fiction, including numerous contests with cash prizes? In addition to preparing you to become a player in this arena, this presentation will show how writing flash fiction can be fulfilling, fast, and fun. Techniques will be provided for saying in 50 words what others say in a book. There will be opportunities to create your own flash fiction tales, so please bring a laptop or paper and pen.

Susan is a creative non-fiction author and is currently writing a book about synchronicity and coincidences. Among her publications are the Awful Bosses Coloring Book, The System Made Me Do It! A Life Changing Approach to Office Politics, and Assertive Training for Women. She created and led a seminar on flash fiction for the Renaissance Society on the Sac State campus.



PAY ATTENTION!!!

April, 2025—Sacramento Writing Workshop is hosting a 1 day event. (I went to the last one in 2019 and I highly recommend it). See here for info: <https://sacramentowritingworkshop.com/>

FREE Talk: Self-Promoting One's Writing. <https://authorspublish.com/lectures/free-talk-publicity-101-for-authors-with-caro-perny/> (A fellow SSWC member watched this and found it very helpful)

Editor's Note

The Beatles made Paperback Writing cool. Don't let their song go to waste this year!

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

PAY ATTENTION!!!

Pt. 2

The Sacramento Branch of the California Writers Club will be holding a book festival in Sacramento, at the Shepard Garden Arts Center, next to McKinley Park. Saturday, May 31, 2025, 10 am to 4 pm.

Authors can book a table at www.sacramentobookfestival.com/author-sign-up/

If you are interested in having a table for SSWC, then **please contact Ronald Smith**, and he will see how many would like to participate. CWC can be contacted directly as well. The price for sponsors and writing groups is \$100, but this includes promotion on our website and media. Through these, you can link to a landing page of your choice. As well as exposure to attract new members, you can showcase and sell selected members' books.

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.



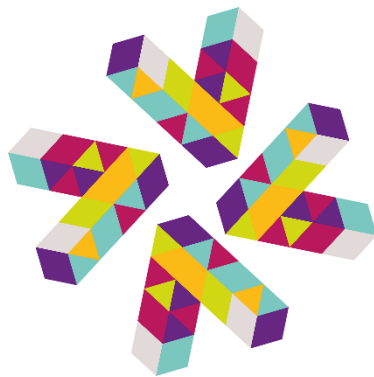
Writers' Mingle

**Now At The Jazziest
LOCATION**

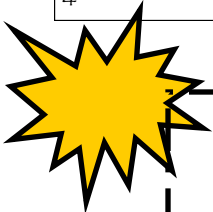
Now meeting at Denny's Roseville on Sunrise (at Douglas)

122 Sunrise Ave, Roseville, CA 95661

Saturday January 18th, 2025 --- 9 am to 11 am
All are welcome --- No toll fee for the Bridge Troll

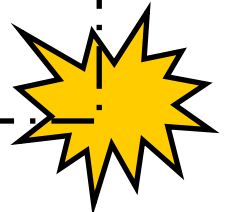


This Month's Topic:
**Creating A One Sentence Summary
Of Your Story**
By Mike Brandt



Party People - 2024 Edition

All the cool cats gathered together for a fun party to usher in the Christmas Season. We all ate way too much and had a blast. For those who missed it, you were missed. Also, you are, most definitely, the Grinch. The newsletter said as much last month.





Would You Want to be a Child in the First 20 Years of the 1900's?

By Karen Sepahmansour

How were our industries fueled? By the abuse of childhood labor. Whether rationalization of the abuse was because of a shortage of cheap labor, families' economic needs, competition or the prevention of idleness, children were the backbone of the labor market for many years.

Walter I. Trattner said, "Children have always worked." *Crusade for the Children: A History of the National Child Labor Committee and Labor Reform in America*. (Chicago: Quadrangle Books, [1970], p.21).

In the United States, kids worked in weaving rooms in manufacturing companies, cotton mills, mines and even rolling "stogies" in which they had to bite off the ends of cigars. Leaders who brought in change had their own priorities. Labor competition, cheaper wages and rugged or individualistic ideas contrasted the 1910s with the welfare of many, including children.

According to the book *1910* by John Witkovits, "An average family had to make at least \$800 a year yet unskilled labor paid less than \$500 a year." (1910 by John Witkovits, by Greenhaven Press, Inc. p. 44).

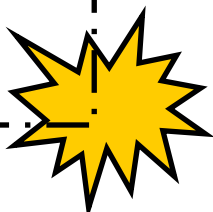
While some argued that children were keeping the wages low, others contended for better working conditions for families who were financially poor. Other concerns were that children were being deprived of their childhood activities especially if they were working over 11 hours a day. One native chieftain who was visiting New York in the very early 1900's was surprised that little children were working. His native and cultural heritage differed from what he saw in and around the big skyscrapers of New York.

Environmentally, historically, economically, and personally (needs of families) perspectives regarding childhood labor differed. Yes, it depended on the times and these years were growth industrial years in the United States and other nations.

After we broke away from England, the settlement of our colonies here in the United States required manufacturing needs and labor. No longer directly politically governed and economically a changing emerging nation, the needs for factories, mines, production, and industrial growth stimulated labor demand. Therefore, children and women began working not only at home but outside the home as well because men had farms and land to till.

Economically and personally, if you were a big plantation owner in the South or a big Northern merchant, your childhood years would have been different from a child of a poor miner with several children.

(Part 2 will be in February's Newsletter)



Intelligent Life... Or Something Like It

The Story of Zandop Izto

A Series By Kevin Castle

When buying a home, naturally one of the questions you ask is “What kind of ground is it on?” The answer hopefully is dirt or some other substance that’s compositionally conducive to normal living. If you don’t ask, though, you might be buying a house built on top of goop, or a cactus patch, or even a space whale. And that’s what happened to poor Zandop Qizto.

Zandop just turned eighteen, and as all rebellious teens do, he wanted out of his parents’ house. Naturally, he had a good reason as his parents are Varicerouns and he didn’t want to kill them. As strange as it seems, one of the rites of passage a Variceroun teen must go through in order to become an adult is they must escape the wrath of their parents. This may not seem bad to you as many races have rituals like this, but the Varicerouns are a carnivorous, warmongering race of berserkers, warriors, and barbarians. It’s literally a fight to the death.

The Variceroun race is a relatively new species of the 17th dimension, and scientists believe they evolved from the primitive duckbill platypus from the planet Earth. No one is sure how they got to Qito, the Varicerouns’ home planet, but most imagine that when no one was looking some crazed bioengineer must have taken these animals and transported them. How they got past Earth’s Intergalactic Customs Agents is beyond anyone’s grasp.

As to why they’re so angry, scientists believe it’s because of their appearance. They have consistently been voted as one of the most ridiculous looking races numerous times since their discovery. If you’ve never seen one, the involuntary response is to laugh hysterically. You just can’t help yourself. People have actually died from running out of air due to laughter.

Zandop had been watching his calendar closely and had been saving money to buy his first home which he would escape to. He hated his job at RRAAAWWRRRR!, a chain of smithies that specializes in making oversized gigantic swords, but it paid well and provided great sword sharpening tools. But of course, he procrastinated and waited till the last day possible. The day before his birthday, he scoured ads and found what he thought was a great deal, but neglected to ask important questions and bought it over the phone. It turns out that it wasn’t a smart decision.

His new house is built in a new community on the star Xirpa X2947 by the Soleare Company. The home was haphazardly built and looked more like a shack than a house. There is not even a floor though, to be fair, the normal species living on Xirpa X2947 would have no issue with this. In fact, those species would actually prefer the massive radiation, incredibly hot temperatures and solar energy, Fortunately, Zandop had some leftover money to purchase a solar bubble from the Blbee Company, which protects him from literally everything as long as he can survive inside the bubble.

After posting his situation on Spacebook, it went viral and caused all kinds of hoopla. Several websites are now rallying around his cause saying that there should be a floor, and that construction companies are cutting corners while making shoddy houses and they’re not following proper building codes. Other bloggers are saying that its common sense to investigate what you are buying, and that it’s Zandop’s fault for not looking into the house before buying it.

According to his page, he is currently debating if living on the star is any better than having to kill his parents. He has a survey up that you can vote on, if you’re so inclined. Just make sure to avoid looking at any of his pictures, as dying from laughter is no joke.

New, New, New

By M. L. Edson / Mary Lou Anderson)

A new day.

A new month.

A new year.

A new start?

New Year's Resolutions?

It's up to you.

People keep telling us how to write, how to get our stories done, instructing and maybe even trying to shame us into writing our stories. Words. But actually doing it is another ... well, another story.

Covid knocked a lot of us out of the habit, the motivation, for writing. It has been a couple of years since the restrictions on our lives were lifted. What many of us have to do now is to determine if we have the personal power to lift our self-imposed restrictions and get back into the habit of creating new stories ... or perhaps even finishing the ones we started pre-epidemic.

What can we do? Suggestions — Learn new techniques. Try writing in a new genre. Try writing poetry. Try children's stories or science fiction or a how-to manual. (Yep, more words.)

Looking for inspiration? Our Mingle meetings on the third Saturday of every month at the Roseville Denny's is worth attending. You just might find some inspiration to follow Mike Brandt's advice to create writing bucket lists.

The only way to complete those lists is to set goals and then strive to meet them.

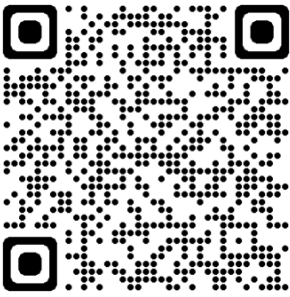


Appaloosa Radio

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.

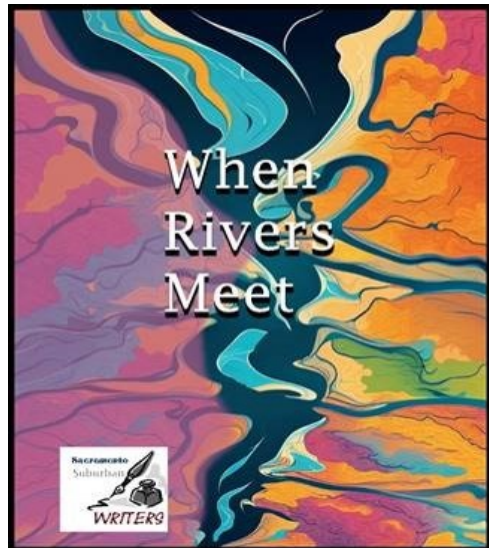
It can't be as agonizing as being like all those dull normal people... You know
whom I speak of.

Please email your submission to kevycastle32@gmail.com

P.S. If you accomplish your New Years resolutions, he won't make you do the exact opposite
of what they are.

(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

January - Susan Osborn, Flash Fiction

February - Mike Brandt, Rolling Out A Story

March - Tim Schooley, Historical (Medieval) Fiction

Future SSWC Speakers / Events

2025—??? It's a twisty mystery...

("I've got a blank space, writer, and I'll type your name.")

This page is intentionally repeated each month.

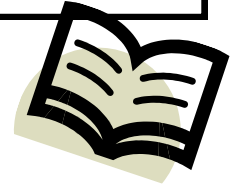
Follow the SSWC podcasts at:

<https://anchor.fm/sactowriters>

Spotify (<https://open.spotify.com/show/0UHX19RTviPkRXMzkysg6V>)

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)

We all know one of your New Years resolutions is to write more and finish that novel you've been working on for the past four score and seven years. (Yes, I'm talking to myself too.)

So set a goal, clear out your calendar, put your phone on Do Not Disturb far away in another room, and get busy.

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!