

February, 2025

Suburban Scribe

Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club Newsletter

sactowriters.org

Brandon Michaels (aka Michael Brandt) will be our speaker on Monday, February 10th, at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall at 5501 Dewey Drive, corner of Dewey and Madison.

February Topic – Rolling Out a Story

Back by popular demand! Brandon Michaels (AKA Michael Brandt), our June 2024 presenter and a frequent speaker at the SSWC Mingle, returns with a new workshop: Rolling Out a Story

In this workshop, Brandon will answer the following: *What are some of the tricks to perfecting a dynamite story and an ending that will knock the reader off the seat of their chairs?*

Brandon Michaels is a writer, speaker, and adventurer who is also a retired Los Angeles police officer. He served the residents of the city for 28 years as a homicide detective, mostly gang homicides. Afterwards, he became the director of the Health Care Fraud Department for 15 years, and fully retired from work in 2011. In his free time, he writes short stories, anthologies, and international travel articles. He is currently working on a mountain climbing thriller novel called Ice Killer.



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/>

Editor's Note:

Dues are due
What shall we do?
I paid mine,
How about you?

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

Future SSWC Speakers / Events

February - Mike Brandt, Rolling Out A Story

March - Tim Schooley, Historical (Medieval) Fiction

April - Kim Orendor, Memoir and Young Adult Fiction

May - Party Time! (You've gotta fight... for your right...)

Future SSWC Speakers / Events

June - Anara Guard, Novelist and Poet

July - Catharine Bramkamp, Story Coach

2025 - It's a twisty mystery...

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

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 Most
Mysterious Location**

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

122 Sunrise Ave, Roseville, CA 95661

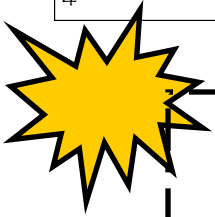
Saturday February 15th, 2025 --- 9 am to 11 am
All are welcome --- No toll fee for the Bridge Troll



This Month's Topic:

“How to create a twisty mystery”

By Mary Lou Anderson



Going Home

By Celia Glacken

The sidewalk was hard and cold. His blanket was gone. Stolen. Goose bumps exploded on his flesh as he pulled his knees closer seeking warmth. Traffic had stopped. In spite of the stabbing pain to his brain from last night's cheap whiskey, he sat up to discover the reason.

The world was suddenly silent except for the slow clapping hooves of a sleek black horse coming up the avenue, his coat shimmering in the sun. A giant purple feather bending in the breeze adorned his head. His powerful legs pulled an ancient hearse crafted of glass rippled with age, trimmed in ornately carved wood painted all in white. Within lay a white coffin topped with fat white magnolia blossoms. The Black coachman in tails and top hat sat tall holding the reins. A ray of sunlight struck the silver buckle on his boot igniting a blurry memory in Smitty Brown's brain that was stuck like old food on a fork. A solemn procession of cars rolled quietly behind. A cop on a motorcycle blocked the intersection directing traffic. In slow motion, the ancient wagon turned the corner onto the Boulevard.

Bile rose from his belly. His mouth watered vacillating between nausea and desire for the taste and the burn of whiskey on his tongue. A few doors down was St. Paul's Church where a lifetime ago Mama took him, Sissy, and Marvin to Sunday School.

As he grasped for the fuzzy memory, he dug deep in his pocket for loose change. He felt a thin envelope and pulled it out. On the front in familiar handwriting was his name, addressed "In Care Of Front Street Mission." Slowly, it was coming back to him. He remembered being at the mission a day or two ago. He tore the envelope open. He removed a single sheet of pale blue stationery dated November 28. A twenty dollar bill fell out.

"Mama died last week. Her funeral is at 1:00 O'clock Saturday, December 5th, St. Paul's. I'm enclosing cab money. Please come home. We miss you. We love you." It was signed, "Sissy."

A man walked toward him on the sidewalk.

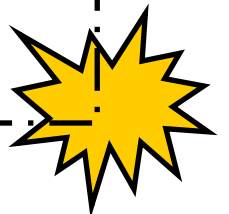
"Excuse me sir," "What day is it?"

"It's Saturday, December 5th."

"What time is it?"

He pulled back a woolen sleeve. "It's 3:00 O'Clock." The man stepped around him continuing his walk.

Smitty slipped the envelope back into his pocket. The mournful cadence of the marching horse faded, echoing the moment and the thousands before it. Mama always said she wanted a horse-drawn carriage to take her home. Clutching the twenty dollar bill, he crossed the street to Willy's Bottle Shop.





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

By Karen Sepahmansour

(Continued from January's Newsletter)

Why did it take so long for children to be protected?

As early as 1870, reformers wanted and made efforts to legislate against specific labor practices. For example, in 1876 the Working Men's Party proposed banning the employment of children under the age of 14. (VCU Libraries Social Welfare History Project) by Catherine A. Paul. Their proposals would end up as just that, proposals but gave the impetus for future legislation.

Eventually reformers, including church groups, teachers and different labor groups were becoming outraged at the problems of overuse of childhood labor practices. In the U.S., the South was more accepting of child labor than was the North. According to Catherine Paul's article, some factories were prohibited in the North. Textile mills in the South employed many children.

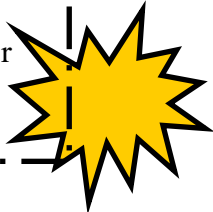
The National Child Labor Committee formed in 1904 published information about abusive child labor practices. Lewis Hine, a photographer, took one picture of kids working at a glass works place until midnight in Indiana. Other more personal stories include the story of Camella Teoli. The young girl, at 14, appeared before Congress while President Howard Taft and his wife, Helen Taft were present. Camella testified about the harsh working conditions in Lawrence, Massachusetts. During the time she worked, her hair was stuck in a machine and it ripped part of her scalp which needed medical assistance. It was found that her father falsified papers regarding her age. Any information contrary to what she said was welcomed by the opposing side of child labor reform. Regardless, the president helped form the Children's Bureau which was comprised of researchers regarding children's labor situations. Although it had no legal or administrative authority, the bureau shed light on the horrifying conditions of the labor abuse.

In 1906 Senator Beveridge of Indiana helped pass a law that outlawed the transport of child labor articles mined or manufactured in interstate commerce if under the age of 14. Families and children circumvented the law by going to their home state after work so ways to hold people accountable became arduous. Besides, the Supreme Court said that states overstepped their boundaries of regulating commerce.

As arguments for child labor reform permeated the states and federal lawmakers, arguments against it ranged from family matters to federal interference in the states and business groups including textile and rural (agricultural) groups.

Educational concerns from secularists as well as religious groups fueled the demand for changes in our federal laws.

As is usual, time passed with increased concerns for labor policy not only for children, but women and others as well. Federal protection of children was not obtained until passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act in 1938. Typically, it applies to prevention of hazardous work (to health) and education for anyone who is a minor. The FLSA and the youth employment regulations issued at 29 CFR, Part 570, establish both hours and occupational standards for youth.



Your Annual SSWC Subscription

By M. L. Edson / Mary Lou Anderson)

Dues are due. Oh, you've heard that before?

Well, dues are due again, still, yearly, regularly.

Everyone wants a raise, and since 0 x 2000% is still ZERO, we've promised all who volunteer a 2000% raise, compounded weekly! And we don't even have to raise our yearly dues to cover it.

So, help the club maintain its great selection of speakers, help cover costs that are incurred, help pay my way to Hawaii by sending your dues in. (The last part about Hawaii isn't true. Duh!)

You can bring your payment to the next meeting or mail it to either Jeannie Turner or me, Mary Lou Anderson. Our addresses are on the membership list on the website. You can email me at mledsonanderson@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Then come one and all to our meetings. This is, I believe, our 70th year of being a terrific writers' club. Help us maintain our strong support of all writers everywhere.

Look Back

A poem made into lyrics on YouTube

By Cle Curbo

Look back in your life
 Look back to many ifs and maybes
 Look back to live a thousand lies
 Don't worry
 Your dreams have all survived
 Hold back those fears of taking lesser paths
 Look ahead
 You have infinite choices crazy
 Know there are only messy paths
 And guessing ifs and maybes
 Life is sudden and it's crazy
 Budding innocent and lazy
 Life the possibilities are endless
 Strife, the nature of our envy
 Look back in your life
 Look back to many ifs and maybes
 Look back to live a thousand lies
 Don't worry
 Your dreams have all survived

It can be found on his youtube channel:

<https://youtu.be/MsWKL6UXNzk?si=I3kT211PtFXisPpx>

It's 'twenty-five
 And **dues are due**
 She paid hers
 And you can. too!

The year is new
 And **dues are due**
 He paid his
 How about you?

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 dull as listening to that listless monotone professor drone on about statistics - you know the one.

Please email your submission to kevycastle32@gmail.com

P.S. If you send in your dues, he won't make you join his band of rabble rousers (unless you want to, of course).

Submissions are for members only. Annual membership is super cheap and may or may not give your superpowers. Feel free to email Kevin the Newsletter Goblin with questions.

This page is intentionally repeated each month.

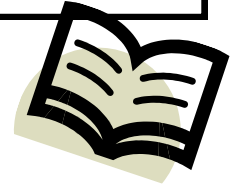
Follow the SSWC podcasts at:

<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

\$\$\$\$\$\$

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)

PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES..
Make it your mission this month.

Seriously, it costs less per month than an overpriced latte, and not only are you supporting your friends, you are making a contribution towards the writing community in the greater Sacramento Metropolitan area.

Your favorite Newsletter Goblin is happy to answer questions.

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!