

Southern California Writers Association

The Perennial Writers Conference

September 2019 Newsletter



Volume 18, Number 9 – September 2019

President's Message

Larry Porricelli, SCWA President

Fellow SCWA Writers - Become an SCWA Row Honoree!

Every month the SCWA offers a monthly Writers Contest called, Write for Food.

The only limit is it must be **1000 words or less**. Yes, 1000 words may seem mere, but there can be a thousand spectacular images conjured with every one of them. The stories read are sometimes jarring, violent, and unfriendly, as well as bright, brilliant, distinctive and lively.

Entries that are more than (*) 1000 words, are burned, and the ashes spread over Potter's Field in Hannibal, Missouri. (SCWA feels that nurtures classic literature.)

Winners become a part of SCWA Row - a run of stories we will publish online at the end of the year under our banner.

We evaluate the stories monthly. You have until the Wednesday before the monthly meeting date to submit, and you may submit to me at: lorenzo212@gmail.com

"Write, Mortimer, write!"

A note from our Social Media and Communications Maven, Diana Pardee:
Check out our SCWA Facebook link and join us for excerpts, discussions and encouragements.

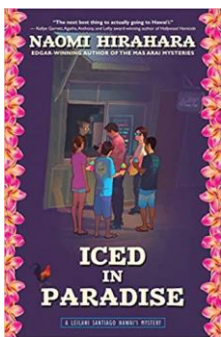
Follow us, we'd love to see you there!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/160332824032519>

**Joining us September 21st, 2019
NAOMI HIRAHARA
“Creating Unique Characters for a Series”**



-One of our favorite LitUp authors will be joining us in September.



Naomi Hirahara, born and raised in Southern California, is the Edgar Award-winning author of the seven Mas Arai mystery series, which features a Japanese American gardener and atomic-bomb survivor who solves crimes (SUMMER OF THE BIG BACHI, GASA-GASA GIRL, SNAKESKIN SHAMISEN, BLOOD HINA and STRAWBERRY YELLOW).

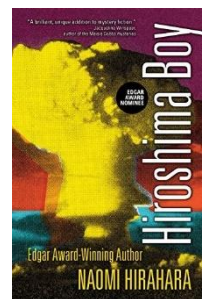
Books in this series have been translated into Japanese, Korean, and French.

ICED IN PARADISE, A Leilani Santiago Mystery is Hirahara's newest series.

MURDER ON BAMBOO LANE, her mystery series with a female twentysomething LAPD bicycle cop, Ellie Rush, was released with Berkley Prime Crime in spring 2014. Her next in the series, A GRAVE ON GRAND AVENUE, was released in April 2015.

She also has penned a middle-grade novel, 1001 CRANES, which was chosen as an Honor Book for the Youth Literature of the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature in 2009.

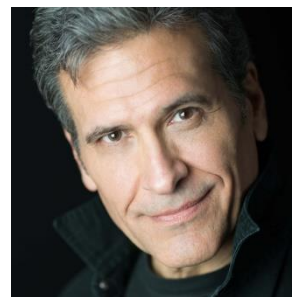
A former editor of the largest Japanese American newspaper in the U.S., she also has released a number of nonfiction works. A number of her short stories have been included in various anthologies.



For more information, go to her website, www.naomihirahara.com.

Joining us October 19th, 2019

Jason Culp



Jason Culp is a theater and film actor and narrator of a number of bestselling audiobooks, including *AMERICAN CARNAGE*, now on the NYT and Amazon bestseller lists. For over twenty years he has narrated audiobooks for James Patterson, David Baldacci, Clive Cussler, Daniel Silva, James Ellroy, and a slew of Louis L'Amour westerns. He has also narrated a number of excellent non-fiction books including bestselling books on leadership, economics, sports, and politics.

Jason has recently narrated Emma Donoghue's *AKIN*, a project for which he commented,

“There are a few times in an actor's life when a role comes along, and you think, this is mine. I have to do this. I've only had that a few times, and this was one of them.” —Narrator Jason Culp

Highlights: AUGUST

D.P. LYLE

Introducing Characters, Good, Bad, and Ugly



SCWA HIGHLIGHTS D. P. Lyle August 17, 2019

“Introducing Characters: The Good, The Bad, and The Quirky”

What would you do if you had a child who slept only four and a half to five hours each night and was up for the day at 4:30 a.m.? The family of this young dynamo in Huntsville, Alabama, definitely were upset but somehow learned to live with their unique Douglas P. Lyle and help him thrive. And thrive he has. D. P. Lyle went on to become a cardiologist and a forensic scientist. In addition, while the rest of us sleep, at night he writes.

Lyle has published seventeen non-fiction and fiction books and is currently working on books 22 and 23. These have made him an Amazon #1 Bestselling author and winner of many awards. He has three series going: one about Samantha Cody, Dub Walker, and his Jake Longly thrillers. Some of his non-fiction is *Forensics for Dummies*, *Forensics: A Guide for Writers (Howdunit)*, and *Forensics and Fiction*. He's also worked with many novelists and writers of popular TV shows such as *Law and Order*, *Pretty Little Liars*, *CSI: Miami*, *Monk*, *House*, etc.

All that writing led to seventy blogs, hosted and co-hosted radio shows on his website for listening, and a podcast series (“Why people kill each other”) of twenty-five shows, each 20-30 minutes long. His newest book, *Skin in the Game*, comes out Oct. 8, 2019, and he’s currently working on *Sunshine State* (A Jake Longly comedic Thriller #3) and *Rigged* (Jake Longly #4) appearing May 19, 2020.

Even with forty-plus years of cardiology behind him, Doug Lyle, M.D. is still in his Laguna Hills office two days a week seeing his cardiology patients. Whew!

Writing seems to come naturally to Lyle. He says if you live in the South, “(y)ou have to be able to tell a story.” In fact, if you can’t, “they won’t feed you.” You learn to develop subplots and “funny” situations. (He adds, “You have to understand football to understand the South.”)

How to get into a character: “If I were describing myself to get my character, what would I have this character thinking?” Lyle says you have “one chance to make an impression and hook the reader.” We want characters people like. All fiction seems story driven. “Few movies develop character. Today stuff just blows up.”

Lyle read from several books to show how their authors indicate setting, the time frame, and the character’s “take on life.” He read the openings by Raymond Chandler from *The Long Goodbye* (“What made this guy so cynical?”) and *Trouble Is My Business* that demonstrates the attitude of the female protagonist. “Sometimes you can introduce a character through another character,” as Burke does with characters Clete Purcel and Wesley Potts in *The Neon Rain*. In reading from his own *Skin in the Game*, Lyle demonstrated how to make a character part of a theme. *Method 15/33* by Shannon Kirk is the story of infant traffickers who capture pregnant women and then kill the mothers after their babies are born. However, those agents don’t realize that one of the women is a “brilliant sociopath.”

Lyle also read from Lee Child’s first Jack Reacher novel, *Killing Floor*, saying that in a series, you “introduce characters that you can use in later books.” Further along, he said, “You’re a slave to what you did in book #1.” However, Lyle doesn’t care about character arcs. “In a series, the character couldn’t stay the same.” He also thinks too much is made about story structure. “At the end of the day, there is no one-way to do it.”

As to physical descriptions, Lyle says, “Raymond Chandler has none but yet describes a character’s inner world.” If everyone read the same novel and then saw the same film made of the novel, Lyle declares that the feeling would be that we all saw the same movie but read a different book. “Sometimes the character you see in a movie is not the character you ‘saw’ when you read the book.” So describe people’s inner character, “not what they look like. Don’t have them staring in a mirror.” Lyle remarked that actor Tom Cruise is much shorter than protagonist Jack Reacher, but Cruise “nails the character.”

Harper Lee did all the research for *In Cold Blood*. Then Truman Capote took that non-fiction story and added fictional characters. Lyle thinks it’s one of the best books written. It also created “a new genre.”

When Lyle met author Elmore Leonard, he asked about the “the scumbags” that Leonard creates. Leonard said, “Once I’ve got the name, I know the character.” The two seem to agree that authors need to write the story fast and not worry about the minutiae because they don’t know the characters yet. “Once you get the first draft, then you know the characters. Live with these people but don’t be rigid.”

To develop the settings for places you’ve never been, Lyle says to go there and then write down the first three things you notice. Next, write the next six visuals that catch your eye. Is there a pattern there for a visitor? “It’s hard to write about a place you know well because what was interesting to you once is no longer.”

When asked if readers’ expectations have changed because of media games, Lyle’s answer is Yes. “James Patterson writes short paragraphs because they are cinematic.” Very important for thrillers. “People’s attention-spans are so much shorter now.” (“E-books is where the money is now in books.”)

In answering when to put in flashbacks and backstory, Lyle says when you put those in, they determine the pace. “If it’s too much too soon, the readers don’t understand.” If those elements seem to stop the story, they aren’t needed at that time. “Readers don’t need the whole data dump.”

Our speaker was very specific about his own writing habits. He stopped outlining because it “bored him to death.” He feels he writes dialogue best. When going over a manuscript the second time, he cleans up the dialogue and also adds “more internal stuff and information.” He has no set time to write. “If I don’t feel like writing, I don’t.” He also researches data for his settings. Does that little town have a coroner? What’s the business section like? What’s the traffic flow? He loves using Scrivener at www.literatureandlatte.com. It

organizes your writing and can even color-code it. “You always want your work in two different places: Scrivener and in Pages or Word. He keeps lists of his characters with notes about who has guns, what kind of cars, the streets they live on, etc.

Our speaker left us with hope. “Writers get discouraged that you can’t write as well as someone else—but after a while, you say, ‘Well—maybe.’”

With all these accomplishments behind him while he’s tackling new ones, Douglas P. Lyle does admit that the sleeping habits of his childhood have changed. These days he needs close to six hours of sleep a night.

See www.dplylemd.com and <http://writersforensicsblog.wordpress.com>.

Glenda Brown Rynn, Reporter
grynn@cox.net

Lit Up for Tuesday, September 24th

Lit Up! Orange County is 7pm **Tuesday, September 24th** at our NEW LOCATION Bardot & Bars in Tustin at 662 El Camino Real in the Camino Real Shopping Center in Old Town Tustin.

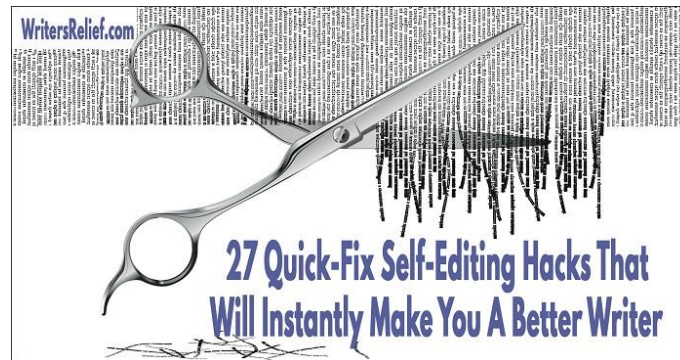
Easy location off Newport Avenue just north of the 5 freeway in the Camino Real Shopping Center in Old Town Tustin. You’ll find Bardot & Bars tucked in the far left corner near the Encore Theater.

-- Smart People and Caffeinated Conversation! --

Beat the September heat. Join us **Tuesday night September 24th** for an entertaining night of readings and smart conversation with **Joe De Ladurantey, Kathy Porter, William Zellinger, and Janet Elizabeth Lynn**. What a lineup!

Bring your friends and meet other readers and writers. Enjoy the casual vibe along with delicious coffee, ice cream and a light food menu

NEW ! Links for Writers



A list so good it's worth including here again...

1. Format to industry standards (simple font, traditional spacing and margins, name/title/page number in the header of every page).
2. Read aloud for sentences that flow well and convincing dialogue.
3. Jump right in: Delete any “warm-up” paragraphs that stall the main action.
4. Scrap unnecessarily fancy words.
5. Delete repetitive language (i.e., *she muttered softly, he shouted loudly*).
6. Cut adverbs.
7. Swap weak verbs for strong ones.
8. Rearrange sentences that start with “it” or “that.”
9. Convert passive sentences to active sentences.
10. Be suspicious of sentences that start with participles or gerunds.
11. Reword sentences that ramble.
12. Cut long sentences in half.
13. Find and replace words that you overuse.
14. Streamline bulky stage directions.
15. Toss out unnecessary blocking—stage directions or descriptions of actions that could be quickly summarized.
16. Watch for “empty” character responses (i.e., *she said nothing* or *he didn't reply*).
17. Check description for word choices that convey shifting moods so that the mood of each scene is unique.
18. Trim description to your very best lines or phrases—and delete the rest.
19. Delete your paragraph “topic sentences” that “explain” what is already being shown. For example: *She was mad. Her face turned red and she crossed her arms.*
20. Rewrite narrative clichés (though you may want to hang on to colloquialisms for characters' words and thoughts).
21. Show, don't tell.
22. Delete unnecessary attributions. There's no need to write “he said” if we already know he's talking.
23. Cut out anything but “said” (forget *she sulked* or *he opined*).
24. Scrutinize long passages when characters are left alone. Find a way to dramatize internal monologues.
25. Delete unnecessary character actions/musings that slow down or interrupt the pacing of natural dialogue.
26. Rename characters whose names starts with the same first letter or whose names sound too similar.
27. Kill your darlings. In other words, delete anything that sounds too “writerly” or fancy.

TALK BACK TO US! Sharon Goldinger, Diana Pardee, and I spend hours every day scanning the publishing media for new and pertinent information. We could drown you all in the content we find – and will be happy to share.

We need to know what we can find for you...content on CRAFT? Content on PUBLISHING TRENDS? How about links to AGENTS? What about articles on ways to maximize your Amazon experience?

The options are endless. Let us know which ones we can flag for the newsletter. Your suggestions for topics will sync with SCWA program opportunities, Facebook posts, and newsletter content.

Post your suggestions on the SCWA Facebook page, or send to me, Pam, at Sheppardedits@gmail.com

*****Fire up your SEND button:**

The SCWA Newsletter will include announcements of your **Works-In-Progress**. Send a note, a blurb, a shout out, or a cry for help to Pam at sheppardedits@gmail.com and we will all start applauding your accomplishments.

It's never too early to start the marketing machine for your book!

SCWA Mission

The mission of the SCWA is to provide a forum for promoting the welfare, fellowship, spirit, education, information, and encouragement among published and unpublished writers in the Southern California area,

SCWA Active Member Benefits

Active members receive a 30% discount at every SCWA meeting.
SCWA provides scholarships to members who attend writer's conferences.
SCWA members receive a free review and 30-minute consultation from Sharon Goldinger for any publishing contract.

SCWA Critique Program – see below.

Discounts are available for active SCWA members for registration for the La Jolla Writer's Conference, and for early registration for the Southern California Writers' Conference, which is held twice annually in San Diego and Orange County.

SCWA Critique Program

We have some exciting news on the critique front. One of our members received a critique, and he credits that critique with getting him a two-day response from an agent, who wants to see the entire manuscript. We love it when that happens.

Critique requests should be sent to Steve Jackson at steven@stevengjackson.com. If you have not received a response to a previous critique request, please resubmit (without any fee if you've already paid) to Steve. Steve will direct your sample (up to 15 double-spaced pages) to one of the Board members once we receive your payment. Payments (\$20.00 for members and \$30.00 for nonmembers) should be directed to Don Westenhaver.

- Check payable to SCWA: mail to Don at 5391 Fox Hills Ave., Buena Park, CA 90621
- Credit Card: advise Steve that you will pay by credit card. He will have Don send you an invoice with instructions on how to pay through the SCWA Square account.

Have a Question about a Publishing Contract?

Contracts involving publishing matters can be confusing if you're not familiar with all the language. What does something mean? What questions should I be asking? Do I have any other choices? If you're not sure what you're reading, what a term or section means, or if you should be signing the contract at all, SCWA is offering a new benefit. SCWA member, publishing consultant, and book shepherd Sharon Goldinger is offering a free review and thirty-minute consultation for any publishing contract to any SCWA member. You can reach her directly at pplspeak@att.net.

“Will Write for Food” Contest

The “Will Write for Food” contest is a monthly blind competition. Winners are selected by a literary agent. First prize includes publication in the SCWA Newsletter, a certificate, and a \$25 cash prize.

You may write on any subject. Stories have a maximum of 1000 words. The winner will be announced at the next SCWA meeting.

To enter, email your story meeting@ocwriter.com or to lorenzo212@gmail.com.

There are no limits to the number of times you can win. Join the fun and earn some rewards.

***See Larry's President's message for more excellent information!

Monthly Meeting Information and Map

Meeting Location:

Claim Jumper Restaurant

Banquet Room entrance, rear of building
18050 Brookhurst St., Fountain Valley, CA
Restaurant telephone: (714) 963-6711

Registration & Networking: 9:30 a.m.
Meeting: 10:00 a.m.
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.
Afternoon Program: 12:30 p.m.

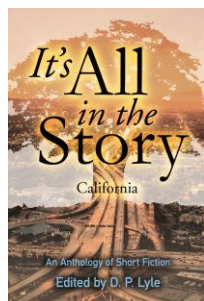


Meeting Fees (cash, check or credit/debit)

Reservation Type	SCWA Member	Student	Others
RSVP	\$25	\$15	\$35

SCWA Board of Directors

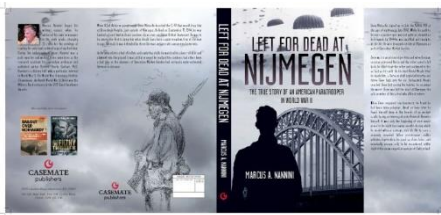
PresidentLarry Porricelli
Vice President of Membership Steven G. Jackson
Vice President of Finances and Communication Don Westenhaver
Vice President of Programming Madeline Margarita
Director of Social Media Diana Pardee
Webmaster Brennan Harvey
Newsletter Editor Pam Sheppard
Newsletter Speaker ReporterGlenda Rynn



The SCWA Anthology, ***It's All in the Story***, went to a second printing to meet the demand of wholesalers and bookstores. We have books for direct sales (\$15 for one, \$12.50 each for two, \$10 each for three or more). You may contact Don Westenhaver to arrange for payment, and we will have the copies available for you at the next SCWA meeting. Don can be reached at donwestenhaver@roadrunner.com.

For more information visit the SCWA Anthology website at:
www.SCWAanthology.com

SCWA Members' New Releases



Left For Dead at Nijmegen, March 2019
By Marcus Nannini

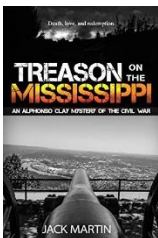
****Now a permanent addition to the United States National Archives!**



SKIN IN THE GAME, October 8, 2019
By D.P. Lyle

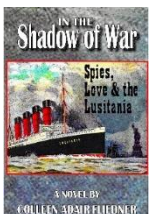
A Cain / Harper thriller: “

Terrific—truly sinister, scary, and suspenseful.
Lyle NEVER lets you down.” -- LEE CHILD, #1 NYT bestselling author.



TREASON ON THE MISSISSIPPI (An Alphonso Clay mystery of the Civil War)
By Jack Martin

A story of death, love, and redemption during Grant's campaign in the West.
<https://jacksmartin.com>



IN THE SHADOW OF WAR: Spies, Love & the Lusitania
By Coleen Adair Fliedner

<https://colleenfliedner.com>

Hardcover, paperback, and ebook available on Amazon

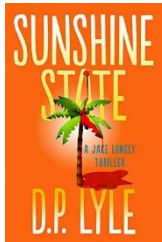


Twenty-Three Minutes: A Howard Hamilton Ride-Along

By J. C. DE LADURANTEY

Available through Amazon Digital Services LLC | Mar 20, 2019

A real day for LAPD – sex, drugs, police corruption, and yes, soccer moms.



Sunshine State (The Jake Longly Series)

May, 2019

By DP Lyle

“Serial killer’s message to PI Jake Longly: Two of those seven murders I confessed to are not mine—but I won’t tell you which two.”

Available in Hardcover and on Kindle



I AM...A Character (April 2019)

By PJ Colando www.pjcolando.com



Richard Miller Morgan’s CROWN HUNT 3/19

Note: The SCWA Newsletter will be happy to announce members’ newly released books published within three months of newsletter pub date. Send a thumbnail of the cover and a tagline to Pam at sheppardedits@gmail.com.

SCWA Member Publications and Productions

<u>Author</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Year</u>
Belmont, Julie	<i>Creativity Business Plan for Artists at Heart</i>	2014
Belmont, Julie	<i>The Path to Personal Success and Freedom; Turning Hurdles into Stepping Stones</i>	2005
Caffrey, Dot	<i>Cursed Power</i>	2015
	<i>Awakening Powers</i>	2014
Colando, PJ	<i>The Winner’s Circle</i>	2019
	<i>Hashes & Bashes</i>	2016
	<i>Stashes</i>	2014
Crayne, Victory	<i>Rebuilt</i>	2016
	<i>Humans Only</i>	2016
	<i>Freedom</i>	2015
DeLadurantey, Joseph	<i>Twenty-Three Minutes: A Howard Hamilton Ride-Along</i>	2019
	<i>Making Your Memories with Rock & Roll and Doo Wop</i>	2016

Dingus, Peter Donenfeld-Vernoux, AR	<i>Cowards, Crooks, and Warriors</i>	2015
	<i>Worlds in Transition</i>	2017
	<i>Pudel & Cie: Case #1 Moroney Boloney</i>	2015
	<i>Cave Dreams</i>	2014
Dunlap, Larry J Fink, Sheri	<i>Out of the Chute</i>	2014
	<i>How To Get And Keep The Best Jobs:Secrets HR Won't Tell You</i>	
	<i>Night People</i>	2015
	<i>The Little Unicorn</i>	2018
	<i>Counting Sea Life with the Little Seahorse</i>	2017
	<i>Cake in Bed</i>	2016
	<i>My Bliss Book</i>	2015
	<i>The Little Seahorse</i>	2014
	<i>The Little Firefly</i>	2013
	<i>The Little Gnome</i>	2012
	<i>Exploring the Garden with the Little Rose</i>	2012
	<i>The Little Rose</i>	2011
	<i>In the Shadows of War, Spies, Love & the Lusitania</i>	2019
	<i>Possessed by Baseball</i>	2013
Fliedner, Colleen Gilmore, Susan Kay Giussani, Sara	<i>Malibu</i>	2015
	<i>Come fare... La valutazione di un processo aziendale</i>	2014
	<i>Management dei processi aziendali</i>	2012
Jackson, Steven G	"The Optimism of Youth"	2018
	"Full Service"	2017
	"Life Dies, and Then You Suck"	2017
	"The Master Playwright"	2016
	"The Asylum for Rejected Characters"	2016
	<i>The Zeus Payload</i>	2015
	"Fade to Crazy"	2015
	"The Loan Officer"	2014
	<i>Symfonie Fantastique</i>	2011
King, Roy Klann, Nancy	<i>The Clock of Life</i>	2012
	<i>Like The Flies On The Patio</i>	2012

Lambert, Harlen, Sharron

Affairs of the Heart, Vol. 2 2017
Affairs of the Heart, Vol. 1 2016

Levine, Jennifer *Summer Secrets* 2016

Lloyd, Rita Lee Lyle, DP (Doug)	<i>How to Survive in the 21st Century as a SSOFF</i>	2011
	<i>Sunshine State</i>	2019
	<i>A-List</i>	2018
	<i>Deep Six</i>	2016
	<i>Forensics for Dummies, 2nd edition</i>	2016
	<i>Original Sin</i>	2015
	<i>Devil's Playground</i>	2015
	<i>Double Blind</i>	2015
	<i>Murder and Mayhem</i>	2013
	<i>Royal Pains: Sick Rich</i>	2012
	<i>Run To Ground</i>	2012
	<i>Thriller3: Love Is Murder (Short Story)</i>	2012
	<i>ABA Fundamentals: Understanding Forensic Science</i>	2012
	<i>Royal Pains: First, Do No Harm</i>	2011
	<i>Hot Lights, Cold Steel</i>	2011
	<i>Thrillers: 100 Must Reads (Essay)</i>	2010
	<i>Stress Fracture</i>	2010
	<i>Howdunnit: Forensics: A Guide For Writers</i>	2008
	<i>Forensics and Fiction</i>	2007
	<i>Rapid Story Development: Bust the Top Ten Creative Writing</i>	
Lyons, Jeff	<i>Myths to Become a Better Writer</i>	2018

Lyons, Jeff	<i>Rapid Story Development: Commerical Pace in Fiction & Creative Nonfiction</i>	2018
Lyons, Jeff	<i>Rapid Story Development: Ten Questions Every Writer Needs to Ask Before They Hire a Consultant</i>	2018
	<i>13 Minutes</i>	2018
	<i>Anatomy of a Premise Line</i>	2016
	<i>Jack Be Dead</i>	2016
Marsh, Sonia	<i>My Gutsy Story Anthology</i>	2013
	<i>Freeways to Flip-Flops</i>	2012
Marshall, Evelyn	<i>Concerning Georgia Stekker</i>	2014
	<i>The Way They See</i>	2013
	<i>The Provider</i>	2012
Martin, Jack	<i>Treason on the Mississippi</i>	2019
Martinez, Maria	<i>The Apple Tree Wish</i>	2012
Michaels, Jeffrey J.	<i>The Age of Change: A Challenging Path to the Future</i>	2017
	<i>Becomes Us All</i>	2016
	<i>A Day at the Beach</i>	2015
	<i>Tasa's Path</i>	2015
	<i>How to Become The True You</i>	2015
	<i>Light: The Reason for Existence</i>	2012
	<i>Beings: A Journey to Joy</i>	2010
	<i>Touch the Earth: A Path to Ascension</i>	2009
	<i>Crystal Experience: Manifest an Extraordinary Life</i>	2007
	<i>Harmonic Coalescence, the Future of Humanity</i>	2007

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Marshall, Evelyn	<i>Concerning Georgia Stekker</i>	2014
	<i>The Way They See</i>	2013
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<i>Crystal Experience: Manifest an Extraordinary Life</i>	2007
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	<i>Twisted Webs</i>	
	<i>Webs of Power</i>	2008
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Sayer, Dirk B.	<i>Best Case Scenario</i>	2018
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	<i>Personal Healthcare Record (Child)</i>	2011
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Westenhaver, Don	<i>Missing Star</i>	2017
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	<i>The Whiplash Hypothesis</i>	2008
	<i>The Red Turtle Project</i>	2008
	<i>Nero's Concert</i>	2008
Williams, Marianna	<i>Love, Regret and Accidental Nudity</i>	2014
	<i>The Valentine State</i>	2013
	<i>Stars or Stripes Fourth of July</i>	2011
	<i>Happy New Year, Darling</i>	2005
Woodcock, Don	<i>A Lily Named Lillian</i>	2015

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