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Southern California Writer's Association

April 2022

- **President Larry Porricelli's Message**
- **April's Featured Event: Craig Martelle SPECIAL EVENT at the Regency San Juan Capistrano Theater**
- **NEW! Publishing News and Insights**
- **Hump Day: Every Wednesday 10 a.m. on SCWA Facebook Group page.**
****Hump Day is on Vacation until April 30**
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southernwriters>
- **Debby's Room: Wednesdays 10:20 a.m. following Hump Day (on the SCWA Facebook page ROOMS tab)**
- **Highlights: Janis Thomas: "Crafting Killer Scenes."**



Have you subscribed?

Check out our fancy new URL for the YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SCWAWritersOnline>

Announcement for April 2022 from Larry Porricelli



LIVE FROM REGENCY SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO THEATRE—SCWA!

*"We are all strong, each in our purpose,
and we are all the more strong together."*
—Bram Stoker, Dracula

Fellow Writers of SCWA,

This month we will welcome you all to be a part of our live meeting from the beautiful Regency San Juan Capistrano Theatre featuring renowned author and perhaps the world's leading independent publishing guru.

SCWA will be offering not only a virtual meeting on Zoom but also a continental breakfast and light lunch as well at the Regency SJC Theatre.

We encourage you to join us at the theatre if you can and enjoy what has always been the strongpoint of SCWA—our fellowship and camaraderie as we enjoy the important speakers who affect our lives as authors.

We also offer a way for you to join us virtually.

Please check out page 7 in this newsletter issue, and make a reservation online at our website, www.southernwriters.org, as our seating will be limited at the theatre.

We will have plenty of surprises and special features at the theatre.

Hope to see you there.

Larry Porricelli



From Mary Oliver for Poetry Month

"It is a silver morning like any other. I am at my desk. Then the phone rings, or someone raps on the door. I am deep in the machinery of my wits. Reluctantly I rise, I answer the phone or I open the door. And the thought which I had in hand, or almost in hand, is gone. Creative work needs solitude. It needs concentration, without interruptions.

It needs the whole sky to fly in, and no eye watching until it comes to that certainty which it aspires to, but does not necessarily have at once. Privacy, then. A place apart—to pace, to chew pencils, to scribble and erase and scribble again. "

Your April To-Do List

- **RENEW your SCWA Membership—consider all the benefits! Meetings, friends, speakers, writing tips, friends, publishing insider information, support, Member's Showcase, workshops, and all the friends. RENEW by April 31 to maintain your website presence and stay in the Facebook Members only group. Remember your books, showcase, and profile stay on the website for active members only.**
- **Participate in the SCWA Bookstore.**
- **SUBSCRIBE to the SCWA WRITERS ONLINE YouTube channel and enjoy all the Hump Day interviews, 18 featured speakers, and 8 workshops**



SCWA Events This Month: April 2022

- SCWA Featured Monthly Guest, Craig Martelle, April 16, 2022 at 10 a.m. PT on Zoom and for an in-person at the Regency San Juan Capistrano Theater. See page 7 for more details.
Register at: <https://www.southerncafwriters.org/>
- SCWA VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR: Every Friday at 4:30 p.m. PT: Join us with your funny stories and libations for good news and good cheer. Sign up on our website and we'll email you a link and password. <https://www.southerncafwriters.org/>

- SCWA HUMP DAY BOOK TOUR: **Hump Day will be ON VACATION until April 30.** Catch up with the replays of previous interviews on SCWA's YouTube channel.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southerncalwriters>
- Debby's Room: Every Wednesday at 10:20 a.m. PT. Join **Debby Putman** and **Dot Caffrey** for casual conversation about the writing craft and anything that you wish to bring for discussion. Click on the Rooms tab for Debby's Room on the SCWA Facebook page.

Have you missed an SCWA event? We will upload replays as they are edited and ready on SCWA's YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SCWAWritersOnline>

NEW! Publishing News and Insights:

Best Book Promotion Sites 2022

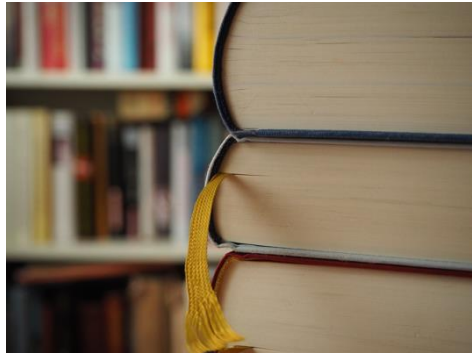
Updated by [David Gaughran](#) January 26, 2022.

These are the best book promo sites in 2022 for boosting your sales, launches, free promotions, series promotions, and mailing list too. Something for all budgets and experience levels with self-publishing—including a few completely free options.

This list of book promotion sites is curated by David Gaughran. All sites in the list have been vetted, tested extensively, and are here because of the results they generate. No filler!

Find David's list by visiting:

<https://davidgaughran.com/best-promo-sites-books/>



Are you doing research for your novel?

Check some of these research websites collected by Diana Pardee from the “I Love Reading” page on Facebook. Bookmark or keep a list of sites you never heard of:

www.refseek.com —Academic Resource Search. More than a billion sources: encyclopedia, monographies, magazines.

www.worldcat.org —a search for the contents of 20,000 worldwide libraries. Find out where lies the nearest rare book you need.

<https://link.springer.com> — access to more than 10 million scientific documents: books, articles, research protocols.

www.bioline.org.br is a library of scientific bioscience journals published in developing countries.

<http://repec.org> —volunteers from 102 countries have collected almost 4 million publications on economics and related science.

www.science.gov is an American state search engine on 2200+ scientific sites. More than 200 million articles are indexed.

www.pdfdrive.com is the largest website for free download of books in PDF format. Claiming over 225 million names.

www.base-search.net is one of the most powerful research sources of academic studies texts. More than 100 million scientific documents, 70% of them are free.

Featured Monthly Speaker: April 16, 2022 CRAIG MARTELL Attitude of the Successful Indie Author

Title: Attitude of the Successful Indie Author

Who: Craig Martelle

When: Saturday, April 16, 2022

Time: 10:00 am PDT

Where: Regency Theater, San Juan Capistrano

Cost: VIP tickets \$25.00 Members

VIP tickets \$35.00 Nonmembers

Zoom Tickets: \$15.00

Seating is limited. No walk-ins.

Pre-Register by 9:00am Friday April 15 at

[https:// www.southerncalwriters.org](https://www.southerncalwriters.org)

VIP Packages include:

- Luxury theatre seating
- Coffee and light continental breakfast
9:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.
- Presentation by Craig Martell 10:00-
11:00 a.m.
- Light lunch and networking 11:15 a.m.



With fellow bestselling author Michael Anderle, Craig Martelle runs the 20Booksto50k® group on Facebook. The group has 26,000 members, holds conferences in Las Vegas, and has helped authors from all over the world.

Craig has written over thirty books over a variety of genres, from space opera, military sci-fi, space marine, colonization to genetic engineering. He's one of the top one thousand authors on Amazon and has written close to three million words.

For information about SCWA and membership please go to <https://www.southerncalwriters.org/>



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

We've been posting deeper content to help members succeed among the posts in our SCWA Members Only Facebook group. Make sure your dues are up-to-date and join us there. Some recent topics include self-publishing lingo, landing pages, building your tribe, tips for author headshots, and book launch success. Diana Pardee is curating the best quality content she can find and welcomes your suggestions. DM her on Facebook at Diana Pardee.

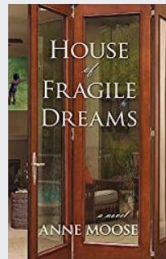
Have you Added Your Book to the SCWA Bookstore?

At last we have created an [SCWA Bookstore](#) to feature books by our talented members in the Member Bookstore tab on the website. We'd love for you to be a part of it. Take advantage of this new SCWA benefit—which is open only to SCWA members who have a profile page on our website ([Member Profiles—Southern California Writers Association](#)). If you don't have a member profile page yet, you can create one [here](#).

Here's a sample of what the [SCWA Bookstore](#) looks like, as well as some sample book covers and loglines. Clicking on the cover image takes you directly to Amazon for an easy purchase option. SCWA earns benefits as an affiliate.

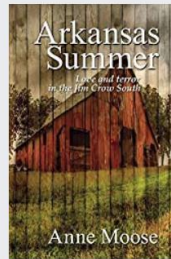
If you'd like to participate, please use the CONTACT SCWA tab on the website where you can upload cover images and other information (20-30 words. We'll do the rest).

Here's a sample page from the SCWA Bookstore:



House of Fragile Dreams by Anne Moose

House of Fragile Dreams tells the story of a woman whose attempt to find love is threatened by her brother. He is disturbed, gun obsessed, and, as she discovers, involved with people who threaten much more than her dream of a happy home.



Arkansas Summer by Anne Moose

Arkansas Summer is both a touching love story and gripping immersion into the twisted ethos and violence of the Jim Crow South.

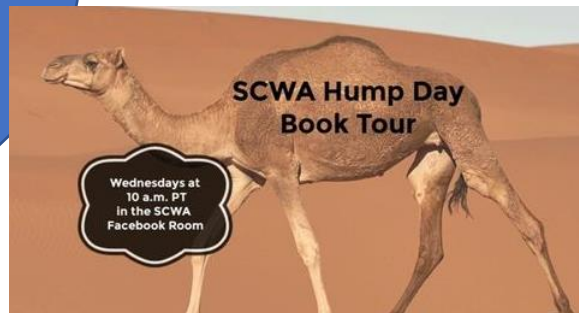


Crown Hunt by R. M. Morgan

Two detectives—a brainy, eccentric woman and her rowdy right-hand man—chase a priceless crown heisted in the Korean War and a psychopathic killer.

**Hump Day
Book Tour**

**LIVESTREAMED
Every
Wednesday
10:00 a.m.**



Did you catch Solange Ritchie on March 9? Did you miss Tori Eldridge on the March 3 Hump Day? Did you miss David Putnam's visit on February 23?

Hump Day streams LIVE on SCWA's Facebook page.

Look for our SCWA group on Facebook. Click on the Events tab to join us!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southerncafwriters/events>

Wendy Van Camp joined Maddie on April 6 to talk about discovering Scifiku poetry by accident. Now her Scifaiku poetry is winning awards!



Can't make it at that time? Go to the SCWA page and click VIDEOS to find replays. Or go to our YouTube channel SCWA Writers Online.

Subscribe anytime at <https://bit.ly/2I890Db>

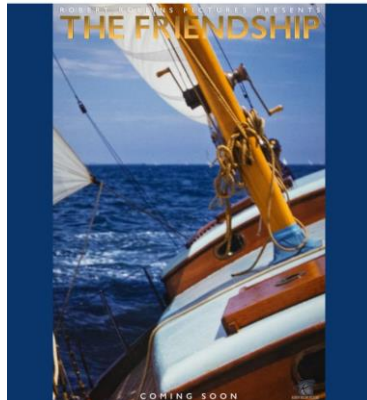
CELEBRATE ALL THE GOOD NEWS!

Betty Disney's March issue of "For Lovers of Art and Travelers at Heart" with newsy tidbits about art and travel is out now.

<https://mailchi.mp/97acb30772c5/for-lovers-of-art-and-travelers-at-heart>



Robert Rollins has the Director's Reel for his short films and documentaries available on Vimeo. Get a glimpse of his feature film *Dream Country* and the documentary *The Friendship* about his father's sailing adventures.



The film is in post-production right now to be ready for the Newport Beach Film Festival in June. Many of us have watched the progress of the film on Facebook. Soon it will be up on a screen to dazzle us all.






LIT UP!

A Conversation with Orange County Readers and Writers; a monthly salon with authors reading and discussing their book hosted by Maddie Tighe Margarita

New authors—new works—new worlds. Find your next favorite author or a new fan. LIT UP Orange County is currently accepting submissions from authors interested in sharing their work with Orange County readers and writers. Submissions should be fiction or memoir, 6-8 double-spaced pages, and engage our audience. Interested writers please contact @MadelineTigheMargarita for more details!

Watch for announcements of upcoming LitUp events here and on Maddie's LitUp facebook page.

MUZEO OPEN BOOK SERIES
w Maddie Margarita



LILLIAN NADER **RUSS THOMPSON**

<https://tinyurl.com/OpenBook410>

****technical difficulties forced this event to be postponed from April 10**

WATCH FOR UPDATES!

Our own SCWA members will be Maddie's next guests for the Muzeo Open Book Series. She will be joined by Lillian Nader and Russ Thompson for a lively conversation about recent projects and their works-in-progress.

Check for updates and other replays at: <https://www.facebook.com/litupoc>

CALLING ALL NEWSLETTERS!

Many of SCWA's members offer regular newsletters or blogs for their readers. We'd love to post connections for any and all of our members. Your blog, website, and newsletter can also be included in your SCWA website profile.

Send us your links for your blogs, podcasts, and newsletters so we can feature them and let all our members discover the wealth of information within reach.

Use the CONTACT SCWA tab in the website to add yours to share with other members.

Members' Showcase: OPEN for your Submissions

Did you know SCWA will publish excerpts of your work in the Members' Showcase on the SCWA website? Yes, we will.

We want to show your works-in-progress, excerpts from your published book, first lines, favorite paragraphs, and anything you would like to share in any genre, even a page of rants from your journal. The range of creativity among our members is impressive. Take a look at some of the fine work our members have already shared and then share some of your own.

<https://www.southernwriters.org/members-showcase-2/>

Here are the details for the SCWA Showcase:

- Send the work you'd like to showcase, for instance, first lines, an excerpt, an essay or a poem or something else (up to 1500 words). Include your byline (your name, the name of the book it is from, if applicable, and your website).
- All current SCWA members are eligible.
- You retain your copyright.
- Submit for free!
- Send to scwashowcase@gmail.com

Take a look at the Showcase entries by many of our members. It's a terrific way to get acquainted, share your work, and learn about SCWA members.

Sample excerpts or works-in-process of fellow members. Books are available through the SCWA Bookstore where a click on the book cover links directly to Amazon for your purchase.

SCWA receives a small portion of the sale as an affiliate.

HIGHLIGHTS: March 2022

Janis Thomas

Crafting Killer Scenes



Crafting Killer Scenes: Driving the Story Forward with Janis Thomas

Janis Thomas has authored seven novels, including three humorous ones: *Something New* (2012), *Sweet Nothings* (2013), and *Say Never* (2014), all by Penguin, which have been featured on ABC, CBS, NBC, And FOX and in the *Miami Herald*, *The Boston Globe*, and the *Los Angeles Daily News*. (See below for other novels.) Her killer craft was very evident in March's SCWA Zoom meeting. Before Thomas writes a scene, she writes down what needs to be put across during the scene. Using her Power Points, Thomas delineated the three major components writers need to plan before starting their novels: **Scene constructions** for the plot, formulation of **the character arc**, and creation and effective use of **story beats**.

First, Thomas's "fishy" **plot structure** comes in three acts, demonstrating the transformation of the main character. Act I is the character's ordinary world where he's a fish in water, maybe in an aquarium, so to speak. In this beginning, establish "who is there" and "where are we" by using conversation, action, and/or description, which can also be "transition" [beginning of anxiety/trouble] or even a "flashback." Then there is a "crack in the glass," metaphorically.

Act II is a "disordered world" because the fish is or feels "out of the water" and wants his aquarium back. It's now his "Dark Night of the Soul." This middle should "reveal motivation, conflict, and tension." Then develop how the main character tries to get what he/she wants while you provide important, new information.

In Act III, the fish enters a new world—and can be a “Flying Fish.” In this end/resolution, “does the main character get what he/she wants?” What’s the character’s emotional response? Did the “hook or promise to the reader” get fulfilled? “Are the stakes higher?” “Is the theme, logline, and premise clear?”

You must build these three acts with scenes that demonstrate “goal, conflict, and disaster.” These scenes produce other scenes that show “reaction, dilemma, and decision.”

The successive scenes illustrate the turbulence of **the character’s arc**. By the way, “make sure your character is a participant, not just an observer.” At the beginning before trouble, does he or she know what he needs or wants? Does the character realize what is in his way? “What is he willing to do” to achieve his goal?

The most critical element of the character arc is his or her **motivation**. Because “We’re all emotional characters,” Thomas says to “go towards the heartbeat and the emotions.” Show your character’s “flaws, hope, and vulnerabilities.” The character is emotionally affected and must change and grow.” Be clear on the “motivation, escalation, and transformation.” Keep your character “in the moment.” “Show the character reacting; do not just tell the reader how the character is reacting.” “Be frugal” with any kind of telling. (Also, Thomas says to “Make sure your antagonist doesn’t know he/she is an antagonist.”)

Throughout the story, you’ll have **story beats** which are events, decisions, or discoveries that alter the way the protagonist pursues his life/goals. A beat is felt when the protagonist has “a change in his point of view—and maybe attitude.” Achieving killer beats can create killer scenes because these beats continually raise the stakes. Concise wording is the best way to express these killer moments.

Using Janis Thomas’s advice, you can turn your good story into a great one!

Janis Thomas’s other novels are *Murder in A-Minor* (2016), *What Remains True*, an Amazon Best Seller (2017), *All That’s Left of Me* (2018), and *Finding Grace* (April 12, 2022).

Thomas will also be teaching a dialogue class at the Southern California Writers Conference, September 16-18, 2022, at the Sonesta Irvine Hotel on Von Karman Ave. in Irvine, CA.

Glenda Brown Rynn, Reporter

RESOURCES FOR WRITERS

How do you find your way through the ocean of resources available online for writers like us? Check out this sampling of what we have found to be of interest. Links are included so you will be able to investigate further.

Are you afraid of scams and rip-offs when you consider publishing your book? Writers need never go it alone with a watchdog like Writer Beware to have your back.

Writer Beware's mission is to track, expose, and raise awareness of scams and other questionable activities in and around the publishing industry.



After many years on the Blogger platform, we have finally transitioned to WordPress, which offers much greater flexibility in terms of design, control, and ease of use.

We also have a new, easy to remember web address: www.writerbeware.blog.

4 Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishers Accepting Unagented Manuscripts

<https://publishedtodeath.blogspot.com/2016/03/6-science-fiction-and-fantasy.html>

11 SciFi and Fantasy Review Sites for Self-Published Authors

<https://publishedtodeath.blogspot.com/2017/07/10-scifi-and-fantasy-review-sites-for.html>

Top 5 Websites for Science Fiction Writers

<https://publishedtodeath.blogspot.com/2013/04/top-5-sites-for-science-fiction-writers.html>

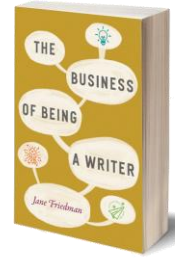


LitNuts was created to share the “Best of the Indies” with booklovers.

- Subscribers get a free newsletter featuring only indie books.
- Authors and publishers get an affordable way to share their work with engaged readers.

<https://litnuts.com/> LitNuts promotes *only* books from independent presses and authors. Details on its website:

<https://litnuts.com/pages/authors-and-publishers>



MOST RELIABLE: www.janefriedman.com Jane has a long history in all areas of book publishing and has a solid reputation for being the best go-to for writers of all levels.

- WRITERS HELPING WRITERS: www.writershelpingwriters.net has many one-of-a-kind tools and resources for writers. Newsletter available.
- ***Authors Publish, A Magazine for Writers.***
<https://www.authorspublish.com/>, assembles monthly lists of themed submission calls by magazines and journals, often paying for your work. Even a modest payment is at least encouragement and can add to your portfolio.



- *Publishing ... and Other Forms of Insanity*, the newsletter for the website *Published to Death*, sends a monthly list of writers' conferences, fee free contests, and agents for all genres who are looking for submissions.
- For emerging writers, establishing a publications resume can be quite a challenge, especially if you have never published any of your work. But there always has to be a first—your very first short story, poem or personal essay published by a literary magazine.

Take heart, new writers! There are magazines that want your work and will even pay you for it.

Also see: [Mega-List of Science Fiction and Fantasy Magazines-Paying markets](#)—Many speculative fiction magazines are happy to publish emerging writers.

See these lists and much more at:

<https://publishedtodeath.blogspot.com/>

Details of what agents are looking for and how to reach them will give you a head start for your submission process. Check the website every month for up-to-date information and resources.

Note: Always check the agency website and agent bio before submitting. Agents can switch agencies or close their lists, and submission requirements can change.



Benefits of SCWA Membership

WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME!

- ❖ **Active members receive up to 60% off admission to SCWA meetings.**
- ❖ **Members are eligible for a free 30-minute consultation from book shepherd Sharon Goldinger on any publishing contract.**
- ❖ **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.**
- ❖ **Access to professional network of publishing, business consultants and editors.**
- ❖ **Participation in SCWA marketing platforms on southerncalwriters.org and SCWA social media platforms.**
- ❖ **SCWA Member's Only group on Facebook where we rewind and replay recent featured guests and their presentations.**

SCWA Board of Directors

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Vice President.....	Steve Jackson
Vice President of Finances	Don Westenhaver
Vice President of Programming	Madeline Margarita
Vice President - social media.....	Diana Pardee
Newsletter Editor.....	Pam Sheppard
Membership Chairman.....	Karen Walker
Scribe and Speaker Reporter.....	Glenda Rynn
At-Large.....	Sharon Goldinger

Mailing Address for inquiries by mail: PO Box 47, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Southern California Writer's Association

www.southernwriters.org

TERMS OF USE AND CONTENT INFORMATION DISCLAIMER

The SCWA encourages open, respectful communication between individuals interested in the craft of writing through a variety of social and traditional media, such as Facebook, SCWA website and emails. Any individual using inappropriate language, discussing inappropriate topics, or commenting in a disrespectful way will be removed from access to any future SCWA communication methods.

The SCWA communication sites should only be used for dialogues related to the craft of writing. Non-writing related topics should be done via other forms of personal communication. Please review the content disclaimer located in the newsletter via the SCWA website www.southernwriters.org or on the About page of the SCWA Facebook page. The SCWA does not endorse individual opinions placed of any of its sites.

The SCWA receives information on various services, writing contests, and events. As a courtesy, we will forward the information to our members. Unless otherwise indicated, the SCWA does not discourage, encourage, or recommend any of the services, contests, or events. Many of these services, contests and events cost money; therefore, we recommend that you evaluate the opportunities based on your individual situation and interest. Because of our membership email protection policy, please do not forward information to the general membership directly. **We request that all members forward any information to the SCWA President for approval and forwarding to the membership.**

SCWA members wishing to share appropriate writing-related information and resources are welcome to do so via the SCWA Facebook page. The SCWA Board members and Newsletter Editor will determine the information to be contained in the SCWA on-line newsletter, which is primarily used for official SCWA information.