

## JULY 2021

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[www.Southerncalwriters.org](http://www.Southerncalwriters.org)

- ✧ pg. 2: President's Message
- ✧ pg. 3: July Events
- ✧ pg. 4: Featured Monthly Speaker: Dalia Dupris
- ✧ pg. 6: Lit Up OC at Muzeo
- ✧ pg. 8: Hump Day Book Tour
- ✧ pg. 10: Good News!
- ✧ pg. 11: SCWA Cookbook
- ✧ pg. 12: SCWA Showcase
- ✧ pg. 13: Highlights: Shawn Reilly Simmons
- ✧ pg. 15: Resources for Writers
- ✧ pg. 16: Member Benefits
- ✧ pg. 17: Board & Terms of Use



## Southern California Writer's Association

### July 2021

- President Larry Porricelli's Message
- July's Featured Monthly Speaker: Dalia Dupris  
<https://www.southerncalwriters.org/meetings>
- Hump Day, Every Wednesday
- Debby's Room, Wednesdays 10:20 a.m.
- Such Good News!
- Highlights: Shawn Reilly Simmons
- SCWA Cookbook



### Have you subscribed?

Check out our new YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLrqSfwTMaCi139ISRV50KQ>

Through the 2020 challenges SCWA has risen to new heights with a wide range of talented presenters and programs who will inspire, educate, and motivate writers and readers alike through our online programs.

Our best and brightest authors and guest speakers' presentations have now been uploaded to our own YouTube channel. Our content includes the Hump Day Book Tours, Pub Shops with insights into book publishing and marketing, and our monthly author spotlights and workshops.

## **President's Message for July 2021 from Larry Porricelli**

### **NEWS ABOUT LIVE MEETINGS**

Dear Writers,

We have been working with several locations to obtain a place to hold a live monthly meeting once again. We are working now with four locations on pricing and hope to have good offers of value within a few weeks, but we would like to be live by September.

I thank each of you who have sent leads and ideas, and we have followed up on all.

Location is a key, as we do need a place reasonably close to a freeway. There is a restaurant, a golf course, an Elks Club, a library that allows catering, and a meeting hall in the mix.

Most locations have just received rules from the state for gatherings, and we are working within that. Certainly, we can use a venue with no food, such as a library or hall, but an element of SCWA was our fellowship at tables as we shared meals and ate. Somehow that seems lost without a meal. However, we have offers to look at from a golf course, where we would bring in the catering. Catering might not have to be full meals, so there are diverse options. And of course, perhaps some people are not ready to do a gathering, which is certainly understanding. In that matter we have discussed also doing live and Zoom at the same time.

In the end, a big portion of the solution is the pricing, and that is the key point of negotiation now.

Claim Jumper was ideal for its liberal allowance of us on Saturday mornings, which many locations are using for weddings. Hopefully, we will have some solutions for the Board to look at before next month, and we will offer you our suggestions.

We are so grateful for your continued participation in SCWA, and we have all worked together to bring a multitude of offerings on Zoom that will continue even after we are able to have a live meeting.

The work of Maddie Margarita and Diana Pardee has drawn viewers from as far away as Australia, Africa, and Europe, as well as all areas of the United States, and we would certainly continue our great presentations.

Again, thank you so much,

Larry Porricelli

## SCWA Events This Month: July 2021

- **SCWA Featured Monthly Speaker: July 17, 10 a.m. PDT.**  
We are happy to welcome **Dalia Dupris** who will speak on “Writing a Publishable Novel in 10 Easy Steps” Register at:  
<https://www.southernwriters.org/>
- **SCWA VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR: Every Friday at 4:30 p.m. PDT** Join us with your funny stories and Summer Libations for good news and good cheer. Sign up on our website and we'll email you a link and password. <https://www.southernwriters.org/>
- **SCWA HUMP DAY BOOK TOUR:** You can access previous interviews on SCWA's YouTube channel or see it LIVE streaming on SCWA's Facebook group page at 10:00 a.m. PDT **every Wednesday in July.** On July 14 we will speak with **Kristy Tate** and **Mary Castillo.**
- **Debby's Room:** Every Wednesday at 10:20 a.m. PDT following the Hump Day interviews, join Debby Chase and Dot Caffrey for casual conversation about the writing craft and anything that you wish to bring for discussion. Look on the Rooms tab for **Debby's Room** on the SCWA Facebook page.

Have you missed an SCWA event? Find the replay on SCWA's YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLrqSfwTMaCi139ISRV50KQ>

where we will upload replays as they are edited and ready.

**If you're interested in these and all SCWA events, please check out our website for membership details at:**

<https://www.southerncalwriters.org/>

**Featured Monthly Speaker: July 17, 2021  
Dalia Dupris  
Write a Publishable Novel in 10 Easy Steps**

Join us Saturday July 17, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. PDT when SCWA welcomes  
**Dalia Dupris**

**When:** Saturday, July 17, 2021

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. PDT

**Where:** Zoom, RSVP for your link at:

<https://www.southerncalwriters.org/meetings>

**Cost:** Members \$10.00

Nonmembers \$15.00



## WRITE A PUBLISHABLE NOVEL IN 10 EASY STEPS

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Let me  
Live, Love,  
And say it well  
In  
Good Sentences

\*  
Sylvia Plath

Writing a novel can be a daunting task, even if you've already written one before or if this is your first attempt. There are at least ten essential elements that can greatly increase the likelihood of your novel being successfully published.

In this presentation, Dalia Dupris will review these ten components that have the potential to take your writing to the next level. You will learn the actual steps you can use immediately to successfully craft your novel.

Dalia Dupris received her degree in English Literature from UCLA and a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Southern California. Years of experience as a licensed psychotherapist contribute to her ability to create multicultural, emotion-driven novels with complex plots and relatable characters. In her spare time, Dalia enjoys bike riding on California beaches with her husband and hiking with her daughter. A contributing writer for Frolic Media, Dalia Dupris is the author of *A Whirl with My Mocha—Chocolate Swirl* and *Orange Blossoms—Love Blooms*.

Dalia is currently working on *Anything But Love, California Hearts Book 2*.



Read more about Dalia and her books at:  
<http://www.dalisdupris.com> and

<https://linktr.ee/DaliasBooks>



**Lit Up Orange County at Muzeo brought to you by Maddie Margarita**

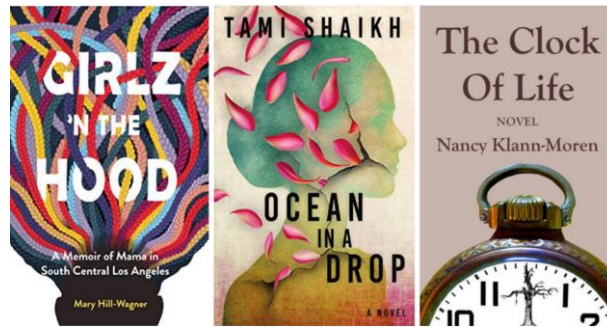


**GUEST HOST: Nancy Klann** wrote short fiction while traveling for work as a creative outlet on long plane rides which led to signing up for writing classes, writer's conferences, and local workshops. Her goal was to create unique stories told in a distinctive voice. Her stories have garnered awards and publication in anthologies. Eleven of them are published in her collection of short stories titled, *Like The Flies on the Patio*.

Short stories were her primary genre until one morning when an instructor shared that "What you have written isn't a short story, it's a novel." After a good deal of foot dragging, she came to realize the subject matter was compelling and penned the novel, *The Clock of Life*.

She is now working on a new novel loosely based on an old diary found in an antique shop and a road trip to find the lady who wrote in the book. The girls will not be named Thelma and Louise, but the story will take the girls cross country and they will get into all sorts of trouble.





A Writing Coach, Author, Blogger, and Speaker, **Tami Shaikh** received her MFA in Creative Writing from Chapman University and an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from the University of Atlanta.

Tami has 16 years of experience working with diverse and marginalized populations from all over the world. She is the author of three books and has written multiple articles for the *Huffington Post*, *Medium*, *Thrive Global*, and *Chicken Soup for the Soul-The Empowered Woman*.



**Dr. Mary Hill-Wagner** is an award-winning journalist, professor and author of the upcoming memoir, *Girlz 'N the Hood: A Memoir of Mama in South Central Los Angeles*, to be released by Pact Press in 2021.

Dr. Mary Hill-Wagner considers herself “straight outta Compton” with just a few detours. She and her ten siblings were raised in South Central Los Angeles by a single mother. After graduating as valedictorian of Compton Senior High School, Hill-Wagner went on to earn bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees, respectively, from the University of Southern California, Ohio State University and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

**This is a free event, please RSVP:**

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_yAF0pnmpRDO1egZ\\_e3o9ag](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yAF0pnmpRDO1egZ_e3o9ag)



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

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

If you can't join us, look for replays on the SCWA Facebook group page and on SCWA's YouTube channel. Subscribe anytime at <https://bit.ly/2I890Db>

**Join us July 14, 2021 at 10 a.m. PDT for  
Kristy Tate and Mary Castillo**

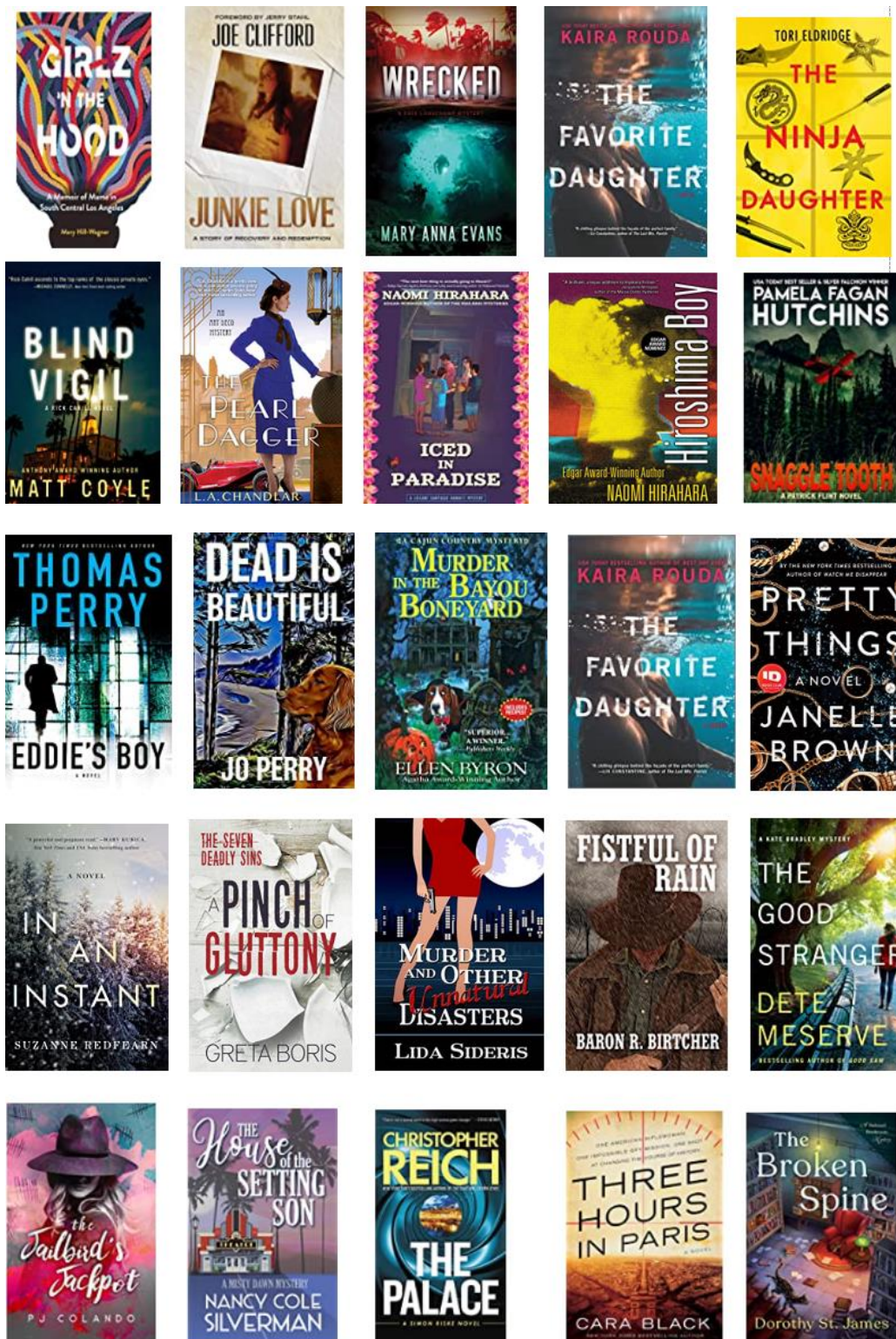
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#### **Recent Guests include:**

**Dr. Mary Hill-Wagner   Joe Clifford   Pamela Fagan Hutchins   Dorothy McFalls  
Shawn Reilly Simmons   Nancy Cole Silverman   Quan Huynh   Wendy Hornsby  
Kathleen Krevat   David Putnam   Mike Farley   Lani Forbes   Caitlyn O'Leary  
Janelle Brown   Mary Anna Evans   Kaira Rouda   Laurie Stevens   Matt Coyle  
Glen Erik Hamilton   August Norman   Tori Eldridge   Ava Homa   Dana Swift  
Naomi Hirahara   LA Chandler   Greta Boris   Joe Perry   Thomas Perry  
Suzanne Redfearn   Chris Reich   Baron R. Birtcher   Dete Meserve  
Anne Cleeland   Cara Black   Christopher Reich   Kaira Rouda   Dorothy St. James  
PJ Colando   Patricia Smiley   Lisa Black   Johathan Brown   Nancy Cole Silverman**



**Build up your stack of TBRs with these books by our guest authors:**



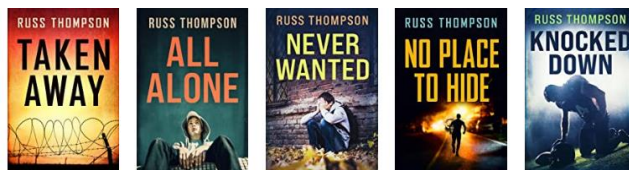
**Don't forget!** Immediately following Maddie's wonderful interviews on the Wednesday Hump Day program, join Debby Chase and Dot Caffrey at 10:20 a.m. PDT, for an informal get-together for a bit of writer-to-writer good old-fashioned conversation with people who understand and enjoy our world too.

Come and join us by checking the More button on the SCWA group page, and then Rooms for the JOIN button to **Debby's Room** (or copy and paste this link):

<https://www.facebook.com/groupcall/LINK:mhfmijxkzqkx/?nonce=cr6wv8imps5b>

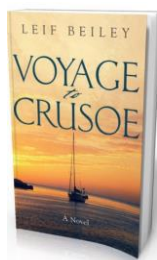
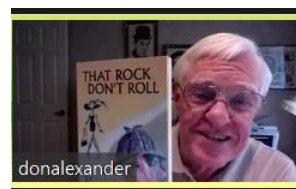
## CELEBRATE ALL THE GOOD NEWS!

**RUSS THOMPSON** has released his fifth novel in his Finding Forward series of Hi-Low novels designed for reluctant and struggling teen readers. Each book has compelling storylines inspired by issues he faced as a high school principal.



Follow Russ at [www.highinterestpress.com](http://www.highinterestpress.com)

**Don Alexander's** *That Rock Don't Roll* released in February in paperback.



Leif Bailey's *Voyage to Crusoe* GOT A 5-star review with Reedsy. Check out Barbara Howe's review at:

<https://3no7.wordpress.com/2021/02/20/voyage-to-crusoe/>

## SCWA Writers' Cookbook Call for Submissions

\*\*\*\*\*CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS\*\*\*\*\*

**Open to all SCWA Members**  
**We Want Your Recipes. AND YOUR WORDS!**

We are still collecting your short 250 words or less stories and poems for our writer's cookbook.

Enter your prettiest prose, your finest quips, and your tallest tales for our mix of literature and gastronomy. We know the frozen daiquiri was a great source of inspiration for Hemingway's *Islands in the Stream*. And what about Flannery O'Connor's love for ham and mayonnaise? What about you?

We encourage all our members to submit up to two entries. Each entry must contain both the recipe and a story, in any of these categories: mystery, horror, sci-fi, cozy, humor, poetry, crime, mythology, or fable. This is a writers' cookbook so think of your recipe as your muse to Nancy Klann at [klancy@sol.com](mailto:klancy@sol.com). We encourage your story to have a sense of connection with the recipe.

Please submit your recipes and related short fiction for our upcoming Southern California Writers Association story inspired cookbook. Submissions will be selected based on story quality, recipe quality, and the story's relation to the recipe. Working titles include: **Blame It on the Osso Bucco, Eat Your Words, You Have the Write to Eat.**

(Needless to say, all title suggestions are welcome!)

Due to limited space the **story/poem should be 250 words or less.**

The cookbook will be professionally published by SCWA and promoted with all the marketing might at our disposal. Proceeds will further help fund our events, speakers, scholarships, and publication of books, including this one.

We encourage all who want to join in to submit up to two recipes in a Word file along with their stories to Nancy Klann at [klanncy@aol.com](mailto:klanncy@aol.com).

Please put "SCWA Entry - Recipe" in the subject line.

## Members' Showcase: OPEN for your Submissions

Did you know SCWA will publish excerpts of your work in our 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.southerncalwriters.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](mailto:scwashowcase@gmail.com)

Take a look at the Showcase entries by many of our members. It's a terrific way to get acquainted.

Posting in the Member showcase is always Good News for our newsletter as well as for Facebook. We look forward to waving a flag for your books!



## HIGHLIGHTS: Featured Speaker for June 2021

### Shawn Reilly Simmon

### Secrets to Crafting Impactful Short Stories



**Short stories aren't about word count. Short stories are about making your words count!**

Award-winning, short story writer and editor Shawn Reilly Simmons talks about the basics of short story writing and making your story resonate.

### Secrets to Crafting Impactful Short Stories: Making Your Words Count with Shawn Reilly Simmons

Shawn Reilly Simmons compares writing a short story to having a palette cleansing. You can complete this new idea that's running around in your head without needing to reload mentally your other projects. Being the author of seven novels in the Red Carpet Catering Mysteries series, Simmons certainly knows about complex writing projects. She's on the Board of Malice Domestic and is also a co-owner/publisher and editor of Level Best Books. In addition, she's a member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, the International Thriller Writers, and U.K.'s Crime Writers Association.

Simmons says her writing career is the most fun when she's writing short stories. "Short" comes in several categories: **traditional** short stories run 1,000-7,000 words, **flash fiction** is 1,000 words or less, a **drabble** is 100 words exactly, **microfiction** has 300 words or less, and there are **six-word stories**.

The next critical characteristic is the smaller, comprehensive factor of the plot. Although a novel and a short story have the arc of a beginning, conflict, and resolution, Simmons compares their different scopes. "Writing a novel is like building a house with multiple levels and rooms, an attic and basement to explore throughout the story." A *short story*, however, "is like focusing on one room of that house and narrowing your focus to what happens there."

Ms. Simmons' short stories have won awards: "The Last Word," published in *Malice Domestic 14: Mystery Most Edible*, won the Agatha Award for Best Short Story in 2020. She also won the Anthony Award for *Best Anthology or Collection* for co-editing the same anthology. These other

anthologies also include her stories: “Burnt Orange” is in *Passport to Murder, the 2017 Bouchercon Anthology*; “The Prodigy” in *Mystery Tour, the Crime Writers’ Association Anthology*; and “Now Is the Hour” in *Writers Crushing Covid-19*.

Although Ms. Simmons trained as a classical musician, she always knew she wanted to be a writer. She says to write about something that is a passion inside of you. She does not outline nor use any characters from her novels. Mentally, she starts every story with a “What if?” “You have to find something you really believe in.”

If you are not an outliner either, as you go, clarify to yourself the **setting**—where the story takes place, the **character/narrator**--whom the story is about, the **conflict**—“what motivates your characters,” the **plot**—“what actions will your characters do,” and the **theme**—“what is the overarching message of the story.”

The structure of a short story is “centered around one experience or significant moment, the **inciting incident** that sets the story in motion.” Is the **time** element linear, or “does it move back and forth in time?” For the **climax**, when do “the actions or decisions of the characters come to a head?” The **resolution** will be when the “central question of the inciting incident has been addressed or resolved.”

“Create unique characters that stand apart from each other on the page.” Individualize and “add depth your characters by varying the way they speak or behave.” “Create challenges for your characters that they can handle in a number of ways.” Sessions says you can have a character use a word wrong or one who puts his napkin under his chin instead of his lap.

Ms. Simmons says to be economical in writing short stories.” Cut words back when you can.” Don’t do a lot of internal thoughts, and you “can just get rid of dialogue tags.”

All plot issues in the story need to be resolved. Most stories will tell or give a message, but they don’t always need to. Make sure your short story is “the cleanest it can be.” Re-read it many times to ensure it doesn’t fizzle out at the end. “CARE about your work before you send it out” (for publication).

See [shawnreillysimmons@gmail.com](mailto:shawnreillysimmons@gmail.com).

Glenda Brown Rynn, Reporter

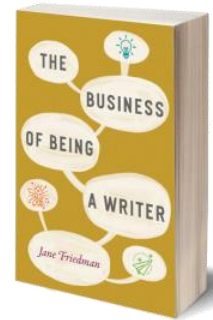
[grynn@cox.net](mailto:grynn@cox.net)



## 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.

**MOST RELIABLE:** [www.janefriedman.com](http://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.



From Karen Walker: **20 Books Vegas 2021** will be a massive gathering of independently published authors, industry professionals, and anyone looking to learn how to become more successful at the business of writing and publishing. An estimated 2,500 authors of all genres will attend (myself included).

If you sign up via the Facebook group as a virtual attendee, you can participate from the comfort of your home for free.

Visit <http://20booksvegas.com/> for full details.

- **WRITERS HELPING WRITERS:** [www.writershelpingwriters.net](http://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/> Guest post of interest:  
<https://authorspublish.com/three-platforms-for-serialized-fiction>

***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.

See these lists 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 Board of Directors

President ..... Larry Porricelli  
 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: PO Box 47, Huntington Beach, CA 92648**

**Membership: Karen Walker**

**Email: [Karen.walker@mac.com](mailto:Karen.walker@mac.com)**

**Southern California Writer's Association**

**[www.southerncalwriters.org](http://www.southerncalwriters.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.southerncalwriters.org](http://www.southerncalwriters.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.