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Southern California Writer's Association February 2023

- **President Larry Porricelli's Message**
- **February's Featured Event: Award winning author Jonathan Brown: February 18, 10 a.m. at the Regency San Juan Capistrano Theater**
- **Hump Day: Every Wednesday 10 a.m. on SCWA's Facebook Group page**
- **Debby's Room: Continuing in February on Wednesdays 10:20 a.m. on the SCWA Facebook Group page, on the Rooms tab**



Have you subscribed?

Check out our fancy new URL for the YouTube channel:

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

President's Message for February 2023 from Larry Porricelli



THE MAGNIFICENCE OF KEEPING A READER READING!

Greetings SCWA Members, Newsletter Readers, and any of my Longtime Reprobate Writer Friends Just Hanging Out,

The SCWA'S January Meeting featured author Chris Hauty, who regaled the crowd with his thoughts on so many different ways to take on a story. Chris is a well-known screenwriter and *New York Times* bestselling writer of action thriller novels.

We filmed Chris Hauty and will have his presentation edited and up on our SCWA YouTube Channel soon. Please enjoy it; he speaks so well on keeping the pace moving to create the "thriller" in our work. Every writer's work is a dedicated mission, and we offer our work to hoped for readers.

Hauty's words mirrored SCWA's mission: every writer is important. We are all resistance writers, engaging in pursuit of a story where every line is a magnetic pull to the next line in our stories. Somehow, our themes can open minds to expand our humanity.

There are many thoughts on the subject of creating a driving force that attracts and keeps a reader's eyeballs glued to our work. One of SCWA's founders, writer Darlene Quinn of the noted bestselling *Webs* series, wrote short chapters. Darlene offered that many readers are in bed or comfortable chairs and a short chapter keeps them hooked. Of course, Charles Dickens felt the opposite and wanted as much entanglement in a chapter as could be created.

Please take a look in our SCWA YouTube page. We have a visual catalog produced by Diana Pardee of many writers from our monthly meetings to the weekly Hump Day interviews that Maddie Margarita does with authors to seminars we have offered.

Every member is important, and every writer in SCWA has something to offer each of us.

If you have an idea, or an event you think we should produce, please let us know, you may email us any time. We would like to hear from you, our members, as to what you desire to see and hear. We are all one.

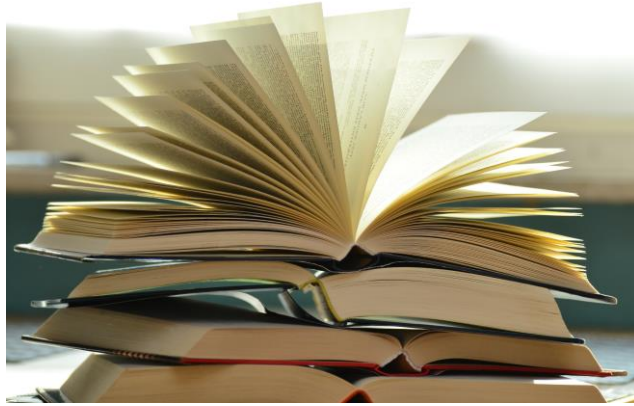
Perhaps you write in YA or in nonfiction or mystery or romance, science fiction, fantasy, and have a vision for what you hope to accomplish. Let us know so we can offer it to you. And we would be most delighted if any have projects you would like to produce, just let us know and we will support it!

Remember, the third Saturday of every month, we offer a live meeting, a modern-day Writers Round Table with food and libations. Do partake; it is well worth your time!

Thank you.
Lorenzo Porricelli
SCWA President

Welcome New Members to SCWA!

Gabriel Aurati
Douglas Colfax
Margaret Donovan
Jan Herman
David Kammerzelt
Jeeyung Kim
Rathi Krishnan
Cynthia O'Brien
MaryBeth Schade
LE Shake
Pat Spencer
Gena Stinnett



Have you explored the SCWA website lately?

- **Sample the books written and published by SCWA members in the SCWA website bookstore:**
[www.https://www.southerncalwriters.org/member-bookstore/](https://www.southerncalwriters.org/member-bookstore/)
- **Get to know our members: explore member profiles**
- **Dig into our newsletter archive for highlights of our monthly speakers and events**

Have you explored the SCWA YouTube videos?

- **We love sharing our content!**
- **SCWA Writers Online is FREE to all with over 100 Hump Day interviews with bestselling authors led by Maddie Margarita**
- **See SCWA's workshops and videos of our featured speakers from our monthly meetings**

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

SCWA Events This Month: February 2023

- SCWA's Featured Speaker for February will be award-winning author JONATHAN BROWN. Saturday, February 18. Regency Theater, San Juan Capistrano
- 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. New members showing up weekly.
<https://www.southernwriters.org/>
- SCWA HUMP DAY BOOK TOUR: Join us every Wednesday on SCWA's Facebook page. And check out the ones you have missed on SCWA's YouTube channel:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southernwriters>
- Debby's Room: Continuing through February. 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>

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

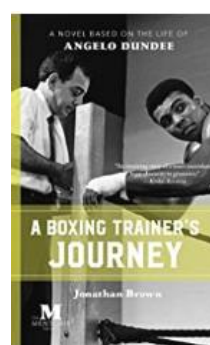
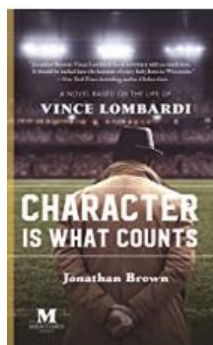
Featured February Speaker: Jonathan Brown

Come for the program. Stay for the surprises!

Has your muse deserted you? Are you struggling to find inspiration? Enter the world of Jonathan Brown, award-winning author, rock drummer, personal trainer, and rediscover the joy and passion of writing!



Jonathan Brown released *Chloe* in June 2022 for Level Best Books. In 2021, he released *Character Is What Counts*—a novel based on the life of Vince Lombardi for Mentor's Books. *Character* was Brown's second book with Mentor's. *A Boxing Trainer's Journey*—a novel based on the life of Angelo Dundee, was the first in 2019. Both books received favorable *Kirkus* reviews.



Brown received the first ever Neely Scholarship Award (from the Mystery Writers of America) in 2021. The third book in the Lou Crasher series, *Drums, Guns 'n' Money* will be released in March 2023 from

Down and Out Books. Alma Boucher with Reader's Favorite Book Reviews said, "*Drums, Guns 'n' Money* is a gripping story of murder and crime. I was glued to the pages from the start. 5 stars."

The Defender, a standalone about an executive protection expert whose client, an impressive female entrepreneur, is a victim of more than one kidnapping attempt—is currently in the works.

Brown recently narrated *The Ridders* by Lisa Towles, which is available now. Earlier in 2022, Brown narrated *A Baker's Divorce* by Frank Scalise, which is also available now. Having spent most of 2022 battling multiple myeloma, a cancer in the leukemia family, Brown never stopped writing, narrating, exercising, and keeping the faith. He owes most of his winning battle to his wife, Sonia. In addition, with love and support from countless friends and family and an unwavering positive attitude, Brown has no doubt love is what got him through the tough times.

When: Saturday, February 18, 2023

Time: 10 am PDT

Where: Regency Theatre (adjacent to the San Juan Capistrano Train Station), 26762 Verdugo Street, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Admission: Members \$25.00

Nonmembers \$35.00

Enjoy a Continental Breakfast 9:30 am; SCWA Meeting 10:00; Speaker 10:15 am; Lunch 11:00 am

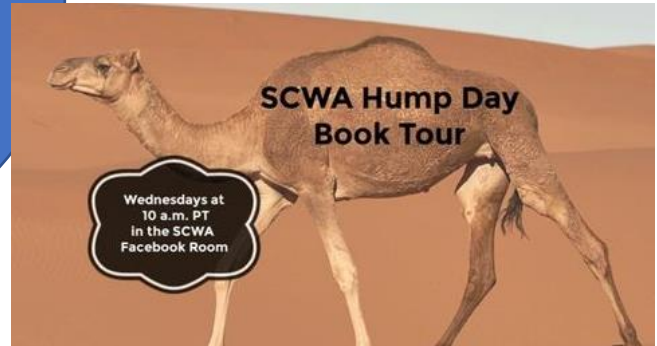
Your safety and health are important to us. ***We welcome vaccinated members and guests.***

You must register by Friday, February 17, 2023, at 12:00 pm.

**Hump Day
Book Tour**

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

Join us every Wednesday at 10 a.m.



Hump Day episodes stream on SCWA's Facebook page.

Look for our SCWA group on Facebook. Scroll through the posts for the most recent guests. When we are LIVE, click on the Events tab to join us!

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

Debby's Room follows Hump Day at 10:20 for casual conversation about books, writing, and life as an author. Find it on the SCWA Facebook page.



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 become 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!



Maddie's most recent LitUp OC opened 2023 at Muzeo Museum and Cultural Center's Open Book series for a perfect Sunday afternoon with **Jonathan Brown, Leonard Syzmczak, and Carol Latham.**

Catch up with Maddie's entertaining interview. Find the replay on Facebook on Madeline Tighe Margarita's page.

HIGHLIGHTS January Speaker: Chris Hauty

“Writing Tips from Famous Writers”

Famous detective fiction writer, Raymond Chandler, who created Philip Marlowe, once put out this advice: “Throw up in your typewriter every morning and clean up every noon.” Our speaker, Chris Hauty, who never took a writing class, began writing in high school, continued in college, and then for a profession. In his forty-five years of writing, Hauty says he's “never been blocked.” As he developed his own style, he wrote “in the styles of prior authors.” He presented twelve tips from other authors and insisted SCWA members guess from which author each tip comes.

First, Hauty's career: His screenwriting became a profession with *Don Coyote*, his modern interpretation of Cervantes's *Don Quixote* [from 1605 and 1615] directed by Jonathon Lynn. Some of Hauty's other screenplays are Disney's *Homeward Bound: Lost in San Francisco*, *Arena*—a gladiator epic, *Moby Dick*, *Beautiful Killer*, and *Land of Legend*—a Viking saga. Recent films are *Never Back Down* and *Sniper: Ghost Shooter*, starring Billy Zane.

Hauty's novel production began with *Deep State* and includes *Savage Road*, *Storm Rising* (out this May)—about white supremacy in the military, and the acclaimed novella, *Insurrection Day*. He's now writing screenplays with female protagonists.

Tip #1: “Always stop while you're going good. Then begin the next day.” Ernest Hemingway. In other words, don't worry about it. Hauty explained, “If you end the day being stuck, it's hard to get going the next day. End on a scene that's working.”

Tip #2: “Abandon the idea that you're ever going to finish.” John Steinbeck. In other words, lose track of your 400-page goal and just concentrate on this one day.

Tip #3: “Start as close to the end as possible.” Kurt Vonnegut. Get your reader into the plot as soon as you can.

Tip #4: “Don't be nervous. Work calmly, joyously, and recklessly.” Henry Miller. Don't stay safe.

Tip #5: “No time for poetry but only for exactly what is.” Jack Kerouac. Get to the point for the audience.

Tip #6: “Never use a long word where a short one will do.” George Orwell.

Tip #7: “The main rule of writing: if you do it with enough assurance and confidence, you're allowed to do whatever you like.” Damon Runyon.

Tip #8: “Follow the characters and see where they go instead of following the plot.” Stephen King.

Tip #9: “Leave out the parts readers tend to skip.” Elmore Leonard.

Tip #10: “Don't tell me the moon is shining but describe the moon's glint off the glass.” Anton Chekhov.

Tip #11: “Substitute *damn* every time you're writing *very*.” Mark Twain

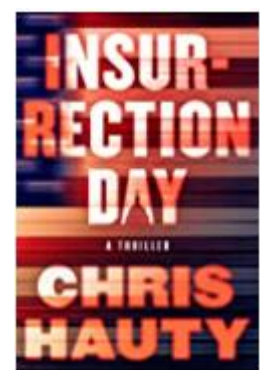
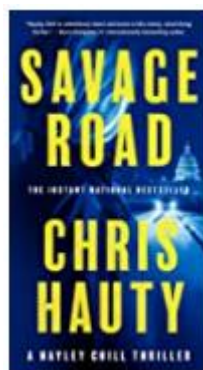
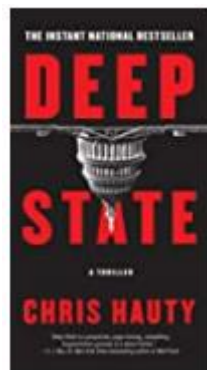
Tip #12: “If you want to be a writer, then DO it...” [piece missing] Michael Connelly.

Chris Hauty said our SCWA meeting was the first time he's spoken with a variety of writers, but here and there during his presentation he mentioned details of his own routines. These could be used by writers in a variety of genres. His daily quota is 1000 words a day, but he mentioned that Stephen King's was 2000 a day. He also tells himself, "Today is a great day." He stops at 5:00 or 5:30 for lunch. During his 9:00-5:00 workday, he plays music with no lyrics and feels himself excited. He might take one day off but if it's more, he loses track of what he's been writing. As time has gone on, he's been less inclined to write outlines. For minor characters he writes one or two paragraphs of their lives to help him keep their characters consistent. Writing the first draft takes him four to five months—until he's "getting sick of it." The best, Hauty says, is when the first draft takes only two to three months. Afterward he goes through that first draft two times.

Hauty says, "I'm all about reveals and twists." He too advises his listeners to start their novels "close to the end" because he believes strongly in Vonnegut's Tip 3. But this writer of thrillers knows he must be original. He ended with "Every day I even try to defy my own expectations of where the plot's going to go."

Glenda Brown Rynn, Reporter

grynn@cox.net



RESOURCES FOR WRITERS

One of the best resources and newsletters we've found is **Publishing ... and Other Forms of Insanity**. Lists include agents looking for genre submissions, publishers open to unagented submissions, information on conferences, contests, and all things publishing.

Erica Verrillo has written seven books and published five. She learned all about self-publishing: marketing, literary agents, book promotion, editing, pitching the book, getting reviews, and everything you need to do to get it right.

Her latest entry from her blog at:

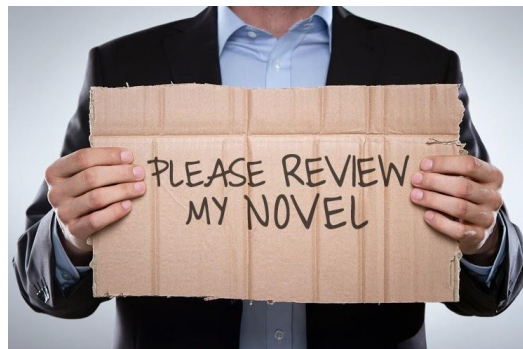
<https://publishedtodeath.blogspot.com/2022/12/2023-new-years-resolution-for-writers.html>

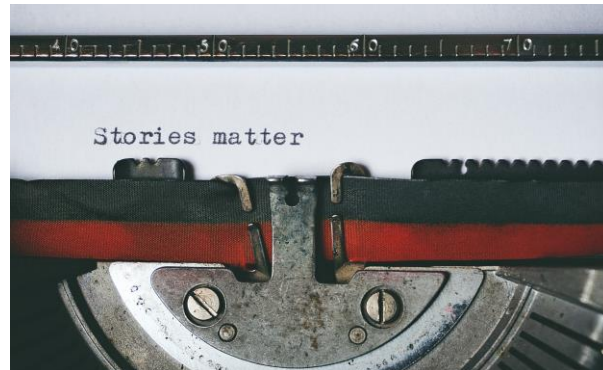
2023 New Year's Resolution for Writers: Motivation

"Sitting down to write takes discipline. But it also takes motivation. We have to want to sit in front of a blank screen (or a blank piece of paper if you are old-fashioned) and we have to want to do it whether we receive accolades (although those help), or prizes (those really help), or publication (man, does that help!). We have to do it during the soul-sapping mental paralysis of the continuing covid pandemic and the loss of a reality we thought was eternal. (It never is.)" Read more at the address above.

Another of Erica's blog posts of interest:

<https://publishedtodeath.blogspot.com/p/reviewers.html>





Authors Publish

Authorspublish.com will keep you up-to-date on opportunities to submit your work to a wide array of publishers. These articles always contribute to the conversations about writing that we enjoy:

<https://authorspublish.com/why-writers-need-to-read-to-be-readers/>

<https://authorspublish.com/30-literary-fiction-publishers-that-accept-direct-submissions-no-agent-required/>



Make a Writer Very Happy!

How to Leave a Review for Your Friends' Books

- Log in to your Amazon account
- Go to the products page, then select the book
- Scroll down to the Customer Reviews section and click on "Write a Customer Review"
- Rate the book
- Write your review and "submit"
- You'll see: "Thanks for your review"

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.

5 Freakishly Helpful Amazon Tricks Every Author Should Use (2023)
From Shayla Raquel:

<https://www.shaylaraquel.com/blog/amazontricks?fbclid>



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

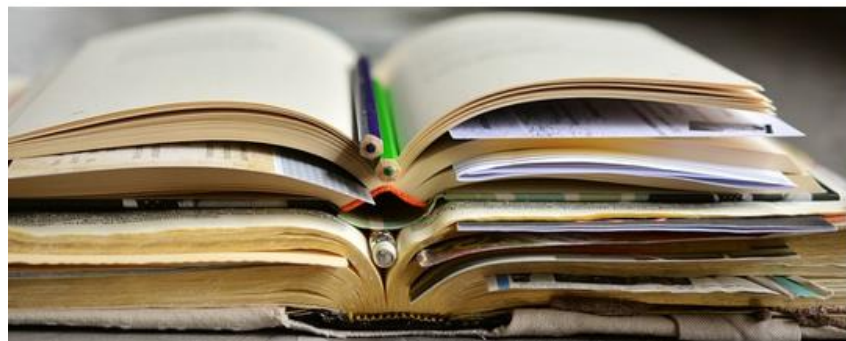
- Subscribers get a free newsletter featuring only indie books.
- Authors and publishers get an affordable way to share their work with engaged readers.

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

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

“Irony is just honesty with the
volume cranked up.”

-George Saunders



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 southernwriters.org and SCWA social media platforms.**
- ❖ **Opportunities to showcase your book on the SCWA website in our bookshop, Members showcase, and on your profile.**
- ❖ **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 of ProgrammingMadeline Margarita
 Vice President - Social Media & Production Diana Pardee
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 Scribe and Speaker Reporter.....Glenda Rynn
 At-Large..... Sharon Goldinger

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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.