



MAY 2023

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 5il
www.southernwriters.org

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Southern California Writer's Association

May 2023

- **President Larry Porricelli's Message**
- **May Featured Event: GREG HURWITZ: 10 a.m. at the Mission Viejo Library, 100 Civic Center, Mission Viejo, CA 92691**
- **Hump Day: Every Wednesday 10 a.m. on SCWA's Facebook Group page**
- **Debby's Room: Continuing in May 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 May 2023 from Larry Porricelli

A HISTORIC FIRST FOR SCWA!

PRESENTING #1 New York Times bestselling author GREGG HURWITZ
at the MISSION VIEJO LIBRARY



Dear Members and Friends,

This month on May 20, 2023, the Southern California Writers Association will join the Mission Viejo Library to bring Gregg Hurwitz, the *New York Times* bestselling author of 21 thrilling novels to you for a wonderful morning.

A *New York Times* internationally bestselling author, Gregg Hurwitz has sneaked onto demolition ranges with Navy SEALs, swam with sharks in the Galápagos, and gone undercover into mind-control cults. He is also a bestselling comic book writer, having penned stories for AWA (*Knighted* and the critically acclaimed anthology *NewThink*), Marvel (*Wolverine* and *Punisher*) and DC (*Batman*, *Penguin*). As a screenwriter he has written scripts and screenplays, including *Sweet Girl* and *The Book of Henry* and others for many of the major studios.

This marks the first time we have done a project in association with the state-of-the-art Mission Viejo Library, and we plan to do several more throughout the year at the wonderful location they provide: the Chamber Room of the Mission Viejo Civic Center.

SCWA has always featured both local and national writers, and we are excited to offer this program to you and the community to come together and enjoy hearing Gregg Hurwitz and meeting fellow writers, authors, editors, and new friends.

Gregg's topic is HOW TO WRITE A BESTSELLING THRILLER—OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN!

We need your support to do this and ask you to read the information below, I think you will find Gregg Hurwitz is certainly a voice to be heard by writers, and his topic is of course, invaluable.

Please access our website for reservations and information:

<https://southernwriters.org/>

Gregg has taught at USC and Harvard, written on Shakespeare and recently helped to write the Opening Ceremony for the World Cup. He will speak about his writing his latest book, *The Last Orphan*, and what makes a thriller a bestseller.

Hurwitz's novels have won numerous literary awards and have been published in 33 languages. Additionally, he's written screenplays and television scripts for many of the major studios and television networks.

The SCWA has been an Orange County leader in the writing community presenting noted writers every month since 1981. Past speakers include many of today's top authors, film personalities, and publishers such as Naomi Hirahara, Hank Phillip Ryan, Joe Ide, Matthew Quirk, Jonathan Maberry, Chris Hauty, Karen Dionne, Ivy Pochoda, Raymond Obstfeld film producer Dean Devlin, Ray Bradbury, and many, many notable people.

Our Cause: To enrich Writers.

When: Saturday, May 20, 2023

Time: 10 am

Where: Mission Viejo Civic Center, 100 Civic Center,
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

Admission: \$25.00

Ticket includes access to the event, as well as coffee and refreshments. Books will be available to purchase for \$28.

Your safety and health are important to us.

We welcome vaccinated members and guests.

Please register by Friday, May 19, 2023, at 8:00 pm.

Again, here is our website: <https://southernwriters.org/>

Thank you so much for your continued membership in a very worthwhile and valuable organization for writers.

Lorenzo Porricelli
President, SCWA



Welcome New Members to SCWA!

Amy Ann Dunkleberger
Daniel McClary
Susan Leport
Bruce Carlin

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

Have you explored the SCWA website lately?

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

Discover 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: May 2023

- SCWA's Featured Speaker for May will be GREGG HURWITZ. Saturday, May 20. Mission Viejo Library, 100 Civic Center, Mission Viejo, CA, 92691
- 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 May. 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.

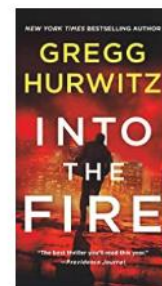
Have you missed an SCWA event? We will upload replays as they are edited and ready on SCWA's YouTube channel at:

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

Featured May 2023 Speaker: Gregg Hurwitz How to Write a Bestselling Thriller, Over and Over



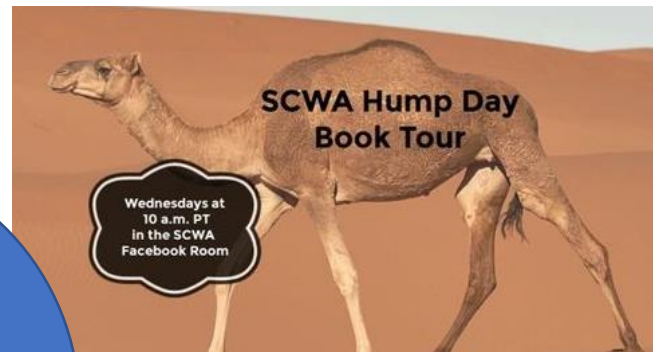
GREGG HURWITZ is the *New York Times* #1 internationally bestselling author of twenty thrillers including *OUT OF THE DARK* (January 2019). His novels have won numerous literary awards and have been published in thirty languages. Additionally, he's written screenplays and television scripts for many of the major studios and networks. Gregg lives with his two Rhodesian ridgebacks in Los Angeles, where he continues to play soccer, frequently injuring himself.



Paramount Players has optioned eight novels from Hurwitz's Marked Man series of books, with plans to adapt them for a series of feature films. Hurwitz will produce the films alongside Emmy winner Scott Frank, producer of Netflix's *The Queen's Gambit*.

**Hump Day
Book Tour**

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

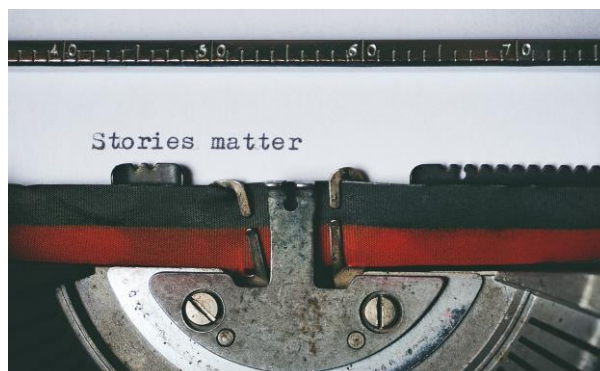


Hump Day episodes stream on SCWA's Facebook page.
Look for our SCWA group on Facebook. Scroll through the posts for the most recent guests. When we are LIVE, click on the Events tab to join us!

Tune in for interviews with bestselling authors and with our own SCWA members talking about their successes.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southernwriters/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 April 2023 Speaker LISA CUPOLO Creating Meaningful Conflict in Any Story

April 15, 2023 SCWA Guest Speaker: Lisa Cupolo

We writers have all been indoctrinated to “Show, Don’t Tell.” However, Lisa Cupolo, SCWA’s April speaker and teacher of fiction writing at Chapman University for twenty years, declares herself an “Anti-Show, Not Tell” author. *Show*, she explained, refers to actions and dialogue. Her writing, she says, is full of declarative sentences. “*Telling* is the huge thing” because it indicates “where you are right in the story.”



Ms. Cupolo’s stories have been published in *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Narrative*, *The Idaho Review*, and others. She’s also the winner of the W. S. Porter Prize and the author of the critically acclaimed *Have Mercy on Us*. Our speaker has been a paparazzi photographer, an aid worker in Kenya, a script doctor in Los Angeles, and a literary publicist at HarperCollins in Toronto. Born in Canada, she holds a BA in philosophy from The University of Western Ontario, a graduate degree in portrait photography from The London Institute, and an MFA from the University of Memphis. She’s lived all over the world, but her home is now in Southern California.

Although short stories can “take you around the universe or break your heart,” they often do not have enough conflict. Cupolo told the audience, “There’s not one of us here without some conflict going on in our heads.”

Our speaker says that if she doesn’t write, the day won’t be complete. “I have to visit my work every day—even if I read just the first paragraph.” At one point, she made a brief reference to the fact that when she was in her twenties and thirties, an illness had her in the hospital a great deal. She did a lot of reading there, of course. “Reading and writing have always made me feel less alone.”

Writers, Cupolo says, often think they have their stories mapped out at the beginning. But she quoted American novelist Robert Stone who said that assumption is “only like headlights when driving.” Cupolo said she “never knows how a story is going to go” with its underlying feelings and all, but “you have to trust the ideas will come.” “I don’t focus on plot; it just comes out. Every single sentence I work on hard.” She consciously removes her *darlings* but saves them. She’s found, though, that she doesn’t return to them. Your main purpose is to take your reader on a journey where he or she learns “what it is to be human.”

When discussing dialogue, Cupolo says at one point with her Chapman writing classes, she’ll have her students sit somewhere outside, especially on or by the large campus fountain, and “listen to how people talk to each other.” It’s a great exercise because “you wind up seeing what’s really there.” To help break dialogue into meaningful parts, a friend had once suggested she read aloud the dialogue she’d heard, then “delete every other line” from what the person said. Save those and then read them aloud. [Evidently, someone’s purpose becomes clearer.]

In commenting on her short story “Have Mercy on Us” from her first published book with the same title, Cupolo has the protagonist Alina talking to herself—and about what she doesn’t know about this bad character she’s tracking who had impregnated her daughter. But being able to follow him “is not the main situation.” Alina is afraid of herself and what violence she might inflict on him. Reading her thoughts makes the reader understand and identify with this central character. Those thoughts have a “simmering quality.” Take your character out of his/her regular place and put them somewhere else—where they get an insight into themselves. The heart of Cupolo’s stories “is the character, and the character is the conflict.”

**Ask yourself, ‘Why am I
telling this story?’**

- Lisa Cupolo

Leave your reader with the main character “having a moment of light” or “a moment of clarity: Truth.” Cupolo quipped, “It’s between all the crap and people who are struggling.” She says every story is different, and “the moment of clarity is the hardest thing to do.” “A moment of clarity would be different for a psychopath than for a police officer.” “Ask yourself, ‘Why am I telling this story?’”

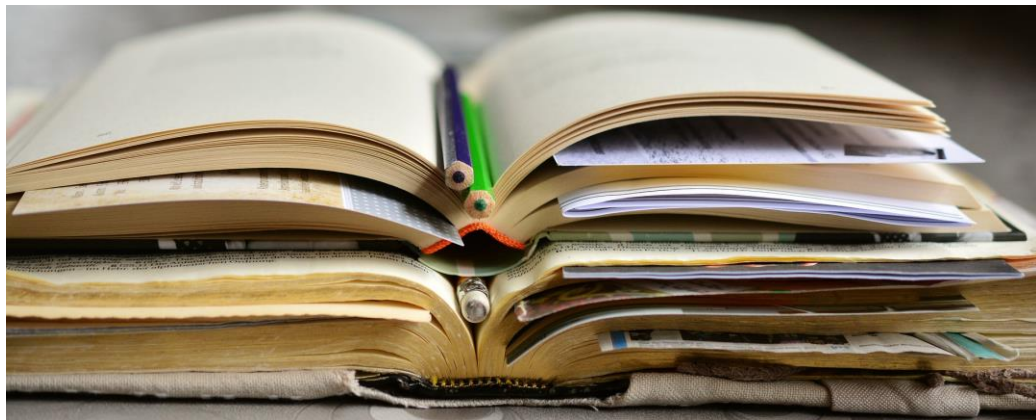
Our speaker often brings in photos from her life and has her students make up a story about something or someone in them. Near the end of her presentation, someone asked what do the students write about? Her answer popped right out. “ZOMBIES, lots of zombies, which make me crazy!” Our SCWA audience burst into laughter. (She added that it’s hard for her to get them to read.) However, the students are also very involved in world building.

When this author advised the audience to “leave your reader with some hope,” an attendee asked, “Should you?”

“Yes!” was Ms. Cupolo’s immediate response.

Glenda Brown Rynn, Reporter

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.

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.

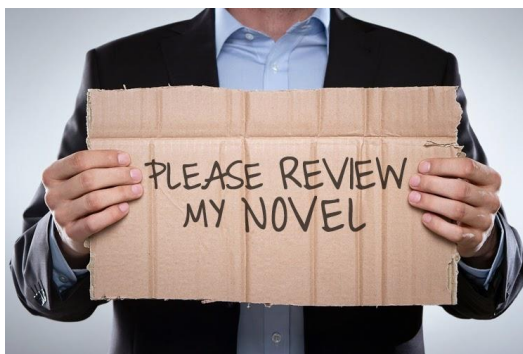
Erica Verrillo has written seven books and published five. She learned all about self-publishing: marketing, literary agents, book promotion, editing, pitching the book, getting reviews, and everything you need to do to get it right.

Here's a sample of the lists and tips from her May newsletter:

- 6 New Agents Seeking Literary Fiction, SciFi, Fantasy Kidlit, Nonfiction, YA, and more
- 20 Publishers accepting Novels, Poetry, and Nonfiction Manuscripts NOW—No agent required
- 59 Writing Contests in May 2023—No Entry Fees
- More lists for agents, workshops, conferences

Don't overlook the tabs above the content entries. Erica Verrillo compiles incredibly valuable resources for all genres.

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



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"

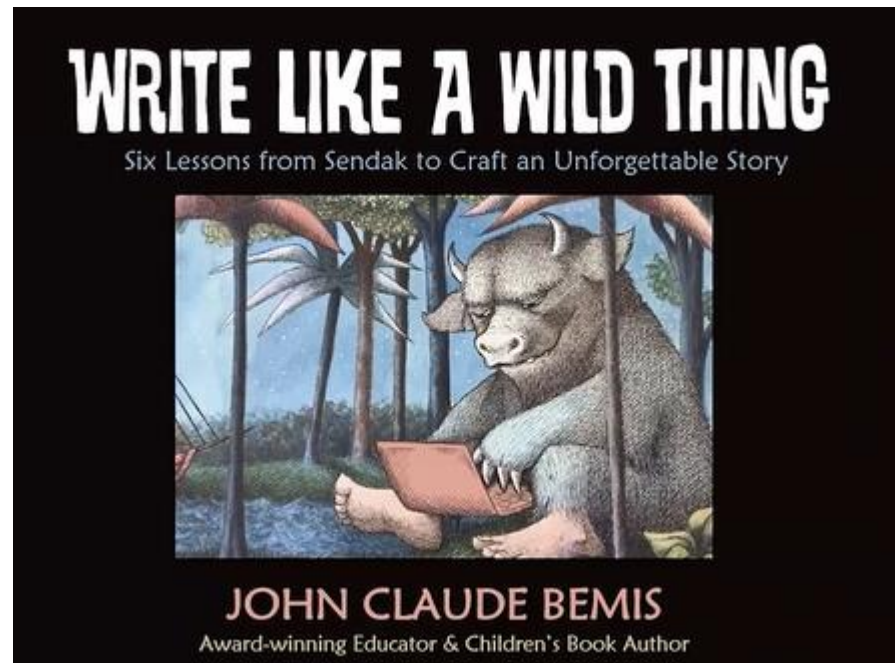
You'll see: "Thanks for your review"

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/free-lecture-write-like-a-wild-thing-6-lessons-on-crafting-an-unforgettable-story/>



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.



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>



Since their inception in 1998, *Foreword Reviews* has never strayed from its mission to help booksellers and librarians discover great books from indie presses.

Foreword's reviews are insightful and thoughtful, and licensed to Baker & Taylor, Bowker and others.

For more information, contact Victoria Sutherland or Michelle Schingler at <https://www.forewordreviews.com/contact/>

General Information: [Victoria Sutherland <victoria@forewordreviews.com>](mailto:victoria@forewordreviews.com)

Book Reviews - [Michelle Schingler <mschingler@forewordreviews.com>](mailto:mschingler@forewordreviews.com)

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 www.southerncafwriters.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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- At-Large..... Sharon Goldinger

Mailing Address for inquiries by mail: PO Box 47, Huntington Beach, CA 92648
Southern California Writer's Association
www.southerncafwriters.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.southerncafwriters.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.