



## JUNE 2023

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## Southern California Writer's Association

### June 2023

- **President Larry Porricelli's Message**
- **June Featured Event: CHRISTINA LePORT 10 a.m. at the Regency Theater San Juan Capistrano, 26762 Verdugo Street, San Juan Capistrano 92675**
- **Hump Day: On Vacation until June 21**
- **Debby's Room: Continuing in June 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 June 2023 from Larry Porricelli

VICTORY CRAYNE



Victory Crayne, past president of SCWA, passed away recently. I felt it was important to share the tale of Victory and her bravado and fortitude to bring SCWA into its fullness—and the role SCWA has played in so many writers lives—all because she stood when it mattered and had a vision that we still have.

I met Victory as a visitor to SCWA, and the speaker at that meeting was wonderful. However, the meeting went four hours, and the man in charge was overbearing, demeaning, and a bully to the gathering, which was mostly women.

I was a guest of a woman I was seeing, and we sat at the same table as Victory, and during our lo-o-o-o-o-ng time together we shared our thoughts on the meeting. I said I probably wouldn't return, as I couldn't believe anyone would stand for the man's behaviors.

Victory had similar feelings; and she said all we could do was run against him in an election, even though he controlled the group. So, what the hell, we gave it a go, and we sent each member an outline of Victory's ideas and goals—particularly to help authors finish a work and be published, which most members at the time had not.

Victory held small coffee and wine meetings, sharing her thoughts away from the meetings, and inviting people to share their ideas. It was very well received, in fact so well received, the abusive man in charge resigned abruptly and Victory won an overwhelming victory.

First thing, Victory put a Vice President in charge of monthly speakers who went after real writers to bring inspiration to the group. Consequently, Ray Bradbury, Dean Devlin, Darlene Quinn, and many other noted writers and editors shared their wisdom and experiences with SCWA. Soon SCWA was being sought by noted writers themselves who asked if they could be fit into SCWA's schedule.

Victory put a premium on being a member of SCWA, and we had well over 200 members, as she constantly made writers aware that they were the sole purpose of SCWA. This is our same mission to this day.

It may sound somewhat tame today, but 25 years ago, Victory's courage stood for women and men as an example of fighting abuse. (The man mentioned was of the "me too" generation, and several times Victory stated that if he won the election, she was "going to knock him out.")

The salacious side of me perhaps may have enjoyed the whopping she would have put on the old goat, but she didn't need to, he left out the back door.

Victory insisted on inviting interesting and valuable speakers—not marketers hawking their conferences and sales pitches but writers of value. And in the tradition of the Algonquin Round Table, all done over a meal, as we fellowshipped at tables and shared our common causes, victories, and failures.



From this grew perhaps a most valuable characteristic of SCWA—we all feel we stand arm in arm with each other and we all do anything we can to assist other members in their efforts. I see this continuously—from editing to marketing to simply putting an arm around a fellow writer. We are one, and I say thank you to Victory Crayne for leading the way.

**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/>

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### 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: June 2023

- SCWA's Featured Speaker for June will be Dr. Cristina LePort. Saturday, June 17. 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 is on vacation until June 21.** 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 June. 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 June 2023 Speaker:  
Dr. Christina LePort  
Deepen Your Story and Tap Your Inner Muse**



**Dr. Cristina LePort** was born in Bologna, Italy. She attended medical school at the University of Bologna and then completed her medical training at Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn and at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is board certified in Internal Medicine and Cardiovascular Diseases, and has been practicing medicine for more than thirty years. In addition to her other accomplishments, Cristina is the Chief Medical Officer and co-founder of Genescent, a biotech company devoted to genetic research on aging and the amelioration of chronic diseases. Medicine and fiction are her twin passions, and she is absolutely thrilled to be able to share her medical thrillers with the world.

Who: Cristina LePort

When: Saturday, June 17, 2023

Time: Continental Breakfast 9:30 am

Meeting w/ Speaker 10:00 am

Followed by book signing, lunch and networking

Where: **Regency Theater San Juan Capistrano**

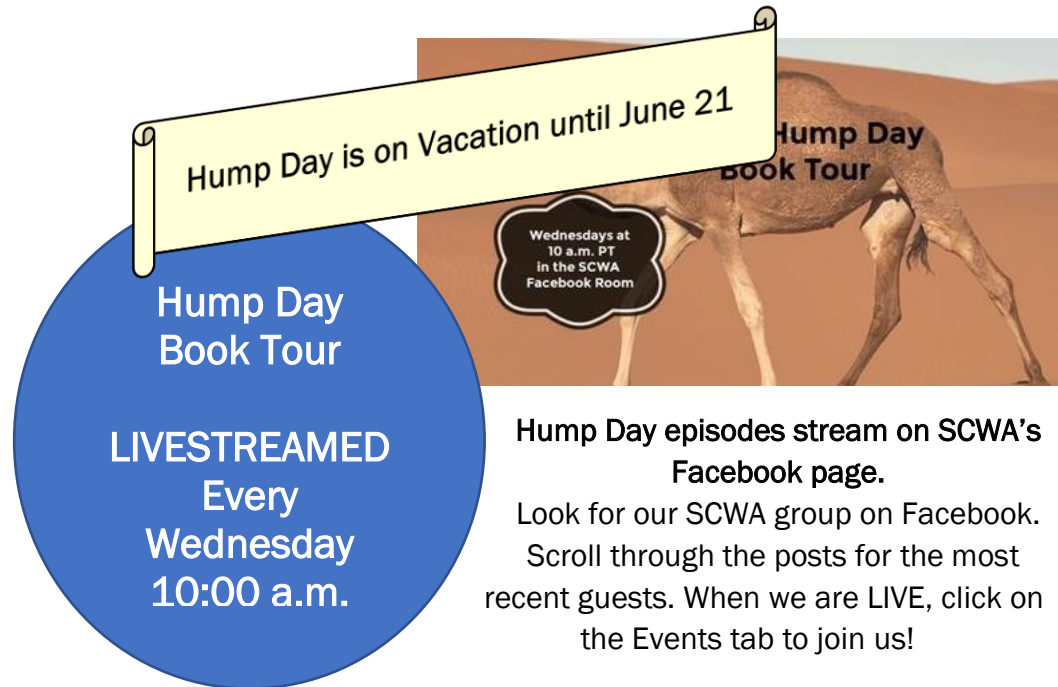
**[26762 Verdugo St, San Juan Capistrano](https://www.southernwriters.org/)**

**Members      \$25.00**

**Nonmembers   \$35.00**

Tickets includes Continental Breakfast, speaker, lunch, networking

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

The graphic features a camel in a desert landscape. A yellow banner at the top reads "Hump Day is on Vacation until June 21". A blue circle on the left contains the text "Hump Day Book Tour" and "LIVESTREAMED Every Wednesday 10:00 a.m.". A black speech bubble on the camel says "Wednesdays at 10 a.m. PT in the SCWA Facebook Room". To the right, text states "Hump Day episodes stream on SCWA's Facebook page." and provides instructions on how to find the SCWA group on Facebook and join the live stream.

Hump Day is on Vacation until June 21

Hump Day Book Tour

LIVESTREAMED  
Every  
Wednesday  
10:00 a.m.

Wednesdays at  
10 a.m. PT  
in the SCWA  
Facebook Room

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 May 2023 Speaker GREGG HURWITZ Writing a Bestselling Thriller, Over and Over



**\*\*Note:** At Mr. Hurwitz's request, no audio or recordings were made at this event. Speaker highlights will appear as usual in the next newsletter.

**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*.



## 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.

- <https://blog.bookbaby.com/>
- <https://writershelpingwriters.net/>
- <https://www.helpingwritersbecomeauthors.com/>

## WRITER'S DIGEST

- <https://www.writersdigest.com/>

“Writers helping improve their craft, achieve their goals, and recognize their dreams—since 1920.”

**WRITE BETTER FICTION   WRITE BETTER NONFICTION   WRITE BETTER POETRY   GET PUBLISHED**

Writer's Digest provides webinars, courses, publishing advice, and services valuable to writers of all levels.



### 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](http://www.writerbeware.blog).

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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>

## 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.southerncalwriters.org](http://www.southerncalwriters.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

- President ..... Larry Porricelli
- Vice President..... Steve Jackson
- Vice President of Finances ..... Don Westenhaver
- Vice President of Programming .....Madeline Margarita
- Vice President - Social Media & Production ..... Diana Pardee
- Newsletter Editor.....Pam Sheppard
- Scribe and Speaker Reporter.....Glenda Rynn
- At-Large..... Sharon Goldinger

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**Southern California Writer's Association**  
[www.southernwriters.org](http://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](http://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.