



## JULY 2023

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## Southern California Writer's Association

### July 2023

- **President Larry Porricelli's Message**
- **July Featured BARON BIRTCHER with Steve Wood: 10 a.m. at the Regency Theater San Juan Capistrano, 26762 Verdugo Street, San Juan Capistrano 92675**
- **Hump Day: LIVE Every Wednesday 10 a.m. on the SCWA Facebook page**
- **Debby's Room: Continuing in July 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 July 2023 from Larry Porricelli

WHERE DO YOU FIND...

Q. Writers who care about each other as a family and are visibly changing the world to become a better place with our efforts?

A. SCWA

Q. Writers who give of themselves and their time to help each other with technique, style, mechanics, and do so in an encouraging and inspiring manner?

A. SCWA

Yes, in SCWA.

And in honor of that compassionate spirit that is the core of SCWA, we invite you to bring a friend to one of our meetings. Come share the conversations and camaraderie with your fellow writers.

SCWA is the servant of writers, and because of that, ultimately a servant especially of readers.

We have ideas for presentations and projects we feel that writers and readers would like to take part in to improve their craft and build their audience, even if you are just at the beginning or already well-established.

Please reach out to us. We need to hear your voice, your wishes, and your ideas, the bigger the better, and more exciting for us!

Our dream is open to all. We are all one in the world today, and we are moving forward with phenomenal teachers and speakers for craft and inspiration with you as our biggest inspiration.

It is time. We look forward to having member writers featured on Hump Day to share your knowledge with the world.

We are on the web, on Facebook, on YouTube. We invite you to be integral to these efforts. You are members, you are writers, you are leaders.

Let ideas come to mind, and please let us know them. I can always be reached at [lorenzo212@gmail.com](mailto:lorenzo212@gmail.com).

I look forward to hearing your voices. We are all together, we are all equal, we all have great things to share.

Thank you, please let me hear from you!

Larry

**Lorenzo Porricelli**  
**President, SCWA**

“Substitute ‘damn’ every time you’re inclined to write ‘very.’ Your editor will delete it and the writing will be just as it should be.”

–Mark Twain

## Welcome to SCWA!

New Members:

[Cherrie Albert](#)  
[Corey Jarvis](#)  
[Tara Leach](#)  
[Hattie Gill](#)  
[Patricia C. McCarthy](#)  
[Julie T. Duff](#)  
[Violeta Lake](#)

Thank you to all who have updated their membership.  
Keep in touch to hear our plans and surprises coming for Fall.

## 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**

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



## 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: July 2023

- SCWA's Featured Speaker for July will be Baron Birtcher with Steve Wood. Saturday, July 15 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 July. 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 July 2023 Speaker: Baron Birtcher with Steve Wood Poetry in Motion: Putting Emotion on the Page



Want to elevate your prose? Find the heart of your story? Set your book apart from the rest? Join us Saturday, July 15, at 10:00 am when award-winning author Baron Birtcher—master of creating razor sharp literary genre fiction—talks with award-winning recording artist/songwriter, Steve Wood (founder of the band Honk, film-score writer, and bandleader for Kenny Loggins—among others). Baron will share insights infusing emotion into words when writing prose, then get Steve's take on how one approaches the same subject when writing poetry or music. Together they will discuss how their approaches can be incorporated into writing evocative prose.

**Baron Birtcher** is the *Los Angeles Times* and IMBA bestselling author of the hardboiled Mike Travis series (*Roadhouse Blues*, *Ruby Tuesday*, *Angels Fall*, and *Hard Latitudes*), the award-winning Ty Dawson series (*South California Purples*, *Fistful Of Rain*, and *Reckoning*), as well as the critically lauded stand-alone, *Rain Dogs*. Baron is a five-time winner of the Silver Falchion Award, and the winner of 2018's Killer Nashville Readers Choice Award, as well as 2019's Best Book of the Year for *Fistful Of Rain*.

He has also had the honor of having been named a finalist for the Nero Award, the Lefty Award, the Foreword Indie Award, the 2016 Best Book Award, the Pacific Northwest's regional Spotted Owl Award and the Claymore Award.

**Steve Wood** was a former member of the 1970s Southern California rock band Honk. Honk's first album was the soundtrack to the surfing movie *Five Summer Stories*, which was made by MacGillivray-Freeman Films—who are now famous for making the IMAX films, for which Steve Wood composes music.

**Who:** Baron Birtcher with Steve Wood

**When:** Saturday, July 15, 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](#)

**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/>

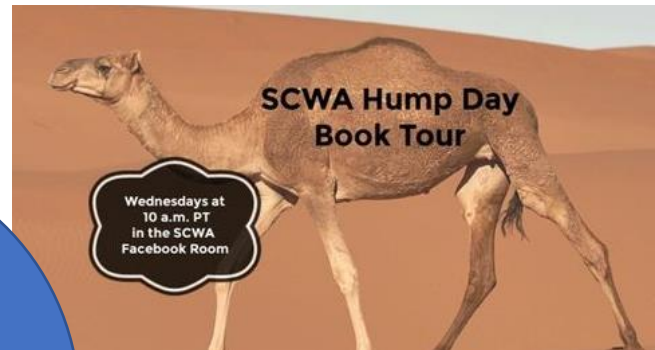
**You must register by Friday, July 14, 2023, at 12:00 pm.**





**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 a.m. 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 2023 on July 9th at Muzeo Museum and Cultural Center's Open Book series presented a perfect Sunday afternoon with **Candi Sary, Peppur Chambers, and Lisa Cupolo.**

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

## HIGHLIGHTS June 2023 Speaker Dr. Cristina LePort Writing and the Subconscious



### **Writing and the Subconscious** **with Physician and Thriller Writer,** **Dr. Cristina LePort**

Medicine and fiction are the inseparable passions of Cristina LePort, M.D. that are the basis of her medical thrillers. After practicing Internal Medicine for seventeen years and about to get a Cardiology fellowship, she began listening to Ayn Rand's lectures from *The Art of Fiction* because she had always wanted to write.

The result was the publication of *Dissection*, a medical and political thriller, in October 2022. In it, a heart surgeon suddenly has many heart attack and stroke patients. Earlier, all of these victims had received cards that declared, "Your heart attack stroke will arrive within one hour!" If that line does doesn't capture readers, what can? In one of the thriller's reviews, award-winning author D. P. Lyle was quoted as saying, "Don't start *Dissection* at night—its pace never lets up and you need your sleep." SCWA member Lyle was present with us for LePort's presentation. In Amazon Kindle, *Dissection* is the number one Best Seller in political thrillers and suspense books.

LePort says inspiration is not innate. For example, if you needed to write about the sunrise you could—because you have "lots of knowledge going into it" and you need lots of mood. However, you need also to "call on your story knowledge that has become unconscious." In other words, your "conscious mind has a limited screen of vision" compared to what your unconscious mind has. But when the two connect in a relationship, you gain inspiration—"as if it's from God." Our speaker says, "Learn how to make it happen. Learn where it comes from."

Thus, "your subconscious is the summing up of your premises and the goals you have set for yourself, the purpose." "We have to consciously work with your subconscious." The bigger the extent of your knowledge stored there, the more your premise will drive your inspiration.

“Literary premises are all in your subconscious,” says LePort. Ask yourself, “What are *proper* literary premises?” “Your main tools are words.” Think of words that are concretes—that represent real objects and things in the world that can help symbolize feelings or factors in your story—such as freedom or fear or other concepts. If you need a table in a scene, for instance, what kind of table (or other items) could reflect family warmth, family separation, authority, poverty, etc.? She says to store them in your subconscious. Wherever someone is in your story, what representative things are nearby?

Analyze the parts of your script you like or don't like. How are they connected to “past conclusions of yours that support your present thinking: philosophical premises, reality, consciousness, the relationship of man and the universe, cause and effect, and free will?” LePort asked if maybe we have bad philosophical premises and commented that because she grew up Catholic, she had to change some of her premises. Now, “I can choose my action.” She says it's bad if she lapses “into the malevolent universe.” “A painting,” she said, “of a beautiful woman with a pimple on her lip is the malevolent universe coming through.”

For your plot and theme, you need “a purposeful progression of events, logically connected, leading to the climax. Always keep the theme in mind.” “You need to believe in free will; without it, there's no plot.” We all “read to relate to ourselves.” So, if there's no free will, “the book won't make a difference to” your reader. (Another suggestion: “Make the worst obstacle you can in the climate.”) “The theme is the conscious purpose by which the subconscious chooses details.” LePort says that at the beginning of her stories, she already knows the end.

Cristina LePort 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. She, her husband, a general surgeon, and family live in Orange County.

Glenda Brown Rynn, Reporter

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

## RESOURCES FOR WRITERS

### ARE YOU A LOCAL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PUBLISHED AUTHOR?

#### CONSIDER DONATING YOUR BOOK TO THE ANAHEIM CENTRAL LIBRARY

Your book should have been published within the past five years. All genre are accepted. Traditionally published or indie published equally accepted.

Your donation will put you in the pool for a free author table and reading at **Indie Author Day on Sunday, November 5th**. Your book may also be placed in the library shelves or in the local indie author display at Anaheim Central Library. Deadline to submit: October 1, 2023.

Please mail your book donation and email contact information to the Library, to the attention of:

Indie Author Day  
Anaheim Central Library  
500 W. Broadway Ave  
Anaheim, CA 92805

Or drop off your book at the Anaheim Central Library with your contact name and email inside the book. Tell the clerk this book is for Indie Author Day.

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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/>

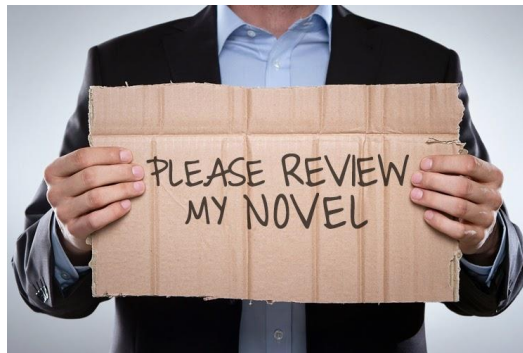
## WRITER'S DIGEST

- <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).

## 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.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.