



Southern California Writers Association

The Perennial Writers Conference

January 2019 Newsletter

Volume 18, Number 1 -- January 2019

President's Message Larry Porricelli, SCWA President

Thank you for making the SCWA the phenomenal organization it is today, and for even better things to come. If your annual fees are due, please sign up to extend for your next twelve months. There are some surprises ahead so stay tuned. Happy writing!

A note from our Social Media and Communications Maven, Diana Pardee:
Check out our SCWA Facebook link and join us for excerpts, discussions and encouragements.

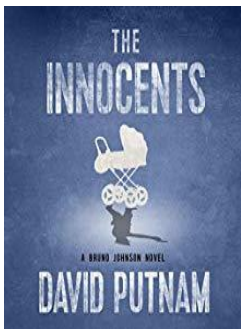
Follow us, we'd love to see you there!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/160332824032519>

January 19th Speaker – David Putnam “Dave on Writing”



Best-selling author David Putnam comes from a family of law enforcement and always wanted to be a cop. During his career, he did it all: worked in narcotics, served on FBI-sponsored violent crimes teams, and was cross-sworn as a US Marshall pursuing murder suspects and bank robbers in Arizona, Nevada, and California. He served on the San Bernardino County Sheriff's SWAT team executing dynamic entries, hostage rescues, and serving as team sniper. He has worked in criminal intelligence and internal affairs and has supervised corrections, patrol, and a detective bureau.

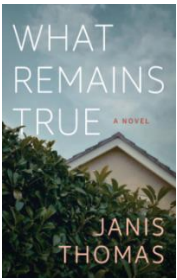


Booklist sums up Putnam's Bruno Johnson series: "Bruno Johnson believes so passionately in justice that he'll lie, cheat, and steal to achieve it—and he'll pulverize anybody who gets in his way."

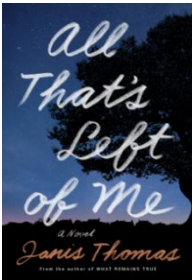
He will discuss the five things a scene needs to work, MAR, (Motivation, Action Reaction), and the three parts of voice.



**Upcoming February 16, 2019:
Speaker: Janis Thomas**



Janis loves to create stories that entertain, that provide an escape, that touch readers, and possibly make them think, reassess, or rediscover something important. She loves to create characters that become friends to whom people can relate, characters that make you care about what happens to them and who linger with long after you have put the book down. Her novel, *What Remains True* (December 1, 2017, Lake Union) is a story of domestic suspense. It was chosen for the Kindle First program for November and is already a bestseller! Her latest



novel, *All That's Left of Me* is available on Amazon.



**December Highlights – Paul Marks
Write Short Stories Using Screenwriting Techniques**

Paul D. Marks is the author of the Shamus Award-Winning noir mystery-thriller *White Heat*, set during the Rodney King “riots” and its sequel *Broken Windows*, mystery-thrillers that take place in the 1990s, though the issues they deal with, racism and immigration, respectively, are still things firing up the news today.

Asked about his new novel, Marks said, “*Broken Windows* holds up a prism from which we can view the events burning up today’s headlines, like the passionate immigration debate, through the lens of the recent past. It all comes down to the saying we know so well, “the more things change, the more they stay the same.”

His short story *Windward*, has been selected for the Best American Mystery Stories of 2018, edited by Louise Penny and Otto Penzler, and has also been nominated for both a 2018 Shamus Award and Macavity Award for Best Short Story.

Paul has a background as a script doctor. Script doctors are not usually credited in the movie, but can be depending on how much the writer contributed. When a book is made into a movie the original writer gets credit.

When asked to do a treatment he discovered that the outline for screenplay adapts to most writing. Using the process for short stories, a screenplay format is quick. It’s all action after the slugline, with little interior monolog or dialog. He likes to let it go. No overthinking.

A short story can be hybrid of a screenplay, an easy outline. He likes to get to know his characters and let them do what they do. Essentially, a screenplay is a blueprint for a movie and can be the outline for any story. A novel is the finished product, built off the screenplay.

Paul opens his stories with a teaser, something to get people interested. A dead body in a trunk, for instance. Toward the end is the turning point that spins the story in a different direction. In short, a character, a conflict, and situations that build more conflict. And an ending that ties everything together. Simple, right?

For his process, Paul segments his scenes into slugline, action, and dialog using Final Draft. His rewrite moves into MS Word rich text, and then he works on a split screen for revisions.

Maddie's question: "What magic makes your stories win awards?"

Paul: *Windward* is a story that made it into the *Best Mysteries of 2018 Anthology*, but I don't know why. I just tried to do my best. For the Ellery Queen stories, the Ghost of Bunker Hill series, it is the setting of what Los Angeles was then and what it is now. The Ghost narrates.

What does a good short story need? A good structure with three acts, modified:

- A teaser – a hook at the beginning
- First act + a plotpoint
- Second Act + a plotpoint
- Third Act – finishes

Within each act and scene there is a beginning, a middle, and an end. If the writing goes on too long, look at the first and the third acts where the last third can be chopped off. You need to keep things moving. Elmore Leonard's advice: "Cut out all the parts people skip over."

Put a character in jeopardy and the reader will go with you. As in the movies, you have to SHOW. More thoughts will come out through what your characters DO. Show the character's choices, the problems, and how he solves them.

As far as VOICE, put in your unique voice later. You can stand up for what you believe and preserve that voice, but know when to fight and when to give in. When editing, Paul learned to give his authors leeway and not change the tone or the voice...because Hollywood ALWAYS wants to change the voice.

Characters are infused with their own way of looking at life. That certain point of view, that way of looking that comes across is also the voice. Some readers like this, some don't. You can resist changing it, or you can compromise.

Short stories are like symphonies, or mini-novels with subplots, minute characters. You can't explore as much as in a novel, but you can have an A and B story. The basic plot overall is to solve the problem. It's the character that speaks to the reader and where you can engage them. Who he is and why he is, when woven slowly into the story through action and scene description works.

Paul has been a judge for the Edgar and Shamus anthologies. He looks for unique characters, fully fleshed like a real person. He looks for a character that speaks to him, and an interesting plot that doesn't bog down.

An example of a key line: "I used to be somebody." The motivation is clear.

My early prose read like a screenplay without a slugline. I needed to expand on description. Raymond Chandler is a master of description, getting a feel for the place, its ambiance, its atmosphere.

On writing partners: There are disagreements. One wants to keep things, the other wants to cut. Some of the cuts can be saved for another script.

Serious situations in the context of the mystery stories are workable when expressed in a format that #1 is entertaining. Then the message is woven in.

Paul can be reached at [https:// pauldmarks.com](https://pauldmarks.com) and on his Amazon author page.

SCWA Mission

The mission of the SCWA is to provide a forum for promoting the welfare, fellowship, spirit, education, information, and encouragement among published and unpublished writers in the Southern California area,

SCWA Active Member Benefits

Active members receive a 30% discount at every SCWA meeting.
SCWA provides scholarships to members who attend writer's conferences.
SCWA members receive a free review and 30-minute consultation from Sharon Goldinger for any publishing contract.
SCWA members receive discounts on Jeff Lyon's online courses.
SCWA Critique Program – see below.
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, which is held twice annually in San Diego and Orange County.

SCWA Critique Program

We have some exciting news on the critique front. One of our members received a critique, and he credits that critique with getting him a two-day response from an agent, who wants to see the entire manuscript. We love it when that happens.

Critique requests should be sent to Steve Jackson at steven@stevengjackson.com. If you have not received a response to a previous critique request, please resubmit (without any fee if you've already paid) to Steve. Steve will direct your sample (up to 15 double-spaced pages) to one of the Board members once we receive your payment. Payments (\$20.00 for members and \$30.00 for nonmembers) should be directed to Don Westenhaver.

- Check payable to SCWA: mail to Don at 5391 Fox Hills Ave., Buena Park, CA 90621
- Credit Card: advise Steve that you will pay by credit card. He will have Don send you an invoice with instructions on how to pay through the SCWA Square account.

Have a Question about a Publishing Contract?

Contracts involving publishing matters can be confusing if you're not familiar with all the language. What does something mean? What questions should I be asking? Do I have any other choices? If you're not sure what you're reading, what a term or section means, or if you should be signing the contract at all, SCWA is offering a new benefit. SCWA member, publishing consultant, and book shepherd Sharon Goldinger is offering a free review and thirty-minute consultation for any publishing contract to any SCWA member. You can reach her directly at pplspeak@att.net.

Conferences, Events, and Announcements

Lit Up! Orange County is January 22nd at our NEW LOCATION Bardot & Bars in Tustin at 7PM. Join us for an evening of readings and smart conversation with talented writers Jeri Westerson AE Wasserman, and Fred Klein.

Janis Thomas has partnered with Sonia Marsh to offer an exclusive writer's retreat in South Africa May 25-June 2, 2019. This includes an exclusive safari for 10. Contact Janis or Sonia via email for details.

"Will Write for Food" Contest

The "Will Write For Food" contest is a monthly blind competition. Winners are selected by a literary agent. First prize includes publication in the SCWA Newsletter, a certificate, and a \$25 cash prize.

You may write on any subject. Stories have a maximum of 1000 words. The winner will be announced at the SCWA meeting. To enter, email your story by January 15th, 2019, to meeting@ocwriter.com.

There are no limits to the number of times you can win. Join the fun and earn some rewards.

Monthly Meeting Information and Map

Meeting Location:

Claim Jumper Restaurant
 Banquet Room entrance, rear of building
 18050 Brookhurst St., Fountain Valley, CA
 Restaurant telephone: (714) 963-6711

Registration & Networking: 9:30 a.m.
 Meeting: 10:00 a.m.
 Lunch: 11:30 a.m.
 Afternoon Program: 12:30 p.m.



Meeting Fees (cash, check or credit/debit)

Reservation Type	SCWA Member	Student	Others
RSVP	\$25	\$15	\$35

SCWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President Larry Porricelli
- Vice President of Membership Steven G. Jackson
- Vice President of Finances and Communication Don Westenhaver
- Vice President of Programming Madeline Margarita
- Director of Social Media Diana Pardee
- Webmaster Brennan Harvey
- Newsletter Editor Pam Sheppard
- Newsletter Speaker Reporter Glenda Rynn

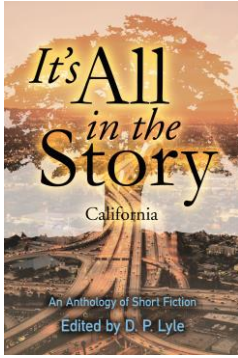
Mailing Address: PO Box 47, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Membership: Yann Jackson, ykj3678@gmail.com

Meeting Reservations

Larry Porricelli, meeting@ocwriter.com
 714-580-5072

Recent SCWA Member Publications

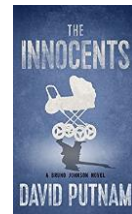


The SCWA Anthology, *It's All in the Story*, went to a second printing to meet the demand of wholesalers and bookstores. We have books for direct sales (\$15 for one, \$12.50 each for two, \$10 each for three or more). You may contact Don Westenhaver to arrange for payment, and we will have the copies available for you at the next SCWA meeting. Don can be reached at donwestenhaver@roadrunner.com.

For more information visit the SCWA Anthology website at:
www.SCWAanthology.com

David Putnam: <https://dwputnam.wordpress.com>

The Innocents: A Bruno Johnson Novel
The Early Years, Book 1 12/18



Janis Thomas: janisthomas.com

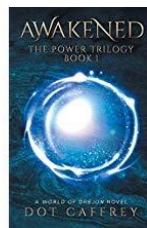
All That's Left of Me

What Remains True



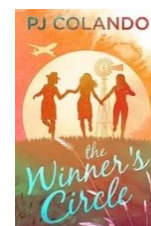
Dot Caffrey: www.dotcaffrey.com

AWAKENED 8/18



PJ Colando: www.pjcolando.com

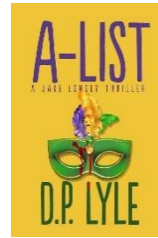
The Winner's Circle: Launching February, 2019



Steven Jackson: <https://stevengjackson.com>
"The Optimism of Youth"

D.P. Lyle: www.dplylemd.com

A-List: Coming in Paperback 2/19

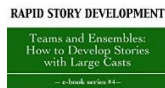


Jeff Lyons: www.jefflyonsbooks.com

*Rapid Story Development: #4: Teams and Ensembles—
How to Develop Stories with Large Casts - 10/18*

*Rapid Story Development: #5: The Moral Premise –
How to Build a Bulletproof Narrative Engine for Any Story - 11/18*

Rapid Story Development: #6: Seven Steps to Busting Writer's Block - 12/18



#4



#5



#6

Darlene Quinn: <https://darlenequinn.net>



**WEBS OF PERCEPTION – the final novel in Darlene Quinn's
Webs Series. 11/18**

Solange Richie: www.solangerichie.com

FIRESTORM: 5/18



Ananya and Brett Ridenour:

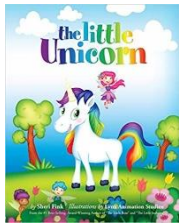
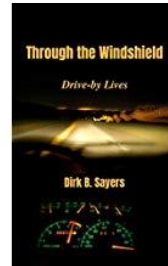
COLORING OUTSIDE THE LINES: Integrating Project Management and Creativity 10/18



Dirk Sayers: dirksayers.com/dirks-writings

Through the Windshield: 12/18

Best Case Scenario: 8/18



Sheri Fink: www.sherifink.net

The Little Unicorn 9/18

SCWA Member Publications and Productions

<u>Author</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Year</u>
Belmont, Julie	<i>Creativity Business Plan for Artists at Heart</i>	2014
Belmont, Julie	<i>The Path to Personal Success and Freedom; Turning Hurdles into Stepping Stones</i>	2005
Caffrey, Dot	<i>Cursed Power</i>	2015

Colando, PJ	<i>Awakening Powers</i>	2014	
	<i>The Winner's Circle</i>	2019	
	<i>Hashes & Bashes</i>	2016	
	<i>Stashes</i>	2014	
Crayne, Victory	<i>Rebuilt</i>	2016	
	<i>Humans Only</i>	2016	
	<i>Freedom</i>	2015	
De Ladurantey, Joseph	<i>Making Your Memories with Rock & Roll and Doo Wop</i>	2016	
	<i>Cowards, Crooks, and Warriors</i>	2015	
Dingus, Peter	<i>Worlds in Transition</i>	2017	
Donenfeld-Vernoux, AR	<i>Pudel & Cie: Case #1 Moroney Boloney</i>	2015	
	<i>Cave Dreams</i>	2014	
	<i>Out of the Chute</i>	2014	
	<i>How To Get And Keep The Best Jobs:Secrets HR Won't Tell You</i>	2014	
Dunlap, Larry J	<i>Night People</i>	2015	
Fink, Sheri	<i>The Little Unicorn</i>	2018	
	<i>Counting Sea Life with the Little Seahorse</i>	2017	
	<i>Cake in Bed</i>	2016	
	<i>My Bliss Book</i>	2015	
	<i>The Little Seahorse</i>	2014	
	<i>The Little Firefly</i>	2013	
	<i>The Little Gnome</i>	2012	
	<i>Exploring the Garden with the Little Rose</i>	2012	
	<i>The Little Rose</i>	2011	
Gilmore, Susan Kay	<i>Possessed by Baseball</i>	2013	
Giussani, Sara	<i>Malibu</i>	2015	
	<i>Come fare... La valutazione di un processo aziendale</i>	2014	
	<i>Management dei processi aziendali</i>	2012	
Jackson, Steven G	"The Optimism of Youth"	2018	
	"Full Service"	2017	
	"Life Dies, and Then You Suck"	2017	
	"The Master Playwright"	2016	
	"The Asylum for Rejected Characters"	2016	
	<i>The Zeus Payload</i>	2015	
	"Fade to Crazy"	2015	
	"The Loan Officer"	2014	
King, Roy	<i>Symfonie Fantastique</i>	2011	
Klann, Nancy	<i>The Clock of Life</i>	2012	
	<i>Like The Flies On The Patio</i>	2012	
			
			
			
			

SCWA Member Publications and Productions

Author	Title	Year	
Lambert, Harlen, Sharron	<i>Affairs of the Heart, Vol. 2</i>	2017	
	<i>Affairs of the Heart, Vol. 1</i>	2016	
Levine, Jennifer	<i>Summer Secrets</i>	2016	
Lloyd, Rita Lee	<i>How to Survive in the 21st Century as a SSOFF</i>	2011	
Lyle, DP (Doug)	<i>A-List</i>	2018	
	<i>Deep Six</i>	2016	
	<i>Forensics for Dummies, 2nd edition</i>	2016	
	<i>Original Sin</i>	2015	
	<i>Devil's Playground</i>	2015	
	<i>Double Blind</i>	2015	
	<i>Murder and Mayhem</i>	2013	
	<i>Royal Pains: Sick Rich</i>	2012	
	<i>Run To Ground</i>	2012	
	<i>Thriller3: Love Is Murder (Short Story)</i>	2012	
	<i>ABA Fundamentals: Understanding Forensic Science</i>	2012	
	<i>Royal Pains: First, Do No Harm</i>	2011	
	<i>Hot Lights, Cold Steel</i>	2011	
	<i>Thrillers: 100 Must Reads (Essay)</i>	2010	
	<i>Stress Fracture</i>	2010	
	<i>Howdunnit: Forensics: A Guide For Writers</i>	2008	
	<i>Forensics and Fiction</i>	2007	
Lyons, Jeff	<i>Rapid Story Development: Bust the Top Ten Creative Writing Myths to Become a Better Writer</i>	2018	
Lyons, Jeff	<i>Rapid Story Development: Commerical Pace in Fiction & Creative Nonfiction</i>	2018	
Lyons, Jeff	<i>Rapid Story Development: Ten Questions Every Writer Needs to Ask Before They Hire a Consultant</i>	2018	
	<i>13 Minutes</i>	2018	
	<i>Anatomy of a Premise Line</i>	2016	
	<i>Jack Be Dead</i>	2016	
Marsh, Sonia	<i>My Gutsy Story Anthology</i>	2013	
	<i>Freeways to Flip-Flops</i>	2012	
Marshall, Evelyn	<i>Concerning Georgia Stekker</i>	2014	
	<i>The Way They See</i>	2013	
	<i>The Provider</i>	2012	
Martinez, Maria	<i>The Apple Tree Wish</i>	2012	
Michaels, Jeffrey J.	<i>The Age of Change: A Challenging Path to the Future</i>	2017	
	<i>Becomes Us All</i>	2016	
	<i>A Day at the Beach</i>	2015	
	<i>Tasa's Path</i>	2015	
	<i>How to Become The True You</i>	2015	
	<i>Light: The Reason for Existence</i>	2012	
	<i>Beings: A Journey to Joy</i>	2010	
	<i>Touch the Earth: A Path to Ascension</i>	2009	
	<i>Crystal Experience: Manifest an Extraordinary Life</i>	2007	
	<i>Harmonic Coalescence, the Future of Humanity</i>	2007	

SCWA Member Publications and Productions

Moose, Anne	<i>Arkansas Summer</i>	2017	
Muhle, Charles	<i>One Way to Write</i>	2011	
	<i>The Sky Tree</i>	2011	
Nader, Lillian	<i>Theep and Thorp: Adventures in Space</i>	2016	
Nannini, Marcus A.	<i>Chameleons</i>	2017	
Nixon, Andy	<i>Three Lives of Peter Novak</i>	2016	
	<i>50 Shades of Grades, My Journey Through Wacademia</i>	2013	
Pope, Casey	<i>A Love Life Like Karmic Disaster</i>	2016	
Porter, Kathy	<i>Escape from Nuur</i>	2013	
	<i>Earth's Ultimate Conflict</i>	2010	
	<i>Gray/Guardians</i>	2006	
Putnam, David	<i>The Innocents</i>	2018	
Quinn, Darlene	<i>Web of Perception</i>	2018	
	<i>Conflicting Webs</i>	2015	
	<i>Unpredictable Webs</i>	2013	
	<i>Webs of Fate</i>	2011	
	<i>Twisted Webs</i>		
	<i>Webs of Power</i>	2008	
Ritchie, Solange	<i>Firestorm</i>	2018	
	<i>The Burning Man</i>	2015	
Sayer, Dirk B.	<i>Best Case Scenario</i>	2018	
Spence, Charla	<i>Personal Healthcare Record (Adult)</i>	2011	
	<i>Personal Healthcare Record (Child)</i>	2011	
Szymczak, Leonard	<i>Kookaburra's Last Laugh</i>	2016	
	<i>Fighting for Love</i>	2016	
	<i>Cuckoo Forevermore</i>	2015	
	<i>The Roadmap Home: Your GPS to Inner Peace</i>	2009	
Thomas, Janis	<i>What Remains True</i>	2017	
	<i>Murder in A-Minor</i>	2016	
	<i>Say Never</i>	2014	
	<i>Sweet Nothings</i>	2013	
	<i>Something New</i>	2012	
Van Camp, Wendy	<i>The Curate's Brother</i>	2014	
Weiss, Jill Q.	<i>Crystal Experience: Manifest an Extraordinary Life</i>	2007	
Westenhaver, Don	<i>Missing Star</i>	2017	
	<i>Alexander's Lighthouse</i>	2012	
	<i>The Whiplash Hypothesis</i>	2008	
	<i>The Red Turtle Project</i>	2008	
	<i>Nero's Concert</i>	2008	
Williams, Marianna	<i>Love, Regret and Accidental Nudity</i>	2014	
	<i>The Valentine State</i>	2013	
	<i>Stars or Stripes Fourth of July</i>	2011	
	<i>Happy New Year, Darling</i>	2005	
Woodcock, Don	<i>A Lily Named Lillian</i>	2015	

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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.ocwriter.com 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 Newsletter Editor will determine the information to be contained in the SCWA on-line newsletter, which is primarily used for official SCWA information.