

## AUGUST 2021

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[www.Southernwriters.org](http://www.Southernwriters.org)

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## Southern California Writer's Association August 2021

- **President Larry Porricelli's Message**
- **August's Featured Monthly Speaker: Andrea Bartz**  
**"Creating Scenes and Dialog to Propel Your Story"**  
<https://www.southernwriters.org/meetings>
- **Hump Day: Every Wednesday starting in September**
- **Debby's Room: Wednesdays 10:20 a.m.**
- **Such Good News!**
- **Highlights: Dalia Dupris**
- **SCWA Cookbook**



## Have you subscribed?

Check out our new YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLrQsfwTMaCi139ISRV50KQ>

Through the 2020 challenges SCWA has risen to new heights with a wide range of talented presenters and programs who will inspire, educate, and motivate writers and readers alike through our online programs.

Our best and brightest authors and guest speakers' presentations have now been uploaded to our own YouTube channel. Our content includes the Hump Day Book Tours, Pub Shops with insights into book publishing and marketing, and our monthly author spotlights and workshops.

## President's Message for August 2021 from Larry Porricelli

Hello SCWA Writers,

We hope your summer so far has been a great time for working on a project, visiting with family and friends, travel, or just plain relaxing with an iced tea under the shade of, uh, well, we don't have too many trees for shade out here, so perhaps under an umbrella or a covered patio.

While relaxing, you can always visit SCWA on YouTube at "SCWA Presents Writers Online," and enjoy any of the amazing 50 plus events you may have missed in the past year. Sit back with your eyes closed, take a sip of your cool drink, and hear wonderful authors share their hearts. And of course, please subscribe to the channel to access it easily.

For their fabulous work on the many produced shows within the past year, I thank

1. Maddie Margarita for her marvelous skills at interviewing and pulling the deepest and most important insights from the writers interviewed. F. Lee Bailey and Johnny Cochrane have nothing on Maddie's talents.
2. Diana Pardee for her ability to produce great shows so interesting and worthy of our attention that even Cecil B. DeMille would be envious of the riveting presentations.
3. Robert Rollins who edits the shows for presentation—his skills make all our shows so smooth, fluid, and visually a delight. (He even made the tirade of one famous author sound like the singing of "Ave Maria!")

If you haven't visited the Southern California Writers Association on YouTube, please do so and enjoy our Monthly Featured Speakers, Hump Day authors, Pub Chats and Craft Chat series that will expand and hone your writing skills.

And the best way to thank our friends for their effort and hard work on our behalf is to visit the YouTube page: SCWA Presents Writers Online, and subscribe to the page! Your subscription to the page will help us reach the number needed on YouTube for expanded benefits for SCWA. Please do that—it is just a great big hug and thank you to our dear friends for the hours of effort on our behalf.

**SPECIAL NEWS:** Coming soon, the SCWA online Bookstore, featuring SCWA writers and their books! This will be so fantastic! Your books featured on our website! If you have any questions, please ask on the site!

**EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT:** The SCWA thanks Kathy Porter for her assistance in helping us locate a great site to have our first live meeting this fall! Stay tuned for a special letter informing of the details!

Thank you!

Lorenzo Porricelli



We've been posting deeper content to help members succeed over in our SCWA Members Only Facebook group. Make sure your dues are up-to-date and join us there.

Some recent topics include self-publishing lingo, landing pages, building your tribe, tips for author headshots, and book launch success. Diana Pardee is curating the best quality content she can find and welcomes your suggestions. DM her on Facebook at Diana Pardee.

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

## SCWA Events This Month: August 2021

- **SCWA Featured Monthly Speaker: August 21, 10 a.m. PDT.** We are happy to welcome **Andrea Bartz** who will speak on “Creating Scenes and Dialog to Propel Your Story.” Register at: <https://www.southernwriters.org/>
- **SCWA VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR: Every Friday at 4:30 p.m. PDT** Join us with your funny stories and Summer Libations for good news and good cheer. Sign up on our website and we'll email you a link and password. <https://www.southernwriters.org/>
- **SCWA HUMP DAY BOOK TOUR: Hump Day will be on hiatus for the month of August.** You can access previous interviews on SCWA's YouTube channel and we will see you all again in September.
- **Debby's Room:** Every Wednesday at 10:20 a.m. PDT. Join Debby Chase and Dot Caffrey for casual conversation about the writing craft and anything that you wish to bring for discussion. Look on the Rooms tab for **Debby's Room** on the SCWA Facebook page.

Have you missed an SCWA event? Find the replay on SCWA's YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLrqSfwTMaCi139ISRV50KQ>

where we will upload replays as they are edited and ready.

**If you're interested in these and all SCWA events, please check out our website for membership details at:**

<https://www.southernwriters.org/>

## Featured Monthly Speaker: August 21, 2021 Andrea Bartz Creating Scenes & Dialog to Propel Your Story

The Purpose of  
Literature  
Is to  
turn blood  
into Ink.

\*  
T.S. Eliot

Join us Saturday August 21, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. PDT when SCWA welcomes  
**Andrea Bartz**

**When:** Saturday, August 21, 2021

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. PDT

**Where:** Zoom, RSVP for your link at:

<https://www.southernwriters.org/meetings>

**Cost:** Members \$10.00

Nonmembers \$15.00



Andrea Bartz is a Brooklyn-based journalist and the author of the newly released *We Were Never Here*. Her second thriller, *The Herd*, was named a best book of 2020 by *Real Simple*, *Marie Claire*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Crime Reads*, and other outlets. Her *LA Times* bestselling debut, *The Lost Night*, was optioned for TV development by Mila Kunis. It was named a best book of the year by *Real Simple*, *Glamour*, *Marie Claire*, *Library Journal*, *Crime Reads*, *PopSugar*, *She Reads*, and other publications. Her work has appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Vogue*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Women's Health*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *Elle*, and many other outlets, and she's held editorial positions at *Glamour*, *Psychology Today*, and *Self*, among other titles.



Barbara Howe's review of Andrea's new book is linked here:

<https://3no7.wordpress.com/2021/08/05/we-were-never-here/>

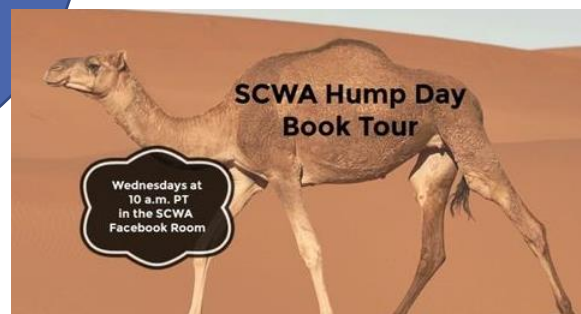


**Lit Up Orange County is brought to you monthly by Maddie Margarita, hosting a lively salon of notable authors reading and discussing their books. If you've missed any of these special events, check on Facebook Lit Up Orange County for replays and announcements.**

**Hump Day  
Book Tour**

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

**Hump Day will return after a few weeks of hiatus in August. Join us again in September!**



Look for our SCWA group on Facebook. Click on the Events tab to join us!

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

If you can't join us, look for replays on the SCWA Facebook group page and on SCWA's YouTube channel. Subscribe anytime at <https://bit.ly/2I890Db>

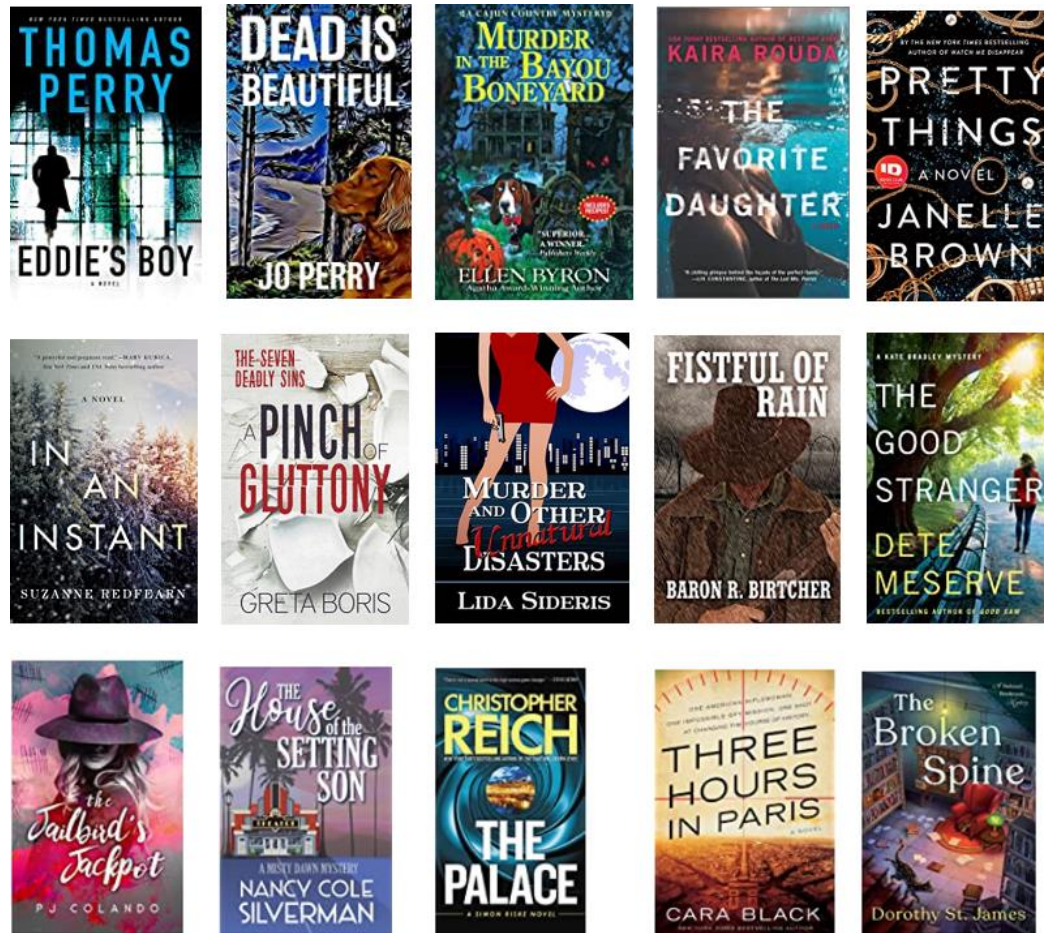
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### Recent Hump Day guests include:

Dr. Mary Hill-Wagner   Joe Clifford   Pamela Fagan Hutchins   Dorothy McFalls  
 Shawn Reilly Simmons   Nancy Cole Silverman   Quan Huynh   Wendy Hornsby  
 Kathleen Krevat   David Putnam   Mike Farley   Lani Forbes   Caitlyn O'Leary  
 Janelle Brown   Mary Anna Evans   Kaira Rouda   Laurie Stevens   Matt Coyle  
 Glen Erik Hamilton   August Norman   Tori Eldridge   Ava Homa   Dana Swift  
 Naomi Hirahara   LA Chandlar   Greta Boris   Joe Perry   Thomas Perry  
 Suzanne Redfearn   Chris Reich   Baron R. Birtcher   Dete Meserve  
 Anne Cleeland   Cara Black   Christopher Reich   Kaira Rouda   Dorothy St. James  
 PJ Colando   Patricia Smiley   Lisa Black   Johathan Brown   Nancy Cole Silverman

### Build up your stack of TBRs with these books by our guest authors:





**Don't forget!** Immediately following Maddie's wonderful interviews on the Wednesday Hump Day program, join Debby Chase and Dot Caffrey at 10:20 a.m. PDT, for an informal get-together for a bit of writer-to-writer good old-fashioned conversation with people who understand and enjoy our world too.

Come and join us by checking the More button on the SCWA group page, and then Rooms for the JOIN button to **Debby's Room** (or copy and paste this link):

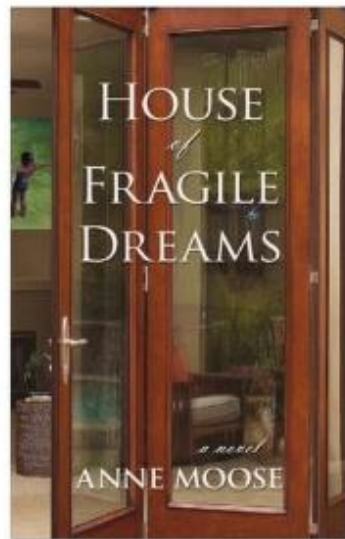
<https://www.facebook.com/groupcall/LINK:mhfmijxkzqkx/?nonce=cr6wv8imps5b>



# CELEBRATE ALL THE GOOD NEWS!

ANNIE MOOSE's second book, *House of Fragile Dreams* has just been released. Reviews are coming in spilling over with stars!

## Five '5-Star' Reader's Favorite Reviews



"Author Anne Moose has penned a page-turning novel in *House of Fragile Dreams*. It is an exceptional, unforgettable read, providing many thought-provoking moments." -- Deborah Lloyd



"...Moose had me hooked right from the opening sentence. I couldn't put the book down.... I loved this story. I have no hesitation in rating it five stars and giving it the highest recommendation." -- Lorraine Cobcroft



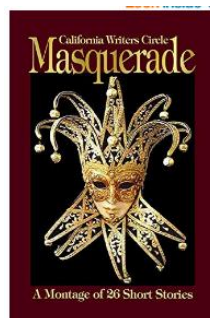
"There are so many good things one can say about Anne Moose's *House of Fragile Dreams* that I almost don't know where to start. When I think of the characters, the plotline, the underlying themes, and the author's writing style, all areas register as 5 stars for me...Wonderful!" -- Vega Boland



"*House of Fragile Dreams* is an insightful exploration of how radical ideologies split families apart, brainwashing gullible people into becoming messengers of hate. Author Anne Moose's masterful portrayal of the impact of terrorist organizations on innocent lives feels authentic, with plenty of parallels to real-life events. The characters have subtleties and depths that give them a realistic quality." -- Pikasho Deka



"I highly recommend this charming and exciting tale of love and morality." -- Grant Leishman



California Writer's Circle anthology, *Masquerade*, released in December includes stories by **James M. Takos**, *Mittens*, and **Steve Jackson**, *The Asylum for Rejected Characters*.

## SCWA Writers' Cookbook Call for Submissions

\*\*\*\*\*CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS\*\*\*\*\*

**Open to all SCWA Members  
We Want Your Recipes. AND YOUR WORDS!**

We are still collecting your short 250 words or less stories and poems for our writer's cookbook.

Enter your prettiest prose, your finest quips, and your tallest tales for our mix of literature and gastronomy. We know the frozen daiquiri was a great source of inspiration for Hemingway's *Islands in the Stream*. And what about Flannery O'Connor's love for ham and mayonnaise? What about you?

We encourage all our members to submit up to two entries. Each entry must contain both the recipe and a story, in any of these categories: mystery, horror, sci-fi, cozy, humor, poetry, crime, mythology, or fable. This is a writers' cookbook so think of your recipe as your muse to Nancy Klann at [klancy@sol.com](mailto:klancy@sol.com). We encourage your story to have a sense of connection with the recipe.

Please submit your recipes and related short fiction for our upcoming Southern California Writers Association story inspired cookbook. Submissions will be selected based on story quality, recipe quality, and the story's relation to the recipe. Working titles include: **Blame It on the Osso Bucco, Eat Your Words, You Have the Write to Eat.**

(Needless to say, all title suggestions are welcome!)

Due to limited space the **story/poem should be 250 words or less.**

The cookbook will be professionally published by SCWA and promoted with all the marketing might at our disposal. Proceeds will further help fund our events, speakers, scholarships, and publication of books, including this one.

We encourage all who want to join in to submit up to two recipes in a Word file along with their stories to Nancy Klann at [klanncy@aol.com](mailto:klanncy@aol.com).

Please put "SCWA Entry - Recipe" in the subject line.

## Members' Showcase: OPEN for your Submissions

Did you know SCWA will publish excerpts of your work in our MEMBERS' SHOWCASE on the SCWA website? Yes, we will.

We want to show your works-in-progress, excerpts from your published book, first lines, favorite paragraphs, and anything you would like to share in any genre, even a page of rants from your journal.

The range of creativity among our members is impressive. Take a look at some of the fine work our members have already shared and then share some of your own.

<https://www.southernwriters.org/members-showcase-2/>

Here are the details for the SCWA Showcase:

- Send the work you'd like to showcase, for instance, first lines, an excerpt, an essay or a poem or something else (up to 1500 words). Include your byline (your name, the name of the book it is from, if applicable, and your website).
- All current SCWA members are eligible.
- You retain your copyright.
- Submit for free!
- Send to [scwashowcase@gmail.com](mailto:scwashowcase@gmail.com)

Take a look at the Showcase entries by many of our members. It's a terrific way to get acquainted.

Posting in the Member showcase is always Good News for our newsletter as well as for Facebook. We look forward to waving a flag for your books!

## HIGHLIGHTS: Featured Speaker for July 2021 Dalia Dupris Write a Publishable Novel in Ten Easy Steps

### Writing a Publishable Novel in Ten Easy Steps with Dalia Dupris

“Do not travel the writing road alone,” says Dalia Dupris, author of *A Whirl with My Mocha Chocolate Swirl* and *Orange Blossoms-Love Blooms*. Writing is an “isolating profession, filled with doubts and uncertainty.” We writers need community. “Find your tribe” by listening to and networking with individual writers and writing organizations. Dupris’s degree in English literature from UCLA, an M.A. in Social Work from U.S.C., and years of work as a licensed psychotherapist have certainly given her knowledge of how humans successfully or unsuccessfully live their lives.

Ms. Dupris’s **Rule 1** is Know Yourself. Analyze and pin down your most productive method. Do you need to know in advance where you’re going? If so, you’re a *plotter*. Otherwise, you might prefer to work more spontaneously and surprise yourself with unplanned turns in the story. In that case, you’re a *pantser* who “goes with the flow” while in the seat by your pants, allowing the characters and plot to reveal themselves to you. (Planning ahead would also diminish your pleasure.) Dupris calls herself a *plantser*, a combination. She plans but also is open to the flow. She might use tools such as Scribner, index cards, and outlines but is adaptable to shifts as the story evolves. (You might “record your thoughts while on a walk or something.”) Also pin down when you’re the most productive, a.m. or p.m.

After identifying your method, work on **Rule 2, Identify Your Audiences**: publishers and readers. Do they want novels of 50,000-75,000 words or 40,000-word novellas? Do they prefer Sci Fi, Fantasy, Murder Mystery, etc.? Romance endings can be classified as HFN, “Happy for Now,” or as HEA, “Happily Ever After.” Knowing what the publishers prefer in your genre may explain your turndowns.

**Rule 3**, again learn what your readers and/or publishers like for The Hook. Is the opening to be a sentence, a paragraph, a page, or a chapter? Your hook should introduce a character, establish conflict, and indicate what’s at stake. It needs to have your individual/personal “voice” to pull the readers in. Ms. Dupris said she can’t believe how many times she changed the first chapter

of one of her novels. At the beginning, if you don't know the end, your story probably won't be as cohesive as necessary.

**Rule 4** is the classic Show, Don't Tell. Recognize the differences between writing in active voice and writing in passive voice.

**Rule 5**, Character Agency, eliminates a one-dimensional main character. He/She is not a victim but takes charge of his/her life, will make good and poor decisions and choices. But this flawed character will make mistakes. Later he/she undergoes a TRANSFORMATION, not because of being pushed but from learning a major lesson.

If you intend to make this book part of a series, Ms. Dupris said to have other minor characters in the story who wind up being intriguing enough to use in the next book.

**Rule 6** covers the Conflict & Tension. Ms. Dupris says, "It's a problem if there's NOT a problem," one big enough to sustain hurdles, failed attempts, and obstacles ("hit man?") on the journey to the Goal.

Since you have a Story Arc by now, **Rule 7** [Character & Story Arc] is to create a hero/protagonist who is able to enact a transformation while discovering and traveling that arc. False starts, false successes, misperceptions, and lessons learned will become *beats* or major events throughout.

Your Author's Voice, **Rule 8**, began when writing The Hook of Rule 3. But now check that you have maintained it. Is the tone of your novel friendly, somber, perky, mysterious, etc.? Some genres have their own plot and stylistic conventions (for voice), such as a regency romance novel.

**Rule 9** is The Very Deep, Dark Moment. Approximately 75 percent of the way through, the protagonist and all "will look lost." This morphing into the climax will be emotionally driven, not just dangerous but "catastrophic and horrific." "The possible hero may even appear dead."

**Rule 10** is the Resolution where the transformation is complete because all loose ends are tied up and questions answered. The character has gained wisdom during his/her external and internal transformations. Life can begin again. Does the word count correspond to your type of story? All these issues "determine if the reader will buy your next book."

Ms. Dupris has two "bonus elements" to her rules. Because writing and editing are inseparable, you must "Embrace the edit!" "It's difficult," she says, "if not impossible to edit our own work." We need to "take a bit of humble pie and grow." In other words, "hire an editor."

To be successful writers, our tribe must develop the habits of reading and writing consistently. Meanwhile, figure out what methods and skills work best for you. Yes, we will definitely ride “the ups and downs of euphoria and despair” in this profession. That’s why networking with our peers is satisfying. Give yourself permission to “take a breather from your work in progress.” Face your work again with a fresh mind.

For more information, see [www.daliadupris.com](http://www.daliadupris.com)

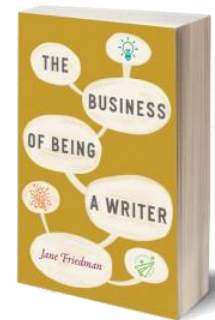
Glenda Brown Rynn, Reporter

[grynn@cox.net](mailto: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.

**MOST RELIABLE:** [www.janefriedman.com](http://www.janefriedman.com) Jane has a long history in all areas of book publishing and has a solid reputation for being the best go-to for writers of all levels.



**The Masters Review**  
A PLATFORM FOR EMERGING WRITERS



<https://mastersreview.com/short-story-award-for-new-writers/>

Short Story Award for 6000 words: \$3000 + Online Publication.  
Next Award deadline is in December.

The Masters Review New Voices category is always open and always free to submit. Selected stories are paid **\$200 for short fiction and narrative non-fiction, and \$100 for flash fiction up to 1,000 words**, and are published on the site. Read New Voices Stories here: <https://mastersreview.com/new-voices/>. For submission guidelines, click <https://mastersreview.com/submissions/>

- **WRITERS HELPING WRITERS:** [www.writershelpingwriters.net](http://www.writershelpingwriters.net) has many one-of-a-kind tools and resources for writers. Newsletter available.
- ***Authors Publish, A Magazine for Writers.***  
<https://www.authorspublish.com/> Guest post of interest:  
<https://authorspublish.com/three-platforms-for-serialized-fiction>  
*Authors Publish* assembles monthly lists of themed submission calls by magazines and journals, often paying for your work. Even a modest payment is at least encouragement, and can add to your portfolio.
- ***Publishing ... and Other Forms of Insanity***, the newsletter for the website **Published to Death**, sends a monthly list of writers' conferences, fee free contests, and agents for all genres who are looking for submissions.

See these lists at: <https://publishedtodeath.blogspot.com/>

Details of what agents are looking for and how to reach them will give you a head start for your submission process. Check the website every month for up-to-date information and resources.

**Note: Always check the agency website and agent bio before submitting. Agents can switch agencies or close their lists, and submission requirements can change.**

## 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.
- ❖ 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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 Scribe and Speaker Reporter..... Glenda Rynn  
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**Mailing Address: PO Box 47, Huntington Beach, CA 92648**

**Membership: Karen Walker**

**Email: [Karen.walker@mac.com](mailto:Karen.walker@mac.com)**

**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.