



NOVEMBER 2022

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 10
www.southernwriters.org

- pg. 2: President's Message
- pg. 4: Year End Membership Special
- pg. 5: Website and YouTube
- pg. 6: November Events
- pg. 7: Featured Monthly Speaker: Wendy Van Camp
- pg. 9: Hump Day LitUp Orange County
- pg. 10: Highlights: Dana Hammer
- pg. 12: Resources for Writers
- pg. 15: Member Benefits
- pg. 16: Board Members & Terms of Use.



Southern California Writer's Association November 2022

- **President Larry Porricelli's Message**
- **November's Featured Event: Wendy Van Camp on November 19, 10 a.m. South Coast Village Regency Theatre, across from South Coast Plaza**
- **Hump Day: Every Wednesday 10 a.m. on SCWA's Facebook Group page**
- **Debby's Room: Continuing in November on Wednesdays 10:20 a.m. on the SCWA Facebook Group page, on the Rooms tab**
- **Highlights: Dana Hammer**



Have you subscribed?

Check out our fancy new URL for the YouTube channel:

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

President's Message for November 2022 from Larry Porricelli



IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING WRITERS TODAY

Writers today are no longer in the Emily Dickinson family. We do not dwell in the loneliness in our rooms, wistfully gazing out windows, peeking around corners, and hiding from interaction with the world. Nor do we leave our work hidden in desk drawers and dressers, scattered in confusion, hoping someone will eventually discover it in this life or the next.

Plainly speaking, we are no longer inhabiting the stereotype of the shy or invisible recluse.

Writers now are like batters at the plate in the ninth inning of the World Series, with bases loaded and the count at three balls and two strikes. And we are eager to swing the bat.

Authors are in command of their work, and they speak at conferences, writer's groups, and libraries; we do readings, and participate in city-wide literary madness, as in the recent Lit Quake event in San Francisco.

Lit Quake is a yearly event for a week in October where writers climb buildings, stand in laundromats and bars and on street corners, ride BART and proclaim their work at all hours to all commuters, travelers, street denizens, all who cross our path.

The fun of writer activities displays the writer's authority and confidence in our work, which has led us also to establish ourselves online with blogs, networking and websites.

And though we are as bold as boys on a playground, (as Sr. Aloysius often scolded), we face some issues today that we can all help each other with.

Traditional "Gatekeepers" have lost authority with the current ease of publishing our works and it's hard to say who the heck is in charge these days. As Chinese general Sun-Tzu wrote in *The Art of War*, and which was quoted by Don Corleone in *The Godfather*, "In the midst of chaos there is also opportunity."

What this means is it is the best of times to be a writer.

The opportunities are plentiful.

Issues facing writers today will always be there, and writers must be as Don Quixote and tilt at the windmills we face.

Some popular questions writers ask are:

1. *As a first-time writer is it possible to be published by the Big Houses?* The answer is yes! There is a category of *debut sales* by agents to publishing houses. It could happen if your work is original, clean, polished and edited. There is a right moment for everything. At a particular moment a publisher may have bombed with a big one and is looking to fill a gap in a genre, etc. I recommend you read *Publishers Lunch*, pay for the subscription, look deep into the layers of what is happening in the publishing world, and you may find an opportunity, or at the least, see how that world works. While the odds are slim, the chance is there to succeed.
2. *Do I need an agent to deal with the big publishers?* Yes, you should. But they are, again, as plentiful as chlorophyll. They need writers, though they pretend not to, and they inhabit conferences. Get your foot in the door from a friend's recommendation, or present a stunning query, but don't be intimidated. Go for it.

I suggest you put up a website so you have a head above the rest of the field. Be creative, network everywhere. It's fun. You will do marketing no matter where you publish or self-publish. And have a professional editor work with your manuscript; it is one good place to spend money.

I will write about the good, the bad, and the ugly of self-publishing next month. There are facets of good and bad. Most big authors now do self-publishing just as songwriters have for years to keep their rights.

Most of all, go ahead and write, have fun, and hold your head high. You are an author in the world of great authors and writers that have influenced and changed the world for the better, even with a small laugh.

Larry Porricelli, President
November 2022

Special End-of-Year Membership Dues Special

Join SCWA or renew your membership. Membership Dues Special until November 15! Save \$5 on your membership through December 2023.



SCWA membership has very special benefits:

1. Craft Building—Whether you need help with writing, editing, publishing, or marketing, we cover it all in meetings, seminars, and one-on-one coaching.
2. Networking—Our community of accomplished writers and book professionals helps members connect and benefit from their expertise. Ask for help and we will be there for you.
3. Events—Our calendar is full of online workshops and author spotlights, with discounts for members, including some member-only events and content.
4. Promotion—Build and expand your platform, and showcase your writing, promote your books, and share your knowledge via SCWA's social media, website, YouTube channel, and anthologies.

SCWA has inspired many writers to realize their dream of writing a story and being published. Bring your dream with you. SCWA will help you make it real.

**Visit the Southern California Writer's Association
Website Today**

<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**

Have you binged on SCWA's 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: November 2022

- SCWA Featured Monthly Guest: Wendy Van Camp, November 19, 2022, at 10 a.m. PT in person at the South Coast Village Regency Theatre, 1561 Sunflower, Costa Mesa.
- 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. 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 has returned! 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 November. 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>



Wendy Van Camp is the Poet Laureate for the City of Anaheim, California. Her work is influenced by cutting edge technology, astronomy, and daydreams. A graduate of the Ad Astra Speculative Fiction Workshop, Wendy has won Honorable Mention at the Writers of the Future Contest, is a twice nominated finalist for the Elgin Award, and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and Dwarf Stars

Award. Her poems have appeared in: *Starlight Scifaiku Review*, *Quantum Visions*, *The Junction*, and *Far Horizons*. She is the poet and illustrator of *The Planets: a Scifaiku Poetry Collection* and editor of the annual *Eccentric Orbits: An Anthology of Science Fiction Poetry* by Dimensionfold Publishing.

When: Saturday, November 19, 2022

Time: Continental Breakfast: 9:30 am

Meeting with Speaker: 10:00 am

Where: South Coast Village Regency Theatre, South Coast Plaza, 1561 Sunflower Ave, Santa Ana

Cost: VIP In-Person Admission: Members \$25.00

VIP In-Person Admission: Nonmembers \$35.00

Seating is limited. No walk-ins.

Your safety and health are important to us.

We welcome vaccinated members and guests.

You must Pre-Register by 12:00 p.m. Friday, November 18 at

[https:// www.southerncalwriters.org](https://www.southerncalwriters.org)

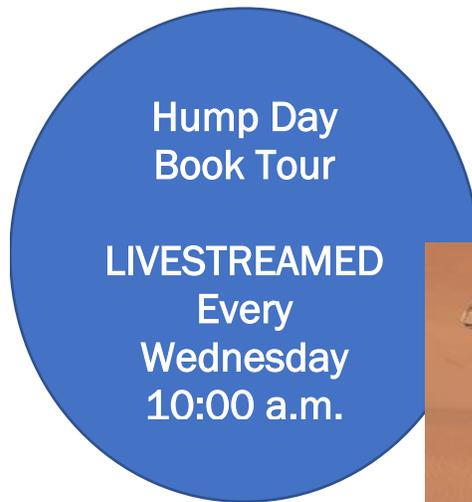
VIP Admission includes: Continental breakfast, networking, speaker, and light lunch, plus a private link to a recording of the meeting.

Doors open at 9:30 a.m. for light breakfast and networking. Meeting starts promptly at 10 a.m.

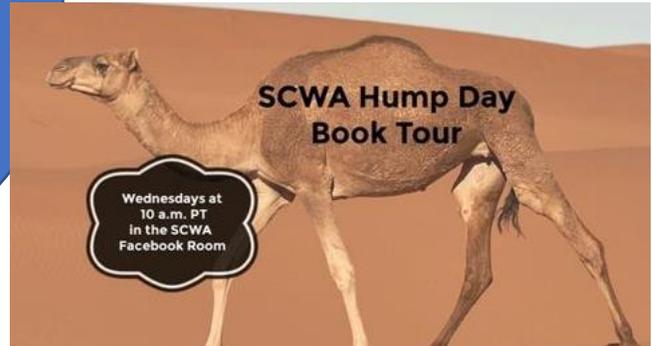
For information about SCWA and membership please go to <https://www.southernwriters.org/>



GOOD LUCK to all our members participating in 2022 NaNoWriMo



Join us every Wednesday at 10 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!

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



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

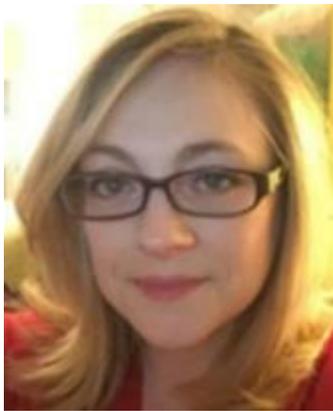
New authors—new works—new worlds. Find your next favorite author or become a new fan. LIT UP Orange County is currently accepting submissions from authors interested in sharing their work with Orange County readers and writers. Submissions should be fiction or memoir, 6-8 double-spaced pages, and engage our audience. Interested writers please contact @MadelineTigheMargarita for more details!

HIGHLIGHTS: October 2022

Dana Hammer

Writing Humor and Horror: Opposites Attract

"Writing Humor and Horror: Opposites Attract"

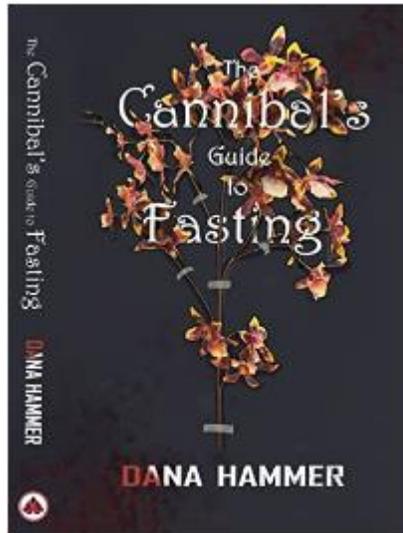


Dana Hammer is the author of stage plays, screenplays, short stories, novellas, and novels that are all a crackup of humor and horror. She loves to “take things in high regard and make them silly” to give readers a unique spin. Although her many works haven’t always generated income, Ms. Hammer has won numerous awards and honors. In September 2022, her novel *The Cannibal’s Guide to Fasting* hit the bookstores. Articles about her and the book all include the humorous disclaimer “She has never eaten human meat.”

Ms. Hammer first addressed why she’d chosen this mix of genres. “Sometimes people are just wired a little differently, and “I’m a delicate flower.” When she was six years old, she and her mother watched old TV comedies like “*Satan’s Cheerleaders*” [1977]. Her father had a good sense of humor also and enjoyed “dark humor.”

“People’s ideas of what horror is varies greatly.” She likes writing this combo because it’s “fun and empowering.” She adds, “You can let loose in comedy like you can’t elsewhere.”

“Usually, I take something I think funny and take it to the extreme.” For instance, there are so many people fighting addiction. Is there a cure? Her book, *The Cannibal’s Guide to Fasting*, is about viral cannibalism. “There’s hope, but the protagonist has to find it.” For our times, she remarked, “Cannibals are the new zombies.” *Red Wing*, a horror comedy film, is about a girl, Audrina, who is stalked by an ex-boyfriend. Then a bat bites her, giving her a weird gift and defense: her menstruation residue becomes killer red bats. Hammer said, “Some stuff is not as wacky as you thought. Try [writing a solution] if you’re a woman. You know what it’s like to be hunted or stalked.”



In *The Devil's Buddy*, a play about fundamental Christian Nationalism and separation of church and state, “the fortunes of a young homeless man change when he becomes the Devil’s errand boy.” In another dark comedy play, *Leech*, Hammer takes on women’s rights. While drinking river water on a camping trip, a teenage girl accidentally swallows a leech. And it’s a talking leech!! She desperately tries to get it out of her throat. But her angry parents won’t let her do so because they think she should suffer the results of her action. Her doctors are concerned about the rights of the leech. [The <https://newplayexchange.org> states this story is “A satire written in the aftermath of the repeal of Roe vs. Wade.”] Note: The New Play Exchange (NPX) is the world’s largest digital library of scripts by living writers.” There you can find the premise and some details of the twenty-two plays Dana Hammer has written [it’s not clear there which are screenplays or stage plays].

In discussing her work, Ms. Hammer said she writes to deal with feelings of fear and feelings of anger [as many writers do to deal with disturbing issues]. Humor would definitely control those emotions. She declared, “I have fun.”

Dana Hammer asked the SCWA audience if they ever get stuck in a plot. When you’re getting feedback from others, she advises, “Make sure they’re not people afraid of you.” She added, “Some feedback is stupid.” Also, “Some criticism hurts because deep down I know they’re right.”

Glenda Brown Rynn, Reporter

grynn@cox.net

RESOURCES FOR WRITERS

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 doesn't know why anyone with an ounce of self-preservation would ever want to publish. But, if you insist on selling your soul to the devil, learn how to do it right: marketing, literary agents, book promotion, editing, pitching your book, how to get reviews, and most important of all everything she did wrong.

See all the resources Erica Verrillo has researched and assembled at:

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

ARTICLES WORTH READING

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/how-to-create-realistic-writing-goals/>

<https://authorspublish.com/41-themed-submission-calls-for-November-2022/>

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"

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.

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.

5 Freakishly Helpful Amazon Tricks Every Author Should Use (2022)
From Shayla Raquel:

<https://www.shaylaraquel.com/blog/amazontricks?fbclid>



LitNuts was created to share the “Best of the Indies” with booklovers.

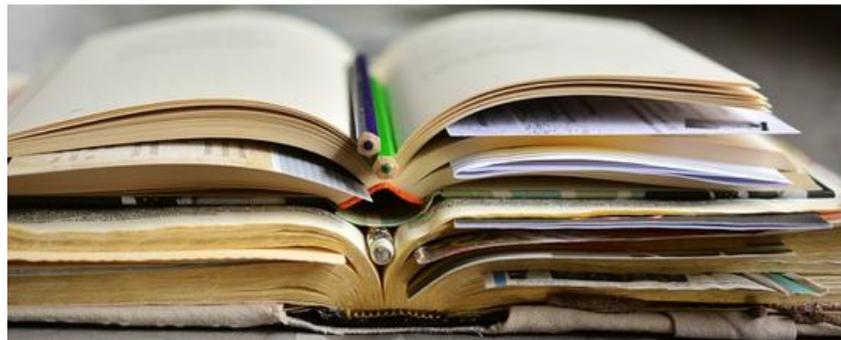
- Subscribers get a free newsletter featuring only indie books.
- Authors and publishers get an affordable way to share their work with engaged readers.

<https://litnuts.com>/LitNuts promotes *only* books from independent presses and authors. Details on its website:

<https://litnuts.com/pages/authors-and-publishers>

“Fiction is a lie, but good fiction
is the truth inside the lie.”

- Stephen King



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.**
- ❖ **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 ProgrammingMadeline Margarita
 Vice President - Social Media & Production Diana Pardee
 Newsletter Editor.....Pam Sheppard
 Scribe and Speaker Reporter.....Glenda Rynn
 At-Large..... Sharon Goldinger

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