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Southern California Writer's Association December 2022

- **President Larry Porricelli's Message**
- **December's Featured Event: SCWA Holiday Party on December 17, 10 a.m. at the Regency San Juan Capistrano Theater**
- **Hump Day: Every Wednesday 10 a.m. on SCWA's Facebook Group page**
- **Debby's Room: Continuing in December 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 December 2022 from Larry Porricelli



How to Defeat Writer Lack of Confidence

Over the years I have listened to many authors and writers at conferences, meetings, dinners and of course, at bars talking about inspiration and creativity. Perhaps the greatest block to creativity for all of us is a lack of confidence in ourselves or our work.

The reply to the query “What are you working on” often starts with a “Well, um, oh, trying to put something together,” or some epitome of nebbishy BS that loudly proclaims the lack of trust in one’s self that dwells within the heart of many a writer.

When I was teaching high school after college, I had a student named Velita, who is still a friend to this day and works at Michigan State University.

Velita noticed I was unsure about a plan I had developed for students when I sought her thoughts accompanied by my loudly apprehensive hope of approval.

Her advice? *“If I had it you could get it, ‘cause I’d like to see you with it. Think about it, I ain’t got it, so you gotta to do without it.”*

Plain speaking. She can’t deliver confidence. I have to do without it. Or go get it.

I wasn’t under any influence of alcohol or another substance, unfortunately, but if I had been, her words would have been sobering enough to have sent me to a ten-step program.

The message? Need confidence? Go get it.

Sure, we look at our work, over and over, and over. And we poured blood, sweat and tears into that work, and occasionally cursed it (maybe more than occasionally), and we struggled for hours over mere sentences, and we completed all required research. And we still lack confidence.

What the hell are we afraid of? Or to put it bluntly, do we fear some unknown reader from another planet is going to screech like a banshee and claw our eyes out? Do we envision the sheets of paper being yanked from our typewriters and shredded? We don't even use typewriters any longer.

Yes, that is a touch hyperbolic, but so what, it stirs the cocktail, just as we need it to do.

So, how do we overcome this lack of confidence, this curse that gnaws at our soul? The one that births Lady MacBeth handwringing as we walk through our castles, moaning "woe is me"?

We do so indubitably with ease and fun.

We fake it. Yes, we pretend we are bursting with confidence till people around us are sick of hearing it from us. We lie. Continuously. In all conversations, whether about our writing or about sardine sandwiches. Everywhere. The act will become second nature and authentic sounding. You will possess a smile on your face as you bless the world with the news that you have confidence in your work!

And I promise you, you will find, when acting as if you do possess total confidence, your confidence will build automatically, as a fertile thread of bravado will graft onto your persona and grow faster than any virus in existence.

Like a newborn infant in the joy of discovery of a whole new world, the continued repetition of your Oscar worthy performance of faux confidence will develop a real life of its own within you and bear the rich fruit of true confidence.

A delightful cliché is "if you build it, they will come" as used in the movie, "Field of Dreams." He heard the voice. He built the ball field. They came.

The fruit of your performance is a beautiful blossom of truth—you are confident.

There is, to redo a scripture, nothing formed against us that can prosper on its own.

There is no one looking to starve us over our writing, or challenge us to a duel, or start a bar brawl. And, if someone decided to, so what, we'd fight for our lives.

Other people have so many issues of their own to deal with. There is too little time to give a shred of a moment in thought of another's opinion of our work.

Say it loud; "I got it."

Say it again. "I got it."

Laugh.

Sister, or brother, you got it!

Larry Porricelli, President, SCWA
December 2022

Welcome New Members to SCWA!

Gabriel Aprati
Douglas Colfax
Margaret Donovan
Jan Herman
David Kammerzelt
Jeeyung Kim
Rathi Krishnan
Cynthia O'Brien
MaryBeth Schade
LE Shake
Pat Spencer
Gena Stinnett



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: December 2022

- **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 December. 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>

SCWA ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

December 17, 2022



Lots of Gifts, games, book exchange, and other surprises.
Welcome SCWA member **Janis Thomas** for a conversation with
Maddie Margarita

When: Saturday, December 17, 2022

Time: Continental Breakfast: 9:30 am

Meeting with Speaker: 10:00 am

Where: Regency Theater, (Adjacent to the San Juan Capistrano Train Station)
26762 Verdugo Street, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Admission: Members \$25.00
Nonmembers \$35.00

Admission includes: Continental breakfast, networking, speaker, and light lunch at 11 am

Your safety and health are important to us.
We welcome vaccinated members and guests.

You must Pre-Register by 12:00 p.m. Friday, December 16 at
[https:// www.southerncalwriters.org](https://www.southerncalwriters.org)

Don't miss the festivities!

- **BOOK EXCHANGE:** Please bring a book, gift wrapped, to exchange with another author. It can be your book or a book that touched you this past year.
- **CHRISTMAS STORY FIRST LINE CONTEST:** Come up with a first line for a Christmas story, and we will judge at the party with the winner getting \$50!
- **CHRISTMAS MOVIE TRIVIA:** All winners will get a prize!
- **GRAND PRIZE:** All attending will be entered in a drawing for a great Grand Prize!



Janis Thomas is the best-selling author of domestic suspense novels *What Remains True* and *All That's Left of Me*, three critically acclaimed humorous women's fiction novels, *Something New*, *Sweet Nothings*, and *Say Never*, as well as award-winning *Murder in a Minor*, her musical murder mystery.

Her latest novel is the psychological suspense novel *Finding Grace*, which *Publisher's Weekly* calls "Engrossing" and *Kirkus* calls "Authentically creepy."

Janis is a popular workshop leader and speaker, and a passionate writing advocate. When she isn't writing or fulfilling her PTA duties, she loves to spend time with her family. She lives in Southern California with her terrific husband, amazing teenagers, and two crazy dogs.

FACTS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT JANIS THOMAS

1. Janis is a gourmet cook. Her eggs over easy are spectacular.
2. Ride in a car with Janis. She'll sing every song on the radio at top volume.
3. Consultant to the Illuminati. Her advice is sought from here to Lithuania.
4. Voted Top Influencer by Tik Tok for her Writing Seminars.
5. Most In-Demand Speaker for Writing Conferences Worldwide.

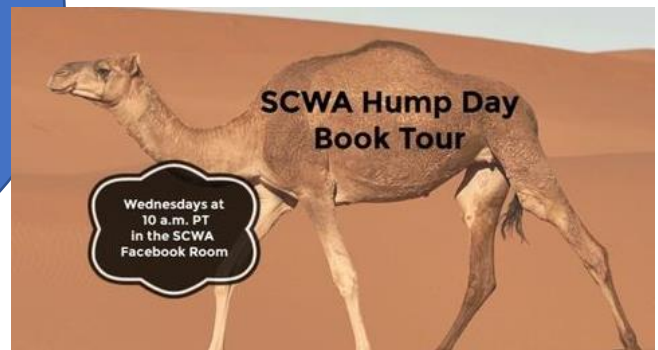
For information about SCWA membership and this event please go to <https://www.southernwriters.org/>

**Featured Monthly Speaker:
Rescheduled for March 2023 Wendy Van Camp
Make Your Prose Richer and More Memorable:
Poetry in Motion**

**Hump Day
Book Tour**

Join us every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

**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!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southerncalwriters/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!

HIGHLIGHTS

Look for Highlights of our December Holiday Party in the January Newsletter



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/49-themed-submissions-calls-and-contests-for-december-2022/> Magazines and themes listed in this edition of

AuthorsPublish include: *Zombies Need Brains: Four Themes*. *Amazing Stories—Sol System*. *Cosmic Horror Monthly*, and other anthologies.

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"

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.

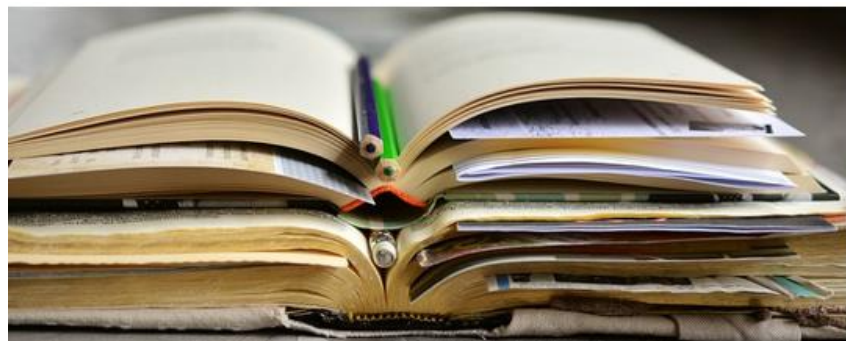
- Subscribers get a free newsletter featuring only indie books.
- Authors and publishers get an affordable way to share their work with engaged readers.

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

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

“The most fun in breaking a rule is
in knowing what rule you’re
breaking.”

-William Safire



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

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 Vice President of ProgrammingMadeline Margarita
 Vice President - Social Media & Production Diana Pardee
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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.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.