



JANUARY 2023

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 1
www.southernwriters.org

- pg. 2: President's Message
- pg. 4: Welcome New Members
- pg. 5: January Events
- pg. 6: Featured Speaker: Chris Hauty
- pg. 7: Hump Day
- pg. 8: LitUp and Muzeo Open Book
- pg. 9: Highlights: Janis Thomas
- pg. 10: Resources for Writers
- pg. 14: Member Benefits
- pg. 15: Board Members & Terms of Use.



Southern California Writer's Association January 2023

- **President Larry Porricelli's Message**
- **January's Featured Event: Chris Hauty, Screenwriter and Novelist: January 21, 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 January 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 January 2023 from Larry Porricelli



TO FOLLOW OR NOT TO FOLLOW, THAT IS THE QUESTION.

Happy New Year to all writers and authors. The new year always births fresh hopes and thoughts for our current or soon to be current writing. Perhaps it was a tad too much rum-laced eggnog or the glistening sparkle of champagne bubbles as the new year broke, but ideas and thoughts have burst from the sub to the conscious and we want to get on with our work. This coming year, SCWA has spectacular speakers and workshops planned, as well as a full day seminar with noted authors, all to nourish and water the fields within your minds till the literary blossoms abound on your tree.

Whatever your style, here is a quick peek at what is popular in fiction genres at this moment, and knowing so many of you and your writing, even a small piece of you may be found here, so take heart!

1. Contemporary/realistic fiction: Everyone is looking for escape in these bleak times, and readers seek a respite from the suffering before us daily. While dramatic family tales and big issue stories are forever with us, many readers are seeking the “happy ending” story, the cozy, feel-good, and humorous books that take us away to some sort of a paradise.

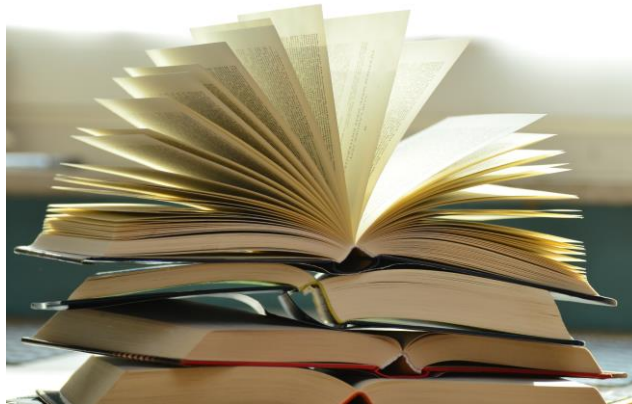
2. **Suspense:** Readers have always loved to attempt to figure out who did it and why and whether the story is filled with grit and action-driven or intellectual and mystery-driven, readers are enamored. Stories based on real crimes and cozy mysteries are very popular at the moment. Cozies offer a variety of delightful settings for readers to savor over tea or with friends in a club or alone at midnight.
3. **Romance:** Romance is always a favorite. Right now, contemporary and paranormal romances are heating up the landscape. Readers are enjoying diverse characters of race and sexuality with a fresh core story such as an interracial romance not centered on the prejudices faced, or an LGBTQ story not about coming out. Literary agents are taking notice.
4. **Science Fiction and Fantasy:** What better way to escape the dismal current state of the world than to be carried away into a far-reaching tale. While this is a huge but tight market, your work needs a touch of something different to distinguish it from other castles and kingdoms.
5. **Historical:** This genre has been growing quickly with giant steps, as writers have put a creative twist on the history or characters in the novel. Some trends have been keeping the setting historically and absolutely accurate but utilizing modern dialogue, a la *Bridgerton*.
6. **Paranormal:** The paranormal has made a big comeback! Perhaps readers are tired of the norm and seeking the outrageous, but ghosts and werewolves and vampires are back, so you might delve into a region's history and find a little-known myth that would be splendid for a novel.
7. **Dystopian:** A portion of readers are obviously seeking to escape into a situation far more dangerous and worse than their own, and this has been selling fairly well, but beware—no Covid stories, there are too many of them.

I offer these to you only as fuel for thought. Your story ideas and characters may fit anywhere if they are drawn with style; the genres are merely like bedsheets. Strip them off and we are down to the mattress— is it comfortable, is it lasting and well-built?

Thank you for your time.
Lorenzo Porricelli
SCWA President

Welcome New Members to SCWA!

Gabriel Aurati
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 explored the 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: January 2023

- **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 January. 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>

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

Featured January Speaker:
CHRIS HAUTY
Novelist, Screenwriter

Come for the program—stay for the surprises!



Chris Hauty began his professional writing career with *Don Coyote*, a contemporary interpretation of Cervantes' *Don Quixote* with Jonathon Lynn attached to direct. Projects in the family film genre followed, including Disney's *Homeward Bound: Lost In San Francisco*. A screenwriter, Hauty wrote the original screenplay, *Arena*, a dark, gladiator epic, *Moby Dick* at Dreamworks Animation, *Beautiful Killer* at Universal Pictures with Jessica Alba attached, *Land of Legend*, a Viking saga at Walden Media with Renny Harlin set to direct, *Vigilante* at Studio Canal with Ed Burns to star and direct, and *Colosseum* at Icon Pictures, with Mel Gibson to direct. He sold the pitch for *The Eternals*, a supernatural thriller set on a college campus, to CBS Films. Additional credits include *Never Back Down*, directed by Jeff Wadlow and starring Djimon Hounsou and *Sniper: Ghost Shooter* starring Billy Zane for Sony Pictures Entertainment.

When: Saturday, January 21, 2023

Time: 10 am PDT

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

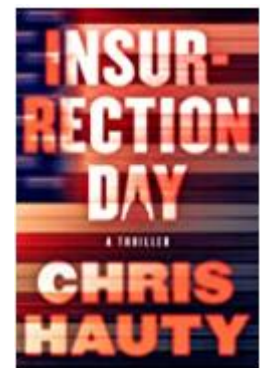
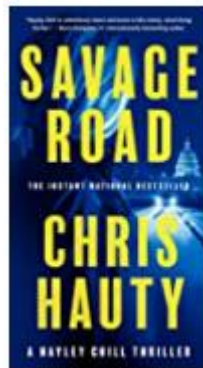
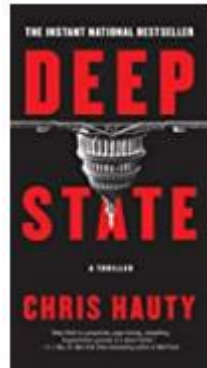
Admission: Members \$25.00

Nonmembers \$35.00

Enjoy a Continental Breakfast 9:30 am; SCWA Meeting 10:00; Speaker 10:15 am; Lunch 11:00 am

You must register by Friday, January 20, 2023, at 12:00 pm.

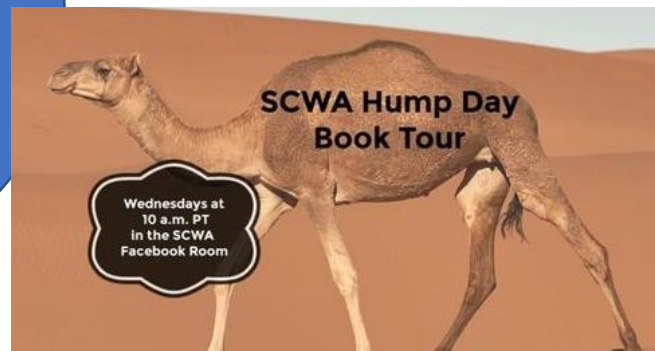
Chris Hauty's debut novel, *Deep State*, was a *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice, and Barry Award nominee. Other novels include the CALIBA Award-nominated *Savage Road*, and *Storm Rising*, as well as the acclaimed novella *Insurrection Day*. He currently lives in Glendale, California.



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!



Maddie's most recent LitUp OC opened 2023 at Muzeo Museum and Cultural Center's Open Book series for a perfect Sunday afternoon with **Jonathan Brown, Leonard Syzmczak, and Carol Latham.**

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

HIGHLIGHTS December Speaker: Janis Thomas



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 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.



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 learned all about self-publishing: marketing, literary agents, book promotion, editing, pitching the book, getting reviews, and everything you need to do to get it right.

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

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

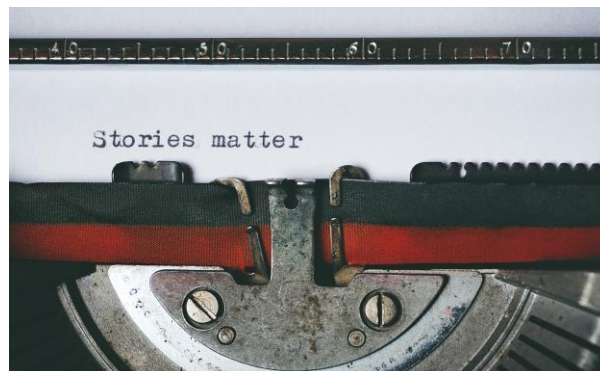
ARTICLES WORTH READING

For Mystery and Thriller Readers:

2022 Year End List from The Real Book Spy

- **Top 15 Best Mysteries, Crime & Thrillers of Psychological Suspense**
- **The Top 15 Action, Political, Military, and Spy Thrillers**
- **Best Thriller of 2022**

<https://therealbookspy.com/2022/12/04/the-real-book-spys-best-thrillers-of-2022/>





Written Word Media offers tips, tools, and industry news through their monthly newsletter. This is their take on publishing trends for 2023:

<https://www.writtenwordmedia.com/the-top-10-publishing-trends-for-2023>

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/30-literary-fiction-publishers-that-accept-direct-submissions-no-agent-required/>



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 (2023)
From Shayla Raquel:

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



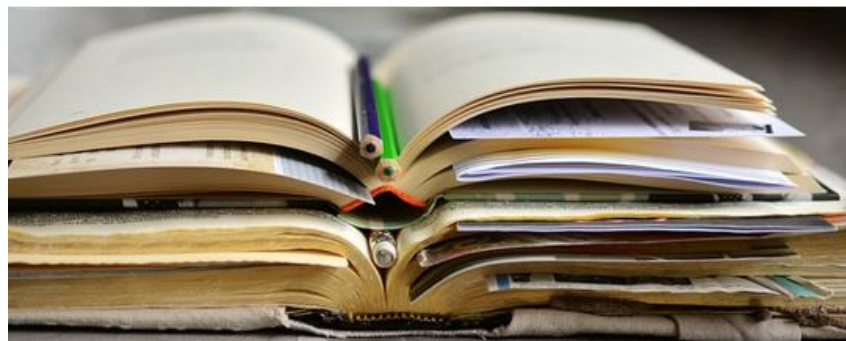
LitNuts was created to share the “Best of the Indies” with booklovers.

- 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>

“Your intuition knows what to write, so get out of the way.”
-Ray Bradbury



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 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 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.