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 **President's Message**

We are looking forward to another year, another Executive Board, and additional growth and enthusiasm as our club moves into its 20th year. We've had our share of the roller coaster ride, but somehow we've always managed to rise like the Phoenix just when it starts to look as if we're starting to shake too badly. Soon we'll see whether we have it in us to get up one more time.

We've started to attract more full-time professionals to the group, and that can only be good. Whatever your profession or hobby, you need to associate with those who are more proficient, so you can use those people as role models to hone your own skills.

Our membership continues to grow, and we have stopped the downward slide of our bank balance. This has enabled us to go the last two years without raising the meeting fees. Even though the Claim Jumper has increased their banquet price each year, we've managed to stay ahead of the rising costs. Whether we can do so another year or two is in question, however. This is one of the difficult decisions that the Executive Board is forced to make each year.

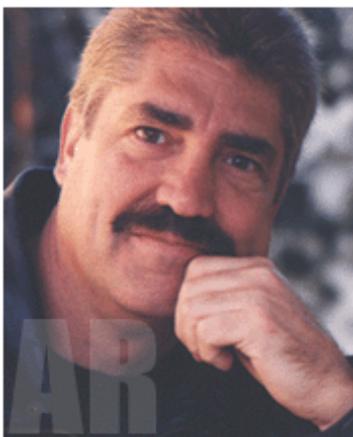
Lynnette Baum has brought several new ideas to the club, such as the "Will Write 4 Food" contest, the SCWA pens, and numerous other suggestions.

We've all enjoyed the contests, and hearing and reading the winning entries. We plan to continue this monthly contest, even if it does cost us a free meal for the lucky winner, and encourage all of you to submit your pieces.

*Continued on page 2, column 1*

**November 19, 2005 Speaker**

**Alan Russell**  
mystery writer



**Killer Mysteries:  
Making Money with  
Murder**

*Publishers Weekly* calls Alan Russell "one of the best writers in the mystery field today." He is certainly one of the most diverse writers in the mystery field. You never know what to expect from an Alan Russell novel other than a good read. His first two books, *No Sign of Murder* and *The Forest Prime Evil*, are classic whodunits, whereas his third and fourth novels, *The Hotel Detective* and *The Fat Innkeeper* are comedic mysteries. Alan's fifth and sixth novels, *Multiple Wounds* and *Shame*, are psychological thrillers. And, his most recent works, *Exposure* and *Political Suicide*, are both suspense novels.

When Alan Russell writes, he plays the 'what if' game: What if you were the son of a serial murderer and it suddenly appears to the world as

if you are repeating your father's sordid history? What if you are the holder of a grim secret with international consequences, but telling that secret implicates you in the death of an innocent? What if you are a homicide detective trying to solve a murder case in which the only witness is a young woman who offers up clues in the forms of her exotic multiple personalities?

On November 19, Alan Russell takes the mystery out of writing mysteries!

Learn how to write a whodunit that is so thrilling that even your mother-in-law can't put it down. Join us for face-time with one of California's greatest local mystery writers, as Alan Russell speaks to the Southern California Writers Association.

*Lynnette Baum, V.P. Programming*

## **President's Message**

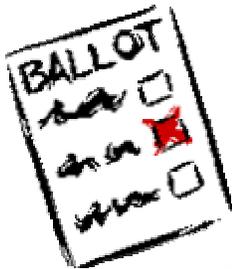
*(Continued from page 1)*

I want to sincerely thank the outgoing Board members for their services. We really had to twist some arms last year to get people to run for office, and Pauline, Joan, and Kat volunteered their valuable time and energy when it was far more inconvenient for them to do so than the organization will probably ever know. And, of course, Pam with the Newsletter has been a bastion of consistency for more years that her not-yet-gray hair reveals. We're going to miss all of you very, very much.

But thank you again to all new Board members, and I'm looking forward to working with all of you to keep this club the wonderful organization it is!

Good Luck and Good Writing!

*Roy King, President*



## **SCWA ELECTION RESULTS 2006 Executive Committee**

President..... Roy King  
VP. Programming..... Lynnette Baum  
V.P. Membership..... Gerri Seaton  
Secretary/Treasurer ..... To Be Determined  
Publicity Director ..... Larry Porricelli  
Webmaster..... To Be Determined  
Newsletter Editor..... Laura Sheridan-Long  
Associate Editor ..... Nancy Darnall  
Tape Librarian..... Sharon Walters

### **Membership Information**

Gerri Seaton, V.P. Membership .....  
gersea@verizon.net

### **Meeting Reservations**

Roy King, President .....3kings@urs2.net  
..... H (760) 955-5027

## **October Contest Winner**

# **The Shadow**

By Carol Gandolfo

Susan struggled awake from her prone position on the couch and listened to the sound that had interrupted her dream. She thought she could hear the creaking of the back screen door. Was someone trying to break in? She forced herself off the couch, knocking the still-warm lasagna to the floor.

She staggered into the dark kitchen and grabbed a knife from the counter. Cautiously, she approached the back door. The creaking continued. She looked at the knife in her hand. Her hand was already wet and shaking furiously. Would she drop it? Good thing her son was at his grandmother's tonight.

She continued forward. Why didn't she just call the police? At the window, she reached toward the curtain. What would she do if someone were out there? Fight? Stab them? Scream? A thousand drums pounded inside her head. A band of steel squeezed her chest,

cutting off her breath. Struggling to keep her hand still, she parted the curtain less than an inch and peered through the darkness. A large figure loomed outside, arms reaching toward the sky. She almost screamed as she jerked away from the window and backed into the corner. Slowly, she slid to the floor, the knife clutched tightly in her fist. She crouched, her entire body shaking, her mind numb. In her terror she passed out.

Next to her in the darkness, the stove continued to cool, the clicking slowly fading away. On the back porch wall, the shadow of her son's action figure swayed as a slight breeze swung it across the window where he had tied it earlier in the day.

### **Honorable Mention**

Paul Halewijn – *All Fall Down*  
Joyce Wheeler – *Shadow Sibling*

[www.ocwriter.com/willwrite.html](http://www.ocwriter.com/willwrite.html)

## **SCWA Critique Committee**

**Open to members of SCWA**

### **Nonfiction & Fiction**

**Roy King** 3kings@urs2.net

Roy will take any amount of writing for critique. He prefers to see the entire ms at one time.  
*Mail* your manuscript to Roy at:

**15772 Heatherdale Road, Victorville, CA 92394.**

### **Poetry**

**Dr. Joyce Wheeler**

Joyce will critique up to five poems. Please mail your work to Joyce at:

**3801 Chestnut Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90807.**

# GET TO KNOW YOUR NEW & RETURNING EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

## ☞ **President: Roy King**

Roy King is a licensed civil engineer with a Masters Degree in Water Resources Engineering, and a former martial arts instructor and black belt. He has been writing fiction and non-fiction purely as a hobby for more than forty years, although his novels have evoked attention from some top-quality agents. As Critique Committee Chairman of SCWA, he has coached numerous members to publication, most notably Manfred Krutein (*Hitler's Last Gasp*, a novel published in 1993), Dr. Alex Avila (*Love Types: How to Discover your Soul Mate*, a self-help book published in 1997), and Lorina Curtis (*Divine Scourge*, a novel published this year, 2005). He is also a composer of light and classical music.

## ☞ **V.P. Membership: Gerri Seaton**

Gerri was born in Birmingham, Alabama, but now lives in Leisure World in Seal Beach. She has been interested in writing since grade school. Gerri writes humorous poetry and short stories about every day interests that end with a twist.

Gerri has self-published two chapbooks and won honorable mention for her short story *Who Is That?* in September's "Will Write For Food" Contest. Charlie, her new Chihuahua-Terrier mix dog, is fourteen pounds of mischief.

## ☞ **V.P. Programming: Lynnette Baum**

Lynnette Baum, the VP of Programming for SCWA, lives in Irvine, California and loves to walk, hike and ride (both mountain bikes and horses). She is an amateur photographer/painter who adores acting, singing, dancing, writing poetry and, in her off time, is creating a musical. From her youth, Lynnette has enjoyed traveling, art, athletic events, philosophy, Shakespeare, public speaking, target shooting, deep conversations, wilderness camping and mountain stream fishing. Her secret desire is to master yodeling, although she will deny this in public! But, most of all she loves to read and write. (Warning: Lynnette is severely allergic to arithmetic,

as well as to any and all math-related subjects!)

Exceptionally skilled at researching and writing press releases, articles, newsletters, ads, marketing brochures, video/film scripts and "ghosted" projects (like biographies and novels), Lynnette has also won Gold & Silver Microphone Awards for successful radio campaigns. Trusted by prestigious California companies like the Festival of Arts/Pageant of the Masters, Pacific Communications and TVA Video Communications, Lynnette adds a creative spin to sound marketing strategies.

For more information, call 949-725-7849 (her 24-Hour Voicemail) or to view samples of Lynette Baum's work, go to [www.mwpmedia.com/therightwriter/](http://www.mwpmedia.com/therightwriter/)

## ☞ **Publicity Director: Lorenzo (Larry) Porricelli**

Born in the Bronx, Larry has worked in the film industry for thirty years, and as a journalist for daily and trade print media for a similar time.

He is the author of *The Art of Arranging Artificial Flowers* (Simon & Schuster), a Literary Guild Main Holiday Gift Selection Book, and has spoken throughout the United States and several countries on the book.

He is the writer of the screenplay, "*Lively Up Yourself*." Larry has won numerous awards in the film industry, including Promoter of the Year, by Paramount Pictures.

Larry also worked with the Ministry of Tourism for Israel, and was named as an Ambassador for Tourism by them. He is a longtime downtown resident of Huntington Beach, who loves surfing, and has taught Italian cooking to many poor souls who lacked the blessing of an Italian heritage.

A big thanks goes to the talented **Pamela Rocke** who simultaneously edited the SCWA Newsletter and SCWA Web Page. Laura Sheridan-Long has now taken over the duties of Newsletter Editor. **We are now scouting for a new Webmaster.**

... Any volunteers?

## ☞ **Current Webmaster: Pamela Rocke**

Pamela Rocke was born in Washington, D.C., and grew up in nearby Arlington, Virginia. She attended Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida, where she earned a bachelor's degree. For nine years she worked as a technical writer and marketing coordinator at a computer equipment manufacturer where she managed dozens of trade shows.

She learned the craft of trade show management by word-of-mouth. Though the company had exhibited at shows many times in the past, there was no formal training program or documented procedure. Trade show management is rarely covered in educational programs aimed at marketing professionals. While researching her book, she found that her situation was not unique.

Her first book is *Behind the Scenes: Managing a Trade Show Without Losing Your Mind* (Cave Cat Press, 2004).

Pam lives in Laguna Hills where she works as a marketing consultant. She is an avid cyclist, and is passionate about donating blood and platelets to the local chapter of the American Red Cross. She is a member of Toastmasters International and the Southern California Writers Association (SCWA).

## ☞ **Newsletter Editor: Laura Sheridan-Long**

Laura grew up in beautiful Orange County, but headed north to Alaska where she attended the University of Alaska, Anchorage, and lived in a cabin. While there, she did radio spots, and acted in plays and commercials. Laura then moved down to Hollywood where she worked as an actress for several years.

In Hollywood she also worked as a script-typist and assistant to several television producers. She typed the first Seinfeld scripts while working for Castle Rock Entertainment, and the first Walker, Texas Ranger scripts while at Canon Television. Laura is now writing her own novels and screenplays. Laura also studied aikido with Steven Seagal (before his acting career), so watch out, Roy!

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## October Highlights:

## “Prose That’s the Talk of the Town!” Featuring Speakers Brian Alan Lane & Reed Moran

It began with silence – a silence broken only by the monologue of a doomed man musing about past wonders and errors, in a voice shaken first with nostalgia, then with fear. The man was The Peacemaker. His doom was to witness the final cataclysmic destruction of earth.

During last month’s program, attendees at the Southern California Writers Association meeting sat spellbound, listening to Brian Alan Lane’s prose as produced for a new iPod production. With iPod prose as the talk of the town these days in Hollywood, no one could hear enough about how to write for the new wave of Mind Movies soon to flood the iPod industry.

“It’s wild and wacky stuff,” Lane said. “But, writing for iPods is not the future, it’s the present.”

Recommending Podcast Alley, iTunes and iToons as possible sources of revenue, Lane also suggested that TV Pay Per View episodes might soon become a new market for aspiring screenwriters.

“The whole point of podcasting is sharing,” Lane continued, “in a way not dissimilar to old radio broadcasting. You present the listener with a teaser, then build the story from there.

“Great writing is about great voices,” Lane stated. “What agents and

publishers respond to is a unique voice. This doesn’t come from laboring through classes or pounding away at a manuscript or trying to match what’s popular. It comes from who you are. Remember, great plots don’t sell. Great voices do!”

Then, Lane assigned the *ABC Love Story* to members, a homework assignment designed as a refiner’s fire for raw talent.

“In the *ABC Love Story*,” Lane explained, “each character is hopelessly in love with one other character who does not love them in return. Write this assignment quickly, and you will harvest your own authentic rhyme and melody.”

But, Lane’s wit was not the only source of inspiration for the listeners. Reed Moran, nationally acclaimed author, also shared valuable insights.

“Mood is the unconscious resonance of theme,” Moran said. “It’s not magic. The little elves don’t come down and create it during night. You must generate it by connecting with your characters. One never knows precisely how the words come together to express mood. But, through the filter of mood, we create authentic emotions that touch readers.”

Both speakers recommended an effective “trick” to connect with authentic emotions.

“At the start of a writing project, write down what you most want to write,” Moran stated. “Then, imagine that you can’t use it. This forces an awareness of scenes that we might be blind to, otherwise. And, remember, whether you’re writing an iPod script or a literary manuscript, what you feel matters. Trust it. Believe it. Lean on it. Because, feelings give writing a voice.”

Our minds had been instructed, our talent validated and our dreams motivated, when, to enthusiastic applause, Lane summed up the roots of his passion for iPod scripts.

“I write,” he said, “because it’s the only real thing I can do alone.”

Lynette Baum, V.P. Programming

MEMBERS may purchase taped copies of lectures from SCWA Tape Librarian Sharon Walters: [swwaltz@surfside.net](mailto:swwaltz@surfside.net)



<http://geekphilosopher.com/MainPage/Photos.htm>

### The November 2005 “Will Write 4 Food” Contest!

**Write:** Look carefully at the photo (center) and write a short-short story (maximum 250 words) about what is happening.

**Submit:** One entry per member per month.

**Via e-mail:** Lynnette Baum, [therightwriter@cox.net](mailto:therightwriter@cox.net)

**Via snail mail:** L. Baum, 17595 Harvard, Ste. C-144, Irvine, CA 92614.

**Deadline:** Stories must be received on or before November 18, 2005.

**Revised Requirements:** To facilitate fair judging, put the story title on the top of the page with your **name** and **day-time phone number** underneath. Only the winning author will be contacted.

**Subject Line:** *November 2005 “Will Write 4 Food Contest”* with your daytime number or e-mail address. (For snail-mail put this information on the outside of the envelope.)

**Warning: without this subject line, submission may not be read in time.**

**Winner:** Attends their next SCWA meeting for free. He or she will also be presented with a winner’s certificate. The winning story will be featured in the club’s newsletter, *The Writers News*, and on the organization’s Website.

**Criteria: Contestants must be members of SCWA.** The story must be 250 words or less. No evaluation or comments will be offered on contest submissions. Only one **winning** entry per member per year.

Lynnette Baum, V.P. Programming



## The Writer's Life:

### A WRITER'S GIFT

By Lawrence Porricelli

An eighteen-year-old with only third-grade grammar skills; an elderly colonel whose project is how draught beer has strengthened countless nations during war; a woman who dresses in pill-box hats and Jacqueline Kennedy-style pastel suits and carries a little hat-box shaped purse with copies of her self-published "essential to women's literature" writings inside; and a man whose epic work is inhabited by ghosts of presidents-past that live in the Oval Office and who advised every new president on matters of national importance.

No, this isn't a remedial group at a psychiatric clinic.

Welcome to college, and to a popular class on "Novel Writing."

No matter your level of experience as an author, the desire to pen a novel has grown within you. You have ideas for a unique story. Your opening will hook readers faster than Marilyn nabbed men. The action you envision relegates "The Terminator" to a cure for insomnia. There's a romance with more drama than Scarlett and Rhett. And your ending will deliver sighs across the solar system.

And so you enroll in a college class on novel writing to test the waters. And because of your confidence, you seek early signs of approval for the great work of literature you are about to produce and bless them with.

They will remember you in that class for the ages. Your work will be an inspiration to a new generation of authors.

You submit your first chapter, which goes to each student. They take it home, and next week it will be a centerpiece of discussion, along with the

submissions of Archie and Leola.

The night of your debut approaches, and though you have been published in magazines, newspapers, on the web, and across five continents, there is a rising apprehension as the moment approaches for you to hear your fellow writers' critiques.

Archie's story of an attack from outer space by Day-Glo orange frogs is discussed first. It was a poorly written jumble of words with abysmal spelling and no character other than a hermaphrodite frog named LuBob. And the class raved. Complaints were minor.

And Kipper's tale of the ghost presidents is little better. But again, the class thought it was original and fresh.

Thirty pairs of eyes now focus on you.

Butterflies? Heck, it feels more like an army of vampire bats in your stomach.

And Dracula's Revenge begins.

"Your story has a clever set-up but . . ."

"How can you expect me to feel for a woman like . . ."

"I can't see how this will end . . ."

Your eyes widen, your ears burn, you betray no emotion.

But a small smile begins to sprout.

Your work was great, polished, professional--and you know it.

And so did your instructor, who states his reasons why.

And you realize the class bestowed upon you a precious gift.

It can't be taught. Or bought. Or passed on in the genes.

But it's a gift that redeems a writer's soul.

Welcome to Humility 101.



**December 17,  
2005**

**Shirl Thomas**  
●  
***Editing to Sell***



SCWA member  
and long-time  
professional editor  
and book shepherd,  
**Shirl Thomas**  
speaks on the  
most important  
topic of editing  
that manuscript.

**Looking for  
feature articles  
500-700 words  
in length.**



**Are there any  
writers out there?**

#### **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

|                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Nancy Darnall:</b>   | Associate Editor         |
| <b>Sharon Walters:</b>  | Tape Librarian           |
| <b>Donna Haldeman:</b>  | Membership Info. Table   |
| <b>Glenda Rynn:</b>     | Meeting & Speaker Recaps |
| <b>Barbara Coulson:</b> | Meeting Coordinator      |

Do you have any news to share? Comments? The *Writers News* wants to know. Please e-mail news about your writing career successes, failures, and in-between to Laura Sheridan-Long at

**Laura@ScribbleMoon.com**



**November Meeting:**  
**Saturday**  
**November 19, 2005**

**Alan Russell: Mystery writer**  
***Killer Mysteries: Making Money with Murder***  
*(See inside to learn more about Alan Russell.)*



**Happy  
 Thanksgiving!**

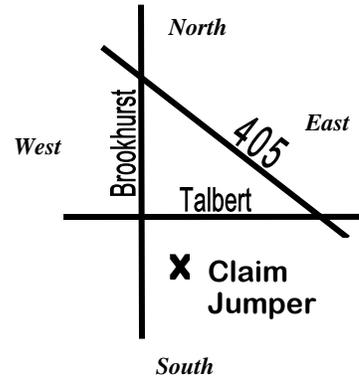
**LOCATION:**

**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 & Program: 10:00 a.m.  
 Lunch: 11:30 a.m.  
 Afternoon Program: 12:15 p.m.

**Members & Non-Members \$20.00**



**👉 WALK-INS & GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME 👈**

**RSVP before November 14:** Roy King, 15772 Heatherdale Rd., Victorville, CA 92394  
 Check must accompany reservations. Make checks payable to **SCWA**.

**After November 14:** Roy King, *home:* (760) 955-5027; *e-mail:* 3kings@urs2.net—bring check to door.  
 For more information, go to **www.ocwriter.com**.

**BE SURE TO RSVP WHENEVER POSSIBLE! . . . Or register online at [www.ocwriter.com/meetings.html](http://www.ocwriter.com/meetings.html)**

**Southern California Writers Association**  
**Writers News**

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