



# Writers News

Volume 11, Number 6.....June 2012

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## **New SCWA Newsletter Features**

We're adding three new sections to the SCWA Newsletter (Members Marketplace, Projects, and Services) to add more value to SCWA Membership. We've also added "genre" to the directory. See each section for the information we're looking for. Send your contributions to <a href="mailto:editor@ocwriter.com">editor@ocwriter.com</a>.

## SCWA President's Message Larry Porricelli, SCWA President

To all of our SCWA Dads - Happy Father's Day. We hope to see you all at this month's meeting. I'd like to welcome Laura Long, Linda Coyne, and Dirk Sayers to the Board of Directors. Thank you for offering to help.

And while I'm on the subject of membership, I want to remind everyone that an annual membership is only \$30 / year (\$15 for students), and that members get a discount at our monthly meetings.

Your Board of Directors is striving to constantly improve your membership experience, and add value to your writing careers. Our approach is for each board member to bring a vision to their area of responsibility, then to merge them into a joint vision, intending to enhance the member experience. We hope you are benefiting from the improvements. Once the membership experience is improved, the organization grows, which brings in fresh talent and ideas that the entire membership can enjoy, and we rebaseline ourselves to start a fresh cycle of improvements.

Check out the new newsletter sections designed to feature the work, projects, and services our members are involved in. Come enjoy our monthly get-togethers, and bask in the camaraderie of your peers and dynamic speakers. I assure you you'll leave with valuable tips of the trade, and a good meal to boot. And we have a Sizzling Summer Savings promotion going on. Check it out:

Sizzling Summer Savings

#### Return to ToC

SCWA Planned Speaker Schedule					
DATE June 16, 2012 Claudia Suzanne July 21, 2012 August 18, 2012 Penny Sansevieri September 15, 2012 Doctober 20, 2012 November 17, 2012 December 15, 2012 December 16, 2013 TBD					

## SCWA Monthly Meeting - June 16th Speaker "Ghostwriting"



## Claudia Suzanne

Ghostwriting expert, Claudia Suzanne, is one of SoCal's leading book industry authorities, with close to ten dozen invisible credits in myriad nonfiction topics, fiction genres, and academic fields.

Ms. Suzanne is the only ghostwriter to ever deconstruct exactly how ghostwriters do what they do. Her latest title, *Secrets of a Ghostwriter*, is the seminal text on the subject – it is, in fact, the only known ghostwriting textbook in existence.

Claudia helped found Professional Writers of Orange County (PWOC) and served two terms as President of Independent Writers of Southern California (IWOSC), OC Chapter. She currently sits on the board of directors of PEN USA, OC Chapter, and the advisory boards of CSUF Extension Education, Mothers Against Sexual Abuse (MASA), and BASTIS Foundation. She is a member of Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA, formerly Publishers Marketing Association) and Small Press, Artists and Writers Network (SPAWN).

#### Return to ToC

## SCWA Monthly Meeting - July Speaker Preview "SCWA Storytelling / Memoir"



#### **Mariana Williams**

In 2003, Mariana Williams traded piano keys for alphabet keys and put her life experiences to paper, beginning the Veronica Bennett series with *Happy New Year, Darling!* (her pen name, Veronica Bennett) and followed up with the sequel, *Stars or Stripes 4th of July*, which won a 2011 National Indie Excellence Award for Chick Lit. Her life experiences as a musician and comedy promoter prepared her for writing three novels in the series (*Easter Week at Camp Obnoxious* comes out in 2012). Falling into accidental crime, always on the verge of a scheme, and ready for love, Veronica keeps the reader on the edge of her seat.

Never preachy, always witty, Mariana's observations keep the reader turning pages; each novel ends with a surprising dénouement. In March of 2010, Mariana was a Moth Grand Slam finalist in the acclaimed story-telling competition held in Los Angeles. Her life experiences have led her to pen Wince-worthy Tales—True Stuff That Happened To Me, which is recorded live and available on CD. She lives in Southern California with husband Paul (yes, that Paul), and fills the empty nest with two cats. Mariana says, "I draw inspiration from my husband's lyrics and humility from my two kids' antics. Mainly, I'm honored to be a part of all three of their lives."

# SCWA Monthly Meeting - May Meeting Highlights

## "Character Transformation"

#### **Dara Marks**



Dara Marks, lauded by *Creative Screenwriting Magazine*, has been a top script consultant for the international film industry for more than twenty years. In presenting "Character Transformation," ideas from her classic book, *Inside Story: The Power of the Transformational Arc*, she not only transformed our traditional ideas about plot and character but also made us understand our creative processes.

Simply put, "[s]tories are human instruction." The classic story structure handed down from Aristotle is not enough to illustrate a character's authentic nature and his growth or refusal to change. Marks says we, as writers, must dig to find "the pattern of our *own* human experience." By telling the story within that context, we hit the archetypal realm--the inescapable, recurring patterns of life. "We're all the same except in the details." Writers need to anticipate the pattern of the character's internal movement as it intertwines with overall story structure.

Ms. Marks quoted a scientist who said, "Present time is three seconds. All else is memory." We process it all narratively: "one plus one equals two." "How do we learn to live? We're given narratives from birth."

"The story arc represents the deepest center point: how to process life. Every life has disappointment and hurt. Our nature involves growth, change, and evolution—no stasis. We need greater and greater consciousness, and the story arc shows you it can be done." We also gain instruction from a character who is "not a life well-lived."

There's a widespread recognition, Ms. Marks says, that our films today are not giving us enough nourishment about how we ascend in life or go into our depths and "do our work." We gain wholeness by integrating our masculine and feminine parts [these are not gender labels like male/female]. The masculine is what propels us in the world, to be all we can be. It says, "I am of value." "Our feminine realm goes into depth and represents the **soul**." It takes our pain, sadness, disappointment and converts them into a greater consciousness.

Ms. Marks demonstrated the masculine vs. the feminine with the story of Agamemnon, king of Mycenae and leader of the Greeks in The Trojan War. The Greek warships cannot sail because there are no winds. The priests say Agamemnon must sacrifice his daughter Iphigenia to the wind god. He does so, and the Greeks sail to sack Troy. Years later when victorious Agamemnon returns home, his wife Clytemnestra, heartbroken and embittered over Iphigenia's death, seeks bloody revenge.

The point of the above is that for any of us to undertake a great challenge and vie against others, a commitment of our masculine side, we have to sacrifice or kill off a portion of our internal feminine. Even though the sacrifice is necessary for accomplishment, later we must pay dearly. Thus, external events we cannot control activate reactions in our inner world. Can our balance/wholeness be restored?

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## **SCWA Board of Directors**

President	Larry Porricelli
VP, Programming	Victory Crayne
VP, Meetings	Dava White
VP, Membership	Laura Long
Treasurer	Charla Spence
Webmaster	Brennan Harvey
Newsletter Editor	Steven Jackson

## **Non-Voting**

Ambassador	Linda Coyne
Digital Recorder	Dirk Sayers
Newsletter Speaker Reporter	Glenda Rynn
Mailing List Manager	Victory Crayne



membership@ocwriter.com

**Meeting Reservations** 

Dava White, <u>meeting@ocwriter.com</u> 714-204-6500



## Return to ToC

## **SCWA Sponsors**

The SCWA gratefully acknowledges our sponsors:













## **Events and Announcements**

The SCWA Information Disclaimer.

## **Good Stuff**

Evelyn Marshall's *The Provider* received a finalist award in the category of Literary Fiction by the 2012 International Book Award contest.

#### **Conferences**

The 10th Annual Southern California Writers' Conference: Los Angeles is September 21 - 23 in Newport Beach. SCWA members get a \$75 discount until June 1st. Go to <a href="http://www.writersconference.com/la/registration">http://www.writersconference.com/la/registration</a> to register.

## **SCWA Outreach**

Suspense Magazine allows paid SCWA members to sign up for a lifetime membership.

The La Jolla Writer's Conference allows paid SCWA members to receive a registration discount year-round.

SPAWN allows paid SCWA members to sign up for a \$10 discount.

#### Return to ToC

## **SCWA Lottery Winners**

It the month of May, the following meeting attendees won prizes in the SCWA Lottery.

- Janis Thomas won a Dark Shadows lava lamp.
- Brennan Harvey forfeited his prize drawing to try for a free meeting admission, but drew the six of hearts and not a Jack.
- Laura Long won a photo album.
- Polly Dunn won an autographed copy of <u>Inside Story</u> by speaker Dara Marks.

Next month, SCWA will hold another raffle featuring great prizes. Tickets are \$1.00 each. If you buy 5 tickets, you get a 6th ticket free. Good Luck!

## **SCWA Members Directory**

The SCWA offers a complimentary listing with all paid memberships. If you would like your contact information listed in the newsletter, please forward this information to the editor at <a href="editor@ocwriter.com">editor@ocwriter.com</a>.

Name	Primary Genre	Email	Web	<u>Phone</u>
Baum, Lynnette		therightwriter@cox.net	www.the-right-writer.com	949-654-3891
Crayne, Victory		<u>victory@crayne.com</u>	www.crayne.com	949-206-0922
Dunn, Polly		pollydunn@sbcglobal.net		714-306-8934
Farmer, Patty		Pmtfarmer@gmail.com		714-335-0040
Goldinger, Sharon		pplspeak@att.net	www.detailsplease.com/peoplespeak	949-581-6190
Harvey, Brennan		SCWA: webmaster@ocwriter.com		
Hofmann, Lois Joy		loisjoyhofmann@yahoo.com	sailorstales.wordpress.com	858-483-3942
Jackson, Steven	Thrillers	SCWA: editor@ocwriter.com	web.me.com/stevejackson4/Writer	
King, Roy		rsking3@verizon.net	www.authorrhking.com	760-987-7870
Lloyd, Rita Lee		<u>rl_loyd@yahoo.com</u>	www.ritaleelloyd.com	949-493-1625
Long, Laura		laura.a.long@cox.net	www.wordswortheditorial.com	949-246-3211
Marsh, Sonia		sonia@soniamarsh.com	soniamarsh.com	949-309-0030
Marshall, Evelyn		Evelyn@EvelynMarshall.com	www.EvelynMarshall.com	714-220-1882
Porricelli, Larry		SCWA:president@ocwriter.com		
Porter, Kathy		Kathy@grayguardians.com	www.grayguardians.com	562-431-0366
Quinn, Darlene		Darlene@darlenequinn.net	www.darlenequinn.net	562-432-1280
Rynn, Glenda		grynn@cox.net		
Spence, Charla		SCWA: treasurer@ocwriter.com	www.CharlaSpence.com	
Stoklosa, Tony		tonystoklosa@hotmail.com		
Young, Neil		celtic1100@yahoo.com		
Westenhaver, Don	Hist Fic / Thriller	s donwestenhaver@roadrunner.com	www.donwestenhaver.com	714-994-1943
White, Dava		SCWA: meeting@ocwriter.com		714-204-6500
Williams, Mariana		mariana@marianawilliams.net	www.marianawilliams.net	

## **SCWA Members Marketplace**

SCWA Members sell stuff. Here's where you can find what's published.

Author	Title	Year	Publisher	Format*	Purchasing Information**
Bennett, Veronica	Happy New Year, Darling	2003	Infinity Pub.	P,e	\$11.66 - A; \$1.99 - Kindle
Bennett, Veronica	Stars or Stripes Fourth of July	2011	Infinity Pub.	P,e	\$13.95 - A; \$3.43 - Kindle
Marshall, Evelyn	The Provider	2012	Piper Press	Р	\$15.95 - PiperPress.com; A; B&N
				е	\$9.95 - soon on Kindle, iPad
Spence, Charla	Personal Healthcare Record (Adult)	2011	Spence	Р	\$19.95 - http://shop.charlaspence.com
Spence, Charla	Personal Healthcare Record (Child)	2011	Spence	Р	\$19.95 - http://shop.charlaspence.com
Westenhaver, Don	The Whiplash Hypothesis	2008	Amazon	е	A - www.donwestenhaver.com
Westenhaver, Don	The Red Turtle Project	2008	Amazon	P,e	Xlibris, A - www.donwestenhaver.com
Westenhaver, Don	Nero's Convert	2008	Amazon	P,e	Xlibris, A - www.donwestenhaver.com

<sup>\* -</sup> H = hardcover; P = paperback; e = eBook.

#### Return to ToC

## **SCWA Members Projects**

SCWA Members write stuff. Here's what some of us are up to.

Steven Jackson has three thriller novels in various stages of development: *The Megalomania Gambit* (ready for marketing), *The Zeus Payload* (in late-stage rewriting), and *The Lamia Transmutation* (in early-stage writing).

Don Westenhaver specializes in historical fiction novels which commingle actual historical figures and events with fictional characters. He just completed his fourth novel, *Alexander's Lighthouse*, which takes place in Alexandria Egypt during the first century AD, and an agent is reading it.

Mariana Williams is Producer of Long Beach Searches for the Greatest Storyteller. In its second season, this event is held at the Long Beach Playhouse. Facebook Fan Page: LB Searches, www.marianawilliams.net/wince-worthy tales.

#### Return to ToC

## **SCWA Members Services**

SCWA Members know how to do stuff. Here's where you can find the services they offer.

SCWA MemberServices OfferedContact InformationJackson, StevenBusiness Writing, Reviews, Ghostwritingsee directory

<sup>\*\* -</sup> A = Amazon.com; B&N = Barnes&Noble.com

## White House Invitation Rocks

## by Mariana Williams

The Gershwin Award for Popular Music Prize is awarded to the country's top composers, at the White House. The President bestowing the award after a small private concert. Burt Bacharach and Hal David were the recipients May 9<sup>th</sup>, and because my husband, Paul Williams, is President of ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers), I was able to go.

The event is sponsored by the Library of Congress, which houses vast and valuable musical collections. It was the vision of The Librarian of Congress, Dr. James Billington, to include a live concert. Burt Bacharach was in good form: regretfully, Hal was unable to make the trip due to health concerns. His lovely wife Eunice accepted on his behalf.

What to wear, right? It's Washington DC, it has to be a suit; not wet suit, or swim suit, like we favor in Naples—Okay, suited up, I'm ready. May 9<sup>th</sup>, as we pass through our third checkpoint, I'm convinced there's no party-crashing the White House. Forget about, "Who called a taxi?" Or, boldly walking into a party with the bag of ice, calling out, "I got it!"

Prior to the show a few of us were ushered into a room for a much-anticipated photo with the President. The air buzzed with excitement. No cameras allowed beyond this point. Glasses clinked in toasting, arms bent in self-back-patting; but collectively we guests got less cocky with the announcement that came next.

A clipboard guy had to almost shout above the din of self-congratulating to say, "The President is only taking 20 pictures. The next few minutes have to go quickly, everyone is grouped." The toasting of glasses stopped mid-air. "ASCAP with Sprint and Com-cast: Group 5." Huh? Okay, the Prez is a busy guy. I get it. Next, "The Henderson Trust and IBM: Group six," etc. I step closer to Paul and say, "Joe Schmoe from Coca-Moe: Group seven." Paul says, "Mustang Sally: Group eight."

After the crushing disappointment of nobody getting face-time alone with the leader of the free world, we collectively shrugged it off and enjoyed the elegant banquet room, crystal chandeliers, and open bar.

Michelle was warm and lovely. In our brief exchange, it seemed she liked me and regretted we were on a tight schedule. A moment later, I was offered the two-handed handshake by President Obama. When he leaned over to say, "How are you?" I responded, "Excited!" He laughed. My turn was over. (The official picture mailed in six weeks.)

Paul was next. He smiled and said, "Mr. President, I'm *also* Mr. President. President of ASCAP, and we appreciate what you're doing for intellectual property rights."

The President replied, "Oh, Paul. We know who you are. Hey, I bet you were elected by a wider margin than I was." This was followed by a round of chuckles—like friends are inclined to do, while in a receiving line, surrounded by Secret Service, and cameras.

The Gershwin Award for Popular American Music is broadcast for the first time Monday, May 21, 12 on PBS. The show features David and Bacharach songs, sung by Stevie Wonder; Cheryl Crow; Lyle Lovette; Diana Krall; Michael Feinstein; British singer, Rumer; and even Michael Myers, who added comedy.

From the wings the talented roster of performers joined Burt at the piano for the big finale, "What the World Needs Now is Love Sweet Love." The audience sang, clapped in rhythm, and some wiped their eyes with emotion and the poignant message that resonates even more today.

## SCWA Monthly Meeting - May Meeting Highlights (cont.)

Therefore, a great story demonstrates how a person succeeds or fails to change and grow within his context. The critical next aspect is **theme**, taken directly from *your* own meaningfulness. You, the writer, "have to have courage to write about your own view of the world. *You must own it.*" An admitted stickler on terminology, Ms. Marks says **plot** is "the conflict in the outer, physical world happening to the protagonist." The **protagonist** is "whom we have our eye on, the one primarily impacted." **Subplot** is "the inner values and how they change."

When you start a story, it's all right to poke around randomly and intuitively with non-matched pieces and play with platitudes and clichés. For instance, "Money can't buy you love." Go deeper: Why can't money buy you love?" Expand the principles behind any thematic element because you are developing theme, a "link-up of a writer's values, perceptions, and points-of-view." "Theme is the living element in your story and should haunt you every day of your life." Perhaps the earlier cliché will develop into "Love is what I deserve it to be."

The character's **fatal flaw** is his internal struggle "to maintain a survival system that has outlived its usefulness" whether alcoholism or dependency, etc. It's arrested development. The audience/reader needs the fatal flaw to be communicated clearly and cleverly. Maybe someone else calls the character a bully or says, "You don't go the distance."

Beware: Enlightenment and transformation are not the same. Transformation happens in fits and starts. After the transformational moment, the protagonist has to fight on behalf of his greater consciousness and not allow himself to be co-opted.

The transformational arc consists of Story A, the struggle in the outer world; Story B, the internal or fatal flaw that "needs a shift of consciousness" and Story C, how an internal shift is able to be realized by a relationship, off of which the shift is reflected. Ms. Marks's handout illustrated the transformational arc and what needs to happen where. You need interaction with writers' groups not only to examine what you've written but also to provoke self-examination.

Member Polly Dunn summarized the presentation by saying that Dara Marks "basically provided a two-day seminar within our time slot" and that the topic was "not so much transforming our characters as it was transforming our stories into more meaningful creations." Vigorous applause. See <a href="https://www.daramarks.com">www.daramarks.com</a>.

Glenda Brown Rynn, reporter

Return to Meeting Highlights

## **SCWA Board Meetings**

## **Recorded by Victory Crayne**

#### Minutes of SCWA board meeting 5-5-12

(Larry Porricelli, Steven Jackson, Victory Crayne, Brennan Harvey, and Dava White)

The following are summaries of the items discussed and any resultant Action Items.

- 1. Larry will look into getting credit card access so people can pay SCWA with a credit or debit card.
- 2. Brennan will look into web hosting services. Brennan will prepare a Requirements Definition document, listing what we require of a web hosting service. This should include email distribution lists. Then he will look at different hosts to see which ones might meet our requirements.
- 3. Dava asked about offering discounts for bringing extra people to meetings. Larry suggested we have a "Summer Sizzler Savings" for the three months of June, July, and August. Buy 1 meal and get the second half off. Bring a friend. The board agreed on Larry's suggestion. Action Item: Dava and Brennan will advertise this on our website and in meeting announcements.
- 4. Brennan will change the title of the Meeting Coordinator on our website to VP of Meetings.
- 5. Brennan will buy a digital recorder for use in recording our speakers' talks.
- 6. Dava reported we had two new volunteers, Laura Long and Derk Sayers. We need to fill these positions: VP of Membership, Digital Recorder, Secretary, Publicity Director. Action Item: Larry or Brennan will ask Laura and Derk which positions they would like.
- 7. Dava will write up a job description for the VP of Membership.
- 8. Brennan will code a way for the board documents to be available on our website but not be scannable by Google. Full job descriptions used to be available on our board website.
- 9. We discussed the December 2012 meeting. It was suggested that we could do a panel discussion on either of these topics (but not both): Writing successes or Business experts. Panelists would get a free lunch, no speaker fee.
- 10. Dava and Victory agreed to divide up who will use which media for meeting.

#### Minutes of SCWA board meeting 5-19-12

(Larry Porricelli, Steven Jackson, Victory Crayne, Brennan Harvey, Dava White, and Charla Spence)

The following are summaries of the items discussed and any resultant Action Items.

- 1. Steven Jackson will put notice of the 2nd-half-off offer for the June, July, and August meetings in the newsletter. The first person pays full price and his/her guest pays 1/2 price.
- 2. Dava White suggested we split the duties of the (1) Ambassador to be the person who meets and greets new attendees at meeting and (2) the Public Relations person handles outside publicity to other groups. Linda Coyne was appointed as Ambassador.
- 3. The Board appointed Laura Long as the new Vice President of Membership. Dava gave Victory a description of duties and Victory will give this to Laura at the meeting that followed.
- 4. The Board appointed Dirk Sayers as Digital Recorder.
- 5. The Board approved of changing the title of Meeting Coordinator to be the new Vice President of Meetings. Dava White holds that position.

## The SCWA Bookshelf

## **Books on the Craft of Writing, Recommended by Our Speakers**

Our wonderful speakers often recommend books on the craft or business of writing. Here is a sampling of recent suggestions.

#### From **Deborah Pratt**:

Worlds of Wonder - How to Write Science Fiction and Fantasy

Stein on Writing

The Writer's Journey (2nd Edition)

Getting the Words Right

The Art of Fiction

The Comic's Tool Box

The 8 Characters of Comedy

Creating Unforgettable Characters

Making a Good Script Great

From Script to Screen - the Collaborative Art of Film Making

Save the Cat (1 & 2)

The Playwright's Handbook

Adventure in the Screen Trade

An Empire of Their Own

The Big Picture

(David Gerrold) (Sol Stein)

(Christopher Vogler)

(Theodore A Rees Cheney)

(John Gardner) (John Vothaurus) (Scott Sedita) (Linda Seger)

(Linda Seger) (Linda Seger)

(Linda Seger w/ Edward Jay Whetmore)

(Blake Snyder)

(Frank Pike & Thomas Dunn)

(William Goldman) (Neal Gabler)

(Edward Joy Epstein)

### Return to ToC

## **SCWA Book Exchange**

The SCWA is offering its members the opportunity to bring and drop off books (any subject) at meetings. Any attendee may take any number of books home for free. Leftover books will be donated.

#### Return to ToC

## **Sizzling Summer Savings**

Buy one, get one half off.

As a Member of SCWA, you can bring a friend to any meeting in June, July, or August for half price. Simply RSVP with the promotion code by the early bird deadline.

The code for June is: BEACHBALL

## **SCWA Information Disclaimer**

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 or the SCWA <u>discuss@ocwriter.com</u> discussion board. The SCWA Newsletter Editor will determine the information to be contained in the SCWA online newsletter which is primarily used for official SCWA information.

**Events and Announcements** 

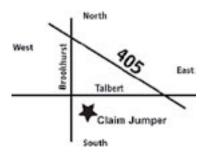
#### Return to ToC

## **SCWA Monthly Meeting Information and Map**

## **Meeting 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: 10:00 a.m.
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.
Afternoon Program: 12:30 p.m.