



Writers News

Volume 11, Number 10....October 2012

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Free Advertising

Your SCWA Newsletter wants to help promote your writing career. Many features are available to advertise your publishing accomplishments, future events, and services. Send your info to editor@ocwriter.com for inclusion in the Newsletter.

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SCWA President's Message

Larry Porricelli, SCWA President

It's election time. Not just for state and federal offices. It's also time for SCWA elections, as we choose our board members for 2013.

I want to thank each of our 2012 SCWA Board of Directors. Their dedication to serving the SCWA is laudable, and I'm honored to be a part of that. Most have expressed a willingness to continue, and I'm grateful for that.

If you have the desire to serve, please consider running for office. As of now, we have candidates for all positions except for our VP of Programming, which Victory Crayne has handled for us this year. Everyone is encouraged to run for office, and having choices is always a good thing for an organization like ours.

If you would like to get on a first name basis with many of the movers and shavers in the writing industry, the VP of Programming role is a fine opportunity for you. Victory is available to train you, and has some tools for you to make the job easier.

If you're interested in any position, contact me to get on the ballot, which will be finalized at the October meeting, where the vote is also held. You must be present to vote, so make your plans now to attend what figures to be a dynamic and fun meeting with Paul Williams.

Here is the current ballot, with each of the board position available: [2013 SCWA Board of Directors Ballot](#).

This is also a great time to sign up for the SCWA for 2013. Anyone who pays for 2013 this month gets the rest of this year for free. Contact Laura Long at membership@ocwriter.com, sign up on the website at www.ocwriter.com, or sign up at our monthly meeting.

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SCWA Planned Speaker Schedule

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT or SPECIALTY
October 20, 2012	Paul Williams	Songs, etc.
November 17, 2012	Brett Battles	Mystery Writing
December 15, 2012	Panel of SCWA Members	TBD
January 19, 2013	Gene Del Vecchio	Creating Blockbusters
February 16, 2013	Jeri Westerson	Medieval Historical Mysteries
March 16, 2013	Patricia Fry	Book Marketing for the Reluctant Author
April 20, 2013	Jessica Brody	Structuring a Screenplay or Novel
May 18, 2013	Peggy Lang	Editing and Memoirs
June 15, 2013	TBD	TBD
July 20, 2013	TBD	TBD
August 17, 2013	TBD	TBD
September 21, 2013	TBD	TBD

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SCWA Monthly Meeting - October 20th Speaker

“Songs, etc.”

Paul Williams



This month we will take a break from our usual fare of book writing and the business of writing to listen to one of America's great song writers.

Paul Williams (Music and Lyrics) is an Oscar, Grammy and Golden Globe winning Hall of Fame songwriter. “We’ve Only Just Begun,” “Rainy Days and Mondays,” “You and Me Against the World,” “An Old Fashioned Love Song,” “I Won’t Last a Day Without You,” and “Let Me Be The One” are among his timeless standards.

His songs have been recorded by such diverse musical icons as Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, Willie Nelson, Ella Fitzgerald, David Bowie, Ray Charles, R.E.M., Tony Bennett, Sarah Vaughn, Johnny Mathis, Luther Vandross, and Kermit the Frog.

Paul is the president of ASCAP, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers at <http://ascap.org>.

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SCWA Membership Opportunity

Now is the time to join the SCWA for 2013. If you join in 2012, you get the rest of 2102 and all of 2013 for the price of one year, a 25% savings. Contact Laura Long at membership@ocwriter.com, sign up on the website at www.ocwriter.com, or sign up at our monthly meeting.

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SCWA Monthly Meeting - November Speaker Preview

“Mystery Writing”

Brett Battles



Brett Battles was born and raised in southern California. His parents, avid readers, instilled the love of books in him early on.

Though he still makes California his home, he has traveled extensively to such destinations as Ho Chi Minh City, Berlin, Singapore, London, Paris, and Bangkok, all of which play parts in his current and upcoming Jonathan Quinn [thrillers](#).

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SCWA Monthly Meeting - September Meeting Highlights

“The Three Cosmic Rules of Writing”

Dennis Palumbo



“If only..., if only..., if only...,” echoes in the head of every writer and artist, says Dennis Palumbo, psychotherapist for those in the creative arts. As a scriptwriter for film and TV, he’s been there, done that. Now he finishes novels, a few pages at a time between seeing patients. His topic was “Three Cosmic Rules of Writing.”

Our inner myth whispers if only we had gone to enough workshops or met enough people, etc., we’d be better writers or more successful. Even Robert Redford falls victim to thinking “the party’s happening somewhere else.” Flying with Redford in his Lear jet, Palumbo was staggered to hear Redford say, “You know who’s got it made? Paul Newman.” We believe there’s a “perfectible” version of ourselves in the future. Nonsense, Palumbo declares. **Cosmic Rule #1: You are enough right now to be the writer you want to be.** “*This is your party.*”

Palumbo remembers his own mother saying, “Who do you think you are?” Pushing through self-doubt, he went on to write episodes of *The Love Boat*, *Welcome Back, Kotter*, and *My Favorite Year* with Peter O’Toole. Meanwhile he became intensely interested in the creative process itself. Since becoming a psychotherapist, he’s authored three whodunnits, *Mirror Image*, *From Crime to Crime*, and *Fever Dream*, as well as the nonfiction *Writing from the Inside Out*, about the writer’s psyche [one of your reporter’s favorites]. His column, “Hollywood on the Couch” appears on the *Psychology Today* website.

Cosmic Rule #2 is Work with What You’re Given. “New writers think they need inspiration,” says Palumbo, but he believes in imagination instead. In fact, the concept of inspiration “does a great disservice to people” because “all writing is autobiographical.” (“I only write when I’m inspired, and I make sure I’m inspired every morning at 9 a.m.”)

But even in writing about your own life events, you must eschew the literal truth for the *emotional truth* in the narrative. Nothing is truly objective anyway. Scenes in real life end raggedly or splutter out, but written scenes can build, be cut, or end with a blowout. “We all punch up our memories.” “Everything given you is grist for the mill.”

Cosmic Rule #3: Writing (not thinking or complaining) **begets writing.** Writing is “dialogic,” Palumbo says, because you can’t write a simple sentence without changing verbs or objects. Soon, you’re writing more sentences. Frederic Raphael (*Darling, Two for the Road*) said, “The true definition of writing is pages that are there in the evening that weren’t there in the morning.” Graham Greene’s output was 500 words a day. William Goldman lived by the edict, “Write fast and don’t think.” Our speaker warned against being seduced by fear into endless research. Tell yourself that in the future you’ll author a “bulletproof” manuscript.

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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 G. Jackson

Non-Voting

Newsletter Speaker Reporter Glenda Rynn
Mailing List Manager Victory Crayne

Membership Information

Laura Long, membership@ocwriter.com

Meeting Reservations

Dava White, meeting@ocwriter.com

714-204-6500



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SCWA Sponsors

The SCWA gratefully acknowledges our sponsors:



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Events and Announcements

[The SCWA Information Disclaimer.](#)

Good Stuff

Sonia Marsh has a book signing at [Pages Indie Bookstore](#) (904 Manhattan Ave., Manhattan Beach) on October 11th from 7 - 8:30 PM. *Freeways to Flip-Flops* is now available at her website, Amazon, and Barnes & Noble in paperback or as an e-book.

Don Westenhaver published his fourth historical novel in August. *Alexander's Lighthouse* takes place in 92 AD in Alexandria Egypt, the unchallenged pinnacle of Western intellectual achievement in ancient times. The book is for sale through Amazon's CreateSpace (paperback) and Kindle (e-books) and is also available as an e-book on Apple's iPad and iPhone, with other e-book platforms coming soon. See Don's website: www.donwestenhaver.com for synopses of all four novels. Paperbacks will be available for purchase at the October meeting.

Conferences

The 2012 La Jolla Writer's Conference will be held November 2-4, 2012 at [Paradise Point Resort & Spa](#), in San Diego, California.

Classes begin at 1:00pm on Friday, November 2 and end at 4:00pm on Sunday, November 4.

See <http://lajollawritersconference.com> for details and registration.

A limited number of rooms have been blocked and reserved for LJWC attendees at special discounted rate. Please contact the resort reservations department directly at 858-274-4630 and ask for the "La Jolla Writer's Conference rate"

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.

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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 editor@ocwriter.com.

Name	Primary Genre	Email	Web	Phone
Abbott, Pauline				
Baum, Lynnette		therightwriter@cox.net	the-right-writer.com	949-654-3891
Bayless, Jackie				
Bent, Pauline Chavez				
Berg, William				
Bergman, Leah				
Blake, Bill				
Bradbury, Mary				
Brunelle, Gayle				
Christoff, Kathleen				
Crayne, Victory	Thriller/Mys/SciFi	victory@crayne.com	crayne.com	949-206-0922
Dmytryk, Luba				
Drucke, Carl				
Dunn, Polly		pollydunn@sbcglobal.net		714-306-8934
Farmer, Patty		Pmtfarmer@gmail.com		714-335-0040
Garcia, Jose Andres				
Glenn, Peggy				
Goldinger, Sharon		pplspeak@att.net	detailsplease.com/peoplespeak	949-581-6190
Harvey, Brennan		SCWA: webmaster@ocwriter.com		
Hess, Judd				
Hofmann, Lois Joy		loisjoyhofmann@yahoo.com	sailorstales.wordpress.com	858-483-3942
Izzo, Dan				
Jackson, Steven G	Thrillers	SCWA: editor@ocwriter.com	stevengjackson.com	
Jackson-Colando, Pat				
Jacobson, Don				
Jordan-Dardashiti, Irene				
Keck, Jim				
Kimbrough, Andrew				
King, Roy	Mainstream Fic	rsking3@verizon.net	authorrking.com	760-987-7870
Lehrer, Janine				
Lloyd, Rita Lee		rl_loyd@yahoo.com	ritaleelloyd.com	949-493-1625
Long, Laura		laura.a.long@cox.net	wordswortheditorial.com	949-246-3211
Long-Coyne, Linda				
Marsh, Sonia		sonia@soniamarsh.com	soniamarsh.com	949-309-0030
Marshall, Evelyn	Literary Fic	Evelyn@EvelynMarshall.com	EvelynMarshall.com	714-220-1882
Nguyen, Lyly				
Ocampo, Deanna				
Porricelli, Larry		SCWA: president@ocwriter.com		
Porter, Kathy		Kathy@grayguardians.com	grayguardians.com	562-431-0366
Quinn, Darlene	Mainstream Fic	Darlene@darlenequinn.net	darlenequinn.net	562-432-1280
Rynn, Glenda		grynn@cox.net		
Salava, Luke				
Sayers, Dirk				
Spence, Charla	Non-Fiction	SCWA: treasurer@ocwriter.com	CharlaSpence.com	
Spence, Leslie		tonystoklosa@hotmail.com		
Thomas, Janis				
Thomas, Shirl		shirlth@verizon.net	http://shirlthomas.com	
Turner, Rita				
Westenhaver, Don	Hist Fic / Thrillers	donwestenhaver@roadrunner.com	donwestenhaver.com	714-994-1943
White, Dava		SCWA: meeting@ocwriter.com		714-204-6500
Williams, Mariana		mariana@marianawilliams.net	marianawilliams.net	
Young, Neil		celtic1100@yahoo.com		

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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	<i>Happy New Year, Darling</i>	2003	Infinity Pub.	P,e	\$11.66 - A; \$1.99 - Kindle
Bennett, Veronica	<i>Stars or Stripes Fourth of July</i>	2011	Infinity Pub.	P,e	\$13.95 - A; \$3.43 - Kindle
King, Roy	<i>Symfonie Fantastique</i>	2011	Epiphany	P,e	\$14.94 - A; \$9.95 - Kindle
Lloyd, Rita Lee	<i>How to Survive in the 21st Century as a SSOFF</i>	2011	DSP	H, e	\$7.99 - K; \$11.66 - A
Marsh, Sonia	<i>Freeways to Flip-Flops</i>	2012	Gutsy Pub	P,e	\$11.09 - A; B&N; \$4.99 - Kindle
Marshall, Evelyn	<i>The Provider</i>	2012	Piper Press	P,e	\$15.95 - A; B&N; \$9.95 - Kindle, iPad
Porter, Kathy	<i>Gray/Guardians</i>	2006		P	
Porter, Kathy	<i>Earth's Ultimate Conflict</i>	2010	W N' W	P	\$3.50 - A
Quinn, Darlene	<i>Webs of Power</i>	2008	Emerald	H,P,e	\$24.95/\$11.66 - A, B&N; \$4.99 - K
Quinn, Darlene	<i>Twisted Webs</i>	2010	Emerald	H,P,e	\$25.95/\$16.95 - A, B&N; \$7.69 - K
Quinn, Darlene	<i>Webs of Fate</i>	2011	Greenleaf	H,P,e,a	\$24.95/\$11.66 - A, B&N; \$7.99 - K
Spence, Charla	<i>Personal Healthcare Record (Adult)</i>	2011	Spence	P	\$19.95 - http://shop.charlaspence.com
Spence, Charla	<i>Personal Healthcare Record (Child)</i>	2011	Spence	P	\$19.95 - http://shop.charlaspence.com
Westenhaver, Don	<i>The Whiplash Hypothesis</i>	2008	Amazon	e	A - www.donwestenhaver.com
Westenhaver, Don	<i>The Red Turtle Project</i>	2008	Xlibris	P,e	A - www.donwestenhaver.com
Westenhaver, Don	<i>Nero's Convert</i>	2008	Xlibris	P,e	A - www.donwestenhaver.com
Westenhaver, Don	<i>Alexander's Lighthouse</i>	2012	Amazon	P,e	A,K - www.donwestenhaver.com

* - H = hardcover; P = paperback; e = eBook; a = audio.

** - A = Amazon.com; B&N = Barnes&Noble.com

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SCWA Members Projects

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

Victory Crayne writes novels in three genres: espionage thriller, mystery, and science fiction. Usually in all 3 at the same time. She's currently in the rewriting phase of *Reluctant Spy*, which she hopes to self-published in 2012 as an ebook, and later in print format.

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

Evelyn Marshall, fresh off completing *The Provider*, will have another novel, *The Way They See*, out in a few months.

Darlene Quinn will be releasing *Unpredictable Webs* in May.

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.

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SCWA Members Services

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

<u>SCWA Member</u>	<u>Services Offered</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
Crayne, Victory	Editing of Fiction and Memoirs	see directory
Jackson, Steven G	Business Writing, Reviews, Ghostwriting	see directory
Thomas, Shirl	Editing	see directory

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SCWA Elections

Elections for 2013 SCWA Board of Director positions will be held during the October meeting. You must be present to vote. Here is the current ballot (which may change):

President:	Larry Porricelli (incumbent)
VP, Programming:	
VP, Meetings:	Dava White (incumbent)
VP, Membership:	Brennan Harvey
	Laura Long (incumbent)
Treasurer:	Charla Spence (incumbent)
Newsletter Editor:	Steven G Jackson (incumbent)

You may choose to run at any time up to, and including, the October meeting, where last minute additions to the ballot are accepted. If you are interested in serving and running for any of the Board positions, please contact Larry at: president@ocwriter.com.

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Credit Card Processing

The SCWA will begin accepting credit and debit cards at the monthly meetings, starting with our October meeting. We hope you find this added convenience a true benefit. Please be patient with us as we start this new feature.

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SCWA Monthly Meeting - September Meeting Highlights (cont.)

Keep tuned to these basics: “Plot is character under stress,’ said Henry James.” “Stories only work if the characters *want* something.” “What’s the turn?” Palumbo asks. “The character thinks he wants X, but he actually wants Y—or discovers he wants Y.” Example: The protagonist confronts the antagonist who has scammed him. But when the bad guy starts to jump out the window, the protagonist finds himself trying to talk the scoundrel out of it.

“We tell ourselves stories to stay alive,” said Joan Didion. Psychotherapist Palumbo adds, “Plot the points in your own story so *your* life makes narrative sense.”

Practitioners of this “melancholy profession” must regularly wrestle three gremlins: *writer’s block*, *procrastination*, and *fear of rejection*. Amateurs assume being blocked means they’re not good enough. From years of counseling award winners, stars, and the creatively employed, Palumbo’s take on writer’s block is counterintuitive: a block signals an imminent growth spurt. Almost every artist and his most veteran writers undergo those dark nights about the personal relevance and depth of their creative process. The veterans don’t panic; they understand it’s an inevitable but intrinsic part of the process. Shaky feelings do not predict the future. The danger is in what you tell yourself it means about you.

Procrastination usually originates in a “fear of shameful self-exposure and feelings of inadequacy...I procrastinate because I’m weak of character.” However, Palumbo says thinking that “when I finish this, everyone will hate it’ is as much magical thinking as thinking everyone will love it.” Writers console themselves by thinking if they don’t send it out, it can’t be judged. Women struggle with an additional internal obstacle. Because of how they’ve been socialized, they believe sitting down to write is permissible *only* after everything else is done. Palumbo counsels them to write after waking up or to schedule two hours of writing into their day. He coaxes, “Then you’ll be much more available to your family.”

Counteract fears of rejection by realizing acceptance is controlled by the changing tastes and demands of the market, not your writing. His patients tell him that the best things they’ve ever written didn’t sell. The only control a writer has is to write and submit. Ray Bradbury’s solution was to take a returned short story and stuff it the same day into a clean envelope for another publisher. The most common factor among Palumbo’s patients is angst. His response? “You’re giving the universe all the power to define you.”

Miscellaneous Palumbo comment too good to ignore: “Every generation someone discovers female sexuality.”

See www.dennispalumbo.com.

Glenda Brown Rynn, Reporter
grynn@cox.net

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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 discuss@ocwriter.com discussion board. The SCWA Newsletter Editor will determine the information to be contained in the SCWA on-line newsletter which is primarily used for official SCWA information.

[Events and Announcements](#)

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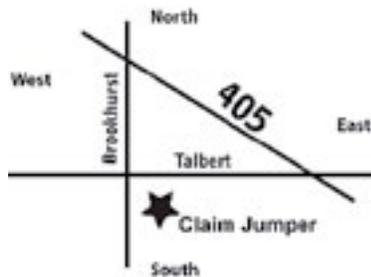
SCWA Monthly Meeting Information and Map

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.



Meeting Fees (cash or check only)

Reservation Type	SCWA Member	Student	Others
RSVP by Early Bird Date	\$25	\$15	\$30
RSVP after Early Bird Date or Walk-In	\$30	\$15	\$35

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