

Southern California Writers Association

The Perennial Writers Conference



Newsletter

Volume 17, Number 2 -- February 2018

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President's Message

Larry Porricelli, SCWA President



At our January meeting SCWA member DP Lyle spoke to a capacity crowd on creating a unique voice and characters.

Our February meeting features George Galdorisi, a career naval aviator with inside stories about strategy, operations, tactics, and technology. He's an accomplished writer with great stories to share.

Thank you for making the SCWA the phenomenal organization it is today, and for even better things to come. If your annual fees are due, please sign up to extend for your next twelve months. Happy writing.

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SCWA Board of Directors

President Larry Porricelli
Vice President Steven G. Jackson
Vice President of Finances Don Westenhaver
Vice President of Programming Madeline Margarita
Vice President of Communications Don Westenhaver
Vice President of Membership Yann Jackson

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Meeting Reservations

Larry Porricelli, meeting@ocwriter.com

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Southern California Writers Association Anthology

IT'S ALL IN THE STORY

The book launch for *It's All in the Story* on November 2nd, 2017 at Book Carnival in Orange, CA, was a big success.

The following SCWA members created the masterpieces that are included in this exciting edition:

Biff (Harold D.) Baker, Phyllis Blake, PJ Colando, Rose de Guzman, Lani Forbes, Wanda Green, Dana Hammer, Catheryn Hull, Steven G. Jackson, D.P.Lyle, Maddie Margarita, Jeffrey J. Michaels, Anne Moose, Andrew R. Nixon, Jo Perry, D. J. Phinney, Jo Ellen Pitzer, Casey Pope, David Putnam, Glenda Brown Rynn, Janis Thomas, and Julie Wells.

Here are a few of the many praises for *It's All in the Story*.

“What John Steinbeck said about one of his stories—that he wanted it to ‘strike without the readers’ knowledge’—might be said of many of these tales. . . . This collection is as expansive as the West itself.”

—**Dr. Susan Shillinglaw**, Director, National Steinbeck Center

“It’s All in the Story is a moveable feast of California literature, brilliantly selected to illustrate the value of the compelling short story.”

—**Kimberley Cameron**, Kimberley Cameron & Associates Literary Agency

Our hope is that sales of our anthology justify publishing another one, and that this is just the beginning for SCWA. We are grateful for the tremendous response and support, and look forward to branching out in new ways that will add value to our writing community.

For more information visit the SCWA Anthology website at: www.SCWAanthology.com.

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Speaker Schedule

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT or SPECIALTY
February 17th, 2018	George Galdorisi	Strategy, Operations, Tactics, and Technology
March 17th, 2018	Elaine Ash	Award winning story and narrative structure
April 21st, 2018	Angela Bole	Independent book publishing

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February 17th Speaker - George Galdorisi

“Strategy, Operations, Tactics, and Technology”



George Galdorisi is a career naval aviator whose thirty years of active duty service included four command tours and five years as a carrier strike group chief of staff. He began his writing career in 1978 with an article in the U.S. Navy’s professional magazine, *U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings*.

In addition to his Rick Holden thrillers published by Braveship Books, he has written twelve other books distributed by mainstream publishers, including several bestselling novels in the rebooted Tom Clancy’s Op-Center series, including *Out of the Ashes*, *Into the Fire*, *Scorched Earth*, and *Dark Zone*. With his longtime collaborator, Dick Couch, he coauthored the *New York Times* best seller, *Tom Clancy Presents: Act of Valor* the novelization of the Bandito Brothers/Relativity Media film. He is also the author of *The Kissing Sailor*, which proved the identity of the two principals in Alfred Eisenstaedt’s famous photograph; as well as over three-hundred articles in professional journals and other media.

George has received a number of national and international writing awards, including: the Navy League of the United States Alfred Thayer Mahan Award for Literary Achievement, the Surface Navy Association Literary Award, the Navy League of Australia’s Annual Essay Competition, the Naval Helicopter Historical Association Mark Starr Pioneer Literary Award, and the Military Writers Society of America Silver Medal Award, among others.

George is the Director of Strategic Assessments and Technical Futures at the Navy’s Command and Control Center of Excellence in San Diego, California. He and his wife Becky live in Coronado, California. Other than writing thrillers, George likes nothing more than connecting with readers. You can follow him on Facebook and Twitter, and learn more about his books, blogs and other writing on his website: <http://www.georgegaldorisi.com/> – especially his “Writing Tips,” – which offer useful advice for all writers from established authors to future best-selling writers.

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March 17th Speaker - Elaine Ash

“Award winning story and narrative structure”



As the former editor-at-large for Beat to a Pulp webzine, Elaine worked directly with writers of all genres to develop stories for publication.

Today, she works with private clients, helping them shape manuscripts, acquire agents and land publishing deals. She also ghostwrites and edits for industry clients. West Coast Writers Conferences, Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime SoCal, the Author Learning Center, and other respected organizations book her to lead workshops, moderate conference panels and speak. From intimate workshops to public podiums, Elaine inspires and energizes people to act upon their creative ideas.

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January Meeting Highlights - DP Lyle

“Developing unique voice and unforgettable characters”



SCWA members and guests packed the banquet room for D.P. Lyle’s presentation of “Developing a Unique Voice and Unforgettable Characters.” Doug Lyle, M.D. has been a practicing cardiologist for forty years in Orange County. In addition, he’s a forensic specialist who’s published numerable non-fiction articles and works including *Forensics for Dummies*. His scientific knowledge is well utilized in his novels, essays, and stories, earning many awards. Somewhere in there he finds time to work with novelists and at least twelve writers of popular television shows such as *Monk*, *Judging Amy*, *Law & Order*, *CSI: Miami*. (Turns out, he needs only four hours’ sleep a night—well, maybe “close to five” these days.) Plus, we especially appreciate Dr. Lyle for serving as Editor for SCWA’s first publication, the anthology *It’s All in the Story*, and also contributing his story “Splash” to it.

Dr. Lyle started by listing all the factors a writer has to develop: character, setting, plot, action, etc. He implied that people think the main character drives the story. He disagrees: “If you drop the ball on one element, it all falls apart.”

The reader needs to find the protagonist interesting even though the reader may “not necessarily like him.” How does he look, think, believe, speak, react and interact? “What’s absorbed by him and what’s spit back out by that character? How do others react to him? What’s his greatest fear?”

Lyle prefers to start his novels with the character’s thoughts. However, he warns us. “Do not tell me about your character’s internal problems until I know what his external problems are.” This approach is necessary because people feel like “I got my own problems; I don’t want to listen to yours.”

Thus, it’s effective to imply the character’s emotional state right away—but NOT why. Don’t let the readers know why he has this *angst* until “much later in the story” when you can “get into his guts.” “Less is more, especially early on.”

Dr. Lyle read aloud passages, usually an opening, from these novels:

- A. *Riding the Rap* by Elmore Leonard, who writes “so efficiently” and “about scumbags, but we love them. Why?” Leonard invariably composes great names and characters. Leonard once told Lyle that once Leonard knows the name, he knows the character.
- B. *The Long Goodbye* by Raymond Chandler, which included the protagonist’s description of the bad side of Los Angeles. “The character feels all things but doesn’t care. Makes you wonder *why* this character doesn’t care.”
- C. *California Girl* by T. Jefferson Parker, set in Orange County, October 1968. The components the character notices “are enough to give you the flavor of the character. Let the reader figure out the rest.”
- D. *Sunshine State*. Lyle read the opening to the book he’s currently writing.

Those four samples feature thoughts in a first person viewpoint. Each character is looking around and mentally/emotionally reacting to what he sees and hears. The author does NOT describe or tell how the character feels, but the details the character notices or internally makes a quip about enables the reader to infer his likes and dislikes. Plus, the reader can visualize the setting and understand the character’s comfort or discomfort with it. [To this reporter, the richness of these passages echo those of people who’ve learned how to concentrate and—body and soul—be firmly in the moment.]

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Recent SCWA Publications and Productions

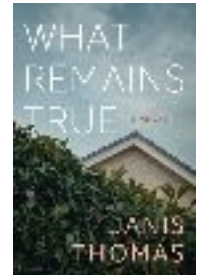
A-List - DP Lyle



13 Minutes - Jeff Lyons



What Remains True - Janis Thomas



It's All in the Story - SCWA



Worlds in Transition - Peter Dingus



Arkansas Summer - Anne Moose



"Life Dies, and Then You Suck" - Steven G. Jackson



The Age of Change: A Challenging Path to the Future - Jeff Michaels



Recent SCWA Publications and Productions (cont)

Chameleons - Marcus A. Nannini



Missing Star - Don Westenhaver



Affairs of the Heart, Vol. 2 - Harlen and Sharron Lambert



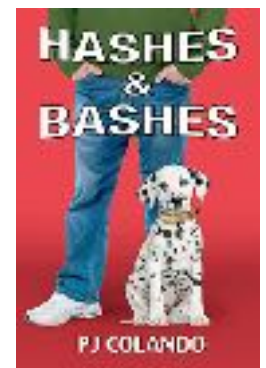
Affairs of the Heart, Vol. 1 - Harlen and Sharron Lambert



Rebuilt - Victory Crayne



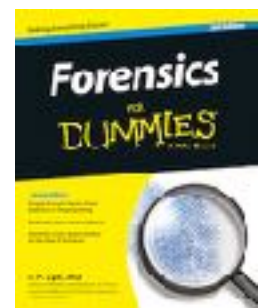
Hashes & Bashes - PJ Colando



Deep Six - DP (Doug) Lyle.



Forensics for Dummies - DP (Doug) Lyle.



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Active Member Directory (A-F)

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 steven@stevengjackson.com.

Name	Genre	Email	Web	Phone
Adams, Tonya				
Adkins, Judy				
Baker, Harold				
Barnham, Deborah				
Barry, Frank				
Beirne, Jim				
Bensworth, Kurt				
Black, Terry				
Blake, Phyllis				
Blaney, Ryan				
Bradbury, Mary		MDBradb@aol.com		714-960-9179
Caffrey, Dot	Fantasy	dot.caffrey@gmail.com	dotcaffrey.com	
Casella, Lynn	Thriller	lcasella@mac.com	lynncasella.com	626-818-2571
Chalagonian, George				
Chen, Esther				
Chung, John				
Clitheroe, Leighanne				
Cohen, Charlotte				
Colando, PJ	Humor & Satire	talklady@sbcglobal.net	picolando.com	
Cook, Alan				
Crane, Robert	Crime & Romance	R.N.Crane@icloud.com	RNCbooks.com	
Crayne, Victory	Spy/SciFi	victory@crayne.com	crayne.com	949-206-0922
Daisomont, Bruce				
de Guzman, Rosie				
De Ladurantey, Joseph		jc.del@cox.net		
Dingus, Peter				
Dolan, Martin				
Dolle, Stephen				
Donenfeld-Vernoux, Alice				
Drucke, Carl				
Dun, Sulan				
Dunlap, Larry		larry@larrydunlap.com	LarryJDunlap.com	
Dunn, Pauline				
Dzwonkowski, Ed				
Escobedo, Maria				
Fenenga, Susan				
Fliedner, Colleen				
Fink, Sheri				
Forbes, Lani				

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Active Member Directory (G-M)

Name	Genre	Email	Web	Phone
Gammer, Victoria				
Goldinger, Sharon		pplspeak@att.net	detailsplease.com/peoplespeak	949-581-6190
Green, Jude-Marie				
Green, Wanda				
Haines, Greg				
Hammer, Dana				
Hamo, Phyllis				
Harvey, Brennan		webmaster@ocwriter.com		
Heiser, Nanette				
Hollingsworth, Amy				
Howard, Charla				
Hull, Cathy				
Jackson, Steven G	Thrillers	steven@stevengjackson.com	stevengjackson.com	
Jackson, Yann				
Jarvis, Michael				
Jordan-Dardashiti, Irene				
Juniper, Jamie				
Kai, Suzanne				
Katch, Coralie				
Keown-Watkins, Mary				
Kim, Cacilia				
Kimino, Rinko				
Knippers, Christopher				
Ko, Jaina				
Krishnan, Rathi				
Lambert, Harlen "Lamb"	Free verse poetry, memoir	lambtheauthor@gmail.com	lamblambertauthor.com	
Lambert, Sharron	Free verse poetry, memoir	lambz1309@gmail.com	lamblambertauthor.com	
Long-Coyle, Linda				
Louise, Char				
Lyle, DP (Doug)				
Lyons, Jeff		jeff@storygeeks.com		
Margarita, Maddie				
McCallum, Phillip				
McGraw, Sharmyn				
Meler, Alison				
Michaels, Jeff			jeffreyjmicroels.com	
Miles, Marjorie				
Milton, Lee				
Moose, Anne				
Morgan, Richard				
Morrow, Linda				

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Active Member Directory (N-Z)

Name	Genre	Email	Web	Phone
Nabor, Tina				
Nader, Lillian	Author, Freelance copyeditor	Lnader@lilliannader.com		714-747-4926
Nakamura, Linda				
Nixon, Andrew		nixonar3@gmail.com	andynixonwordsmith.com	702-240-8000
Owedi, Sheila				
Pardee, Diana				
Perrin, Steve				
Perry, Jo				
Pham, Kristen	Non-fiction / Screenplays	maiscreenwriting@gmail.com		
Phinney, Dennis				
Pitzer, Jo Ellen				
Pope, Casey				
Porricelli, Larry		president@ocwriter.com		714-316-9155
Porter, Kathy	SciFi Thrillers	Kathy@grayguardians.com	grayguardians.com	562-431-0366
Pratt, Sheri				
Putnam, Dave				
Quinn, Darlene	Mainstr. Fic	Darlene@darlenequinn.net	darlenequinn.net	562-432-1280
Rakower, Steve				
Ridenour, Ananya				
Ridenour, Brett				
Ritchie, Solange				
Roberts, Donna				
Rynn, Glenda		grynn@cox.net		
Sayers, Dirk				
Sena, Theresa				
Shaikh, Tami				
Sharp, Michael				
Sheppard, Pamela				
Sikes, Sara				
Silverstein, Mark				
Simcic, Janet				
Singerton, Ronald				
Strbich, Michelle				
Strelow, Tom				
Suveiu, Virginia				
Szymczak, Leonard				
Tate, George				
Thomas, Janis				
Thomas, Shirl		shirlth@verizon.net	shirlthomas.com	
Thompson, Russ				
Torphy, Elizabeth				
Van Camp, Wendy				
Walters, Sharon				
Wasserman, AE				
Weiss, Jill Q.		jillqw@gmail.com	quintessencecrystals.com	
Wells, Craig				
Wells, Julie				
Westenhaver, Don	Hist Fic/Thrllrs	donwestenhaver@roadrunner.com	donwestenhaver.com	714-994-1943
Welsh, Rebecca				
Winstead, Lisa				
Woodcock, Don				
Zasio, Belinda				

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SCWA Member Publications and Productions (A-K)

SCWA Members are published. Check with the author for details on how to purchase your copy.

Author	Title	Year
Belmont, Julie	<i>Creativity Business Plan for Artists at Heart</i>	2014
Belmont, Julie	<i>The Path to Personal Success and Freedom; Turning Hurdles into Stepping Stones</i>	2005
Caffrey, Dot	<i>Cursed Power</i>	2015
Caffrey, Dot	<i>Awakening Powers</i>	2014
Colando, PJ	<i>Hashes & Bashes</i>	2016
Colando, PJ	<i>Stashes</i>	2014
Crayne, Victory	<i>Rebuilt</i>	2016
Crayne, Victory	<i>Humans Only</i>	2016
Crayne, Victory	<i>Freedom</i>	2015
De Ladurantey, Joseph	<i>Making Your Memories with Rock & Roll and Doo Wop</i>	2016
De Ladurantey, Joseph	<i>Cowards, Crooks, and Warriors</i>	2015
Dingus, Peter	<i>Worlds in Transition</i>	2017
Donenfeld-Vernoux, AR	<i>Pudel & Cie: Case #1 Moroney Boloney</i>	2015
Donenfeld-Vernoux, AR	<i>Cave Dreams</i>	2014
Donenfeld-Vernoux, AR	<i>Out of the Chute</i>	2014
Donenfeld-Vernoux, A	<i>How To Get And Keep The Best Jobs: Secrets HR Won't Tell You</i>	
Dunlap, Larry J	<i>Night People</i>	2015
Fink, Sheri	<i>Cake in Bed</i>	2016
Fink, Sheri	<i>My Bliss Book</i>	2015
Fink, Sheri	<i>The Little Seahorse</i>	2014
Fink, Sheri	<i>The Little Firefly</i>	2013
Fink, Sheri	<i>The Little Gnome</i>	2012
Fink, Sheri	<i>Exploring the Garden with the Little Rose</i>	2012
Fink, Sheri	<i>The Little Rose</i>	2011
Gilmore, Susan Kay	<i>Possessed by Baseball</i>	2013
Giussani, Sara	<i>Malibu</i>	2015
Giussani, Sara	<i>Come fare... La valutazione di un processo aziendale</i>	2014
Giussani, Sara	<i>Management dei processi aziendali</i>	2012
Jackson, Steven G	"Full Service"	2017
Jackson, Steven G	"Life Dies, and Then You Suck"	2017
Jackson, Steven G	"The Master Playwright"	2016
Jackson, Steven G	"The Asylum for Rejected Characters"	2016
Jackson, Steven G	<i>The Zeus Payload</i>	2015
Jackson, Steven G	"Fade to Crazy"	2015
Jackson, Steven G	"The Loan Officer"	2014
King, Roy	<i>Symfonie Fantastique</i>	2011
Klann, Nancy	<i>The Clock of Life</i>	2012
Klann, Nancy	<i>Like The Flies On The Patio</i>	2012



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SCWA Member Publications and Productions (L-M)

SCWA Members are published. Check with the author for details on how to purchase your copy.

<u>Author</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Year</u>
Lambert, Harlen, Sharron	<i>Affairs of the Heart, Vol. 2</i>	2017
Lambert, Harlen, Sharron	<i>Affairs of the Heart, Vol. 1</i>	2016
Levine, Jennifer	<i>Summer Secrets</i>	2016
Lloyd, Rita Lee	<i>How to Survive in the 21st Century as a SSOFF</i>	2011
Lyle, DP (Doug)	<i>A-List</i>	2018
Lyle, DP (Doug)	<i>Deep Six</i>	2016
Lyle, DP (Doug)	<i>Forensics for Dummies, 2nd edition</i>	2016
Lyle, DP (Doug)	<i>Original Sin</i>	2015
Lyle, DP (Doug)	<i>Devil's Playground</i>	2015
Lyle, DP (Doug)	<i>Double Blind</i>	2015
Lyle, DP (Doug)	<i>Murder and Mayhem</i>	2013
Lyle, DP (Doug)	<i>Royal Pains: Sick Rich</i>	2012
Lyle, DP (Doug)	<i>Run To Ground</i>	2012
Lyle, DP (Doug)	<i>Thriller3: Love Is Murder (Short Story)</i>	2012
Lyle, DP (Doug)	<i>ABA Fundamentals: Understanding Forensic Science</i>	2012
Lyle, DP (Doug)	<i>Royal Pains: First, Do No Harm</i>	2011
Lyle, DP (Doug)	<i>Hot Lights, Cold Steel</i>	2011
Lyle, DP (Doug)	<i>Thrillers: 100 Must Reads (Essay)</i>	2010
Lyle, DP (Doug)	<i>Stress Fracture</i>	2010
Lyle, DP (Doug)	<i>Howdunnit: Forensics: A Guide For Writers</i>	2008
Lyle, DP (Doug)	<i>Forensics and Fiction</i>	2007
Lyons, Jeff	<i>13 Minutes</i>	2018
Lyons, Jeff	<i>Anatomy of a Premise Line</i>	2016
Lyons, Jeff	<i>Jack Be Dead</i>	2016
Marsh, Sonia	<i>My Gutsy Story Anthology</i>	2013
Marsh, Sonia	<i>Freeways to Flip-Flops</i>	2012
Marshall, Evelyn	<i>Concerning Georgia Stekker</i>	2014
Marshall, Evelyn	<i>The Way They See</i>	2013
Marshall, Evelyn	<i>The Provider</i>	2012
Martinez, Maria	<i>The Apple Tree Wish</i>	2012
Michaels, Jeffrey J.	<i>The Age of Change: A Challenging Path to the Future</i>	2017
Michaels, Jeffrey J.	<i>Becomes Us All</i>	2016
Michaels, Jeffrey J.	<i>A Day at the Beach</i>	2015
Michaels, Jeffrey J.	<i>Tasa's Path</i>	2015
Michaels, Jeffrey J.	<i>How to Become The True You</i>	2015
Michaels, Jeffrey J.	<i>Light: The Reason for Existence</i>	2012
Michaels, Jeffrey J.	<i>Beings: A Journey to Joy</i>	2010
Michaels, Jeffrey J.	<i>Touch the Earth: A Path to Ascension</i>	2009
Michaels, Jeffrey J.	<i>Crystal Experience: Manifest an Extraordinary Life</i>	2007
Michaels, Jeffrey J.	<i>Harmonic Coalescence, the Future of Humanity</i>	2007
Moose, Anne	<i>Arkansas Summer</i>	2017
Muhle, Charles	<i>One Way to Write</i>	2011
Muhle, Charles	<i>The Sky Tree</i>	2011

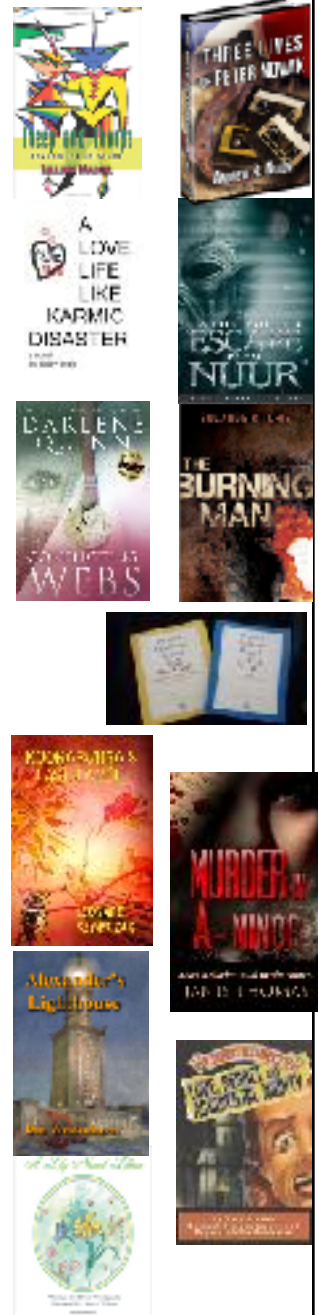


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SCWA Member Publications and Productions (N-Z)

SCWA Members are published. Check with the author for details on how to purchase your copy.

Nader, Lillian	<i>Theep and Thorp: Adventures in Space</i>	2016
Nannini, Marcus A.	<i>Chameleons</i>	2017
Nixon, Andy	<i>Three Lives of Peter Novak</i>	2016
Nixon, Andy	<i>50 Shades of Grades, My Journey Through Wacademia</i>	2013
Pope, Casey	<i>A Love Life Like Karmic Disaster</i>	2016
Porter, Kathy	<i>Escape from Nuur</i>	2013
Porter, Kathy	<i>Earth's Ultimate Conflict</i>	2010
Porter, Kathy	<i>Gray/Guardians</i>	2006
Quinn, Darlene	<i>Conflicting Webs</i>	2015
Quinn, Darlene	<i>Unpredictable Webs</i>	2013
Quinn, Darlene	<i>Webs of Fate</i>	2011
Quinn, Darlene	<i>Twisted Webs</i>	2010
Quinn, Darlene	<i>Webs of Power</i>	2008
Ritchie, Solange	<i>The Burning Man</i>	2015
Spence, Charla	<i>Personal Healthcare Record (Adult)</i>	2011
Spence, Charla	<i>Personal Healthcare Record (Child)</i>	2011
Szymczak, Leonard	<i>Kookaburra's Last Laugh</i>	2016
Szymczak, Leonard	<i>Fighting for Love</i>	2016
Szymczak, Leonard	<i>Cuckoo Forevermore</i>	2015
Szymczak, Leonard	<i>The Roadmap Home: Your GPS to Inner Peace</i>	2009
Thomas, Janis	<i>What Remains True</i>	2017
Thomas, Janis	<i>Murder in A-Minor</i>	2016
Thomas, Janis	<i>Say Never</i>	2014
Thomas, Janis	<i>Sweet Nothings</i>	2013
Thomas, Janis	<i>Something New</i>	2012
Weiss, Jill Q.	<i>Crystal Experience: Manifest an Extraordinary Life</i>	2007
Westenhaver, Don	<i>Missing Star</i>	2017
Westenhaver, Don	<i>Alexander's Lighthouse</i>	2012
Westenhaver, Don	<i>The Whiplash Hypothesis</i>	2008
Westenhaver, Don	<i>The Red Turtle Project</i>	2008
Westenhaver, Don	<i>Nero's Concert</i>	2008
Williams, Marianna	<i>Love, Regret and Accidental Nudity</i>	2014
Williams, Marianna	<i>The Valentine State</i>	2013
Williams, Marianna	<i>Stars or Stripes Fourth of July</i>	2011
Williams, Marianna	<i>Happy New Year, Darling</i>	2005
Woodcock, Don	<i>A Lily Named Lillian</i>	2015



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January Highlights - Continued

Openings such as these clearly give us not only the character's voice but, more critically, also the author's voice, which is what publishers search for. Lyle suggests going through Amazon, clicking on books, and reading their first page—to check out their voice. Besides Leonard, Chandler, and Parker, Lyle especially like Lisa Gardner's work, but he labels James Lee Burke "the greatest living writer." Something in a book by Burke "may not seem important but later hits you in the face."

The difference between calling yourself a writer or an author is this: "An author has finished a manuscript—no small task."

Factors of the writing process include, first of all, a lot of ***insecurity***. Lyle says, "You have to be crazy to do this; you give up a lot of time to do this job. It's very selfish in many ways. Otherwise, you're homicidal." Lots of laughs. This type of work will not get easier. You "will just get used to it."

Next comes ***planning*** the manuscript. Lyle said he used to outline fully. He's learned, though, that outlining and not outlining both work. "Those who say they don't outline, they do—but in their heads. During the two and one-half years it took him to write his first book, *Stress Fractures*, he made four changes of the title, the location and the main character. Then, of course, there were the twenty-seven rewrites. "It's learning."

What is Lyle's writing ***schedule***? He doesn't have one because he varies so much. His schedule does not wait for the Muse. "If you wait for the Muse, it's not gonna come." He advises walking away from all your papers for a while. When starting again, re-read your manuscript from the beginning, "Allow yourself to write garbage."

About the process of ***developing characters***, Lyle discussed the difference between character change in literary fiction versus the genres. The protagonist in literary fiction undergoes a significant personal crisis and has to change to cope. But in crime fiction, the character "doesn't have to change but must be challenged to find solutions." The crisis in the middle "shows the effect of the crime on the cop, not the cop on the crime." If an author has a series with the same protagonist, he can't change too much." In fact, unfortunately, some of these main characters, such as Jack Reacher in Lee Child's novels, don't change at all. "They have baby steps in their evolution, not dramatic changes."

When asked about the number of ***primary characters***, Lyle said if you're going to filter the story through multiple points of view, use only a few. "In current fiction, less is best." When switching point of view, make sure the reader knows whose POV it is. He loves creating ***minor characters*** because he doesn't have to create a whole characterization of each. (Right here, he mentioned he likes *A Confederacy of Dunces* by John Kennedy Toole.) Lyle ignores some of the usual advice about when to use the internal thoughts of a minor character. "I don't care. You can jump into the internal thoughts of a new character in Chapter 30."

Narratives ***between scenes*** are important. "Telling moves the story along. You have to jump and move." It all works if you "filter these portions through your main character."

In a question and answer interaction between Dr. Lyle and member Mark Sevi, President of Orange County Screenwriters Association, about ***telling versus showing***, they made this clarification: Telling gives us *what*: showing gives us *why*. Mark Sevi's example was that you can tell the reader that the character is closing some blinds. But by showing his doing this action, you can indicate whether the light is too bright for his eyes, he's afraid of what he might see, or he wants to hide.

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If writing mysteries, check out these three resources: Lyle's *Forensics for Dummies*, Lyle's *HowDunit Forensics*, and Serita Stevens and Anne Bannon's book, *HowDunit—The Book of Poisons*. In addition, don't forget that police stations have a Public Relations Department.

Lyle finds writing the first one-half of his manuscripts, about 40,000 to 50,000 words to be uncomfortable. "After that, you've got the rhythm so it's downhill and easier."

Critique groups: Lyle believes good ones are valuable. You want other members to offer suggestions for improvement while being congenial about their input. Seven members is about the right number. "A good group will see things you won't. Bad ones are a nightmare." One dynamic group Lyle likes is Orange County Fictioneers. But to get in, you do have to try out.

This specialist recommends using Scrivener's writing software to keep track of your manuscript and all its details. He types in the date of each of his sessions. In addition, he writes with Word so he has an outside copy. He prefers multiple backups.

The final question asked of our speaker was, "In one sentence, can you say what you've learned from all this time?" Doug Lyle's full-throated answer: "Get out of your own way, asshole!" A fabulous session!

Glenda Brown Rynn, SCWA Reporter
grynn@cox.net

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Conferences, Events, and Announcements

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24 Hour Creative is an annual fundraising event at Camino Real Playhouse in San Juan Capistrano. Six writers are given a theme Friday night, write a 10 minute stage play overnight, and then directors and actors rehearse all day to perform it that evening. This year's show is Saturday, February 3rd. You can see more at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/514423648941335/>.

Anaheim Public Library is hosting its 2nd Annual Romance Author Day on February 17, 2018. The deadline to submit an application to participate is December 4th, 2017. <http://anaheim.net/4749/Romance-Author-Day>.

Lit Up! Orange County is February 20th at Dean Coffee in Tustin at 7PM. The scheduled speakers are Sulan Dun, Nancy Klann, and Anne Cleeland. The event is free.

Long Beach Searches for the Greatest Storyteller returns on February 26th at Malarkey's Grill on Alamitos Bay. The cost is only \$6 for a night of entertaining true tales, and the audience votes for the winner.

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February "Will Write for Food" Contest

The "Will Write For Food" contest is a monthly blind competition. Winners are selected by a Literary Agent. First prize includes publication in the SCWA Newsletter, a certificate, and a \$25 cash prize.

You may write on any subject. Stories have a maximum of 1000 words. The winner will be announced at the February SCWA meeting. To enter, email your story by February 10th, 2018, to meeting@ocwriter.com.

There are no limits to the number of times you can win. Join the fun and earn some rewards.

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Publisher News

Commandeer Press is looking for short-story submissions: <https://www.commondeerpress.com/short-tales>.

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SCWA Mission

The mission of the SCWA is to provide a forum for promoting the welfare, fellowship, spirit, education, information, and encouragement among published and unpublished writers in the Southern California area.

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SCWA Active Member Benefits

Active members receive a 30% discount at every SCWA meeting.

SCWA provides scholarships to members who attend writer's conferences.

SCWA offers members 50% off professional critiques.

SCWA members receive a \$30 for submitting a story to the SCWA Anthology.

SCWA members receive discounts to Jeff Lyon's online courses.

The La Jolla Writer's Conference allows active SCWA members to receive a registration discount.

The Southern California Writers' Conference, held twice annually in San Diego and Orange County, offers discounts to SCWA members who register early.

SCWA Members receive "Suspense Magazine" for FREE.

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SCWA Critique Program

We have some exciting news on the critique front. One of our members received a critique, and he credits that critique with getting him a two-day response from an agent, who wants to see the entire manuscript. We love it when that happens.

Critique requests should also be sent to Steve Jackson at steven@stevengjackson.com. If you have not received a response to a previous critique request, please resubmit (without any fee if you've already paid) to Steve. Steve will direct your sample (up to 15 double-spaced pages) to one of the Board members once we receive your payment. Payments (\$20.00 for members and \$30.00 for non-members) should be directed to Don Westenhaver.

- Check payable to SCWA: mail to Don at 5391 Fox Hills Ave., Buena Park, CA 90621

- Credit Card: advise Steve that you will pay by credit card. He will have Don send you an invoice with instructions on how to pay through the SCWA Square account.

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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, check or credit/debit)

Reservation Type	SCWA Member	Student	Others
RSVP	\$25	\$15	\$35

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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.ocwriter.com or on the About page of the Facebook. The SCWA does not endorse individual opinions placed on 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 Newsletter Editor will determine the information to be contained in the SCWA on-line newsletter which is primarily used for official SCWA information.

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