

Southern California Writers Association

The Perennial Writers Conference



Newsletter

Volume 17, Number 6 -- June 2018

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President's Message

Larry Porricelli, SCWA President



At our May meeting Eric Beetner spoke to another packed house on his techniques for being a prolific writer.

Our June meeting features long-time SCWA friend Mark Sevi, who will teach us the professional nuances of podcasting. Make your reservations for this exciting event.

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

Webmaster Brennan Harvey
Newsletter Editor Steven G. Jackson
Newsletter Speaker Reporter Glenda Rynn

Mailing Address: PO Box 47, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Membership: Yann Jackson, ykj3678@gmail.com

Meeting Reservations

Larry Porricelli, meeting@ocwriter.com

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Southern California Writers Association Anthology

IT'S ALL IN THE STORY

It's All in the Story **sold out** its original press run, and a second print run now has books back with our distributor.

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
June 16th, 2018	Mark Sevi	Podcasting
July 21st, 2018	Jeff Lyons	Finding the Heart of Your Story

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June 16th Speaker - Mark Sevi

“Podcasts”



Mark Sevi is a professional scriptwriter with over 30 scripts sold, 19 made into feature films, including “Devil’s Knot,” starring Academy-award winning actors Reese Witherspoon and Colin Firth. He is repped by Wayne Alexander of Alexander, Lawrence, Frumes & Labowitz, LLP.

Mark also teaches scriptwriting on the campus of Irvine Valley College through the Continuing Education department. His classes have been ongoing for over twenty years. ([IVC](#)).

In 2009, with the help of some amazingly talented individuals, Mark founded the Orange County Screenwriters Association ([website](#)) which is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing resources to all filmmakers, amateur and professional, through community, high school, and college outreach. OC Screenwriters plans events that feature Hollywood industry speakers and professional, and sponsors contest that turn short scripts into film.

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July 21st Speaker - Jeff Lyons

“Finding the Heart of Your Story”



Jeff Lyons is a published author, screenwriter, editor and story development consultant with more than 25 years experience in the film, television, and publishing industries. After two successful appearances at SCWA, he’s coming back by popular demand. His talk will focus on isolating the major conflicts in the story, the theme, and the heart of the story. After his presentation, Jeff will open up the time to do one-on-one with the audience and their story ideas, allowing everyone to see how to practically implement the day’s lessons.

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May Meeting Highlights - Eric Beetner

“How to be a more prolific writer”



“Don’t listen to anybody who gives you advice on *how* to write.” It’s a “very personal process and you have to learn what works for you,” says Eric Beetner, a creative and organized whirlwind who is a full-time television editor for regular shows such as “The Bachelor,” high-tone documentaries, competition reality shows, etc. He also produces the podcast *Writer Types*, designs book covers, and raises two children. Our speaker, nominee and winner of hardboiled crime fiction awards, shared the processes that can help writers increase their output.

Beetner began his first novel in 2009. This year, 2018, he just published his 20th book, soon to be followed in August by his 21st and in January his 22nd. “Along the way I’ve written around one hundred short stories, two TV pilots, edited two anthologies, and written several articles.” Those don’t count his five unpublished novels. This man is the epitome of **prolific**.

Beetner’s ten recommendations are a combination of attitudes and steps:

1. **Writing a novel isn’t that hard. Get over it.** “Debunk the myth that writing a novel is something you are not worthy of.” Beetner says that’s a bullshit myth. “It’s not that hard.” The novels jammed on library shelves are just a small percentage of those published every year. However, “writing a **good** novel is difficult.” When you rid yourself of the pedestal fixation, “you can focus on the craft of what makes it a good book instead of just 80,000 words thrown together.”

2. **Skip the “by the pants” method.** Don’t just sit in front of your screen waiting for the next plot point—and don’t write “page after page of meandering nothingness until the real story emerges.” The idea needs to rattle around in your head before it solidifies into a rough sketch of the story’s structure—which is an outline. Beetner wrote a book in three months but had the idea eight months before. Keep the outline loose. “It is an skeleton upon which you are going to add flesh. Leave room for the muscles, the skin, the joints.” Of course, the outline may change in small or large ways. “Outlining is like planning a car trip and leaving enough room for a side trip” here and there.

3. **Don’t believe the hype of “writing is re-writing”** or that the first draft is not the real manuscript. Nonsense. Your first draft “should NOT NEED major reconstruction.” That doubles your effort and frustration. He compares an outline to the blueprint phase of building a house. You do not build a house “and then decide to move the bathroom to the second floor.” Plot holes should become apparent in the outline, and tweaking the plot is easier during the bullet-points phase.

4. **Don’t look back.** Writing daily really does help: it keeps you out of inertia and the trouble of restarting “the little engine that can.” Writing and revising should not occur at the same time. “Rewrites should be for fine tuning, focusing on prose, not re-plotting.” With a valid outline, you won’t be so tempted to “revise, tweak, adjust, nitpick.” “Keep plowing ahead. Keep laying down fresh asphalt as you head for the horizon.”

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Recent SCWA Publications and Productions

Firestorm - Solange Ritchie



Best Case Scenario - Dirk B. Sayers



"The Optimism of Youth" - Steven G. Jackson



The Innocents - David Putnam



A-List - DP Lyle



13 Minutes - Jeff Lyons



What Remains True - Janis Thomas



It's All in the Story - SCWA



Recent SCWA Publications and Productions (cont)

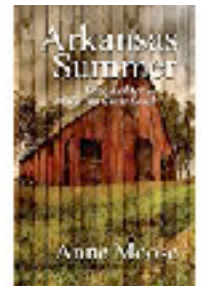
Counting Sea Life with the Little Seahorse - Sheri Fink and Derek Taylor Kent



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



Chameleons - Marcus A. Nannini



Missing Star - Don Westenhaver



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



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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				
Adkins, Robert				
Ash, Elaine				
Baker, Harold				
Barnham, Deborah				
Barry, Frank				
Beer, Raphael				
Beirne, Jim				
Belmont, Julie				
Bensworth, Kurt				
Black, Terry				
Blake, Phyllis				
Blaney, Ryan				
Bradbury, Mary		MDBradb@aol.com		714-960-9179
Braun, Chrysteen		designingwhims@gmail.com		562-676-7119
Broniec, Rick				
Caffrey, Dot	Fantasy	dot.caffrey@gmail.com	dotcaffrey.com	
Casas, Ann				
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				
Cotter, Alison				
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				
Dashti, Vali				
de Guzman, Rosie				
De Ladurantey, Joseph		jc.del@cox.net		
Dolan, Martin		mdolan3md@gmail.com		714-315-5845
Dolle, Stephen				
Donenfeld-Vernoux, Alice				
Drucke, Carl				
Dun, Sulan				
Dunlap, Larry		larry@larrydunlap.com	LarryJDunlap.com	
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				
Kammerzelt, Michael				
Katch, Coralie				
Katritch, Kate				
Kim, Cacilia				
Kimino, Rinko				
Klann, Nancy				
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	
Lyle, DP (Doug)				
Lyons, Jeff		jeff@storygeeks.com		
Margarita, Maddie				
McCollum, Phillip				
McGraw, Sharmyn				
Michaels, Jeff			jeffreyjmichaels.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
Nannini, Marcus				
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				
Redemann, Vickie		vickarrion@aol.com		
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				
Takos, Jim				
Tate, George				
Thomas, Janis				
Thomas, Shirl		shirlth@verizon.net	shirlthomas.com	
Thompson, Russ				
Torphy, Elizabeth				
Van Camp, Wendy	SciFi, HistFic	wvancamp@earthlink.com	nowatsedink.com	
Wade, Vince				
Wallace, Albert				
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				
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>Counting Sea Life with the Little Seahorse</i>	2017
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	"The Optimism of Youth"	2018
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
Putnam, David	<i>The Innocents</i>	2018
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>Firestorm</i>	2018
Ritchie, Solange	<i>The Burning Man</i>	2015
Sayer, Dirk B.	<i>Best Case Scenario</i>	2018
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
Van Camp, Wendy	<i>The Curate's Brother</i>	2014
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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May Highlights - Continued

5. **Finish a thought** (by the end of a session)—whether it’s a scene, chapter, or dialogue. If you leave it incomplete, the next day will take “precious brain power and [can] leave you mentally exhausted.” Beetner says he “taps out” at the end of one hour—because he’s already had a full workday, dinner with the family, and put the kids to bed. Also, he thinks focusing on word count can turn tricky because scenes may range from 500 to 5,000 words. Failing to hit an arbitrary word count can be stressful and also make you overwrite.

6. **Write through it**—the wall you just hit. The cause may be a particular story element or a simple, temporary lack of motivation. Don’t label it “writer’s block (another bullshit term for another day).” Sit down, force yourself, and/or set yourself up with a reward—a glass of wine or a piece of chocolate, etc. If you give in, you’re re-enforcing “that feeling of ‘I don’t wanna.’”

7. **Have the next idea ready to go.** When you’re writing, your brain is working creatively, and new ideas often like to assault you then. Write the idea down and set it aside on a list you’re accumulating for your next project.

8. **Mix it up.** Sometimes writing a full novel can drain you. But writing a short story or two can be a good “flex” but doesn’t push you into fatigue because they don’t need backstory or scene setting. Maybe one will become your next novel. Working temporarily on a different genre or using very different types of characters can be helpful.

9. **Give yourself a deadline** (for completion). Beetner told a story about Holly, who wrote one book for four years. Then when her contract said the final version was due in ten months, she completed it on time. Now, without a deadline, she’s back on the four-year plan. Do develop the discipline to achieve self-imposed deadlines as if they were jobs. Poor habits can make you miss professional or industry deadlines—and get your book cancelled or stop your paycheck from coming through. Help yourself by setting up consequences such as no wine, no movie, no chocolate. Also set up deadlines with another writer to reinforce each other’s discipline. Beetner is not enthusiastic about writing groups. Use care, he says, and remember their voices are not yours. He recommends not showing anyone your material until finished.

10. **Writer-assisted suicide: know when to kill an idea.** Sometimes an idea just isn’t going to work out well, and you need to move on. “A particular idea can weigh you down.” Our speaker “recently abandoned a book at around 20, 000 words. . . I studied my outline and I just didn’t see a way around it. So I stopped. No shame in it.” Do not destroy the manuscript or remove it from your hard drive. Just put it aside. “No time spent writing is wasted craft.” When writing on another book, you may get an insight on how to fix the previous one. Perhaps it was a short story, not a novel. Another good question is “Are you the right person to write that book?” Recognize when you should “cut bait and run.”

Throughout his presentation, Eric Beetner repeated that some of his statements might be controversial or just simply “not what you want to hear.” But, overall, we writers need to keep pushing that rock up the hill.

[Return to May Highlights](#)

Glenda Brown Rynn, Reporter
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Conferences, Events, and Announcements

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Lit Up! Orange County is June 19th at Kean Coffee in Tustin at 7PM. Scheduled readers are Caitlin Rother, Janis Thomas, and TBD. The event is free.

Long Beach Searches for the Greatest Storyteller returns on June 25th 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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June "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 June SCWA meeting. To enter, email your story by June 14th, 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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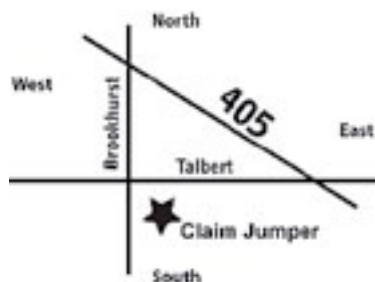
Monthly Meeting Information and Map

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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Terms of Use and Content Information Disclaimer

The SCWA encourages open, respectful communication between individuals interested in the craft of writing through a variety of social and traditional media, such as Facebook, SCWA website and emails. Any individual using inappropriate language, discussing inappropriate topics, or commenting in a disrespectful way will be removed from access to any future SCWA communication methods.

The SCWA communication sites should only be used for dialogues related to the craft of writing. Non-writing related topics should be done via other forms of personal communication. Please review the content disclaimer located in the newsletter via the SCWA website www.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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