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SLO NightWriters

WORDSMITHS



December 2018



Wanted: Your True Story

Storytelling with Santa and Mrs. Claus

NightWriters are invited to come tell a story about a Christmas, holiday, or other entertaining event in their life at our festive general meeting on December 11. Some basic guidelines include: the story must be true, it must be your story to tell, and it must fit in the timeline of four-five minutes.

Anyone wishing to tell their story should email NightWriters President Janice Konstantinidis at jkon50@gmail.com. Janice will prepare a list of those signing up to tell their story. She'll send out an email when a sufficient number to fill the time is reached.

We will be collecting for Toys for Tots at the meeting so please bring along an unwrapped child's toy, for either a boy or girl, and don't forget the teens as well. A member of the U.S. Marine Corps will be present to accept the donations and distribute to needy families in the community.

A raffle of several lovely baskets of goodies that have been donated by the board will also be held at the close of the meeting. Proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets go to fund NightWriters programs, making it possible to bring more enlightening speakers and presentations to

meetings and special events. Don't forget to buy your tickets during the meeting so you don't miss out.

Everyone's invited to bring a friend or family members and either tell your story or listen to others, enjoy refreshments and mingle.

As usual, the Round Tables Critique Sessions will begin at 5:15. Terry Sanville and Susan Tuttle will be there to critique your work. Please keep your submission to two pages, typed, 12-point font, double spaced. This is a great, and safe, way to see what the critiquing process is all about.

President's Message

by Janice Konstantinidis



Hello Fellow NightWriters,

I hope you all had a happy Thanksgiving!

I was very thankful for a warm and safe home—albeit I knew that so many others weren't, and still aren't, so lucky. My thoughts are with these people and their loss.

Fall seemed to come quickly this year. I've been noticing how much more color the deciduous trees have this fall. I think it's because we've had such a long and dry summer.

As I type this newsletter to you, I am listening to the much-welcomed sound of rain. What a

delightful sound! I hope we continue to get good rains; if so, we can look forward to a colorful spring as our wildflowers bloom.

I've been experiencing quite a bit of chaos in my day-to-day life this year. I don't mean personal chaos, but a broader sense that we are a world in flux. Change seems to be the new normal, and I find this to be most unsettling at times.

One of the constant things I know I have in my life is my ability to write. We are all writers, people who can take refuge in our ability to write about what we are experiencing, what we wish we were

experiencing, or we can ignore all of it for a few hours when we have time to write a mystery, a love story, or a poem. Writing can be a safe harbor in storms we'd rather not face.

Our December general meeting is going to be a night of storytelling, a raffle and a jolly good time.

I hope to see as many of you there as possible with a story to tell. Although it would be nice if your story is holiday themed, from wherever you hail, it doesn't matter, as it can be any story. Just as long as you can tell it in five minutes and it's your story. Please see the SLO NightWriters website for details about the evening.

I hope you all have a happy and safe holiday season.

For those of you who celebrate Christmas, I hope yours is a truly happy time and to all those among us who don't celebrate Christmas, but celebrate other traditions, I wish you great happiness and health.

Happy New Year to all. I'll see you in 2019.

Kind regards,

*Janice Konstantinidis
President
SLO NightWriters*



I recently had the privilege of participating in an Ekphrastic Poetry exhibition hosted through Arts Obispo at the Hub. I'm pictured here with San Luis Obispo Poet Laureate Jeanie Greensfelder. The other photo is the sculpture and my accompanying poem.

Kudos, Kudos, Kudos...

Terry Sanville

Terry Sanville's short story "Sweet Noise" appeared in the Fall 2018 edition of *Jenny*, an online literary journal published by the Student Literary Arts Council at Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio.

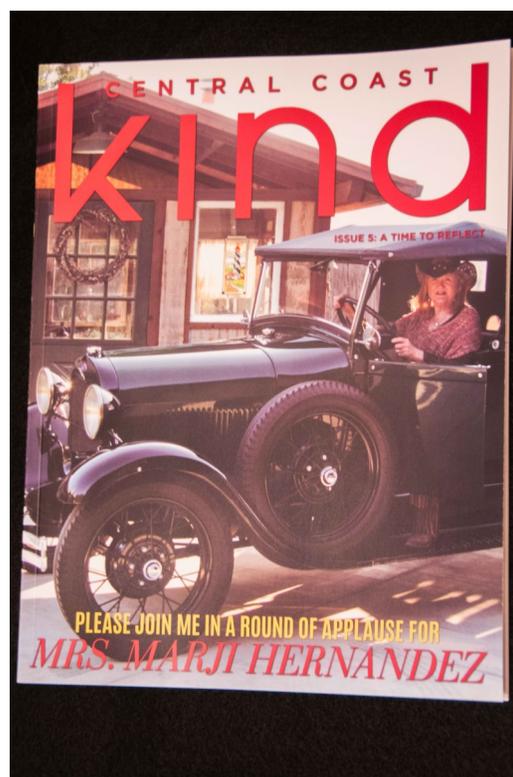
"Pozo," a magical realism short story by Terry, will appear in the upcoming edition of *The Sheepshead Review*, a full-color twice-a-year print journal published by the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay. Check them out at <http://sheepsheadreview.com/>

KIND Magazine

Congratulation to the following SLO NightWriters who have been published in the new (#5) issue of Central Coast KIND magazine, now available in print and online:

Judythe Guarnera
Lili Sinclair
Patricia Gimer
Adrienne Riley
Dennis Eamon Young

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to be published in this local, exceptional magazine. Go to their website for details on submissions.



Have Kudos to Crow About?

Do you have a recent article or story published in a local, national or even international print or online magazine? Or a book published?

How about a review, or an award, honor or recognition of your writing?

If so, we'd like to know about it. To have your literary kudos included in WordSmiths, send an email to Lillian Brown at lil-liofslo@aol.com by the 15th of the month.



Complete Editing Services

Let me help you Write To Right

Susan Tuttle, Award Winning Author

Proofreading: spelling, punctuation, and grammar only. The last step before publication.

Cost: \$5/3 pages

What you get: a corrected document. Turnaround time @ 1 week for a 250-300 page manuscript.

Line Editing: spelling, punctuation, grammar, word usage, sentence construction, consistency of voice/style.

Cost: \$5/page

What you get: two documents, one corrected (spelling, punctuation, grammar only), one with suggestions in track changes. Turnaround time @ 1-1/2 weeks for a 250-300-page manuscript.

Developmental Editing: full evaluation of the story and plot, including character development and growth, story arc, use of language, point of view, tense, consistency/believability of story line, subplots, beginning and ending, setting, author's voice/style, etc. Includes spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

Cost: @ \$850-\$1,200 for 250-300-page manuscript, depending on amount of work the manuscript needs. Flat rates also available.

What you get: a document with track changes for spelling, punctuation and grammar, and comments, suggestions, and examples on ways to improve the work. Turnaround time: 2-3 weeks, depending on amount of work needed.

I will never rewrite your work, I will only suggest ways you can make it better, with examples for clarification. My goal is to help strengthen your unique author's voice while making sure you tell the best story you can write.

Beta Reading Services also available, \$50/book.

Contact me at: editme1@yahoo.com

Passion & Persistence Key to Mark Arnold's *Monster*

Review & Photos of November Meeting by Dennis Eamon Young

It should have been a 'Dark and Stormy Night,' but alas, it was only dark and cozy at the November SLO NightWriters meeting, what with everyone sitting in for the Critique session and getting ready for the main show.

Halloween thoughts were in the air, as the Critique ended, conversations and refreshments ensued and people got ready to hear of the *Monster*!

President Janice did the housekeeping duties, made announcements and called for kudos from those gathered. Then the chilling hour arrived at last.

Janice introduced the author of *Monster*, Mark Arnold – he who had dared the unthinkable! He had written the story of Mary Shelley, the author of *Frankenstein*, in her voice! A man writing in a young woman's voice. Tsk! Tsk! Incredibly presumptuous to say the least.

The so-called common wisdom has ruled that no one over fifty gets to publish a debut novel. Mark shared yet a further act of audacity with us – his first novel was born into print after he turned 66! Most daring indeed. The man throws rules out the window right and left.

Mark had taught journalism for years, written countless short stories and read science fiction, fantasy and classics. In other words, he had prepared himself extensively, although he knew not where it all would lead.



(Continued on next page.)

More November Meeting Review

(Continued from previous page.)

Steeped in the genre, he was drawn back to *Frankenstein*, which has been credited with being the progenitor of science fiction novels, art, literature and film. The more he read, the more he asked himself, "How could such a young woman of two centuries ago write such a terrible thing?" The more he researched the tragic life of the precocious teenager who published that story at twenty, the more he realized it was surely a matter of "How could she not?"

Mr. Arnold explained that *Frankenstein* is above all else, a study of how society treats "the other." Her monumental persistence to keep writing through all ordeals and suffering showed him the way through his own doubts. You are always only one draft away he explained. The thing is to always keep writing, forge ahead, do not give up. Once the writing is done and you have edited the work, you must keep sending it out. You need not change the world, but you can provide escape, entertainment and perhaps enlightenment. Expand and explore new ideas, areas, genres. Do not be afraid to take chances to stretch, collaborate, find a suitable critique group.

"Most of all," he stresses, "there must be passion. You must connect with your inner passion so that you are in love with the act of writing, having no choice but to forge ahead and stay the course. Passion is the ultimate persistence."



TIPS AND TIDBITS

by Judythe Guarnera

Happy Holidays

My brief message below is meant to encourage you to practice your writing. My Christmas present to you is permission to set your writing aside, if you need to, until after the holidays. Writers need to take time to refuel and what better way to do it than to take a holiday break.

“Practice Makes Perfect”

When was the first time you tied your own shoes?

How old were you when you read your first book?

What do the above questions have in common? If you answered PRACTICE, you’ve hit the nail on the head. To do something well, we must practice.

Why haven’t you submitted your writing to a magazine, a contest, a publisher? Fear of rejection might be your answer of choice.

What can you do to

overcome this fear? You might have noticed the following in my columns:

“Remember you can’t get published if you don’t submit and you can’t submit if you don’t write.”

Every time I sit at my keyboard to write something, I am practicing. Whether it’s a profile or an essay I’m doing for *Kind Magazine*, a short story I’m writing for the NW column in *Simply Clear Marketing*, a submission for



an anthology or a contest from *Wow! Women on Writing* or *Glimmer Train*, I am **practicing** my craft.

Am I a better writer because of that practice? You bet I am.

In the Rhythm of Writing,

This magnificent view of the SLO north coast was captured by Meagan Frieberg in November.



Holiday Smash-Up SLO NightWriters

by T.C. West

"Isn't it about time to play with the turkey?" Big smile on my spouse's face on Thanksgiving morning.

Manipulating the turkey. It's his favorite part of the holiday preparations. I'm a vegetarian, so I hand over all meat prep tasks to the family carnivore.

"No, sweetie," I said. "No turkey today."

"What?" he exclaimed, sadly. "Is it frozen? Can it be thawed in time?"

"No," I repeated. "No turkey today."

Pause. "At all."

"Good grief, Charlie Brown. What happened? All the turkeys were pardoned this year?"

I shrugged. "Don't know. All I do know is that when I asked Sarah and her family to come for Thanksgiving dinner, I forgot they're Amerinds."

"American Indians?" asked the spouse. "So?"

"So, they don't do Thanksgiving, and Sarah didn't want to embarrass me for forgetting, so she didn't say anything originally. Just hummed. I thought it meant yes. When we met at the store yesterday evening, she told me they wouldn't be here. I mumbled a bunch of regrets and left the store without getting

the turkey I'd reserved."

"Okay. I can live with that." Saying this, my spouse reminds me why I'm glad I married him. He continues, "But what will we have for dinner?"

I turned from the cupboard where I'd been rooting around for substitutes. "Halloween candy? I've got lots of that since the neighbor kids have grown up"

"Give me a minute," the spouse replied. "I'm going to miss that turkey playtime."

The doorbell interrupted his musings.

When I opened the front door, a large gaunt creature wearing a scary mask stood on the porch, saying, "Trick or treat."

"Aren't you a little late? Halloween was weeks ago."

"Your calendar confuses me, and I got mixed up on figuring lunar months. Actually thought I was one earth rotation late, so that's why I came early today."

"Sorry for your confusion, son, but..."

"I'm not your son. Not male."

"Oh, then I mean Ms. or ma'am."

"Not female either. Perhaps the term is binary? Gender neutral?"

"Well, person, you're here on the wrong day. Great mask, by the way." I smiled in admiration of its costume.

"Not a mask," it said, unleashing two extra limbs that weren't exactly arms or legs. They moved eerily.

"Honey?" I called out in mild desperation to my spouse. "Can you come? Quickly?"

When he arrived, the three of us stood at the open door in the pale November sunlight.

"Oh, hi, Bob," said the spouse. "I see you got that great costume together. But you are a little late."

"Robotic implants take time. And plastic surgery."

"You made yourself into a cyborg for Halloween?" I felt faint. My knees gave way. "I'll get the candy," I said, struggling up from the floor. "Are Snickers all right?"

"Sorry, no. Peanut allergy," it muttered.

"You would have been in time for Thanksgiving dinner but we're not doing that this year. Don't ask."

It hesitated. "Then can I come for Christmas? Hanukkah? Kwanzaa?"

I pulled myself together. "Bob, we

don't do any of those. Come by on winter solstice eve. Bring your sleeping bag. We'll all celebrate sunrise."

"With turkey?" the spouse entreated.

"Don't mention food just yet," I begged. "My stomach hasn't stopped churning."

I turned to the creature on the porch. "Come on in, Bob. I'm thinking of resigning from humanity, too. Maybe we could talk about where you got your implants." I held out my hand, which Bob took in a surprisingly warm grip.

"Sure," it said. "Anything for a neighbor. Now, about the treat?" Bob smiled, a terrifying expression. "Without peanuts, of course."

T. C. West is a pseudonym for a member of SLO NightWriters, for writers at all levels in all genres; find them online at slonightwriters.org.



Submit your stories today!

Full submission guidelines for being published in Simply Clear Marketing and Media are available at www.slonightwriters.org.

Submit your 500-600 word short fiction to [Jeanie Hundertmark at clementyne@gmail.com](mailto:jeanie.hundertmark@gmail.com)



*Congratulations to Adrienne Riley
published in November!*

Rest in Pieces

SLO NightWriters

by Adrienne Riley

I know you're there. I know you're planning on coming out when my family gathers for the holidays. I can hear you silently mocking me, questioning my competence, eager to embarrass me in front of my loved ones.

Every year it's the same. You sit there, all innocence and purity. "So much fun!" people say. People don't know. They don't know the responsibility. They don't know the guilt.

Each year I make excuses, tell them how demanding you can be. But they don't listen. It's their big joke now. Mom can't keep up. Mom has failed this time.

Now it's the beginning of the holiday season. Other people are decorating their homes, rejoicing in the coming reunions. But all I can think of is you. They will ask about you, mirth sparkling in their eyes. Silent laughter. At me. Everyone will be

secretly laughing at me.

They brought you here many years ago, at Christmas. They introduced us and then left you, quiet and blue, for me to take care of. Sure, they help a little when they visit. But the rest of the year we are alone. The burden is all mine.

There have been others before you, of course. And I took care of them quite adequately. But they weren't nearly as impossible as you. I had no idea the challenge I was taking on.

Oh, I was happy that first year. Full of optimism and confidence. I knew I was up to the job, and eager for the accolades and sense of satisfaction I would have when next the family gathered. "Oh, it was no trouble," I would say. "It's not difficult if you have discipline."

But it was difficult. Too difficult. And I didn't know how to say no.

Each year I made excuses, told my family that I would do better in the future. But the following year I'd fall short again. Thirteen times this has happened. It has to stop.

Thirteen. A portentous number. They will expect to see you again this year. But what if they don't?

Integrity. The dictionary defines it as wholeness, entireness, completeness. But you have none. Integrity. The state of being in one piece, undivided and unbroken. This is what they expect to see when they come for the holidays. What will they think when they don't find it?

Disintegrate. To separate into parts. To reduce to fragments, to destroy the cohesion and integrity.

Not so confident now, are you? Do you still want to come out of your closet and face me this year? Are you scared? You should be. Because I've changed. I've found my power.

There's plenty of time for me to deal with you. Plenty of time before you'll be missed. One-thousand little pieces. I will split you up and bury you in the yard. No one will find you. And I will finally have peace.

When they come there will be questions, but I shall be calm,

pleasant, and nonchalant. Pretend like nothing is wrong. "Oh, that time has passed," I will say. "I'm a different person now. My interests have changed and I've moved on."

If someone is obstinate, insists on knowing what happened, then I will be frank. Admit what I did. Who can blame me? After all, it's not my fault. How can anyone do a thousand-piece jigsaw puzzle that is solid blue?



BIO: Adrienne Riley is a fourth generation Californian, a third generation teacher, and a first generation writer. She has numerous puzzles and

games in her closet, ready to make their reappearance for the holidays. Adrienne is a member of SLO NightWriters, for writers at all levels in all genres; find them online at slonightwriters.org.

Fellow Writers

Is a writing partner sick? Need encouragement?

Getting married or having a baby?

Suffering from the loss of a loved one?

Email me, Torry Dickinson, at torrydickinson@gmail.com
and I'll send them a card from their SLO NightWriters family.

Torry

WRITER BY THE SEA

by Dennis Eamon Young

Truth...

Truth. What a simple concept, one would think. Let's take a quick peek in my Webster's New World Compact Dictionary, shall we?

Truth: Being true; specif.,
a) sincerity; honesty. b) conformity with fact. c) reality, actual existence. d) correctness; accuracy.
2- That which is true.
3- an established fact.

Well now, that seems pretty damn clear, wouldn't you say? Yep, me too. Everyone knows what's true. Somehow though there seems to be a lot of versions of whatever truth is being discussed at any given moment. We are living in a time when truth is a real hot potato. Just because you might see or hear something for your-

self and know it to be true, doesn't mean that others will also agree that it is so. How can that be you may ask?

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." That sounds familiar doesn't it? What was wrong with Dickens when he wrote that, you may ask. Why couldn't he make up his mind, or tell which it was? Do we consider him to have been an unreliable narrator? No, we do not! We understand exactly where he wanted us to go. He needed to let us know that there were many truths, from a variety of viewpoints in the story he told.

Writers may stretch the truth, bards may weave

the truth in and out of a tale, spinning it this way and that, politicians might tell a truth while leaving a piece of it out. A reader or listener may be quite willing to overlook these various twistings of the truth, if it fits into her or his world view or suits their purposes of the moment. They may also discard that distortion in the next moment or following chapter.

It is the role of the teller of the truth to understand their audience, so they know how best to frame or twist the truth to present it to their listeners or readers for a mutually satisfactory result. Even the most absolute and proven truth might easily be met with a simple "I don't believe it!" if it suits

the recipient to do so. Truth, just like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder.

Many societies have been built upon falsehoods which it was more convenient for its residents to believe as truths. Many people can see the very same incident, yet come away with radically differing versions of what has occurred, due to their upbringing, education, basic prejudices, religions, stations in life and many other factors. The famous Aikira Kurosawa film, Rashomon, is a notable study of truth and human nature, in that it illustrates how many witnesses to an event can have radically different truths about what they have seen.

Writers must be careful not to digress from the story's truths of plot lines and/or characters, lest the reader become uncomfortable and stop reading. They will not continue to invest their time in a story or characters they can no longer trust.

Excelsior, Dennis



Susan Tuttle and Larry Houlgate at the NightWriters table at CCWC.

WORDPLAY

by Morgann Tayllor

HOLIDAY WORDS

How did the rituals of holy **Christmas** and **Black Friday** meet at the intersection of history? It took centuries of hairpin turns and bumpy roads, driven by the mediation of Santa Claus and Pope Julius I.

From the beginning, the sacred and the profane co-existed. In the fourth century, the homage to Christ's birthday was established when Pope Julius I preempted the Roman Saturnalia bingefest and adopted December 25 as the Nativity Feast Day.

Though revelry was officially banished to the shadows of winter solstice, Saturnalia, with its Mardi Gras-like mischief and merrymaking, stuck like a burr in a satyr's beard. Some of its "pagan" props and social consorting slowly gained purchase alongside **Christmas** holy rites. The idea of festivals was here to stay. So was Christ's Mass (**Christmas** by the eleventh century).

Christmas had its own cross to bear, from the ascetic to the illegal. New England Puritans outlawed **Christmas** in the 1600s. This draconian community was bent on "purifying" their protestant religion from Catholic influence. They didn't celebrate anything, especially the day for Christ's birthday designated by a Catholic pope. They kept their noses to the grindstone and toiled from dawn to dusk. Anyone found feasting at "Foolstide" and not working, was fined five shillings. Puritans scorned "pagan" influences, attitudes and props.

Still, secular festivities slowly spread under the aegis of the Holy Day. In 1681 laws forbidding the holiday were repealed but **Christmas** was still protested by some. In 1686 a newly appointed New England governor closed shops on Christmas Day and sponsored a religious service. To bring order to a gauntlet of protesters, he was accompanied to the church by troops.

Pockets of resistance continued. In 1712 Boston clergyman Cotton Mather preached about the evils of **Christmas** spent in "Reveling, Dicing, Carding, Masking, long Eating, hard Drinking, lewd Gaming..." But years later, the secular holiday spirit began to be accepted. New words appeared, such as **Christmas-present** (sic), unwrapped in 1769.

Religion and commerce became tentative partners in the 1800s. Resistance had all but disappeared. **Christmas** began to look like today's festivities with trees, cards, gifts, parties, feasting, drinking, caroling, midnight church services, charitable gifts of toys and food. The holiday became so popular that it was designated a federal holiday in 1870. Early illustrations of Saint Nicholas/Santa Claus appeared in print, becoming our recognized Santa Claus character portrayed in Coca-Cola advertisements first seen in 1931.

There is a rumor that persists. The letter X that substitutes the Christ in **Christmas**? Apparently it is not an attempt to remove religious tradition from **Christmas**. Sources date the use of **Xmas** from the 1500s, thanks to the Greek alphabet letter X, or *chi*, followed by *mas*, a shortened version of Mass.

The first **Black Friday** caused chaos on Wall Street on Friday, Sept. 24, 1869, when stock manipulators tried to corner the gold market and caused its collapse. The obverse side of this coin is today's holiday sales extravaganzas. Hordes of shoppers enable retailers to balloon their profits and keep financial ledgers "**in the black.**" This year **Black Friday** sales began as early as the first week in November. Shopping has subsumed Thanksgiving Day with family. Some consider **Black Friday** shopping a social event. Others shop for fear of missing out.

After centuries, the rites of **Christmas** and **Black Friday** commerce, the Holy Days and Holly-Daze, can be freely enjoyed however you choose. Or not. Perhaps your greatest gift to others is the divine power of your words, sharing, enabling and connecting with readers and listeners the world over.



CRITIQUE GROUP COORDINATOR'S CORNER

by Patricia Gimer

A Few Things:

First, the *Holidaze* are upon us again, making it a challenge for critique groups to meet as scheduled.

"The Thursday Group" is looking for a new member. This group meets weekly (on Thursdays) at The Coffee Bean in Pismo Beach. Please contact Mark at zsur@aol.com for

Hopefully, you are able to continue receiving the support and camaraderie you need to keep your writing moving forward.

Secondly, critique groups are a valuable benefit to members of SLO NightWriters. The financial viability of a small, nonprofit, all-volunteer organization such as ours relies heavily on timely receipt of dues. If you

host a group, please remind participants to keep their memberships up to date.

Finally, as Max Ehrmann wrote in *The Desiderata*, "... with all its sham and drudgery, it is still a beautiful world." This holiday season may we be mindful of our blessings and share our gratitude with others. Among these, I hope you will include your SLO NW



membership as well as ability to participate in monthly meetings and critique groups.

I hope to see you at our December meeting.

*Write Away,
Pat Gimer,*

*SLO NightWriters Critique
Group Coordinator*

Writers on the Radio



NightWriter Jean Moelter is the host of *Artsy People*, the radio show that promotes local artists of all kinds, their work, and events. Thursdays at 2 p.m. with a rebroadcast Mondays at 5 p.m. It's heard on KYXZ Excellent Radio 107.9 FM out of Grover Beach.

Have you just published a book? Would you like to tell the community about it? Consider being a guest on *Artsy People*. Just send an email to Jean at artsypeople@yahoo.com. Or, if you have an event coming up, such as a book signing, email an announcement to Jean and she'll read it on the air.

Jean interviews a different artist, live, each week at the Excellent Radio station. So far, three NightWriters have been guests on the show. Jean has also interviewed musicians, storytellers, actors, and comedians.

To listen to past interviews, and to see the list of upcoming guests, go to Jean's website and click on *Artsy People* in the menu: <https://sites.google.com/view/jeanmoelter> Don't miss this great marketing opportunity for authors.

NightWriters REVIEW BOARD



As writers, we need to read in order to see what's being done out there. We also learn what works and what doesn't, what we need to avoid and what we want to incorporate into our own bag of skills.

So, as long as we're reading, why not read other members' books and then write reviews for them? It's a win-win for everyone: we learn by reading, and authors garner those all-important reviews for their work.

NW has set up a NW Review Board, where we connect NW member readers with NW member writers' new works. Below you will find a listing of members who are willing to read and review (on Amazon, Goodreads, or their other favorite review site) specific works by other NW members. You must be a NW member in

good standing to take advantage of this new board.

If you have a new book for review, just contact the reader(s) listed here, and arrange to have a book sent to them. Please check carefully to make sure your genre fits the genres each person reads. Have fun!

Review Board Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Genres</u>
Tina Clark	theclarkfour@sbcglobal.net	sci-fi, creative nonfiction
Jim Aarons	jin@jeadv.com	historical fiction
Steve Bowder	sbowder@live.com	historical novel
Jennifer Rescola	jkrescola@charter.net	autobiography, novels
Steven McCall	steven.mccall7@gmail.com	literary fiction
Jody Nelson	jjnteacher@gmail.com	fiction, creative nonfiction
Mary Silberstein	luvlamas@gmail.com	poetry, fiction
David Brandin	dbrandin@earthlink.net	political, historical, general, science fiction
Martha Raymond	mrth.raymond@gmail.com	YA fiction, literary fiction
Brian Schwartz	brian@selfpublish.org	non-fiction
Ruth Cowne	abuela10@att.net	memoir, flash fiction
Susan Tuttle	aim2write@yahoo.com	mystery, suspense, paranormal suspense
Mark Arnold	markarnoldphd@gmail.com	historical, science fiction

**To be added to our Review Board listing, write to: lilliofslo@aol.com and put Newsletter Info in the line.*

SLO NightWriter Officers

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 NW Historian: **Vacant**

We Need Your Help

The success of non-profit organizations like NightWriters depends on its members. We all have talents other than writing that any organization could make use of. NightWriters has many special opportunities for members to get involved, working “behind the scenes.” If you’d like to assist in any capacity, email: jkon50@gmail.com

Monthly Meetings

NightWriters’ Evening Meetings: the second Tuesday of every month, year round. We encourage interested visitors to join us at 6:30 pm. Admission free; refreshments served. Next Meeting: December 11, at United Church of Christ, 11245 Los Osos Valley Road, San Luis Obispo 93405.

General meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Round Table presentations start at 5:15 p.m. Writers’ Critique Groups: Free for members, \$5 for non-members. These groups read and critique each other’s work and discuss the business of writing. Visitors welcome. For details, visit our website: www.slonightwriters.org.

Have You Checked Out Our Website Lately?

Control Your Own Information

Post your bio, picture, book covers and ordering links. Contribute a writing blog post-free publicity!

MEMBER SITE LINKS

List your website(s) and blog(s) with live links — makes it easier for the public to find you and helps build your platform.

BOOK REVIEWS

Get your book reviewed. Write a review—it’s a valid publishing credit.

WRITERS SERVICES

Do you have a writing or professional skill? Get listed on our new Services Page. (Returning next issue.)

FACEBOOK

Become a “Fan” of NightWriters! Visit NW’s Facebook page and sign up today! Also, link your Facebook page and your websites and blogs to NW sites.

LinkedIn

Connect with NW on LinkedIn. Help build your author platform with writing professional connections.

Moved or Changed Email?



Notify NW of any change in address or email: slonightwriters@yahoo.com. Join NW and send dues or renewal checks (payable to SLO NightWriters) to: SLO NightWriters, PO Box 2986, Paso Robles, CA 93447. Or join/renew online through our website: www.slonightwriters.org and pay with credit card, or through PayPal.

*Judge each day not by the harvest you reap
but by the seeds you plant.*

Robert Louis Stevenson

Submit Stories, Photos and Ads to the Newsletter



We will publish advertisements for NightWriters' books and book or writing related events. This advertising is Free For Members. Please provide the graphic (book cover or other graphic) for the announcement. We will also accept original photographs, and unpublished Flash Fiction between 400-800 words from current members. Excerpts from published works, if they stand alone as their own mini-story, are also acceptable. We are also interested in articles, kudos and event notices. And if you have any other ideas for content, please let me know.

Send all submissions as attachments to: lilliofslo@aol.com, and be sure to put NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION in the subject line. We're all writers... so, take advantage of this opportunity to be published in your newsletter.

Lillian Brown, Editor