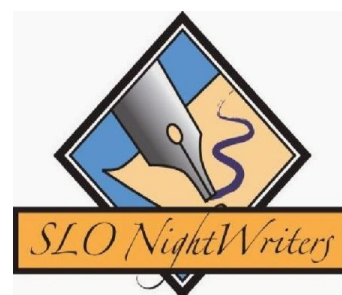


## Inside this issue:

|                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| President's Letter      | 2     |
| Speaker Spotlight       | 3-4   |
| Kudos                   | 5     |
| December Meeting Review | 6-8   |
| Tips & Tidbits          | 9     |
| Simply Clear Story      | 10    |
| Writer by the Sea       | 11    |
| Word Play               | 12    |
| Critique Corner         | 13    |
| Review Board            | 14    |
| NW Information          | 15-16 |

*SLO Night Writers*

# WORDSMITHS



JANUARY 2019



Winter lambing, Creston Road.

## Getting More “Buy Now” Clicks

*What to do. What NOT to do*

Marketing and online book promotional experts *Brian Schwartz* and *Brendan Kelso* will present an interactive program on selling your books during the NightWriters General Meeting, February 8, 6:30 p.m.

Learn about marketing tactics used by the



Brendan Kelso and son.

bestsellers, how to best utilize *Amazon Marketing Services*, and strategies to help you nail the right keywords that put your book in front of the right readers.

Topics will include: an overview of book marketing campaigns; KDP Select and the promotional tools; running an Amazon pay-per-click ad campaign and keyword strategies.

More books are sold during December and January than any other months of the year. You will not want to miss this informative meeting on how to sell your books online.

A Round Table Critique



Brian Schwartz

Session will begin at 5:15 p.m. 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.

Come learn and socialize!

## President's Letter

by Janice Konstantinidis



Hello fellow  
NightWriters,

We ended last year with a fantastic December General Meeting with over 50 members in attendance. There were stories, raffles and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, who handed out small gifts to all those who were either naughty or nice—depending. We shared great food and I'm sure everyone left with a happy, positive feeling.

I hope you all enjoyed whatever

celebrations you observe.

That's a wrap for 2018!

Here we are in January again. I am enjoying some nice walks in the sun, bundled up, wading through crisp fallen leaves, and seeing the shoots here and there of new growth in some of our more ambitious plants. I am reminded of the cycle of life, of the passing of the old and the coming of the new.

Filled with the grati-



tude of this one certainty in my life, I walk on, writing a poem as I go. I am brought back into balance when I trip over a root. It's a good idea for me to look where I am going in the future.

Welcome to another year. I am hoping that your transition to 2019 is smooth, happy and filled with promise.

I wish you all the best for a very good 2019. Don't forget to look where you're going!

Kind regards,

*Janice Konstantinidis  
President  
SLO NightWriters*

### Swirly Skirt of Skins

The skin of the yellow banana opens easily,  
and I peel off one piece and then another.

I look at the perfect light pointed cone shape,  
with a swirly skirt of skins.

Feeling the delicious flesh inside my mouth,  
I hold the fruit in front of me, and look at it,

Asking, "How are you here?"

**Janice Konstantinidis**

# Speaker Spotlight: A Look at Romance

## A Visit with February Guest, Rolynn Anderson

by Tammie Burnsed

In honor of St. Valentine's Day, I thought it would be fun to have a romance writer be the guest speaker at our SLONW general meeting in February. After searching high and low for a talented and well-published writer to enlighten us on the topic of romance writing, I learned the perfect person was long-time SLONW member, Rolynn Anderson. Some SLONW members are already familiar with Rolynn and have applauded her success over the years. But for those of you who, like me, are meeting Rolynn for the first time, let me shine the spotlight.

### Get to Know Rolynn Anderson

Rolynn Anderson writes contemporary mystery/suspense novels, spiked with romance and enhanced by exotic settings. In her previous life, she was a high school English teacher and principal in Washington State. She writes/markets, golfs, gardens, reads, and travels. Wild Rose Press is her publisher for two novels, *Last Resort* and *Lie Catchers* (also an Amazon Encore novel). Self-pubbed are her boutique funeral planner series: *Fadeout*, *Swoon* and *Faint*. Three more stand-alones are *Fear Land*, *Bad Lies* and *Cézanne's Ghost*. Her newly released *Fire is Nice*, is the first of her National Park Sable Chisholm Mystery Series. Out in 2019: *When Mountains Fall*, the first of her Woman at the Helm Mystery Series.

As a writer, she delights in creating imperfect characters faced with extraordinary, transforming challenges. Her hope: You'll devour her 'makeover' suspense novels in the wee hours of the morning, because her stories, settings and characters, capture your imagination and your heart.

### Asked And Answered

Rolynn was kind enough to make time in her busy schedule to answer a few questions to let us get to know her better and understand the writing process that's helped lead her to success.

### What drew you to writing romance and suspense novels?

*I can think of nothing more mysterious and complex than budding (or renewed) relationships. How and why couples ignite, their curious contrasts in personality, elements of the forbidden, biological urges...the tension/suspense could kill you! To this recipe add villains causing chaos in the lives of our struggling hero and heroine. Now, we're talking about a page turner.*

*People grow because of turmoil and risk-taking. We learn who we are and what we can manage as individuals and as couples when we take on unimaginable challenges. After the dust settles, the villains are dead or imprisoned and the hero and heroine take a measure of what they've accomplished...that's where I want to take my readers. To resolution. To justice. Love prevailing.*

*Oh, what I put my characters through! These are flawed women and men teetering on precipices, suddenly challenged to fight for themselves and the people they love. Likely, one person's dead and others are threatened. Mysteries have to be solved and criminals collared, but in my small communities, it falls on regular folk to do the sleuthing. And because the situation demands intense collaboration, love and danger bloom. Naturally, because my characters have weaknesses and are new to detective work, they make mistakes. Still, by working together, strengthened by their love for each other,*



*they persevere.*

### It seems you are an avid and adventurous traveler, do any of your protagonists share your sense of adventure?

*They do! Many of my heroines have their lives shaken to the core by forced moves. In my newest release (*FIRE IS NICE*), Sable Chisholm, an FBI agent, must leave bad memories in SF behind and begin a stint as a ranger in Sequoia National Park. In my boutique funeral planner series, the heroine leaves the tech world of Seattle for a little town in Central Coast California. I was an Army brat, so I know what it means to travel, to move to new homes, to adjust to new cities/countries. Change is tough for everyone, but it can also be transformative in a good way.*

### Location and setting are important elements in your writing. What suggestions can you make to other writers to help them develop a sense of place in their stories?

*Good question. My preference is to go there. I visited Sequoia National Park (*FIRE IS NICE*) twice; I've been to Petersburg, Alaska (*LIE CATCHERS*) three times; my setting for *LAST RESORT*, a fishing village in B.C., I've visited*

(Continued on next page.)



# Speaker Spotlight: A Look at Romance Writing

## A Visit with February Guest, Rolynn Anderson

by Tammie Burnsed

(Continued from previous page.)

*many a time. Connecting via internet is not enough. Best, rent a VRBO and stay on the site awhile, taking in all the senses of the place. Aix en Provence? I spent a month there before I was ready to write CEZANNE'S GHOST. (Note to writers: this kind of immersion is not a chore!)*

### No Romance Required

Rolynn is a seasoned public speaker and has already made preparations for our February engagement. You don't need to be a romance writer to benefit from Rolynn's

experience or her enthusiasm for the writing life. The title of her presentation will be: Romance Novels-the Billion Dollar Elephant in the Room, and she promises that by the end of the evening we will understand:

1. What are the two essential elements of any romance? (This one will really surprise you)
2. Who is buying and reading romance? Why? What is the % of romance in the fiction market?
3. Who is writing romance?
4. Is romance literature? (I had to ask this one.)

5. Can/do men write it? If you've never written it, can/should you?

6. Where's the sexism around romance writer/reader/genre?

7. How many categories of romance novels are there? What are they? And who says so?

8. How much sex would you expect to find in various genres of fiction on a scale of 1-5 (And, yes, this is a trick question):

9. Rolynn's bumpy road (2001-today) as a hybrid (small press published and self-pubbed) author.



Pomegranates, unpicked.

*Tammie Burnsed is the new Program Director for SLONW, and she's excited to find smart, engaging speakers for the SLONW monthly meetings.*

*If you know someone who'd give a great presentation on writing or publication or other topics that could enhance the writing life of our members, or if you'd like to give one yourself, contact Tammie at [writer-tjburns@gmail.com](mailto:writer-tjburns@gmail.com).*

## Kudos, Kudos, Kudos...

### Terry Sanville

Terry Sanville's short story "A Greater Peace" will appear in an upcoming edition of *Saint Anthony Messenger*, a print magazine put out by the Franciscan Media out of Cincinnati, Ohio.

This is the third of Terry's stories that have been accepted by FM. While the Franciscans are a religious organization, none of Terry's accepted stories included God or religion as a central theme. Rather they are written in the *humanist* spirit. Terry finds this particular market attractive for short stories since they pay twenty cents a word!

### Judythe Guarnera

Judythe Guarnera's novel *Twenty-Nine Sneezes* is available for clients on the resource shelf at Rise, a non-profit organization which provides crisis intervention and treatment services to survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence, and their loved ones. The Rise Director described this fiction book with a message as a story that needed to be told. The purpose of the story was to raise awareness for victims, their families and the community of the need for ongoing support long after the abuse has ended.

Guarnera is a regular contributor to the new *Kind*

*Magazine*. In the fifth issue, now available, she interviewed three special people in the community, who contribute to making the Central Coast Community a better place to live. Those interviewed include Anne R. Allen, local author and Blog Goddess; Nan Fowler, the owner of Nan's Pre-Owned Books, who has been a partner on committees which worked to establish the Clarke Center and the Grover Beach Library, among other endeavors; and Sandra Fuhring, North County Development Manager for CALM, which helps families interrupt the negativity of toxic situations. Each of Judythe's interviews ends with a Call to Action, encouraging residents to seek out opportunities to help their com-

munities. Two of her essays, one on seeking opportunities and one on the importance of recognizing the human beings under some of the negative labels we assign to others are also in this issue.

Recently, she presented *Tight Writing Sells; It's all about Presentation* to Sisters in Crime and Coastal Dunes writing groups.

### Janice Konstantinidis

Janice recently had another poem published in *Ascent Aspirations Magazine*, Friday's Poems. "Swirly Skirt of Skin" appeared in the Dec. 28, 2018 Issue. <http://www.davidpfraser.ca/fridays-poems.html>

## 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 [lilliofslo@aol.com](mailto:lilliofslo@aol.com) by the 15th of the month.**





## “It’s All in the Telling”

Review & Photos of December Meeting by Dennis Eamon Young



As always, the fun started at 5:15 p.m. with Terry Sanville and Susan Tuttle applying understanding and helpful critiques to a gathering of writers anxious to have their work heard in a comfortable and professional setting. I detected a flourish of giddy humor due to the holiday atmosphere as the participants ended the session and began networking and socializing. They just could not help but throw the clauses around, both dependent and independent, with gleeful abandon.

Mrs. Claus (Janice K.) called the meeting to a semblance of order, aided by the jolly and quite rambunctious Santa Claus (Jim A.) about 6:30 p.m. The group heard Kudos from Rosie M., Eldonna E., Sue M., Susan T., Lili S. and Judy G. who had brought a treasury of books from the collection of our dear late Anna Unkovich. They were laid out on a small table and free for the taking. Anna was always more than happy to share.

A large table held a bounty of holiday baskets from the NightWriters Board of Directors for our fundraising raffle and tickets were being purchased hot and heavy.

Tonight's presentation "It's All in The Telling" was an internal affair of various members telling stories and recounting events that were true, and their own to tell, in about five minutes. You really had to have been there, so I will not try recounting the stories here.

Ruth S. started things off, followed by Susan T., Mark, Lili S., Judith B., and Jean M., all enchanting in their own way, whether serious, funny or outrageous. We had audience participation as well as some questions.

Jean Moelter hosts a radio show on KYZX 107.9 FM and would love to have everyone come on to talk about their book, music or art. Contact her at [artstypepeople@yahoo.com](mailto:artstypepeople@yahoo.com) whenever you are ready to let the

world hear about you.

Everyone brings unwrapped toys each December and so we had a big table-full ready for our uniformed Marine, Nick Guriel, to cart away in the Toys For Tots box, just like Santa would. We didn't hear any reindeer outside, but that may not have surprised us too much.

For the finale we called out the ticket numbers for the raffle with Santa, Mrs. Claus and helpful elves, Abi, Mary and Jean delivering the goodies. Many laughs, exclamations, hugs, handshakes and frolicking ensued as we all wandered out into the darkness.

I swear I heard bells ringing and voices lifted to "...and to all a goodnight!"



## Photos from Festive December Holiday Meeting

by Dennis Eamon Young





## More Photos from Festive December Holiday Meeting

by Dennis Eamon Young





## TIPS AND TIDBITS

by Judythe Guarnera

### From Damsels in Distress to Amazon's in Charge

Much has been written these days about writers creating strong female characters. It appears that readers have grown tired of the old cliché-driven damsel-in-distress, who must be revived with smelling salts.

When I think of a damsel-in-distress, especially during the Christmas holidays, I recall the countless Hallmark movies I've watched each season. Since the beginning of the last presidential campaign, I've found them to be a reliable distraction from the political craziness that surrounds me.

I doubt anyone would disagree that the Hallmark stories are formulaic in plot, characters, and settings.

The formula includes a strong female executive/artist/woman climbing the corporate ladder, competing with a strong male antagonist. While she strives to demonstrate her strength and independence, as she competes with him for a prize only one of them can earn, or for recognition for her talents, he, the perfect antagonist, seems hell-bent on preventing her from reaching those goals. To top it off, he's good-looking, but full of himself, snarky, and sarcastic.

The setting might be the small town of her childhood, replete with age-old traditions and charm and snow—always snow—it's Christmas after all, where everyone knows everyone and everything about each other.

While they engage in this competition, her childhood best friend points out she is falling for the guy; something she vehemently denies. Right now—stage left—her ex-fiancée, the antithesis of everything she stands for, who dumped her, pops in and confesses how much he has missed her.

As he inexorably pulls her toward the life *he* wants her to live, she caves and follows him out into the snow and away from the town, which she has just recently realized is where she was always meant to be.

I'll hit the pause button here, because this is the point where my husband and I roll our eyes in disgust at how this delightfully charming person can be such a push-over. We turn off the TV and go to bed. Of course, we give our not-so-damsel in distress character a second chance the following night.

When we tune in again, our faith is renewed as she reverts to the strong female character she is,

sends her old lover packing, convinces her new man that he recognizes the quaintness of the town and can't think of anywhere else he'd rather live and raise children—with her.

We've gone through several iterations as we seek to identify the characteristics that best portray strong female characters. They include:

- 1) A damsel-in-distress;
- 2) A woman who at some deep level knows her own heart, but periodically pushes old buttons and gets trapped in yesterday;
- 3) The strong woman cliché—a no-nonsense, kick-ass woman, who defies daintiness, cusses like a drunken sailor, is tough and unemotional, and takes sass from no one. (More on this one in a later column.)

Most of us take advantage of a new year to set goals, whether it's to reach our goals to be published or to increase our book sales. I'd like to pose a question with an accompanying challenge that might advance those efforts.

What type of female character would appropriately represent the Twenty-first Century woman who has taken charge of her life and is no longer a target for powerful and abusive men?



Why not write our female characters to be multi-dimensional, a composite of strengths, short-comings, fears, compassion, pain, and vulnerability?

**Sidebar here:** And why does this question seem to be an issue when writing female characters and not when writing male characters? Or is the question worth considering for both? Men, after all, are also redefining their roles and behavior as a result of the metoo movement.

My challenge to you is to do some research and thinking on this topic, so we might create characters who are so much more than the old or the new clichés.

Expect a column or two in the coming months, addressing this topic. If you come across anything relevant to this discussion, please email me at [judy.guarnera@gmail.com](mailto:judy.guarnera@gmail.com) and we can talk about it.

*In the Rhythm of  
Writing,  
Judythe Guarnera*

NIGHTWRITERS

# A Defining Moment

by Judy the Guarnera

At the end of her joke, Gaston groaned and muttered, 'funny', his gaze glued to the commercials flitting across the TV screen.

As his single word ricocheted around the room, Ingrid flinched, as though she'd been the target of a well-aimed dart. Why couldn't Gaston appreciate her efforts to make him smile?

Why do I try so hard? He isn't interested enough to even pretend. She snatched up her novel and tried to read. It wasn't until Gaston left for home that her depression lifted. She felt light, free, relieved.

Ingrid kicked off her shoes, poured another glass of Chardonnay, and settled into the plush couch to re-consider their relationship. Had he ever really cared about her, or merely craved the contacts her job at a Fortune 500 company might offer to advance his career?

She might as well end the relationship, but somehow, it would end with a laugh.

When her assistant reminded her of the upcoming office costume party, Ingrid's brain kicked into gear. Instead of a traditional Halloween Party, the committee had chosen a 'Between Holidays Party.' Attendees were

to dress in costume representing their career choice at age ten.

Gaston, who she believed lacked the imagination to come up with a costume, agreed to meet her at the party, so she could keep hers a secret.

When he arrived, he availed himself of the opportunity to schmooze with the 'important' people who worked there. The committee chair announced they would enter an adjoining room for a parlor game with Madame Bosibe.

The room was dimly lit, with a card table and three chairs occupying the center. In one chair sat a woman dressed in gypsy attire, a mask hiding her identity. Three dinner-sized plates shared space on the table with several lit candles.

In a husky voice, the gypsy requested two volunteers. Seconds passed; the CEO's wife pushed him forward and he grabbed the arm of a protesting Gaston.

"I'm too smart to be hypnotized," Gaston said, but took one of the chairs opposite the gypsy. Dan, the CEO sat in the other.

After a polite nod, the gypsy encouraged the two men to follow her directions and promised, once they were relaxed, she'd

put them in a state of hypnosis.

Both men snorted, and the other guests chuckled.

In a quiet but firm voice, Madame requested they do exactly what she did. She picked up her plate and stroked the bottom. The men followed her lead.

"Ah, feel your body relaxing, softening, tension flowing away." Then she moved her hand and began stroking her face, first her forehead, then down the bridge of her nose and finally her cheeks. Her tone compelling, she repeated this pattern over and over.

"Now, do as I say. Stand and quack like a duck."

The men stood, but remained silent.

"Hah, no quacking," Gaston said. "I told you I couldn't be hypnotized." His triumphant laughter rang out.

The lights went up and the others gasped and burst into laughter. A puzzled Gaston, distracted by Ingrid as she removed her mask, frowned.

Dan tapped him on the arm; Gaston gasped when he saw the CEO's face, as soot-streaked as a chimney sweep. As the guests examined the two sooty plates, they pointed at the candles. Ingrid grinned when

she held up her clean plate.

Suddenly Gaston touched his own face, stared at his sooty finger and seemed, for the first time to 'get' the whole joke. To Ingrid's surprise, his laughter bubbled out. He grabbed her and planted a sooty kiss on her lips.

The guests gave a standing ovation.

Judythe Guarnera, editor of the SLO NightWriter Anthology: *The Best of SLO NightWriters*, has been published in numerous anthologies, magazines, and other publications. Although she claims bragging rights

for the contests she's won, in a moment of candor, she admits it's been a while. Judythe is the author of *Twenty-Nine Sneezes: A Journey of Healing*. She contributes monthly to writing newsletters and is available for free presentations at book clubs and at organizations such as Rotary and Kiwanis. Judythe is a member of SLO NightWriters, for writers at all levels in all genres; find them online at [slonightwriters.org](http://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](mailto:torrydickinson@gmail.com)  
and I'll send them a card from their SLO NightWriters family.

Torry



## WRITER BY THE SEA

by Dennis Eamon Young

### The Future is Ours

How apropos that we are poised on the edge between two years. January is, after all, named after Janus, the Roman god who was a patron of beginnings and endings. We have been in the Celtic seasonal quarter of Samhain (pronounced Sow'en, or Sow'een in the Gaelic tongue) since November, which will continue until February and is a time of restoration and renewal. It is a time of opening our doors to wisdom, clarity and freedom of spirit, to slough off the old and walk forward into the light of rebirth.

The Druidic Bards held sacred the words of history, genealogy, tales of sacrifice, wisdom of elders, right and wrong, always weighing those actions and ideas that had carried their people forward to bring peace and

resolution. The words were too important to be written down. They were memorized over years of apprenticeship, unaltered, unadulterated, exact.

As the druids travelled the land, they were honored on a level with the kings and sat at the high table, for they were the bringers of the essence of the people. They were not asked to come up with a more entertaining alternative, but rather to strengthen and clearly define the common bonds of the people, so all might toil together, in war or in peace, but always for the common good.

As the greed of the Roman Empire overcame the honor of the Celts, many of the druids were hunted down and exterminated. This allowed the

Romans to control the people more to the benefit of the empire. Edicts from the Emperor were written and distributed with words abused and twisted to confuse the people, causing great consternation and leading to the questioning of the old ways of honor. Leaders needed to bend the knee in supplication to the Roman overlords and their minions, allowing the pillaging of their natural treasures without due respect.

When great leaders such as Queen Boudicca of Albion (now England) were uncowed, fighting the Romans to a standstill, before a final defeat, the Romans lost heart and later gave the Isles up. Much of the credit for her resolve and that of her warriors lay in the use of many remaining bards to buoy the spirits and fan the flames of heroic racial memory. The power of the spoken word they used roused the people, more than a written tract could have done.

The tale of Nero fiddling while Rome burned is telling. For too long had the greed of the Emperors led to unjust and inequitable decrees and bald-faced lies to milk the populace, while the few perched on the top rungs of Roman society



feted each other in one debauchery after another with no regard for their people. Their words had become meaningless and so they were doomed. A people can only bear so much injustice before they finally see that they must put a stop to treachery and take the future into their own hands.

It is only the advent of truth, in the form of words pointing out the path to a better future that can turn a malignant tide. Once people can be reminded of their common bonds in a social contract which purports to alleviate the miseries which have reduced their natural treasures of love and respect to a mere shadow of their former selves, then they can retrieve their hopes.

So right now, we look into a mysterious future with many terrible possibilities, or a return to a more sensible and fair-minded future ahead, where the truth is important and we might move forward together with kind and thoughtful words for one and all. The future is in our hands-and words.

*Excelsior, Dennis*



# WORD PLAY

by Morgann Tayllor

## NEWLY MINTED WORDS—2018

“The envelope please...And the winners a-rrr-e...” An audience of words each year vies for their “Oscar” awards—inclusion in an official dictionary. Thousands are winners.

**Fave** new words, phrases and senses have suffered the annual pilgrimage to be anointed in the pages of dictionaries. But the way to stardom can be long and tedious and can sometimes take years. In 2018 **fave**, one of thousands of supplicants, finally made it.

But **fave**, a simple abbreviation of *favorite*, has been around since 1938. New word **hangry**, being angry because one is hungry, made its first appearance around 1956; **hophead** stealthily found its way into American vocabulary about 1883 when it first meant drug addict. Current slang definition: a beer enthusiast. Both the latter examples are *portmanteaux*, after a carrying case or suitcase that folds in two halves. (Leave it to a French origin to make elegant the blending of two words.)

\*\*\*\*

So what takes so long for some words to receive official approval in dictionaries? Each dictionary has its own criteria, but a word’s acceptance hinges largely on common usage and it’s frequency of use, it’s staying power and the sense (definition) with which it is used.

Some of these words technically are not “new” but abbreviated versions of the fully spelled-out word (often seen in texting without vowels), or versatile, updated examples of *portmanteaux* seen above. Then there are new acronyms such as **G.O.A.T.**—someone perceived as the Greatest of All Time, at least for the moment.

Other words are entirely new in sound, form and definition, grafted from technology into common usage even as words are typed on this page. Many of the newer tech words, phrases and acronyms are dictionary material on much shorter notice, thanks in large part to social media and instantaneous transmission of words, videos and ideas over global networks. To go into further detail would render this column too long; don’t read or **TL;DR**, another new official dictionary entry in 2018, along with **Instagram**.

\*\*\*\*

The exploding language is enough to make a writer run for the nearest **mocktail** (a non-alcoholic drink). Well, let’s make that more energetic.

One 2018 dictionary word scenario: A group of young friends descend upon a brewery to taste a **flight**. To keep their equilibrium, the **hopheads** decide to order lunch; they don’t want to become **hangry**. So they agree on a large side of **zoodles**, followed by *grillas* (their inclusive group language for monster hamburgers) with lots of **avo** and other ingredients in their **guac**. For dessert, they order a round of **piecaken** called **cherpumple**. After they leave the tasting room, they go to a bar for a round of **margs**. All agree that the food and drink event was **bingeable**, even if it was a **time suck**.

Here’s the plain English interpretation: **Flight**: a group tasting of an alcoholic category such as beer, wine, or other liquor. **Hopheads**: beer enthusiasts. **Hangry**: angry because you’re hungry. **Zoodles**: long thin strips of zucchini that resemble narrow pasta strips. *Grillas*: (see above; not in English dictionaries) **Avos**: avocados. **Guac**: guacamole. **Piecaken**: pie(s) baked within a cake. **Cherpumple**: a piecaken of cherry, pumpkin and apple pies baked in cake batter, then stacked and frosted. **Margs**: Margaritas. **Bingeable time suck**: An act of serial consumption, productive or not, enjoyable or not, that takes up too much time, or not, but is nonetheless an experience. For writers especially.

So with fingers poised above the keyboard, story plots competing with one another, adrenalin pumping, may your New Year, writers, find you enthusiastic about your words, new or old, **bingeable** or not.





## CRITIQUE GROUP COORDINATOR'S CORNER

by Patricia Gimer

Recently, I visited the critique group led by Terry Sanville. Terry's group meets at his home in San Luis Obispo on the first Monday of the month and at Gloria Pautz's home in SLO on the third Monday. Well-attended by some talented and experienced writers, one who comes from as far away as Long Beach, it was a lively good meeting! And the

snacks were quite delicious, as well.

Terry, Bernie, Michael, Cathy, Elsa, Judith, and Karen engaged in spirited discussion and offered frank and helpful suggestions as they encouraged the writing to go deeper.

Bernie shared a vignette, a slice of his life in the year 1939, during the great depression. Judith of-

fered a poignant piece about the recent loss of her elderly Maine Coon cat. Cathy shared a reflection of her experience in a Triathlon, highlighting the kindness of guides who helped her reach the finish line.

Lastly, Terry, with his usual suspense-filled anticipation, presented a short-story about one woman's quest for independence.



This group is full, but always welcomes visitors.

Contact SLO NightWriters member, Terry Sanville for more information.

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

*\*To be added to our Review Board listing, write to: [lilliofslo@aol.com](mailto:lilliofslo@aol.com) and put Newsletter Info in the subject line.*



### **SLO NightWriter Officers**

President: Janice Konstantinidis  
 Vice-President: **Vacant**  
 Secretary: Leonard Carpenter  
 Treasurer: Steve Derks  
 Program Director: Tammie Burnsed  
 Membership Coordinator: Jim Aarons  
 Critique Group Coordinator:  
     Patricia Gimer  
 Social Media/Publicity Coordinators:  
     Meagan Friberg &  
     Abigail Aarons  
 Simply Clear Submissions:  
     Jeanie Hundertmark  
 Welcome Committee: Jean Moelter  
 Sunshine Chair: Torry Dickinson  
 Website Master/Membership  
     Janice Konstantinidis  
 Web Assistant: Steve Derks  
 Newsletter Editor: Lillian Brown  
 Art Director/Photographer:  
     Dennis Eamon Young  
 Member at Large: **Vacant**  
 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. Admission free; refreshments served. Next Meeting: January 8, 2019, 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](http://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](http://www.slonightwriters.org) and pay with credit card, or through PayPal.

## 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](mailto: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*

*"Start writing, no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on."*

— *Louis L'Amour*



*Complete Editing Services*  
*Let me help you Write It 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](mailto:editme1@yahoo.com)