



President's Message

By Janice Konstantinidis



Happy New Year to all my fellow NightWriters! I hope this year brings an abundance of words and the good health to write them.

Christmas decorations (for the most) have been put away, the winter solstice has come and gone, resolutions made (by those who

make them) new calendars begun, and I sense a general feeling of things anew.

I used to long for spring and summer; however, this is no longer the case. I am finding joy in all seasons. I value my life, and the days I have. This awareness of the value in every day came to me when I lost my dear partner; his death made me stop, and take stock of my mortality. During that process, I became acutely aware of how much there was to gain from all seasons. I stopped wanting it to be spring, or warmer, or this or that. Instead, I became grateful for each day and began to see the lovely aspects of each season.

Right now, I am enjoying a hiatus from the garden, and I'm not traveling too far afield. I love my warm home, cozy fire, and the time I seem to have to catch up on movies I have promised myself to watch.

Writing seems to be more forthcoming with longer days as well. Winter is a good time for me. But I say this from my desk in California. I'm not sure I could wax so lyrical about the virtues of a cozy fire, if I were to be in the eastern states right now.

I hope your winter is a cozy and fruitful one for you. If you are like me, you may have been unwell for a time. Colds and flu seem to be of epidemic proportions of late. I don't

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know many who've escaped. I hope those of you who are unwell, are soon on the mend.

Speaking of gardens and seasons, many of my plants are somewhat confused. The huge fluctuations in temperatures that we've experienced here in Paso Robles are causing chaos for many of my plants. Days have typically been in the 70's, while nights have plummeted to freezing. Camellias vie with early bulbs to make a very early appearance.

Some of this is quite surreal, more specifically, it's quite odd to see the sun so low across the landscape while one feels a warm breeze, while wearing short sleeves. Dare I mention global warming.

Back at SLO NightWriters HQ, we are planning our year. Our contest will kick off soon, and I encourage you to get cracking with your entries. We will have a theme for you before long. Please enter, you have to be in it, to win it.

We welcome Jeannie Hundertmark as our new Submissions Manager for Simply Clear Marketing & Media. We are grateful for the fantastic job Meagan Friberg has done in her role as Submissions Manager.

Please send Jeannie your submissions for publication. clementyne@gmail.com.

Please see the SLO NightWriters website for more about Simply Clear Marketing & Media. We are extremely fortunate to have a guaranteed space in their three publications twice a month. Jeannie and her hardworking editorial committee will assist you in any way they can, to help you edit your submission so it's ready for publication. I hear from many people who love seeing their stories printed. Let's see yours!

I hope your January is full of new hope and warmth. Please try to come to as many meetings as you can. We are working hard to make them interesting and stimulating. I welcome all suggestions about what you would like our meetings to be about, and who you'd like to see there. Just so you know, we can't afford Margaret Atwood or JK Rowling.

Janice Konstantinidis
President SLO NightWriters
jkon50@gmail.com

Egret

Photo by Lillian Brown



Our January 9th Meeting

Tell Me a Story!

Hosted by Jean Moelter

Storytelling is a skill all writers should have. Not just to write good books, but to market our books and ourselves during interviews and speaking engagements. At this meeting, we'll tell true stories. It's a fun way to practice—and get to know each other better.



WHAT MAKES A GOOD STORY?

- A main character we care about. (You, in this case.)
- A high-stakes situation. (You want or need something important to you.)
- A resolution. (You either succeed at getting it or you don't.)

TO PARTICIPATE:

- Email me to sign up (or ask questions) at jmmoelter@yahoo.com.
- Think of a short, true story in which you're the main character.
- Write it out. No longer than 600-700 words.
- Practice telling your story, and time yourself. No longer than 7 minutes.

At the meeting, I'll invite each storyteller who signed up in advance to come to the microphone and tell their story. This is not a competition, nor will there be any criticism offered. Only support and applause. (If time allows, a few people will have a chance to tell a story spontaneously.)

GUIDELINES:

- No notes allowed (to better connect with your listeners).
- Don't memorize your story word for word. (This is more like a dinner party than a play.)
- Respect the time limit (7 minutes).
- Your story can be serious or humorous, or both.
- Adult content allowed.
- No political rants or religious sermons.
- Have fun!

Jean Moelter is a writer and performer living in San Luis Obispo. In 2015, she had a one-woman show at SLO Little Theatre called Holy Crap! which consisted of

true stories about her Catholic upbringing. She was playwright-in-residence at North End Children's Theatre in Washington State and has written articles for many publications. For several years she's been a regular on local stages, performing stories, stand-up comedy, and dumb songs. She's the host of Artsy People on KYXZ Excellent Radio, 107.9 FM on your dial.

Submit Your Stories, Photos, and Ads for the Newsletter

We're publishing **advertisements** for NightWriters' books and book or writing-related events. The advertising is **free for members**. Please provide the graphic you want me to use (the book cover or other graphic).

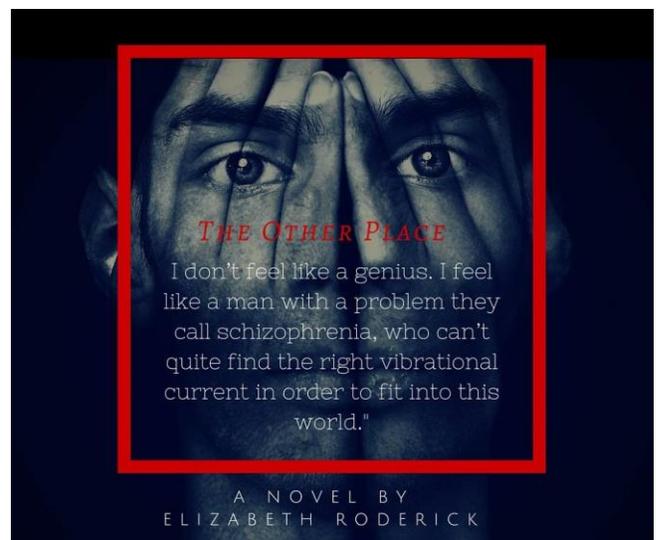
We're also accepting **original photographs**, and unpublished **flash fiction** between 500-800 words from current members.

As always, I will accept **articles, kudos, and event notices**. And, if you have any other ideas for content, let me know.

Please send all submissions as attachments to elizabethroderick@att.net with **NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION** in the subject line.

I'm looking forward to seeing your submissions!

Elizabeth Roderick
Editor



[Available on Amazon](#)

NightWriters Roundtables

We now have two separate critique tables at our general meetings. At Rosie MaKinney's table, participants will critique each other's work in a safe and supportive environment. This is an opportunity to get feedback on your work in progress and practice your constructive critiquing skills. It is also a great way to get to know other writers in our group. You do not have to bring along work to participate. Please keep submissions to double spaced, 12-point font, two pages.

Terry Sanville and Susan Tuttle will be giving feedback as always on pieces brought to their table. If you do bring a piece for critique, please bring three copies: one for Terry, one for Susan, and one for yourself. Please keep your submission to 2 pages, typed, 12-point font, double spaced, 1" minimum margins all around. Note at the top what the genre is, and the age of your audience. Proper formatting is good practice for when you are ready to submit to agents/editors/publishers. If you don't format your submissions correctly, you'll probably be rejected. This is a great—and safe—way to see what the critiquing process is all about, get valuable feedback from two fantastic writers, and practice reading your work to a small audience.

More and more writers are coming to the Critique Tables. If you want to make sure your piece is read, arrive before the start time to get your name on the list. The Critique Round Table starts at 5:15 pm sharp. **It is free to NW members, \$5.00 for visitors.**

See you at UCC at 5:15, or at the general meeting that follows at 6:30 pm.

~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 at torrydickinson@gmail.com and I'll send them a card from their SLO NightWriters family.

Torry Dickinson

BIOGRAPHER FOR HIRE

I write personal biographies to memorialize the lives of loved ones for their families. The average length is fifty pages, with pictures, and may take a matter of several months and many visits. The normal cost varies from \$3000 to \$5000, but can be more depending on the complexity of the project. I am just completing a recent project and may be available in June for a new start.

Contact: Darryl Armstrong

darryl1219@gmail.com 805-234-4348



Fog Lifting

Photo by Lillian Brown



Lighthouse, Port San Luis

Photo by Lillian Brown

Musings and Tips

By Judythe Guarnera

TIPS TO RING IN A NEW YEAR

On New Year's Eve, with a deadline looming for my column for the NW newsletter, I looked ahead with a sense of trepidation. On the next day, when 2018 would replace a very worn out 2017, I longed to say I was filled with hope. But, that wouldn't be true. Yet, all is not lost.

Today I read three heart-warming stories relating acts of kindness. The perpetrators of good will ranged in age from nine to seventy-seven. Although my hope cup isn't replenished, it is perhaps now half-full. Notice I wrote half-full, not half-empty. Eternally optimistic. (Fingers crossed.)

With other optimists, I share a belief that there is good in everyone—and some bad in everyone, too. This past year, which I'm very glad is over, left me with a feeling approaching panic as I contemplated the future. Each day, though sometimes I must dig deep, I look for proof of the goodness of humankind—and darned if I don't find it.

I would encourage each of you to do the same. Raising our combined awareness of goodness and kindness is a worthy goal and offers a promise of more to come.

Now that I've waxed philosophical, I'd like to share some of my previous musings and tips on writing, in the hope they will inspire you to expand your own writing goals for the coming year.

A word is not the same with one writer as with another. One tears it from his guts. The other pulls it out of his overcoat pocket.

~Charles Peguy

One Sunday afternoon I sat at my computer, analyzing the quotation above to determine which of those writers I am.

On a prolific day, the words seem to fall out of the heavens. When my Muse is taking a vacation at the same time I'm searching for just the right word, that search becomes a gut-wrenching process.

What I've learned to do, if I'm in creative mode, is to keep writing, to abstain from worrying, and to use whatever word pops into my head. Later when I'm editing,



and the word still escapes me, I use my trusty Thesaurus, either the online version or my hard-bound book. One of the more difficult lessons I've learned as a writer is not to interrupt the creative flow of the first draft to search for the perfect word.

A carpenter building a cabinet, doesn't polish the boards before he measures, cuts and nails. When that work is completed, he sands, stains and polishes, so as not to interfere with his creative process. Never interfere with the creative process, whether constructing furniture or a story.

There's a saying that goes something like this: Insanity is when you keep doing the same things the same way, but expect the outcome to be different.

Imagine you are watching TV and thinking how great it would be to be published.

And then imagine you are watching TV and thinking how great it would be to be published.

And imagine...doing the same thing over and over and expecting a novel to emerge.

If you're dying to write the great American novel, a short story, an essay, or an interview, but you don't start writing, that, my friend is insanity. So today, right now, without further delay, begin writing. Read, edit, read, write—just keep putting one word in front of the other and see what your subconscious creates. And then when you've completed and edited it, read it aloud, and take it to your critique group.

After your final editing, it'll be time to research contests and calls for submission until you find a home for your special creation.

You can't get published if you don't submit and you can't submit if you don't write.

In the Rhythm of Writing
Judythe Guarnera



Tall Ships Battle

Photo by Dennis Eamon Young



WORD PLAY

A new column by Morgann Tayllor



Love our language! English is creative, complex, fluid, and constantly evolving. Technology adds a profusion of new words and phrases; blended words pop up like kudzu, catchy slogans and euphemisms abound. Words, words, words. The third edition of the *New Oxford American Dictionary* lists more than 350,000 words, phrases and senses. Please join me in the fun and exploration of our dynamic language in this new column for *Wordsmiths*.

Funny thing about language. Trends can be amusing, confusing or downright aggravating. Or not. Some are fillers. Others are long-used words, consigned to new definitions and contexts. Below are examples of current words and phrases heard in sensitive, awkward, or misapplied situations.

Take the word *perfect*.

A customer decides on a new refrigerator and grabs a sales associate on the fly. "I'm interested in this Forever Cool Refrigerator."

"Perfect!"

"It's hard to decide between toast, marine or black. What do you think of black?"

"Perfect!"

"Pay fifty dollars down and fifty dollars a month for the next eight years?"

"Perfect!" ...Um...I'll have you talk to the manager for that arrangement."

"Purrrrfect!"

"Ooohhh. This scarf would be a perfect gift for Armagetta to wear *anywhere*," the customer coos to her friend as they sort through different brand-name scarves.

"Would *madame* care to sample the pattern and colors of this scarf on our electronic screen mannequins?" The unctuous manager bows and gestures toward a viewing area in the back.

The customer slides a photo of her business associate into a viewing slot and uses the life-size touch screen. Assorted mannequins appear. Armagetta’s skin color and taste in apparel design find a match with the scarf. Approved, the gift is elegantly wrapped and presented to the customer.

“Thank you,” she says.

The manager nods *you’re welcome*, but instead replies, “*Not a problem*”.

It shouldn’t be. The customer just paid \$1,200 for a Hermès scarf.

* * *

A patient exits the dentist’s office oozing numbness from surgery. It’s twenty five miles home. “*Have A Nice Day!*” beams the receptionist.

A woman hands over her credit card for an uninsured repair of 900 dollars on her car. “*Have A Nice Day!*” chirps the cashier.

A man with a recently broken leg and two months in rehab slowly hobbles down the sidewalk in front of his home. A neighbor breezes by on a bicycle and waves, “*Have A Nice Day!*”

A frantic mother fills out paperwork at the hospital before her severely injured child can be admitted to the emergency room. When she finishes, the office girl intones, “*Have A Nice Day!*”

A teen accidentally knocks over his girlfriend’s milkshake in a restaurant food booth. Strawberry goo splashes all over her new clothes. The girl rushes to the restroom and the server brings another shake, but now the girl is shaken. As the couple leaves, the server calls out from behind the counter, “*Have a Nice Day!*”

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Shell Beach Sunset

Photo by Dennis Eamon Young

Volunteers Needed

With our goals of extending member involvement and continuing to fulfill SLO NightWriters mission of supporting and advancing fellow writers, we are seeking further volunteers for the following Teams:

Assistant Secretary:(Taking minutes as required)

Meeting room organization: (Organize the meeting room before the

meeting and assist with packing up)

Critique Groups: (Working with Critique Group Coordinator to help new groups get started)

Board Members at Large: (Members who attend board meetings and who can be on call to help as required)

We need people who are motivated to learn how to be backups to all our key board positions. (Members who are experienced in the areas of administration, treasury, website, programs, editing)

Last year there was a period where our board was significantly diminished. My goal is to try to ensure that this does not happen again. It is to this end that I am reaching out to you all to step up and help make us strong as an organization and responsive and effective as a board.

Our board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at the same venue where our meetings are held. We begin at 6:30 pm. I welcome you all to attend a meeting to see where your skills can meet our needs.

Please respond to President jkon50@gmail.com if you are willing and available to join these important teams. And, if you think of other ways you can help out, we would love to hear from you.

Working toward a rich and productive writing community.

Kind regards,

Janice Konstantinidis
President SLO NightWriters

Sell Your Books

Sell your books at our general monthly meetings! If you are a member of SLO NightWriters, we encourage you to take part. We will have a table set up for you to display, discuss and sell your books.

Please note—SLO NightWriters holds no liability in this process. All authors participating are responsible for their own money exchanges and for the security of their own funds and books. Your dues with the SLO NightWriters must be current.



KUDOS... KUDOS... KUDOS...

First one this year for **Terry Sanville**— a short prose piece, “The Feast of Saint Vincent,” will appear in the summer 2018 edition of [Plainsongs](#), a print literary magazine published by Hastings College Press in Nebraska. These guys know about plain songs! **Happy New Year!**

“Life Drawing,” a short story by **Terry Sanville**, will be included in the Spring 2018 edition of *The West Trade Review*, an annual print journal from Charlotte, North Carolina.

Terry Sanville's short story, “Taken Away,” will be published in the March 2018 edition of [New Reader Magazine](#), a paying international print and digital publication with offices in NYC, London, Hong Kong, and the Philippines.

Elizabeth Roderick's short story, “Beautiful Music” was accepted for publication by the *Craving: One Night* anthology, put out by Craving Press. It is due out in March, 2018.

And yet another honor for **Laurel Anne Hill's** *The Engine Woman's Light*: Chanticleer Reviews has short-listed my novel for its OZMA Award (paranormal, fantasy, steampunk, etc.). As you may recall, they short-listed my book for the [Dante Rossetti YA Fiction Award](#) earlier this week. Final results will be announced mid-April.

"Climbing," a short story by **Terry Sanville**, will appear in a soon-to-be released *Writers Circle Anthology*, a print collection of stories and poems that address the theme of "Beginnings." The anthology is published by Prime Press, out of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

A Word from SLO NW's Critique Group Coordinator

Happy 2018 everyone! My goal for this year is to visit as many Critique Groups as possible. I would like to get to know what your group is up to as well as highlight the achievements of your members in our newsletter. Please contact me with a convenient time to visit. I'll look forward to seeing you soon.



Thank you,
Patricia Gimer – 805-235-8313

Review of November Meeting

Jan Alarcon is currently on hiatus. Her meeting review will return soon.





QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

“Writing is the painting
of the voice.”

markamoment.com



Photos by Dennis Eamon Young

Let's Get Social

Be sure to give us a “like” on Facebook at SloNightWriters and take it a step further by “liking” and “sharing” our posts.

On Twitter, our moniker is @slonightwriters—tweet us a hello sometime soon!

And, we have recently launched our Instagram account—follow us at slo_nightwriters and we'll follow you back.

Looking forward to connecting with all of you online, on your smart phone, tablet, or however you like to enjoy your social media.

Critique Group Connections

NW Members—Please, email critique requests to: Pat Gimer (patgimer@gmail.com) We'll print your specific request in this [Critique Group Connections](#) section of the newsletter for all NW members to view, increasing opportunities for NW critiquing. Use this information to find a match for your needs, make contacts, or to start a new group or critique partnership. Contact Janice for assistance if needed and she'll get you to the right people. And, if you form a group, please let Janice know so she can list it on the website. She can also forward your group's information to the newsletter. Critique Group Guidelines are available on the website at www.slonightwriters.org.

*******SLO NW cannot guarantee critique group formation or availability but we do strive to facilitate connections between writers so they can initiate and develop their own writing affiliations. While we cannot be, and are not, responsible for any outcomes from these associations, we hope they lead to great creative magic and magnificent literary works!

Critique Group Requests

Tony Taylor is seeking a critique group for FICTION, YA, CHILDREN'S MIDDLE GRADE or VARIED GENRES, preferred skill level is advanced/experienced writers. Preferred location is SLO City area.

Contact Tony at 805-704-3528 or by email: tony@anthonyjtaylor.com

Rolynn Anderson wishes to organize a NEW PLOTTING GROUP for LITERARY FICTION with elements of suspense and mystery. Preferred skill level is advanced. Preferred location is Arroyo Grande/Los Osos/SLO area.

Contact Rolynn at 805-473-5847 or by email rolynna@earthlink.net

Griselda Rivera is seeking multiple critique groups: MEMOIRS, TEEN & CHILDREN'S, ACADEMIC/EDUCATION/LINGUISTICS.

Contact Griselda at grissilvarivera58@yahoo.com

Colin McKay is seeking a critique group or peer edit exchange for COMMERCIAL FICTION – CRIME, YA, or SCREENWRITING. Preferred skill level is advanced. No location restrictions for meetings but would prefer Los Osos, Morro Bay, Cambria. Contact Colin by email: mckay01@gmail.com

David Flamm is seeking a critique group or peer edit exchange or 1:1 writing mentor/partner or editing fee for service, for COMMERCIAL FICTION. Preferred Skill Level is Intermediate to Advanced. Preferred locations for meetings are SLO City, South County/Santa Maria, Orcutt.

Contact David at 805-868-3779 or by email: david.flamm@yahoo.com

Christina Grimm is seeking a critique group or peer edit exchange for VARIED NO GENRE RESTRICTIONS. No skill restrictions. Preferred location for meetings is SLO City, Los Osos, Morro Bay, Cambria, but can travel to other locations.

Contact Christina at 805-459-4923 or by email: grimmpsy@gmail.com

Jill Stegman is seeking a critique group or peer edit exchange for LITERARY FICTION or LITERARY HYBRIDS WITH THRILLER, SUSPENSE, MYSTERY. Preferred skill level is advanced. Preferred location for meetings is SLO City, Los Osos, Morro Bay, Cambria or North County.

Contact Jill at 805-466-1956 or by email: jastegman@gmail.com

Deborah Brasket is seeking a critique group, online peer edit exchange, or 1:1 writing partner for ADULT LITERARY FICTION, NOVELS AND SHORT STORIES, AND FOR CHILDREN'S MIDDLE GRADE NOVEL. Preferred experience level is intermediate to advanced. North County is preferred.

Contact Deborah at 221-5405 or by email: dbrasket51@gmail.com

Alycia Kiley is seeking a critique group for VARIED GENRES but primarily POETRY, NON - FICTION and ARTICLES; skill level is intermediate. SLO City location is preferred.

Contact Alycia at 602-7075 or by email, alyciakiley@gmail.com

George Klein is seeking a critique group or 1:1 writing mentor/partner for COMMERCIAL FICTION; No particular skill level or meeting location restrictions.

Contact George at 712-3378 or by email, fangio@charter.net

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: slonightwriters@yahoo.com

About Our 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: January 9, at United Church of Christ on Los Osos Valley Rd, San Luis Obispo 93401. General meeting begins at 6:30 pm. Round Table presentations start at 5:15 pm.

Writers' Critique Groups: For paid members only. These groups read and critique each other's work and discuss the business of writing. Visitors welcome; phone ahead to make arrangements. See details below, or visit our website: www.slonightwriters.org

Critique Groups with Openings

WRITE NOW

These bi-weekly Wednesday critique meetings are for more experienced and tech-savvy writers. Submit up to 3,500 words of your current project to Dropbox by Sunday night, and then, using track-changes in Word, upload your reviews of each other member's work to Dropbox by 6:00 pm Wednesday. Meeting time is used to cover discussion-worthy items: logic issues, theme problems, etc. Commas, punctuation, and spelling are left on the written page. We follow these [Rules of Conduct](#). Recommended reading is [Story](#) by Robert McKee.

Meetings are every other Wednesday at 6:00 pm. Email moderator for location and dates.

CURRENTLY OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS

Moderator: Cynthia Replogle

cynthia.replogle@gmail.com

805-904-6365



PISMO SATURDAY GROUP

New group starts Saturday May 10. All levels and genres, short stories, poetry, novels and memoirs. Work is exchanged one week prior to group meetings. 1500 word limit on submissions. Meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 9:00-11:00 am. Contact moderator for location.

CURRENTLY OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS

Moderator: Tom Snow

coinerbop@gmail.com

MEMOIR AND NON-FICTION

Disbanded until there is more interest. If you would like to explore re-starting this group, please contact Judith directly.

CURRENTLY OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS

Contact: Judith Bernstein

ryewit@live.com

FICTION/NONFICTION

Meets on 1st and 3rd Mondays from 9:00 am to noon in San Luis. Members bring original work to each session and read aloud to the group. The group provides constructive suggestions for improving the writing and the structure of the stories. Prose forms of literature—short stories, novels, memoirs, essays, newspaper and magazine articles, travel—are this group's forte. It welcomes writers who are serious about producing work

for publication. Those interested in attending or who need more information should telephone. **OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS**

Contact Terry Sanville 541-0492 or Gloria Pautz 543-2049

HI HOPES

This group was invented to fill a need for a Los Osos/San Luis Obispo group that incorporates writers who generate stories, essays, novels, poetry—you get the picture—writers of any description. Whether or not you wish to publish, we'll help you with ideas to improve your writing. Led by Sharon Sutliff, we meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 9 AM and usually wrap up in time for lunch. We meet in various locations. Call one of the moderators to arrange a visit, or get more information. **CURRENTLY OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS**

Moderators: Sharon Sutliff, 544-4034
Audrey Yanes, 748-8600

NORTH COUNTY RACONTEURS

This group has disbanded for various reasons until further notice.



*View from Trolley, Port San Luis
Photo by Lillian Brown*

WRITE IT RIGHT WRITING GROUP I (Wed. a.m. Group)

Meets every Wednesday morning in 5 Cities area from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Not a traditional NightWriter critique group. Work is produced in each session, then analyzed according to the objective of the day's goal. Based on writing exercises designed to jump-start the creative process (based on the lessons and exercises in the Write It Right Series), these sessions take writers through the process of writing fiction from inception of idea to the final resolution. This group is for all writers who want to learn the process of crafting a well-told story while developing their own voice and style. We explore such topics as ideas, character, story arc, tone, voice, POV, tension, dialogue, resolution, writing mechanics, etc. There is a small monthly fee involved for this class to cover materials.

CURRENTLY OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS.

Contact: Susan Tuttle: 458-5234
aim2write@yahoo.com

WRITE IT RIGHT WRITING GROUP II (Wed. p.m. Group)

For all writers of fiction and creative non-fiction, a writing instruction class that meets weekly and takes about a year to complete. See full description under Wed. a.m. Group. Meets from 3:00-5:00 pm in Los Osos. Current members are presently getting their work published after only six months or so.

CURRENTLY OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS

Contact: Susan Tuttle, 458-5234
aim2write@yahoo.com

THE THURSDAY GROUP

This group meets at 9:00 am every other Thursday at The Coffee Bean in Pismo Beach. Anyone interested in joining them can email the moderator for full details.

CURRENTLY OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS, and visitors are always welcome. Contact the moderator for details.

Moderator: Mark Ruszczyszky
zsur@aol.com

KICK START

Looking for three to four writers who could meet on Monday or Tuesday evenings in SLO, near Marigold Center (Tank Farm/Broad area). For fiction, action adventure, memoir type pieces. Start May 1 or 2. Moderator has a Fine Arts degree and an MBA.

CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR MEMBERS. Contact moderator for details.

Moderator: David Schwab
 805-459-3200

Critique Groups Currently Closed to New Members

(Visitors still welcome. Please contact coordinators for info)

PISMO WEDNESDAY GROUP

All levels and genres: short stories, novels, poetry, memoir. Work is exchanged one week prior to each meeting; 1,500 word limit on submissions. Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 9:00-11:00 am in Pismo Beach.

CURRENTLY FULL—NOT OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS. Visitors welcome. Contact moderator for location.

Moderator Tom Snow
coinerbop@gmail.com

LONG STORY SHORT

This group is currently inactive.

Moderator: Diane Smith 858-414-0070

LO PROSE

Meets in Los Osos on the first and third Wednesdays at 7pm till usually 10pm. Charlie Perryess and Anne Allen share hosting responsibilities, running a tight ship so that everyone can read. No cross talk permitted. At the beginning and at our break we socialize. We're all serious but fun-loving. Presently the writing covers several genres: YA novels; short stories; short stories woven into a novel; fantasy; humorous mystery novel; political satire novel; and personal essays. We write just

about everything except poetry.
CURRENTLY FULL – NOT OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS but guests are welcome. It may happen that space could be made for a compatible writer.

Moderators: Charlie Perryess, 528-4090
 Anne Allen, 528-1006

FICTION/NONFICTION

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 Moderators: Terry Sanville, 541-0492
 Gloria Pautz, 543-2049

SOUTH COUNTY WRITERS

This group focuses on serious writing in a friendly, supportive environment. Members who write at an advanced or intermediate level. We meet on the second and fourth Saturdays from 9:30 to noon in Grover Beach. The members thrive on variety: writing short stories, articles, and novels: all genres from fiction to biography and memoirs. Members exchange work by email one week prior to the meeting in order to receive in-depth critiques. The critiques are aimed at eliminating weaknesses and increasing strengths in everything from plot and character development to grammar and proper manuscript preparation. We are serious about fully developing each member’s writing talent, whether for publication or for personal satisfaction.

CURRENTLY DEFUNCT

NORTH COUNTY CRITIQUE GROUP

Meets twice a month on Thursday from 1:30-4:00 pm at the Atascadero Library. The group includes intermediate and advanced level writers of fiction and non-fiction, both published and unpublished. Our critique process is upbeat and constructive. We send around pieces in advance, and read aloud at sessions. Potential new members are encouraged to visit to see if we are a mutual fit. Please contact one of the moderators in advance.

CURRENTLY FULL — NOT OPEN NEW MEMBERS

Moderators: Lillian Brown, 215-6107
lilliofslo@aol.com
 Jeannie Hundertmark,
 878-2158
clementyne@gmail.com

POETRY CRITIQUE GROUP

This group is currently inactive.
 Contact: Irene Chadwick, 481-3824
irenekooi@gmail.com

WORD OF THE MONTH:

horsefeathers

[hawrs-feth-erz]

noun

1.(used with a singular or plural verb) something not worth considering.

interjection

2. rubbish; nonsense; bunk (used to express contemptuous reiection).

Writer by the Sea-January 2018 Celebrate it All

By Dennis Eamon Young

No dying of boredom on my home planet this year. The ancient Chinese really had a sense of humor with “May you live in interesting times”! Truth be told, we all live in interesting times and have throughout history. The main thing is to be as involved as possible, not for the sake of keeping on the move, but to find some way to make a difference.



I am working on the fourth issue of KIND magazine as I write this column, and it has made a difference in my life. I had no idea before I began my journey with the magazine that I would find myself so passionate about writing factual articles about what others were doing with their lives. Admiring others for who and what they are is something I always found intriguing, but not to an actionable degree.

To shine even a small light on those who take their caring so seriously that it is an embedded part of their life, is an honor to me. I still work on my personal writing. Constructing a complete world around my 40's noir P.I., Corbyn Cockran is an ongoing adventure that I am deeply involved in. He is real, has his (and some of my) issues and problems, as he deals with inner and outer situations. I like to think I am in control of Corbyn, and what he must deal with as best he can. In my own life, there are very few things I have control over.

I love sitting with people, finding out about the details of how they came to a certain point in their life and the things that drive them. Some work in the non-profit realm, creating opportunities for those in need. Some write books that show the alternative paths that characters must take to resolve a dire situation. This swirl of ‘interesting times’ we all swim in creates an undertow that can pull some down to despair, causing them to give up, while others will strive to utilize the energy around them with determined purpose.

Writing about these people infuses me with an enjoyable sense of purpose, to create a portrait of them that others can connect with and a sense of the reality that they have poured their energies into bringing about. Underlying this is another, even more personal purpose. I am learning from them, enriching and extending my own world of experiences through them. I come to understand how they have turned the trials and tribulations thrown at them to gold.

To bring the characters in a novel to life for the reader, this is what must be done in a world created by a writer. The reader must be able to make those same connections, feeling a sense of humor, or dread just as the characters in the story.

Listen to the world around you, in coffee shops, in family gatherings, the stories of neighbors and in the news of the world swirling around you. Whether you write a story, a poem or a song, it must be interesting and connect. The celebrities of the world become more real to us as we come to know more details of how they have overcome situations in their real lives and risen above the bad, grasping at positive opportunities. There is an even larger amount of those we can admire all around us. These are the heroic people I enjoy getting to know and write about. They buoy my hopes for the world.

Excelsior, Dennis

NIGHTWRITERS ALL STARS

SPOTLIGHT ON

★ Becca Schwind – SLO NightWriters Youngest ★

By Dennis Eamon Young

Becca Schwind, our youngest NightWriter, came to us as a protégé of our dear Anna Unkovich who recently passed away. Anna discovered in Becca not only a talent for writing, but the inquisitive mind with a sharp wit as well as a prepossessing personality. Becca is quiet, but studious with a ready question and sensitive approach. She has a dedication to find the best approach to framing a story and present a full picture.

Becca has written for her school newspaper for two years, has compiled a portfolio of work, attended meetings of SLO NightWriters and absorbed a vast array of writing knowledge from many different speakers, discussing that material with Anna along the way. She has attended Central Coast Writers Conferences as both an attendee



and a volunteer worker, being a quick study and willing to help in whatever way may be needed.

She has been a journalist for a Mock Trial Competition, spurring her decision to pursue journalism as her college major. Becca has won first place in the City of Morro Bay Haiku Contest, placed third in the Optimist Club essay "Overcoming Obstacles" and won first place in the Arroyo Grande High School Writing Contest for Poetry. Bright, cheerful, respectful and talented. What a combination to go forward and forge a career which will be satisfying to her and make us all proud, especially "Auntie Anna".

Becca will be interning with Susan Tuttle, so we will still have some time to get to know her better before she goes off to college.

Port San Luis

Photo by Lillian Brown



President: Janice Konstantinidis
Vice President: Vacant
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Member at Large Youth
Liaison: Martha Raymond

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 6241, Los Osos, CA 93412-6241. Or join/renew online through our website:

Newsletter Submissions: Send by the 15th of the current month for next month's publication. Send in kudos, writing articles, quotes, facts and tidbits, etc. Mark email "Newsletter Submission" and send to: elizabethroderick@att.net

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!

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Email all correspondence to: slonightwriters@yahoo.com or snail mail to: SLO NightWriters PO Box 6241 Los Osos, CA 93412-6241