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*SLO Night Writers*

# WORDSMITHS



October 2018

## Writing for Television Networks

### *Selling Your Script to Hallmark and Lifetime*

You won't want to miss our October 9 General Meeting when screenwriter and local radio personality David Congalton will provide insight on the increasing demand for content across cable television channels.

This, he explains, is especially true with the Hallmark and Lifetime networks that are both actively seeking submissions, but follow extremely strict formulas for romance, mysteries, holiday and adult drama scripts.

Dave, who currently has three separate scripts under consideration, will highlight key strategies to keep in mind in approaching cable networks and make suggestions to improve your



**Dave Congalton will speak at the October 9 General Meeting on Writing for Network Television.**

chances of acceptance.

The general meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Two critique round tables are available for those looking for feedback on their writing, beginning at

5:15 p.m. Check the website for details, and for directions to the meeting location. You don't have to be a member to attend a NightWriters meeting. All are welcome.



**Dennis Eamon Young reminds us, there can be too much of a good thing. Check out his column on Page 10.**

*Simply Clear Coordinator Jeanie Hundertmark is looking for Holiday Stories. Don't miss this publication opportunity.*

*Check out the guidelines on the NW website, and email Jeanie at: [clemetine@gmail.com](mailto:clemetine@gmail.com)*

## President's Message

by Janice Konstantinidis



Hello Fellow NightWriters, welcome to fall!

I hope you have had a nice summer. I know that some of you have been unwell or you have suffered loss. For those of you who have been sick, I hope you are well on the way to recovery.

For those of you who have suffered loss, please accept my condolences. I am hoping that these next few months will bring peace and healing as we watch the changing of the season.

The past month has been a very good month for us here at mission control (ahem). I am de-lighted to tell you that our SLO NightWriters Golden Quill contest awards evening was a great night. The winners who were present read their entries to the audience.

Of note, Susan Tuttle read an entry for our first-place winner for fiction. It was unfortunate that I

handed Susan the wrong entry to read. However, we look for the silver lining. The story read was by T.C. West and was enjoyed by all.

I will be reading the winning entry next meeting. It is Nancy Meyer's, 'A Promise.'

All entries were of a very high standard. I am eager to see if we can repeat this great contest next year. It was a huge learning curve for me, but one I enjoyed immensely.

Congratulations to all who entered and won. Also, a huge thank you to our judges.

I am working on a webpage for the contest. There you will be able to read the winning entries and see photos of the meeting.

I am hoping that we will hear second place winners read their stories over the coming months. Second place winners, please drop me a line if you would like to do this.

A huge thank you to Tammie Burnsed for her stellar effort conducting our Silent Auction. Tammie's exceptional organizational skills and knowledge were highlighted by this well run and very successful event. Thank you to the many generous people who donated some beautiful items.

Thank you to those who contributed to the auction by bidding most generously. We raised an incredible \$630.

I am wondering now if I was wise in donating that cardboard replica of my first pet rock. It sold for \$90.

It was a great meeting. Thank you all.

Enjoy your fall. I am looking forward to some lovely colorful days.

Kind regards,

*Janice Konstantinidis  
President  
SLO NightWriters*

### Moved or Changed Email?

Notify NW of any change in address or email: [slonightwriters@yahoo.com](mailto: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!

## Kudos, Kudos, Kudos...

### Judythe Guarnera

Judythe Guarnera's essay, *We Did Our Best*, which was previously published in a Chicken Soup for the Soul anthology: *The Power of Forgiveness*, has been selected for a new Chicken Soup anthology.

The new anthology is titled, *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Think, Act & Be Happy*—"a book that combines the emotional power of real-life stories with the thoughtful guidance of New York Times bestselling author and psychotherapist Dr. Mike Dow."

The book "takes readers by the hand and explains how they can train their brains to become their own therapists. The 23 chapters in the book address the problems that Dr. Mike sees most often in his own practice, and every one of them can be addressed using the simple methods in this book.

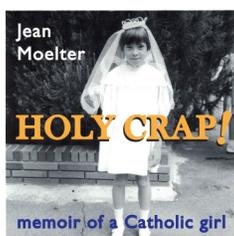
Readers will be gently guided through journal entries that help them perform the steps they need to take to think proactively, act differently, and be happy." It is now available on Amazon and in bookstores.

### James McPike

James McPike reports he has a new adventure novel coming out November 8 from Fireship Press called *Shipwreck Island*. It's based on a real 19th century New Zealand shipwreck and is his fifth book. It was named a Top-10

semi-finalist in the Clive Cussler [www.adventurewriterscompetition.com](http://www.adventurewriterscompetition.com) and received a five-star review from Readers' Favorite. Here's the Amazon pre-order link: [https://www.amazon.com/Shipwreck-Island-James-McPike-ebook/dp/B07GRFW8LT/ref=tmm\\_kin\\_swatch\\_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1536009680&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Shipwreck-Island-James-McPike-ebook/dp/B07GRFW8LT/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1536009680&sr=8-1)

### Jean Moelter



"Holy Crap! memoir of a Catholic girl" written and narrated by Jean Moelter is now available from Audible, iTunes, and other audiobook retailers.

Twenty hilarious true stories about anxiety, sinning, and sainting. With music and sound effects by Lenny Bunn of Clarity Studios. Go to Jean's website to read more about it and find easy links to retailers: [www.jeanmoelter.com](http://www.jeanmoelter.com). You can also hear a sample on those sites.

### Terry Sanville

Terry Sanville's short story "The Rooster's Crow" is included in *CafeLit*, an online literary journal featuring "short stories to be consumed with a favorite

beverage." Check them out at <https://cafelitcreative-cafe.blogspot.com/2018/04/the-roosters-crow.html>.

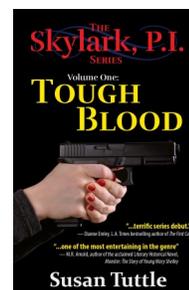
"Old Don Quixotes," a rare (?) non-fiction story by Terry, will appear in the Autumn 2019 edition of *The Evening Street Review*, an annual print journal published in Sacramento, California. Check them out at <http://www.eveningstreetpress.com/index.html>.

"Scents," a flash fiction story by Terry Sanville, will appear in Volume 35.1 of *The MacGuffin*, a print journal published by Schoolcraft College, Michigan.

Terry's short story "Sunflower" will be published in an upcoming edition of *St. Anthony's Messenger*, a nationally distributed print magazine put out by Franciscan Media Inc. Check them out at <https://nto.franciscanmedia.org/st-anthony-messenger>. (P.S. This publisher pays 20 cents a word.)

"The Other Women in My Life," a musical memoir of sorts, by Terry Sanville, will appear in the next edition of *El Portal*, a print literary magazine published since 1939 by Eastern New Mexico University. Check them out at <https://elportaljournal.com>.

### Susan Tuttle



**Tough Blood:** a dark, gritty story with a strong, smart, snarky heroine—and a touch of the paranormal.

Skylark, is a Los Osos private investigator with psychic abilities that she keeps a deep, dark secret. When a mutilated body is discovered, she becomes the target of a Neanderthal throwback detective. His focus on her brings her to the attention of the actual murderer.

Young women begin to disappear from California's Central Coast, then the killer goes after Skylark. Will her psychic abilities help or hinder her in saving both herself and those she loves?

**Tough Blood** is available on Amazon as both a print book and an ebook.

"A terrific series debut," writes Dianne Emley, LA Times bestselling author of *The First Cut*.

## NightWriters September Meeting Highlights

Review by Janice Konstantinidis  
Photos by Steve Derks

I'm sure all who attended the September meeting will agree that it was exceptional, with a tremendous amount of positive energy flowing. There were three activities going on, reminiscent of a three-ring circus, which made for a lively, interesting and productive evening.

Our SLO NightWriters Golden Quill Writing Contest Awards presentations were well received, with those present reading their first and second place winning stories, memoir and poetry.

Susan Tuttle stood in for Nancy Meyer to read for her at Nancy's request. The fact that I handed Susan an entry by T.C. West to read, instead of Nancy's, was noted by members of Ms. West's critique group after the meeting. Suffice it to say that T.C. West's entry was enjoyed. I will be reading Nancy Meyer's piece at our October meeting.

Our first ever fund-raising Silent Auction was opened at the start of the meeting and ran throughout the presentations and readings to give everyone a chance to look over the prime merchandise and fill in their bids.

The Auction was a huge success, and in the words of our treasurer, Steve Derks: "I am happy to announce that the Silent Auction provided \$632.72 to the SLO NightWriters' coffers!"

Many thanks to Tammie Burnsed for her leadership in organizing and executing the auction. We have heard feedback from members that it



## September Meeting Highlights

*(Continued from previous page.)*

was a great deal of fun! Tammie helped our bank account move away from "empty" (now \$1,496). This gives me confidence that we can meet the needs of our members in the future. We should also thank the members who opened their pocketbooks generously for the cause, and again, thank you to Tammie and Lillian Brown for their work on the auction.

Our ADHD Vet Author, Jim Aarons, was also there with his mockup of our book table for the Central Coast Writers Conference. Our authors were able to get a visual idea of how they might arrange their books ahead of time.

Thank you so much Jim and Abi Aarons. Abi is our social media tweeter, who does a wonderful job of tweeting our NightWriters' words far and wide.

Jim is our conference book table coordinator. Please ask him if you need any advice or assistance with your book sales.

Thank you to Mary Silberstein, our refreshments coordinator, for providing us with tasty snacks and drinks.

It was a great night. Thank you to all who attended. We are hoping to repeat the silent auction next year, along with adding some more fun events.



## TIPS AND TIDBITS

by Judythe Guarnera

### Should A Writer Give His/Her Books Away?

The answer to that question is as personal as any question can be. I've heard authors wax eloquently on either side of the argument. Many make their decision based on the situation, but others answer a general resounding no.

I've heard writers express annoyance when relatives or friends expect a free copy. After all the blood, sweat, and tears getting the finished product published, shouldn't writers expect to be reimbursed for their efforts?

My brother is a dentist, whose professional income supported his wife and eight children. Yet, he checked and cleaned my kids' teeth for free. Professionals of all kinds

do pro bono work.

Good souls that they are, many writers will donate the profit from their books to a charitable organization they support. At a writers' meeting today, when the presenter completed his talk, he sold his poetry books for cost. But, if you paid more than his cost, he would donate the extra amount to the organization which had invited him to speak.

*A little math here—cost of book-\$6; sell for \$6; pay him \$10 (still a reasonable price for a book) and he would donate \$4 back to the organization.*

Whoa! Something seems

off. He sweated blood and tears, paid to publish and purchase copies of his books—and then, he gave a free presentation on writing, just to support his fellow authors—and then he, covered his cost and donated the profit to the organization.

*I would like to offer a challenge to my fellow writers to consider purchasing authors' books when they share their time, expertise, and energy with you for free.*

NightWriters has been lucky over the years I've been a member to have local talent share their experience and expertise at meetings—stipend free. Personally, and I expect this is true of other writers, most of us want to give back to our own writing community by sharing what we've learned. After all, weren't we mentored when we began to write?

How might we sweeten the pot for them?

Authors who speak and receive no stipend for their prep and performance time, hope to sell their books at the event. If attendees enjoy the presentation, by purchasing a book, they have the opportunity to experience the writer's style in the pages of that book—to more fully understand the



information presented.

When we attend workshops, the theater, a sporting event, we purchase tickets. When attending an author presentation, which is free, why not consider showing appreciation for the authors' time by purchasing one of their books?

The NightWriter President recently requested feedback on how to raise money to pay speakers. Although most of us appreciate our local writing talent, it's fun to have a 'celebrity' present once a year or so. The NW budget would determine if that was feasible.

For the most part, regardless of budget, NW will depend on local talent to teach the craft of writing at the general meetings.

Put yourself in the shoes of our local authors, show your appreciation for their pro bono contribution, and buy a copy of their book. If it's not the genre you like, a book always makes a nice gift.

*In the Rhythm of Writing,  
Judythe Guarnera*

#### 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.**

*Congratulations to Martha Raymond  
 and Christine Young, NightWriters  
 published in September!*

## The Spirit Bear

### SLO NightWriters

By Martha Raymond

I'm sharing a pipe with a dear friend and the hour is getting late. In fact, it's so late that if someone doesn't speak soon, sleep is gonna steal one of us away; so I speak.

"Have I ever told you about the time I almost died?"

To my right, through the smoky haze, I see a smile in my friend's amber eyes. "Only about a million times."

"Early spring, I'm flying across the Dalton trail, heading towards Yukon territory."

My friend nods his big head. "Your plane goes down. Total. Engine. Failure."

"It was dangling like a kite in a tree." The memory brings a fearful chill, despite the creature comforts of my home.

My friend rocks to his own rhythm, head slightly cocked at attention. "Were you afraid?"

"I was." I gaze out the dark window. The chill is growing, the one that makes me want to hide from people. PTSD, I guess—I still hear fuel dripping in the mountain air.

"Twilight was falling." I rub my arms, fighting it off.

"It was cold?" My friend gently prods. He always asks about the cold.

"It was cold for me."

He grunts, thoroughly amused. Behind his head glows the light on my kitchen stove. My stove. My little beacon of civilization.

"I wonder, is it too late to bake the pie?"

"Please continue." He draws me back, his eyes warming to the story.

"It was a miracle I got down from the tree with one arm. This one was useless." I touch my shoulder where a metal rod impaled me and relight the pipe.

"The cold probably helped keep you alert."

"Perhaps," I say, blowing a long stream of smoke. The usefulness of the cold is something we go round and round about. I don't mention the sheer terror of seeing my own bone and cartilage.

My friend suddenly scratches himself something wild, head back in pleasure.

"I should have died that night," I say through a constricting throat.

Scratching done, my friend settles for the next part, his favorite.

"The bear was watching the whole time, next to an evergreen. He was huge."

"—and magnificent." We nod in union.

"When he stood, he blocked out the mountains. Then he did the oddest thing." My eyes lock with my friends', the current between us stronger than ever. "He knelt and licked my wounds. The bleeding stopped." I squeeze the spot and phantasmic sensations flair like the Northern Lights. I hate that nobody believes me. It hurts so bad. But my friend believes me. He was there.

"You passed a magical night together," he says.

"He kept me from freezing to death. In the morning, he was gone." I look back to the night beyond the window. The chill crashes in fully. The night, this thing, has turned on me. It always does.

I struggle to my feet, to the light of my kitchen. I should be thankful I'm

here, not dead in some cave, but tears fall regardless. "I think I'll make the pie after all," I announce brightly. "Will you want some?" It's an absurd question to pose to an empty room, but I am an absurd person. Near-death does that to you. Standing in the half light, I look back. Yep, he's gone. Back to his beloved cold and mist. Nothing can hold the spirit of an Alaskan cave bear, certainly not me. I am alone again until my friend decides to return, and we can go through again what happened on that wild night in Alaska.

*Martha Raymond loves to write because it is the only medium she has fluency in. Martha works in the service of commerce during the day and slaves in the service of the muse by night. Martha is a member of SLO NightWriters, for writers at all levels in all genres; find them online at [slonightwriters.org](http://slonightwriters.org).*



**In keeping with the spirit of Halloween I'm sharing this creation that's been hanging out at my house for the past couple of weeks in various forms. My husband signed up for several art classes this semester at Cuesta and apparently it's necessary to study the human skull before you can hope to draw a human face. Maybe a story-stimulating image?**



## Viola

SLO NightWriters  
 By Christine Young

I awake in mid sob. Why this old dream again? The labor camp in Fresno, these angry protesters waving signs, "Okies Go Home!" In my dream it is 1932. I am five years old again and we are pulling into the camp's gates. Bottles are being thrown at our car. My backseat window shatters next to my ear. Mama's yelling, "Viola, get your face away from the window!" Every one of our possessions is in this car. I have not been able to move an inch for days since we left Elk City, Oklahoma. My face is pinned against the broken window, and I'm screaming, "Why do they hate us?" Daddy's speaks softly from the front seat. "They don't hate us. They are just afraid we will change their lives."

Now, I'm pulling myself out of bed with my walker. I am 91 years old, but last night's dream is still vividly playing out before my eyes. In the dream we are on our trip from Oklahoma to Fresno. Daddy's talking in his soothing voice, telling

us about jobs waiting for us. He and Mama will be migrant farm workers. We have lost everything in the dust storms in Oklahoma. First there were droughts, then ferocious winds turning the skies black every day with dirt. The top soil is gone forever, and we will never be able to grow crops again. Having nothing to sell at our produce business, we shut it down. The bank comes and takes our house and farm.

Standing straight, Mama says, "Viola, we are good, hardworking people. This difficult time is just temporary." At the camp we are assigned a filthy shack with no plumbing. Mama leans her head against the wall of our one-room dwelling. I see her cry for the first, and last time, ever. She retrieves the broom from our car and sweeps the littered, stained floor. She and Daddy untie the mattress from the roof of the car, carry it to the shack and lay it down on the floor.

She removes her beautiful lace doily from her bag. Mama had

crocheted it as a young bride and always proudly displayed it in our parlor in Oklahoma. She gently pounds a nail and hangs her doily on the wall, saying, "this will remind us of when we had our own home."

I watched Mama hang this doily dozens of times in many different shacks in the years that we followed the crops in the Central Valley.

Anna's midnight visit has caused this dream. She arrived at my door, tears transforming her devastated face. The baby was in her arms, the two older boys next to her side, looking terrified. She cried in her broken English, "They fired my husband. We are leaving at 2 AM. We don't know where we are going. What are we going to do?" The oldest boy took my hand and asked, "Viola, why do they hate us? Why don't they want us to stay?" I answered, "They are just afraid."

Hastily, I packed a box of food for Anna. I wrote this note, "You are good, hardworking people. This difficult time is just temporary." I

knew the older boy was able to read English. Putting the note in an envelope, I slipped in a hundred-dollar bill. I took down Mama's doily from my wall and placed it inside their box. Hugging Anna and the boys, I told them, "always remember your neighbor, Viola, who loves you. May you find your home."

*Christine Young became a new arrival to Pismo Beach on May 23, 20017. She is a passionate storyteller, an avid observer of life, and has had five of her short stories*

*published in the book, "Writing on Time." She is 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](http://www.slonightwriters.org).*

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

## WRITER BY THE SEA

by Dennis Eamon Young

### Too Much Lemonade

I'm not supposed to even be here right now to be writing this column you know. Well, of course you don't know, so I'd best explain.

My wife and I planned a great getaway vacation, flying into Minneapolis, visiting the Russian Museum of Art and the headwaters of the Mississippi river, then taking a relaxing trip down the river on a paddle-wheeler for sixteen days to end in New Orleans. We would spend four days there, fly to Savannah for four days, then on to Charleston for another four days and returning home to San Luis Obispo. Altogether, a blissful, easygoing thirty-day vacation, eating, drinking, socializing, reading and writing, soaking



**My wife Carol holding a baby alligator.**

up culture and some of Mark Twain's influences along the way. Carol even read Twain's "*Life on The Mississippi*" beforehand.

Everything was going according to plan, as we arrived on the American Duchess, along with about one hundred and sixty other folks around our age, from all over America, England and Australia. I found a quiet deck to practice my Tai Chi Chuan in the morning, the food was wonderful, service great and other passengers quite interesting. I started reading one of the books I brought and made some cursory notes for the current novel I'm working on. Life was good!

The dream was punctured three days later, when we were informed that due to storms the river had risen to such a degree that our boat could not fit under any of the bridges and proceed down the river as planned. That mighty Mississippi had determined a new adventure for us. The boat would now be docked in Dubuque, Iowa for the foreseeable future. Those who could depart for home, or other venues. Most of us had intricate travel plans based on arrival in New Orleans by September 17, so we opted for option #2.

For the next nine days, one hundred and twenty brave (and older!) souls traded the elegant comfort of our short-lived boat experience for the cramped quarters of three buses and a string of hotels, unpacking and repacking, on and off the buses for excursions meant to keep us busy. The company's drivers and other personnel made a herculean effort to overwhelm us all with tours, side trips, sight-seeing, knowledgeable guides and just about everything other than the proverbial kitchen sink.

All we were missing was Chevy Chase leading the way for it to be one of those perfect vacation comedies. The American Queen Steamboat Company had taken the big lemon of the calm idyll turned into a frenzied and exhausting bus tour and turned it into an effusion of psychological lemonade. We have toured the largest Antebellum plantation in the nation; the B.B. King Museum in Indianola; a Lutheran luncheon replete with traditional German food and even an Oompah band; visited Elvis' Graceland as well as his cars and planes; plied the murky waters of a swamp and held a baby alligator; feasted in a Memphis Blues club and



so many other sights, sounds and foods it would bring tears to anyone's eyes.

All these things were wonderful to be sure, but arriving in such quantity and with nowhere enough time to digest (Pun intended!), these bleary and weary seniors finally arrived in New Orleans, bloated on food and experiences enough for a Hunter S. Thompson novel.

Carol and I had been watching the news shows about the progress of hurricane Florence along the Eastern seaboard and decided against trying to fly into Savannah and Charleston, as others were fleeing and airports were closing. We salvaged our four days in New Orleans and barely managed to get our flights back home, thrilled to be back, much earlier than expected, but ready to take our time to digest the plethora of an unexpected adventure.

Excelsior, Dennis

# WORDPLAY

by Morgann Tayllor

## Yes and No

**Yes** and **no** are the soul of brevity, the heart of ache. As *standalones*, they are arguably the most dramatic, concise and influential words in our language. These *standalones* are also considered *sentence words*, complete within themselves. But they come with baggage. Lots of it. And they can be slippery if misused or misinterpreted.

Writers know that the quality of printed dialog is crucial, especially since it has no aural support or real “face time” during its production. The written story has to connect with the reader’s perception and imagination. Any word or phrase, including **yes** or **no**, can mean different things to different readers with different life experiences. And to characters in your story.

Ex: Dad is in the next room reading and calls out my name.

“I’m in the office on my cell phone,” I yell around the corner of the door.

“What?!” he bellows. “You’re sitting on the throne?”

“**NO!**...Oh, hello, I was talking to...Wait! Don’t hang up...”

\*\*\*\*

**Yes** and **no** can be riddled with manipulation, lies, half-truths, sophistry, evasion, deceit. Or be true blue, livid red or blended into purple prose.

By intonation, **yes** and **no** can partner with body language and facial expression. Like babes, they are born pure, without clutter. But in human behavior, not everything **yes** is good, or **no**, bad. Qualifiers are the key. They can validate or corrupt **yes** or **no**: *with all due respect, however, we’ll see, but, maybe...*

Silence can be another qualifier, often an enabler. So is indecision. Look for modulation and emotion in *yeah, nah, meh...cool, guess so, I’ll think about it...* A shrug, a grunt, a frown, a smile, raised eyebrows, pursed lips, crossed arms or legs, can be embedded to add interest and depth to your **yes** or **no** situation.

Here is a factual case of this word game: Recently Alaska State Troopers stopped and queried suspected drivers if they had consumed alcohol recently. Two separate drivers replied, “I don’t drink alcohol. I drink beer!” **No** is implied in the first sen-

tence, **yes** in the second by repeating the verb *drink* in negative and affirmative forms. Distilling the truth could involve walking a straight line into a fictional story.

\*\*\*\*

In their full spectrum, **yes** and **no** can mean anything or nothing. But in their unsullied form, without behavioral clutter, they mean what they say. (Remember *what is it about no you don’t understand?*)

Yet some languages don’t have **yes** or **no**. A traditional Celtic language such as Irish Gaelic is one of them. Repeating verbs in affirmative or negative form are substituted, as in the beer bust example above.

Additionally, the Irish Gaelic word order is verb, subject, object, used by only nine percent of world languages. So, “She bought a book” would be “Bought she a book.” He never speaks Irish,” becomes “Speaks he Irish never.” How this language evolves remains to be seen. To compound its shrinking usage, English is now seeping into Gaelic.

\*\*\*\*

**Yes** and **no** may have a new kid on the block. *Maybe* is still maybe but it has a possible offspring. An online entrant known only as “Tom” recently posted that his “contribution” to the new word list was “*maybe*,” meaning “*might happen but probably not.*”

Will *maybe* become a new word in the extended family of **yes** and **no**? The end of this story is in the writing.

### Correction:

A sentence in the September column about beach animals should have read: **At this writing, you can ogle them on YouTube from a safe distance.**





**North County Wrecking Yard**



## **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*

## NightWriter Member Advertisement



*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)

### **SLO NightWriter Officers**

President: Janice Konstantinidis  
 Vice-President: **Vacant**  
 Secretary: Leonard Carpenter  
 Treasurer: Steve Derks  
 Program Director:  
     Janice Konstantinidis  
 Membership Coordinator: Jim Aarons  
 Critique Group Coordinator:  
     Patricia Gimer  
 Social Media/Publicity Coordinators:  
     Meagan Friberg &  
     Abigail Aarons  
 Simply Clear Submissions:  
     Jeannie Hundertmark  
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     Janice Konstantinidis  
 Web Assistant: Steve Derks  
 Newsletter: Lillian Brown  
 Art Director/Photographer:  
     Dennis Eamon Young  
 Member at Large: **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: slo-nightwriters@yahoo.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: October 9, at United Church of Christ on Los Osos Valley Road, 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. 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.