

OUR MAY 13TH MEETING

WRITING STRONG CHARACTERS

TUESDAY, MAY 13TH

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIAL HALL
2201 LAWTON ST. IN SLO

6:30 PM

What is the best kept secret of successful authors and screen-writers? Writing strong characters from the beginning. Stephen King states "I write all my characters first and let them guide the story."



Teri Bayus

This comprehensive presentation will teach you how to build your characters so strongly that the rest of your narrative will write itself. Teri will teach you how to build their personality, moral strengths and weaknesses. By the time the presentation is over, you will be able to answer any question or write any situation for your characters. This class is good for novelist, screenwriters or any writer wishing to enhance their writing skills.

Teri has earned a lot of praise for her writing and teaching ability. In this workshop, you'll knuckle down and do some serious work that'll pay off for both character development and plot momentum. All skill levels are welcome.

Check out Teri's website:

www.TeriBayus.com and find her on Facebook (Teri Bayus) and Twitter (@teribayus).

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Dennis Eamon Young

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: PERCHANCE TO DREAM

Life is but a dream. More correctly, life is but a series of dreams. Some of us are lucky enough to be surrounded by encouragement to pursue our dreams; others must wade through indifference and even insult to forge ahead. There are those who cannot face the odds and so they fall by the wayside, content to live a life of "If only." But there are those with such a strong belief or need that they will ignore the naysayers and the rejections until the goal has been achieved. Buckminster Fuller has stated that every child is born a genius, with all the tools needed to succeed. The only thing that changes that is the act of socialization.

On April 18, I had the pleasure of photographing a local writer, Dave Congalton, as his dream came to fruition. After years of writing and chasing his dream of having his story made into a movie, he finally stood on the stage of the Fremont Theatre to introduce that movie. He told the audience how he had faltered and almost lost hope at one point, but his wife Charlotte had been there, encouraging him to keep striving. There were many naysayers along the way, but Dave kept working at it and did not quit.

We have plenty of NightWriters toiling away at this very moment, tweaking storylines, pondering their character's next move, possibly re-writing complete chapters, dreaming about a day when they might see their creation become a real living entity. It may be a novel, a memoir, a movie script, or even an anthology of work, but now they have Dave's success story to keep them going. The point is in the work itself. We need to have the dream first, but then comes the work and the fortitude to keep on working until that moment of the dream's fulfillment. There is no substitute for the hard work that lies ahead, but know that it has been done before and you can do it, also.

NightWriters has a panoply of helping hands to offer. No writer need go it alone when there are writing workshops, clinics, on-line support, critique groups, writers conferences and even individual writers nearby. The writing community is a vibrant one, ready to embrace new writers, help add some polish to more experienced writers, or just add voice to a positive air you can inhale and gain strength from. Do not allow your dream to falter. It is up to you to constantly breathe life into your dreams, give them room to stretch and grow, provide the positive nutrients to keep them going. Do not listen to those who would drive a stake through the heart of a dream.

I have chased many dreams throughout the years. I have found that it becomes easier to believe in the success of each succeeding dream. Each dream teaches you new lessons concerning how to overcome a variety of obstacles, not only in writing, but across many different disciplines. Making a discovery while working on a piece of artwork will help me hone a new perspective in my photography, which may lead to a story idea. The term is cross-fertilization and an example is a story I am currently working on that came about because of a photograph I created over forty years ago. The Russian composer, Mussorgsky, saddled with grief over the death of a close artist friend, took inspiration from his late friend's art to create the masterpiece "Pictures At An Exhibition."

So dream on, all you beautiful dreamers. Get to work on all those stories the world is waiting to hear. Craft the dream; let no one dissuade you, nor keep you from your appointed creations. Only you can decide where the story takes us and how the characters will relate to our own dreams, for you are a dream weaver.

*Excelsior,
Dennis*

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 jandkvolkov@att.net and I'll send them a card from their SLO NightWriters family.

Kalila



ARE YOU FOLLOWING THE NW BLOG?

Be sure to check out our Blog for information, insights, encouragement, connections, etc. You'll find writing prompts, ideas, encouragements and lots more. Feel free to leave a comment on any of our posts. And join us on Twitter and LinkedIn, too!

Join us on our Blog: www.slonightwriters.com

You can also access the blog from our website: www.slonightwriters.org

SLO NIGHTWRITER “ROUND TABLES” TO START IN MAY!

Our newest offering for all NightWriter members is our “Round Table Discussions.” The Round Tables begin on Tuesday, May 13, and will run from 5:15 pm — 6:15 pm, just before our general meeting (which will begin at 6:30 pm). We’ll meet, learn, have fun, take a break and then reassemble for the general meeting with Teri Bayus.

This month, we offer two **Critique Tables**, staffed by experienced writers/critiquers, Terry Sanville and Susan Tuttle. They will listen to writing and give constructive feedback. If you wish to be critiqued, bring two copies of your work, one to read from and one for the critiquer. Observers are also welcome. If you’ve never attended a critique session before, this is a good time to come to watch, listen and learn. Critique protocols will be available for anyone who wants them or is interested in starting their own critique group.

We will also offer “**Setting Up Your Facebook Page**” with Jason Matthews. This is a hands-on workshop in setting up and using your Facebook page. Bring your laptop and an extension cord and Jason will walk you through the process. Social media is essential to building your platform. Start this Tuesday with Facebook.

Round Table Discussions **begin promptly at 5:15 pm**. Don’t go hungry—food and beverages are welcome!



Don’t forget!

SLO NIGHTWRITERS Meeting Time Has Moved Up by 1/2 Hour!

Join us for our informative and fun 2014 Meetings!

Our new location is the

Unitarian Universalist Social Hall

2201 Lawton Ave., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Near the Corner of South and Broad, Next to Meadow Park

Meetings now begin at 6:30 pm, and end at 8:30 pm

**Come at 5:15 pm for the Round Table Discussions and expand
your NightWriter Experience**

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

Diane Smith's 21-word story, *From Frost to Fingerpaint*, appeared in the Sprint 2014 issue of Magiccloud's From The Depths Literary Flash Fiction Magazine (www.magiccloud.com)

Beryl Reichenberg will be at the Mini Maker Faire in SLO on May 10 from 10 am - 3 pm, demonstrating how to fold and accordion book for children, along with readings from her children's books. On May 24, from 10 am - 4 pm, she will be at the Paso Artsfest in Paso Robles, with similar activities for children. She will also be selling her children's books.

Terry Sanville's short story "After A Long Silence" will appear in the Fall 2014 edition of Straylight Magazine, a print and online journal published by the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

"Cold Sheets," a flash fiction piece by **Terry Sanville**, will appear in an upcoming edition of The Potomac Review, a biannual print journal published by Montgomery College and the Paul Peck Humanities Institute (<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/EDU/Alt.aspx?id=1937>)

"A Sealed Fate," a short story by **Terry Sanville**, will appear in an upcoming edition of Crimespree, a pulpy print magazine out of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Terry Sanville's short story "Under A Darkening Sky" will be included in a short story anthology published by Fey Press, titled *Pets Are People Too*. Proceeds go to Techs for Pets, a nonprofit rescue group in Northern/Central CA. Terry's story about two ravens is written from the raven's POV and is intended for adult readers.

"The writer begins with the disorder of life and reduces it to some order before he can re-create it in words. He imitates then the rearrangement of life, not life itself—which is too vast, too chaotic. Life cannot be rendered in all its infinite complexity, and a picture of it in fiction, as we all know, is a selected image."

~Leon Surmelian

NW MEMBER BOOK LAUNCHES



Too Long Among The Dead, a novella by **Paul Alan Fahey**, was published in late April by JMS Books (www.jmsbooks.com)

Psychiatrist Haleigh Hugo thinks he's found the perfect setting for his experimental treatment plan—an isolated home in the middle of a small lake in the high Sierras. Dr. Hugo's office mate and life partner, Guy Sanford, is unconvinced that the benefits of the treatment plan outweigh the risks, but soon gives in to the charm and boundless enthusiasm of his lover.

Dr. Hugo's subjects are six female patients who have failed to make what he considers significant progress in one-to-one therapy. They all share something in common: grief over the loss of a loved one, a psychological barrier that prevents them from moving on.

The six patients, overseen by Dr. Hugo and Dr. Sanford, descend on Devonshire, a simple mountain home on the lake, for a weekend of intense therapy. Yet within the walls of the home lies a terrible and painful secret that haunts anyone who comes near.

←—————→

Sins of the Past, a suspense novel by **Susan Tuttle**, launches the week of May 10, 2014.

Sabrina Compton's sheltered life is shattered when her beloved husband is brutally slaughtered. And though their home has been ransacked, nothing appears to be missing. Unable to face the memories the house holds, Sabrina flees to her great-grandmother's cottage on Gaffe Island, off the coast of South Carolina. But the peace she tries to recover there is crushed by the revelations of an intrusive FBI agent, and her life is forever altered by the weight of her husband's devastating betrayal.

As a hurricane bears down on Gaffe Island, she discovers her husband's killer is now after her. Will Sabrina survive both the storm and the killer's rage? Will the presence of the F.B.I. agent be enough to protect her? Or are the sins of the past destined to destroy her, too?

Sins of the Past is available in print and ebook format on Amazon.com



"Critique Group Connections"



Anita E. Hunt

Critique Group Chair

NW Members—Please, email critique requests to: Anita Hunt, Critique Group Coordinator, hunt6465@charter.net. 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 Anita for assistance if needed. And, if you form a group, please let Anita know so she can list it on the website. She can also showcase the group's talent in the newsletter. Critique Group Guidelines are available on the website at www.slomightwriters.org.

***SLO NW cannot guarantee critique group formation or availability but do we 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:

Katie is seeking a critique group for YA and FICTION. She is interested in either a critique group, or 1:1 electronic peer exchange. She has some writing experience and prefers SLO City location. Contact Katie at: dreamsofcitylights@gmail.com.

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

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

Continued Next Page

Critique Group Connections, Continued

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: grimmpsych@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

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

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

Bill Bloom is seeking co-author / editor arrangements for two projects—one, an autobiography; the other, a book about Albert Einstein's wife. Any fee for service to be arranged between author and editor.

Contact Bill at 543-1910 or by email: clb4u2c@charter.net

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

Contact Griselda at grissilvarivera58@yahoo.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

"Fiction reveals truths that reality obscures."

~Jessamyn West



SinC CCC "Murder Panel": L-R: Marilyn Meredith, Sue McGinty, Barbara M. Hodges, Anthony Piazza, Dianne Emley, Susan Tuttle

SIN C PANEL ON MURDER

On Saturday, April 19, The Central Coast chapter of Sisters in Crime assembled at the Santa Maria Library to present a panel on Writing Mysteries.

NightWriters Sue McGinty, Barbara Hodges, Tony Piazza and Susan Tuttle joined fellow sisters Marilyn Meredith and Dianne Emley to talk murder and mayhem, discuss why readers love mysteries, answer questions and present their latest releases. Proceeds of the day benefitted the Santa Maria Library.

Quote of the Month

"Man is never a permanently harmonious whole. All of us are in a state of unstable equilibrium—the action in every story springs from this unbalance."

~Leon Surmelian
(contributed by Sharyl Heber)

Word of the Month "Ambage"

Definition: (N. Latin: *ambi*, both, around + *agere*, to drive) ambiguity; a style that involves indirect ways of expressing things

Synonyms: circumlocution, periphrasis, parisology, double entendre

Usage: The candidates seemed to specialize in ambage during the debate, leaving their constituents as confused as ever.

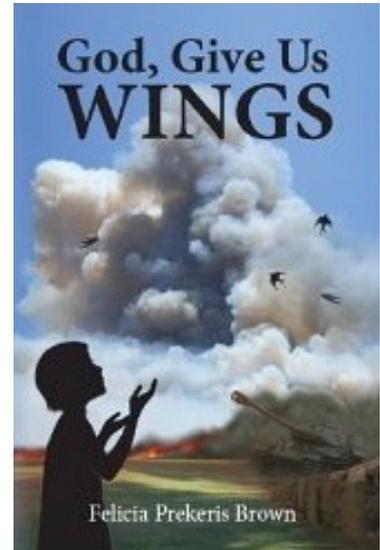
LOCAL WRITER ANNOUNCES BOOK LAUNCH

Felicia Prekeris Brown will be at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, May 21 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm to present her memoir, *God, Give Us Wings*. After retiring from her job as chief probate court investigator, she wrote the story of her childhood, when her heart longed for a doll, but circumstances required she worry about survival.

Set in Europe during World War II, the book tells of the small family's struggle to survive first the Soviet occupation of Lithuania, then the bitter years under the Nazis. When their home is destroyed, the parents leave all they have known in order to give their daughters a chance at life as they scavenge and beg their way through the ravaged lands of Prussia and Poland, into Germany and beyond.

Come meet the woman who lived through this ordeal on May 21 at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall from 7:00-9:00 pm.

God, Give Us Wings is available in both print and ebook format on Amazon.com.



SLO NW e↔Line Edit Exchange

Can't find a critique group? Don't have time for meetings? Have specific needs for feedback on your work? Our Electronic Peer Review Line Edit Exchange is perfect for out-of-town members, or those with restricted time schedules.

All E-Exchange Partners are SLO NW members.

- Exchange views with other writers
- No fees charged, no credit expected or required.
- Participants contact each other, set their own rules and time frames.
- Use your own style of editing / commenting.
- If you don't find value in the feedback, try someone else on the list.

To be added, **contact Anita Hunt** (hunt6465@charter.net) with: Your Name, Email, Genre (if you desire a specific one), Skill Level (if you require a specific level). She will add you to the list. Then you can reach out on a one-to-one basis and find the right writing partner for you.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE CONNECTION

TOLOSA PRESS UPDATE

As you have probably already heard, Judy Guarnera has stepped down from managing the NightWriter column at Tolosa Press. Judy has done an amazing job. Thanks to her guidance, encouragement and effort, about 150 columns have been featured in Tolosa Press publications in the past five years. I hope I won't disappoint you as I take over and the number of published columns keeps on growing.



*Andrea Chmelik
Member-at-Large*

Recently, there have been changes in ownership of Tolosa Press. You may have noticed that it has been a while since you have seen a NightWriter column in their publications. The good news is that Tolosa Press is still interested in publishing the works from our group. The not so good news (for those of you who submit) is that the decision whether or not the column will be featured is based on the space available, which changes every week. This is why Tolosa can't guarantee when they will be able to include your story in their publications.

If you have never submitted for Tolosa, I encourage you to do so. The process is simple. Your story will be forwarded to the editorial committee. Based on their feedback, your story will be either forwarded to the Tolosa editor or returned to you for edits or revisions. While we can't guarantee that the stories we send to Tolosa will be published, we have a great track record. We will keep you informed about the process and let you know once your work is in print.

Please, note that there have been certain changes in the submission guidelines:

Tolosa Press Submission Guidelines:

To be eligible to submit, your NightWriter dues must be current.

- Use standard manuscript format:
- Double space; readable 12 point font such as Courier, Arial, Century, etc.

Insert a **Header**, which should include:

- Title · Last name · Word count · Page number · Genre.

Word limit (strict): 500-650. Please, do not submit more than 650 words.

The Tolosa Press Publisher prefers pieces that grab the readers and keep them interested until the end. No "how to write" articles or poetry will be accepted.

WANTED:

- Short story/Creative Nonfiction with Human Interest

Submissions should be sent to: chmelik.andrea@gmail.com. Put "Tolosa Call for

Submissions” in your subject line. Send the submission as an attachment, **not in the body of the e-mail**. Include a two sentence bio and insert it at the bottom of your submission, **even if you have submitted before**.

All submissions should be the original work of the author. Note: You may submit previously published or submitted material if it was not published locally.

NightWriters reserves the right to edit submissions. Whenever time allows, the author will have the opportunity to approve changes.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at chmelik.andrea@gmail.com.

Yours, *Andrea Chmelik*

chmelik.andrea@gmail.com

THE MAY NW ONLINE BOOK CLUB SELECTION

No Place Like Home by a NightWriter [Anne R. Allen](#) is our pick for the month of May. Comedy with a conscience: The uber-rich editor of Home decorating magazine loses everything, including her Ponzi-schemer husband, when their luxury wine-country home mysteriously goes up in flames.

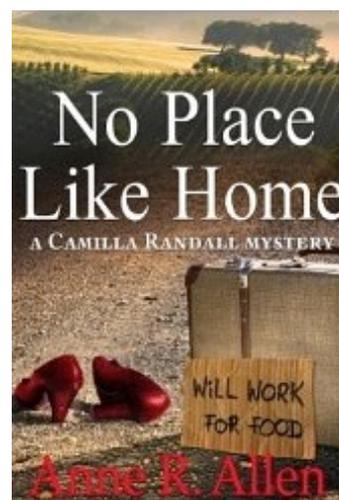
But that's just the beginning of Doria's problems. Homeless, destitute, presumed dead and branded a criminal, the once-proud Doria has a crash course in how the other half lives. Meanwhile, reluctant sleuth Camilla Randall is facing homelessness and destitution too, as Doria's husband's schemes unravel and take down innocent bystanders along the way. When the mysterious Mr X. turns up at Camilla's

bookstore expressing concern for the local homeless, Camilla is smitten. By now one might think once smitten, twice shy, but for Camilla, the search for love is a constant triumph of hope over experience.

Anne R. Allen is the author of 7 rom-com mysteries published by MWiDP and Kotu Beach Press: *Food of Love*, *The Lady of The Lakewood Diner*, and *The Gatsby Game*, plus the Camilla Randall Mysteries: *The Best Revenge*, *Ghostwriters In The Sky*, *Sherwood, LTD*, and *No Place Like Home*. She co-authored *How To Be a Writer In The E-Age!* with *Pay It Forward* author Catherine Ryan Hyde.

Anne R. Allen's Blog (which she shares with New York Times bestselling author Ruth Harris) was named one of the Best 101 Websites for Writers by Writers Digest. It was also a finalist in the IBBA for Best Publishing Industry Blog by Goodreads and the Association of American Publishers.

No Place Like Home is available in both print and Kindle on Amazon.com.





SLO NightWriters
25th Annual Writing Contest
The 2014 Golden Quill Awards

In association with

Cuesta College Central Coast Writer's Conference

This year's theme: Déjà vu

Visit www.slonightwriters.org for information and entry forms

1st Place Prize \$750 for each category

2nd Place Prize \$400 for each category

Honorable Mention Certificates

2 Categories

Short Story/Memoir 1,000 word limit

Poetry 40 line limit



All Writers Welcome

Entries accepted April 1 - June 30, 2014

Entry Fee \$15

SLO NightWriters has teamed up with the Central Coast Writers Conference. Our contest is still ours, still run by us, but for the first time we will reveal the winners at the Conference itself. First place winners will read their winning entries to the faculty and conference attendees. And First place winners in this year's contest will be awarded **free entry to the Central Coast Writer's Conference** this September, a \$140.00 value!



San Luis Obispo NightWriters
Presents their 25th Annual Writing Contest

in association with the 30th Annual
**Cuesta College Central Coast
Writers Conference**

The 2014 Golden Quill Awards

Writers everywhere are welcome!

Choose from 2 Categories:

- Short Story/Memoir (1,000 word limit)
- Poetry (40 line limit)



Entries accepted from April 1st to June 30th, 2014

1st Place Prize-**\$750** for each category 2nd Place Price-**\$400** for each category
Honorable Mention Certificates

Entries must include the words “Déjà vu” AND depict the theme (Interpret as broadly as you like)

Entry Fee - \$15 per entry

You may enter in more than one category and with as many entries as you like.

Go to www.slomightwriters.org for payment and contest information.

SHORT STORY/MEMOIR 1,000 max word limit - **must be double spaced** and, where applicable, will be judged on: 1) Beginning / Ending, 2) Character, 3) Dialogue, 4) Narrative Voice & Point of View,

5) Description of Setting, 6) Emotional Impact, 7) Plot / Story Arc, 8) Use of Language

POETRY 40 line max limit - **may be creatively spaced and formatted** and, where applicable, will be judged on: 1) Power/Emotional Impact, 2) Message, 3) Form and Flow, 4) Use of Language

All rights belong to the author. SLO NightWriters may request permission to announce and publish the winning entries on its website and other media.

For a complete set of Rules and Format Guidelines see below or visit our website at:

www.slomightwriters.org

Contest Entrants qualify for the special Early Bird rate at the 30th Annual Cuesta College Central Coast Writers Conference, September 19-20, 2014 in San Luis Obispo, CA, featuring keynote speaker, Anne Perry. Attendance at the CCWC is optional. First place winners will be given free entries into the conference (\$140 value each). For details, visit: www.communityprograms.net

REVIEW: APRIL MEMOIR MEETING

This was our first time meeting from 6:30-8:30. It was nice to start in the daylight and get home at an earlier hour. No round tables this time. We sat in chairs auditorium-style because our main speaker had been so favorably promoted- she did not disappoint.

Michelle Theall's book *Teaching the Cat to Sit: A Memoir* was released on February 28, 2014. She told us we should have a fifteen-second memorized pitch for every book we write, but stressed the importance of having one for memoirs so we don't emotionally stumble over the painful parts of our lives every time we are asked what our



By Jan Alarcon



book is about. Her fifteen-second pitch: "Growing up gay and Catholic in the Bible Belt". This memoir documents Michelle's lifetime struggle to gain her mother's acceptance and, in alternate chapters, documents Michelle's response to the Catholic Church after her adopted child was expelled from parochial school, along all the other students of gay parents. You will resonate with her book if the world has ever judged you as less-than, regardless of what your specific struggle may have been.

Michelle also gave us great tips on how to write our own memoirs. I listened as best as I could; but honestly, a lot of my mind was tied up imagining vivid ways to jump into Michelle's life and make everything better. Boy, did I get a lot of people to say they were really, really sorry to her! However, I did remember her saying that you are the protagonist in your memoir and you want to keep the reader wondering what will happen next. She recommends your memoir follow the same basic story structure novels follow: opening scene; crisis; cliff hanger; rock bottom; climax; resolution.

Michelle suggested putting the timeline of your life



on a spread sheet and writing down every single event that had an impact on you. Stand back, assess, and circle the themes. I did this as soon as I got home and recommend it to all. I had no idea how many car accidents had been pivot points in my life.

I was not the only one deeply moved by Michelle’s story. We stood in line the entire break to buy her book. She sold out. I overheard several people asking Michelle and her partner to join their church, promising a warm welcome.

We reconvened. Before Michelle answered our questions, Nightwriter Mike Price read a short original work and Anne Schoeder told us about her newly-published book in kudos.

Mike Price read his hilarious piece “Denial” about children finding a gray hair on their grandfather’s head. (Not quite sure it was autobiographical—I was sitting behind a column at the time. I almost asked Mike at later and then decided a lady doesn’t ask; a gentleman doesn’t tell.) Grandpa believed it was just a “pigment of their imagination”



Anne shows her new release, *Cholama Moon*



Mike holds us all spellbound



because his driver’s license said his hair was brown. One granddaughter got caught between her grandpa’s denial and her father’s blunt admission of the truth. The girl had to decide if she was Grandpa’s girl or Daddy’s girl. That line has stayed with me. Grandpa finally realized that he was deceiving everyone but himself. Mike, you got the greatest compliment a comedy writer can have: people were laughing at your story even after you had sat down.

We were delighted to welcome back Anne Schoeder. Anne is a long-standing member of Nightwriters who recently moved to Southern Oregon. Anne’s historical western *Cholama*



Moon was released on March 23, 2014. Cholama Moon Homesteaders struggle to establish ranches in Central California in the 1870s, amid earthquakes, drought, banditos, remoteness and human failing. Anne's tale includes information about the Central Coast Salinan Indians garnered from her extensive research. Anne discovered that very little had been written about this group and is hopeful that her books (this is the first in a series) will further

strengthen the pride of present-day Salinans by informing them of their rich history. Anne would like this book series will put the Central Coast on the literary map the same way that Steinbeck put the Salinas Valley there by writing *East of Eden*. You are well on your way Anne! I can't wait to read your book.

Then back to our main speaker. Michelle excelled the hard challenge of responding coherently and compassionately to random audience

questions. Her relationship with her mother has not healed. She considers herself a Catholic because "once one always one" but she now attends service at the United Church of Christ, a welcoming church. Her partner/co-parent approved of the memoir but asked that her name and their child's be changed and that their house be protected by a security system. The pope has not yet apologized. She remains hopeful that her mother will someday come around and that her father and sister will follow.

I will never forget her explanation for the book's title. When she was a child she was lonely and wished she had a dog to play with. With lots of time on her hands, she taught her cat to perform dog-tricks. Because her cat loved her, she tried to learn those tricks as best she could. Michelle, out of love for her mother, did the best she could to the "straight-tricks" her mother asked of her.

It was a powerful evening. I hope you get a chance to read Michelle's book. But I really hope you have the honor of hearing her speak. No one can listen to Michelle Theall tell her story and not be changed.



Jan Alarcan

FLASH FICTION NEWSLETTER

The Flash Fiction Flash Newsletter, The Newsletter for Flash Fiction Writers, edited by flash fiction guru Pamelyn Casto, is devoted to markets, contests and publishing news for short literature of 1,500 words or fewer—including flash fiction short-short fiction, prose poetry, haibun, flash memoirs, flash creative nonfiction and flash plays. Subscribe by email to Pam Casto: FlashFictionFlash-Subscribe@yahoogroups.com

In each issue, in addition to links to Pamelyn Casto's popular Flash Fiction Blog (flashfictionblog.blogspot.com) and her Flash Fiction Markets Blog (flashfictionii.blogspot.com), you will find listings of Flash Fiction Literature Markets (paying), Flash Literature Contests/Awards, Flash Fiction Publishing News, Articles on Flash Fiction, and instructions on how to send in your Flash Fiction/Flash Literature news. Here's a sampling of paying markets (paying means an honorarium, and/or subscription, and/or contributor's copy) taken from the current issue:

<http://FlashFictionOnline.com/submit.html>: stories from 500-1,000 words. Pays \$50/story

<http://Lamplightmagazine.com/submissions>: dark fiction. Pays \$150/stories 2,000-7,000 words; \$50 for flash of 1,000 or less.

<http://Matterpress.com/submissions>: Journal for Compressed Creative Arts accepts fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, mixed media, visual arts and even kitchen sinks if they are compressed in some way. Publishes very tiny compressed prose creations of 60 words or less. \$50/accepted piece w/signed contract. Closing date: June 15, 2014

http://thirdwednesday.org/looking_for.htm: Short-shorts of no more than 1,500 words. No genre fiction or children's fiction. Send 1-2 stories/submission. Pays one contributor copy plus \$3-\$5 honorarium.

<http://www.sormag.com/guidelines.htm>: pays \$25 for accepted short romance stories, 500-1,500 words. All genres except erotica

Awards/Contests

<http://www.cloudbankbooks.com/Contest.html>: \$200 prize for one poem or short prose piece of 500 words or fewer. Entry fee \$15 covers 5 poems or flash fiction pieces. Deadline: May 31, 2014

<http://www.literal-latte.com/contests/short-short-contest>: Entry fee \$10 for up to 3 short shorts or \$15 for up to 6 short shorts. All entries considered for publication. First prize \$500; unpublished shorts of 2,000 words or fewer. Ongoing deadline.

<http://talkingwriting.com/contests>: Entry fee \$15, deadline October 1, 2014, judged by Dinty W. Moore, editor of Brevity Magazine. Each winner receives \$250 and publication. Very short, very powerful creative nonfiction, essay or memoir, 500 word limit.

SPOTLIGHT ON... LIZ RODERICK

Here is the first of a series of Spotlight Articles on NightWriter members. Mike's goal is to introduce members to each other to help facilitate networking. After all, that's what NightWriters is all about, right?

Take it away, Mike!

NW: *Who are you?*

ER: My name is Elizabeth Roderick, I usually go by Liz. I just moved here from Seattle, with my husband, who has a tenure-track job at Cal Poly. I have a daughter who is ten, and is currently homeschooled.

I've written since I was young, but mostly put it aside several years ago. But when we moved here last September, I had an idea in my head for a story. The characters and their little world grabbed me, and wouldn't let me go. So I started writing. And writing and writing and writing, just letting the characters interact, letting the story play out. Now, eight months and 400,000 words later, I just started my sixth novel. I'm currently so involved with my characters that it's hard to pull my head out of my story long enough to think about other things, such as eating, or taking a shower.



by Mike Price

NW: *Who is your greatest inspiration?*

ER: I find inspiration in people who are passionate about what they do, even while experiencing great adversity. Their philosophy and experiences inspire me and sustain me in tough times. But I find inspiration in everyone; I believe everyone is a character with a story, and I want to write each story, even the dark ones with unhappy endings.

NW: *What genre do you like to write?*

ER: My current series of books is hard to pigeonhole because I didn't write it for the market (and probably will be tougher to sell than a Detroit condo). Technically, I would call it a young adult urban fantasy series, but the fourth book in the series is a new adult fantasy book (the MC is a bit older, the themes are more adult). My favorite parts lean heavily on the action/adventure genre and have several Elmore Leonard-esque organized crime vignettes.

I also write little short autobiographical sketches, and poetry (well, I guess they'd more appropriately be called song lyrics). So, in short, I love writing pretty much everything that I've tried so far, and I'm sure I'll love writing everything that I try in the future.

NW: *Do you have a day job?*

ER: I hope I don't get kicked out of the NightWriters for this, but nope! Not me! I was a paralegal in Washington State for 13 years, but now my lovely husband allows me to be a stay-at-home mom. Now I amuse myself by writing my butt off. I also keep busy with black belt-

level home economics; growing our vegetables, raising chickens, and making bread, pasta, and tortillas from scratch, using bulk ingredients.

NW: *How does your family support you in your writing?*

ER: FINANCIALLY. They have also come to terms with the fact that I'm going to be sitting in front of my computer a lot. I've always been a fairly introverted person, so it's not a huge adjustment. I always make time for us to do fun stuff together.

I also have some beta readers in my extended family. It helps me, emotionally at least, that my beta readers tend to tear through the books and start asking me for the next one, sometimes just a day or two after I've sent it to them. A couple of people have told their friends, and so I get emails from people I don't know, asking if they can read my stories. It's not much help with regard to making my writing better, since I get very few actual critiques, but I know that, even if I'm not the best writer, I'm at least able to convey enough of my love of my story to keep others interested. I know I'm not alone in my fantasy world and that there's something compelling about it to people besides me.

NW: *How does NightWriters help you?*

ER: Let me start by saying that I only joined about a month ago. The first meeting I went to was the one where Ms. Theall spoke. The moment I walked in, I felt comfortable. Many people went out of their way to make me feel welcome. And I'm a pretty shy gal (unless I'm on stage), so it was a surprise to me, how at home I felt. Not to mention that the guest speaker herself was wonderful. I went home and said to my husband, "I think these may be my peeps!"

Then I started hooking up with a couple of NightWriters folks to do critique partnerships, which is turning out really fun, and I went to the recent meeting to set up new critique groups. I am excited about getting actual writers to help me with my work (as well as getting to read theirs).

Tom Snow took me aside after the critique group meeting, loaned me a resource book, and spoke to me about some of the issues with regards to getting an agent, and self-publishing. Then a couple of the other folks just sat and talked with me about writing, life, and everything. For a shy gal who is new to town and doesn't get out much, as well as someone who is new to this writing world, you can't know how much all of this means to me. Also, the fact that you asked me to do this spotlight thing. I actually cried on the way home, it made me so happy. I can admit that because I'm a girl.



Liz Roderick

NW: *How do you handle rejection letters?*

ER: Better than I thought. So far, I've sent queries out to eight or ten agents. I've gotten two form rejections, and I think at this point I can write off the other ones as passes, as well. The first rejection was a bit hard, even though the law of averages said it was coming, but the truth is, I haven't actually believed any of those agents would be interested. None of them has sold anything even remotely like mine (I'm having a hard time figuring out what my audience would really be, and I haven't found any books I really think are similar). It also helps that I really believe in my story, my characters, and my little world. It doesn't matter if agents reject me, because I'm having the most fun I've ever had writing this series. If nothing else, I've created something I love.

People keep telling me that, eventually, I'll sell it, that it will find a home, and I hope they're right. I hope that NightWriters can help me improve my writing and polish my query. Perhaps someone will even know of a book with a similar market so that I can pitch to that agent. Who knows? So, I won't let rejections get me down. I'll keep trying.

NW: *Tell us something surprising about yourself.*

ER: I earned my undergraduate degree in Spanish and Organic Agriculture at The Evergreen State College. I also took two years of courses to get the prereqs for a doctorate program in chemistry, but my husband ultimately talked me out of it. If we were both academics, my education and later my career would likely have separated us, due to the difficulties of finding employment in the same locale. And he's an awesome dude, so I played the submissive wife and quit school, though I love chemistry to death. So I guess that's surprising, a fantasy writer who loves chemistry.

NW: *Besides writing, what are your other hobbies?*

ER: I play music, though I left my bands behind when I moved, and haven't put one together here yet. I mostly play guitar, but bass is my favorite, and I also did a lot of keyboard and vocals in my bands before. I have a music website, pimentointhehole.com. I also garden, love to go backpacking, and I am told I'm quite skilled at cooking and baking.



NW: *Thank you, Liz, for stepping into the spotlight. In behalf of all of us, welcome to the club.*

←—————→

“Making people believe the unbelievable is no trick; it’s work. ... Belief and reader absorption come in the details: An overturned tricycle in the gutter of an abandoned neighborhood can stand for everything.”

~Stephen King

5 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL OR BOOK TO AN EDITOR

From Debra Englander, freelance editor,
writer and author coach

The book business still has rules, and if you follow them your chances for success are greater. Here are 5 strategies that will help improve your chances with an editor:

1. **Do Your Homework:** Seems obvious, but too many writers simply “wing it” when submitting a project. Always check the agency’s and editor’s/agent’s guidelines and follow them. Fill out the questionnaire, format the piece according to specs, make sure the agent handles your genre. The reason? If you can’t follow submission guidelines, the editor/agent will assume you won’t be able to listen to editorial suggestions or other substantive advice.

2. **Be Honest:** If you already have self-published the book, how many copies actually sold, and how many were give-aways? What was the sale price? It’s too easy these days to check sales figures, so don’t fudge or exaggerate. Be honest about sales channels, countries sold in, formats, etc. Some publishers will jump on a well-selling self-published book. Others will not. But not being honest about sales will backfire on you in the end.

3. **Never Claim There Is No Competition:** Virtually every book has competition and it’s fairly easy to find similar or related titles on Amazon.com and other online retailers. Use the “search inside” tool at Amazon to find at least 4 to 6 competitive titles for your proposal. Then write a short paragraph on each on how your book differs from it, and why your book is needed—without saying yours is the “latest and greatest.”

4. **Plan Your Promotion and Publicity/Author Platform:** This is the most important part of your pitch. You will have to do the lion’s share of the publicity and marketing yourself and how prepared you are to do it weighs heavily in the decision whether to take you on or not. Thinking about marketing at the time of publication is too late. Build your platform while you are still working on the book. Use social media to the fullest; blog; produce a newsletter; guest blog; do blog tours. Then you can be specific about your platform. Discuss how many subscribers/followers you have, how many guest spots you’ve done and where. If you speak, include a calendar of your engagements for the past 6 months by venue and number of attendees.

5. **Know Why You Want To Write A Book:** Writing, marketing and selling a book takes an enormous amount of time. What is motivating you to write your book? Can you use it in conjunction with your job or business? Does it fill a niche in the market? Do you have a plan for publishing (self, partner or traditional)? Is your platform strong enough, or do you need more time before you actually take the next step toward publication?

PROGRAMS AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEES

NW is in need of **Programs and Publicity Committee Members for 2014**. Committee members work together to make sure our monthly meetings, contest and other NW events are distributed properly through the social media / print / air venues. Interested in exploring (not committing to, just further getting information) this opportunity further? Drop us a line at slonightwriters@yahoo.com or contact your Member-at-Large, Andrea Chmelik at chmelik.andrea@gmail.com.

NEWSLETTER POSITIONS OPEN

WordSmiths is looking for writers to help with the editing process (checking for typos, etc.) of the NightWriters Newsletter. Health considerations are making it difficult for the present editor to fulfill deadlines. If you have editing expertise—or would like to develop that skill—please consider helping out. Also, WordSmiths is looking for columnists, either occasional or monthly. We have a distribution of over 200, which is great for your writing resume. Send enquiries to: Newsletter Editor at aim2write@yahoo.com or slonightwriters@yahoo.com. Be sure to put “Newsletter Editing/Column” in the **subject line**.

VICE PRESIDENT NEEDED

We are looking for someone to fill the position of Vice President on our Board of Directors. Our current Vice President, Sharyl Heber, has stepped down after filling the office with grace and competence. The Vice President’s duties are simple. The Vice President attends monthly Board meetings and votes on issues; he/she fills in if the President is not able to attend board or general meetings (might happen once or twice a year, if at all), and serves as backup for other board positions in emergency situations (hasn’t happened yet!). The Vice President also has the **option** of in stepping as President when the presiding President’s term is up. If you are interested in exploring this position, please contact NightWriters, with “VP” in the subject line: slonightwriters@yahoo.com

GREAT BEGINNINGS

...INFORMATION FOR BEGINNING WRITERS (AND EVERYONE ELSE TOO)

15 THINGS A WRITER SHOULD NEVER DO

Excerpted from: Zachary Petit, Writer's Digest Blog

1. **Don't assume there is a single path or playbook writers must follow:** Do what works best for you. Listen to advice, but do what our instincts say is right.
2. **Don't write like your idols:** Learn from the masters, but develop your own unique voice.
3. **Don't get involved in debates about process:** Outline or not, write what you know or not, edit as you go or at the end—do what works for you and don't worry about the rest.
4. **Don't put all your eggs in one basket when pitching:** Always be working on your next book or idea while selling the one you just finished.
5. **Don't be dishonest, rude or hostile:** publishing is a small world. Word spreads when an author is hard to work with, or nasty or lies. Remain gossip free.
6. **Don't hate anyone who gives you feedback:** You won't ever please everyone all the time. There's value in differing opinions. Accept what has value, recognize recurring issues and toss aside what doesn't work or fit. Being open to criticism only makes you a better writer.
7. **Don't be susceptible to online trolls:** Trolls post sociopathic comments just to do so. It's not personal, so simply ignore them. Don't add fuel to their fire by commenting back. Ever.
8. **Don't ever forget the basics:** spelling, grammar, punctuation are the foundation that keep us from being sent straight to the circular file. Always attend to the basics.
9. **Don't write to satisfy a specific market to make a quick buck:** By the time the book is ready, chances are the trend will have passed. Write the story that inspires your heart and soul.
10. **Don't envy another writer's success:** Even if another writer has a book on the best-seller list, it's no guarantee of future success. And that writer's success doesn't infringe on yours. It's okay to celebrate it and then keep working toward your own success.
11. **Don't ever assume it's easy:** It takes years and lots of manuscripts-in-the-drawer before you will get one on the bookstore shelves. Even overnight successes often fail in the long run.
12. **Don't forget to go out once in a while:** Writing is a reflection of life, so go out and live it. It's the best way to get fodder for your next story. And the next, and the next...
13. **Don't discount the teaching power of a good read:** Want to know how to do it right? Keep your bookshelf well-stocked and learn from those who have "made it."
14. **Don't be afraid to give up... on a specific piece:** Sometimes a story just won't work. Don't spend years flogging that dead horse. If you can't fix it, move on to the next one.
15. **But don't ever really give up:** Writers write, it's the way we're made. There's always a story itching to get out, words that just have to be put on paper, a success that's just around the corner. Revel in who you are and enjoy the journey.

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

President: Dennis Eamon Young
Vice-President: * **Position Open**
Secretary: Carol Schmidt
Treasurer: Susan Tuttle
Program Director: Jeannie Bruenning
Contest Committee Chair: Tom Snow
Publicity Director: Randy Ross
Membership Director: Hanje Richards
Critique Group Coordinator: Anita Hunt
Member-At-Large: Andrea Chmelik
Writers' Workshops Coordinator: Anita Hunt
Tolosa Press Submission Manager: Judy Guarnera
Welcome Committee: Hanje Richards
Sunshine Chair: Kalila Volkov
Website Master: Janice Konstantinidis
Web Assistant: Lila Bhuta
Newsletter: Susan Tuttle
Art Director: Dennis Eamon Young
Assistant Secretary: Janice Konstantinidis
Board Assistants: Sharyl Heber, Rebecca Waddell
NW Historian: Sharyl Heber

About Our Monthly Meetings

NightWriters' Evening Meetings are on the second Tuesday of every month, year round. We encourage interested visitors to join us at 7:00 pm. Admission is free; refreshments are served.

Next Meeting: May 13th, 6:30 pm, at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Social Hall, 2201 Lawton Avenue, San Luis Obispo.

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.sltonightwriters.org

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:

Email all correspondence to: slonightwriters@yahoo.com or snail mail to: SLO NightWriters PO Box 6241 Los Osos, CA 93412-6241. We must have your **current email address** in order to send the Newsletter and other important NW announcements.

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 "for newsletter" and send to: slonightwriters@yahoo.com

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.

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!

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

CRITIQUE GROUPS LISTING

NW Critique Groups are a wonderful benefit of NW Membership. Some groups are full, but many welcome visitors. Always contact the group leader listed for specific information regarding group availability and visiting options. 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! Contact **Anita Hunt, Critique Group Coordinator** to list your critique group and critique needs in the NW Newsletter and on the NW Web site. hunt6465@charter.net

Can't find an existing group? START ONE. It's easy! If you're new at this, don't be intimidated. It's fun and there are no lofty requisites. All it takes is two or more folks committed to reading/hearing the work of others and providing honest, constructive feedback. Critique groups are not teaching sessions. They are writers learning from reading and critiquing each others' works. Effective formats may include exchanging the review/editing service by mail or electronically, or meeting face-to-face and reading aloud to each other, or any combination that works for the group. One of our groups takes a lesson/learning approach and does practice writing exercises every meeting. Some groups focus on a particular genre; others accept all kinds of writing. Each group is different depending on their needs and interests. **Group members set their own times, dates, meeting locations, and parameters.** We have **Critique Group Guidelines** on our website to help get you started and we can provide a mentor to attend a few sessions if needed. www.slonightwriter.org. Contact slonightwriter@yahoo.com or Anita Hunt Critique Group Coordinator (hunt6465@charter.net) with your critique needs and genres and she'll do her best to assist

CRITIQUE GROUPS WITH OPENINGS

POETRY CRITIQUE GROUP FORMING

Poetry Critique Group Emerging! Any poet can join. Any poet can benefit from input of a group, regardless of experience. Call and together we can set time and place to meet.

CURRENTLY OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS

Contact: Irene Chadwick, 481-3824
irenekooi@gmail.com

'JUST US' CHILDREN'S BOOK CRITIQUE

Meets in the South County. Critiqued at a fast pace, in a process where members critique each other's writing electronically, followed by a face-to-face meeting twice a month. **Meetings are held 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 10 am.** Contact moderator for details and directions.

CURRENTLY OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS

Moderator: Lili Sinclair, 904-9697
liliasinclair@gmail.com

NORTH COUNTY GROUP

Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 2:00-5:00 pm (subject to change). Adult and children's fiction and nonfiction. No genre or skill level restrictions. Meets in Paso Robles.

CURRENTLY OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS

Moderator: Lillian Brown, 215-6107
lilliofslo@aol.com

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

CRITIQUE GROUPS LISTING

CRITIQUE GROUPS WITH OPENINGS

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

What If? Writing Group III (Monday Evening Group)

Meets every **MOnday evening in Los Osos from 6:30 to 8:30 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 (gleaned from a variety of published authors), these sessions take writers through the process of writing fiction from inception of idea to the final resolution. This group is for all fiction/non-fiction 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 fee involved for this class to cover materials.

CURRENTLY OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS.

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

NEW GROUPS FORMING!

ADULT NOVELS

Lili Sinclaire is considering **FORMING A NEW GROUP** for **ADULT NOVELS** in a process where members critique each other's writing electronically, followed by a face- to-face meeting.

Contact: Lili Sinclaire, 904-9697
liliasinclaire@gmail.com

CRITIQUE GROUPS LISTING

FULL CRITIQUE GROUPS: CALL TO VISIT

PISMO WEDNESDAY GROUP

New group began Meeting on May 1. 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

LO PROSE

Meets in **Los Osos on the first and third Wednesdays at 7pm till usually 10pm.** Charlie Perryess and Lorie Brallier 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
Lorie Brallier, 528-8845

LONG STORY SHORT

Flash Fiction/Nonfiction only meets the **2nd & 4th Fridays every month, from 10 am to 12 noon** in Arroyo Grande. Bring paper and pencil, or your laptop if you are so inclined—flash pieces, 1000 word strict maximum.

CURRENTLY FULL – NOT OPEN TO NEW

MEMBERS – call or email Diane to be placed on a waiting list.

Moderator: Diane Smith 858-414-0070
mdcomposes@yahoo.com

NOVEL IDEA

Meets twice monthly on the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays in San Luis Obispo**, dealing with book-length works. The group is fully committed to helping one another craft material in the chosen genres with helpful critiques and encouragement. Marketing techniques are part of the on-going exchange. We are currently full but welcome one-time guests to observe how our group functions in the hope of encouraging establishment of new groups. **CURRENTLY FULL – NOT OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS**

Moderator: Barbara Wolcott, 543-5240

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. **CURRENTLY FULL — NOT OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS**

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

CRITIQUE GROUPS LISTING

FULL CRITIQUE GROUPS: CALL TO VISIT

SOUTH COUNTY WRITERS

Meets on the **second and fourth Saturdays from 9:30 AM to noon in Grover Beach**. This group thrives on variety, writing short stories, articles, poetry and novels, all genres from fiction to biography and memoirs. Members exchange work by email at least one week before the meeting in order to receive in-depth critiques aimed at eliminating weaknesses and increasing strengths in everything from plot and character development to grammar and proper manuscript preparation. Intermediate to advanced writers are welcome. We meet in a casual and fun atmosphere and are serious about fully developing each member's writing talent, whether for publication or self-satisfaction. Visitors are always welcome.

CURRENTLY FULL – NOT OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS

Moderator: Judy Guarnera, 474-9598
j.guarnera@sbcglobal.net

What If? Writing Group I (a.m. Group)

Meets **every Wednesday morning in Grover Beach 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 (gleaned from a variety of published authors), these sessions take writers through the process of writing fiction from inception of idea to the final resolution. This group is for all fiction/non-fiction 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 fee involved for this class to cover materials.

CURRENTLY FULL—NOT OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS. Visitors welcome

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

WHAT IF? WRITING GROUP II (pm Group)

For all writers of fiction and creative non-fiction. Meets **every Wednesday in Los Osos from 3:00 pm to 5:00 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 (gleaned from a variety of published authors), 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 fee involved for this class to cover materials.

CURRENTLY FULL—NOT OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS: Visitors Welcome

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