

## OUR NOVEMBER 12TH MEETING

### POEM OR NOVEL:

## WRITE MORE IN NOVEMBER

Our November meeting features SLO Poetry and SLO NightWriters NaNoWriMo!

In celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual San Luis Obispo Poetry Festival, we welcome with major kudos for SLO County's current Poet Laureate and SLO NightWriter member, Jerry Douglas Smith. He will share his duties and activities as the reigning poet laureate for 2013-2014 and update us on the festival activities still to happen in November. Hosted by Corners of the Mouth in conjunction with Cal Poly University WriterSpeak, the events are funded in part by Cal Poly WriterSpeak, The Annual San Luis Obispo Poetry Festival /Corners of the Mouth, and Poets and Writers Inc., through a major grant received from the James W.



*Jerry Douglas Smith*

Irvine Foundation. Note the SLO Poetry Festival schedule at [www.languageofthesoul.org](http://www.languageofthesoul.org).

Jerry has invited two additional poets participating in the festival, Beverly Boyd and Nixon Borah, to offer us selected poetry readings.

A little more about Jerry Douglas Smith: he actually hated poetry in high school then began writing poetry after the death of his mother. He's an avid outdoorsman and fisherman. Smith states, "What I enjoy in a movie or book is being taken to a place I never imagined. "I think if a poet or a writer does their job, (they have) the chance to transport someone to another

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#### Coming up...

Nov. 12: NW Meeting

Dec. 10: Holiday Event

2014

Jan. 14: Flash Fiction

Feb. 11: Paula Huston

situation and make it real.” Jerry recently presented at the Central Coast Writers’ Conference with his best friend, Sue McGinty, and is featured during the Poetry Festival on Sunday, November 10th at the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art at 7pm.

Nixson Borah is an artist and poet active with Corners of the Mouth. Beverly Boyd is one of four poets featured in the newly published poetry book celebrating the survival of Coalesce Book Store for 40 years. Titled *Where Our Palms Rest*, Boyd offers her poetry along with Bonnie Young, Joanne Rusch and Carol Alma McPhee.

Editorial Note from Judy Salamacha: Coalesce Book Store has been supporting local authors and poets for 40 years. A good way to support them back is to buy their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book, only one of two they have published – or select another book you intend to purchase for your library collection. Let’s thank Linna Thomas and her staff and hope they are still in business 40 years from now.

After the break it’s time to write, write, write. SLO NightWriters is participating in NaNoWriMo 2013. To quote SLO NightWriters’ new blog coordinated by Jeannie Bruenning, “If you have ever said, ‘Someday I’m going to write a book!’ November 2013 is your time. Whether your passion is fiction, non-fiction, poetry, song lyrics, blogs, screen plays, or journaling – NightWriters challenges you to commit to writing every day during the month of November. There are no rules – ignore spell check and proper punctuation; November is about writing!”

And just to encourage you to join SLO NightWriters goal to reach 50,000+++ words written in November, Anita Hunt will lead us in some fun – yes, as merrily we go a-writing. It’s sure to be filled with laughter and creativity to end the evening.

About NaNoWriMo Jeannie also says, “Don’t know what to write about? That’s not a problem! We’re going to help you along the way. Will you have a book by the end of the month? We doubt it, BUT we do know what you will have at the end of 30 days. You will have a flood of ideas for story lines, character development and perhaps an outline. You will have thrown out all the reasons and excuses for not taking time to write because you WILL have fallen in love with the process of writing.” [www.slouightwriters.com](http://www.slouightwriters.com).

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## 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](mailto:jandkvolkov@att.net) and I’ll send them a card from their SLO NightWriters family.**

Kalila



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: TYING UP LOOSE ENDS



*Dennis Eamon Young*

It's about seven hours until take-off for my trip and I cannot sleep. I'm back and forth from one room to the next, tying up loose ends, whether they need to be tied up right now or not. I've got all my camera gear ready to go, I'm taking my current story along on the off chance that I'll have some spare time to write and I'm sending some last minute emails. A day from now I'll be in China with fellow NightWriter Liu Yu and a small Tai Chi group. It's only a twenty day trip and it is well planned on both ends. NightWriters Vice President Sharyl Heber is well equipped to take care of everything here. I'd be better off taking a nap.

Do some things in your stories get away from you at times, so that towards the end of a chapter you find yourself tying up loose ends? I know I love to just write from the heart and let my mind scout around later for bits and pieces to round things out. I'm not much for planning every detail way ahead. I believe in shaping things a bit and then crossing the bridge when you come to it. After all, what if your characters decide not to cross that bridge? You could very well have planned the whole thing out to the smallest detail and now it's all been wasted.

Obviously you do not want everything written in stone from the beginning, nor do you want to just let your freebird fly without a reality check here and there. What we all need is to get the juices flowing in order to have the creative part of the brain unleashed. After that, the internal editor needs to walk you through what you have written and poke a few holes in the right places, tying up the loose ends. It is best to do this before moving on, so as not to go too far down a wrong track.

I have a lot of help when I write. I have Mr. Dickens perched on one shoulder telling me I could use another paragraph or two in order to flesh out an idea. I also have Mr. Hemingway sitting astride the other shoulder slashing words out right and left. After that, my critique group goes through the work and helps give me some other ideas. By the time I sit back down for my re-write, I have a much clearer vision for the path ahead.

Well, I have now identified a couple of things that must be attended to before I call it a night. I'll go tie them up, sleep a bit then get off to China, and see you all at the November NightWriters meeting.

*Excelsior,  
Dennis*

## 8 STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL VISITS

In the past two weeks, I have visited two elementary schools. In many ways, these visits couldn't have been more different. Yet, there were some similarities. At one school, I talked to a group of 60 fifth graders in the school assembly room; at the other school, I met with a class of first graders. The fifth graders had just completed a publishing assignment using classroom computers and were celebrating their achievement. They were interested in hearing about my book writing process from first idea to publication. I spoke from a podium and had a mike (which I ignored). With the first graders, I read one of my stories, *The Mysterious Case of the Missing Birthday Cake* in their classroom from a comfy chair, a more intimate and congenial atmosphere. In each instance, the children were attentive and asked good questions or shared interesting comments. Here are a few things I learned from these experiences:



by: Beryl Reichenberg

**1. Be prepared.** Have supplies, examples, etc. available at your fingertips so you're not fumbling around looking for what you need while talking.

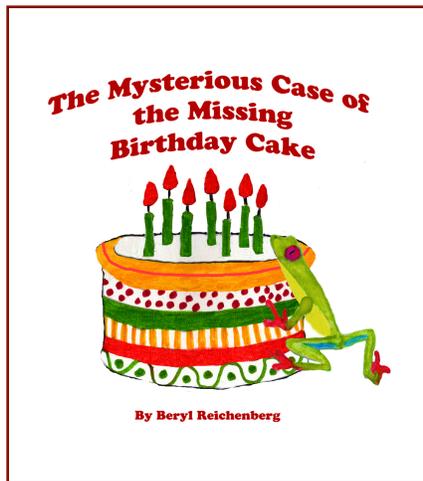
**2. Be flexible.** I wasn't aware that I would be talking with the fifth graders in an assembly room with podium and mike. Fortunately, they all were able to see my visuals and hear me.

**3. Bring something for the students to take home to remember the visit.** I brought bookmarks, with pictures of my Oak Tree Press books and email address to both groups. Hopefully, some of the students or families will order my other books. Teachers like to pass these out themselves later. With the first graders, I left a copy of each of my Oak Tree Press books for the class.

**4. Engage the students in conversation.** I try not to talk too long without asking them a question. When talking about where I find my story ideas with the fifth graders, I started out by asking how many didn't like vegetables. There was an overwhelming show of hands. I followed by talking about how my book, *Ants on a Log*, was a true story about my son who when young hated vegetables. With the first graders, I asked how many would like to fly with butterflies when showing them my book, *Butterfly Girls*. Again, a show of many hands. I find if the children participate, they feel comfortable in asking questions and making their own comments, and we have more of a conversation rather than a lecture.

**5. Don't talk too long.** Children, especially the little ones, have a short attention span and can only sit still for a limited period of time. I watch my audience and gage my

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presentation to match their abilities. Naturally, the fifth graders can listen and pay attention longer than the first graders.

**6. Be friendly.** I always smile and engage the children in conversation when I first meet them. With some of the fifth graders, I asked them what kinds of books they liked to read and how many had read Harry Potter. With the first graders, I mentioned briefly that I have four grandchildren, ages three to nine and ask how many were seven years old. This exercise developed a connection between us, and the children seem to feel more comfortable in asking questions and making comments.

**7. Keep control of the conversation.** Sometimes children like to tell too many of their own stories, and this gets our conversation off track. I try not to call on the same children more than a couple of times and to bring the conversation back to the agenda if we stray. Yet, I always like to hear their questions and comments. This shows me that they are listening, engaged and are learning something.

**8. Leave with a smile and a thank you.**

Naturally, when speaking with adults, there is less concern about attention span. However, here too, I like to engage my audience more in a conversation than a lecture.

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## MEMBER-AT-LARGE CONNECTION

Dear NightWriters,

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade, the saying goes. But what if life gives you a goldfish instead?

It was a sunny Thursday afternoon when I walked into my son's daycare to pick him up.

“Mommy, mommy, see my fish! His name is Kappi!” Kai was jumping up and down.

“Your what?” I asked, my eyes following the direction of his pointer that was stabbing the air excitedly. A line of small glass jars lined the counter. Each one had an orange goldfish floating in it.

“Oh, I should have probably sent a note,” Kai's teacher said. “We were talking about letter F today.”



*Andrea Chmelik  
Member-at-Large*

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"I am getting nervous thinking about what to expect when you get to the letter H," I told her, still not believing what I was seeing. "I am not sure we can provide for a horse. Or a hippo."

"You don't have to take the fish if you don't want it," she assured me.

"Kappi! Kappi! Kappi!" Kai was chanting, bouncing around the room.

"Right," I said and took Kappi home.

Ironically, a week earlier I had a conversation with my husband about potential presence of an aquarium in our future. "No," I said resolutely, "we are never going to have fish. It's too much work and cleaning, and I don't care about fish. Never."

Never say never. I've heard that one before.

After Kai went to bed that night, we considered our options. We could flush Kappi down the toilet, or bring him to our friend's koi pond, where he almost definitely would be killed by the bigger fish (Hunger Games, fish edition), or we could keep him in the little bowl, which would shorten his life greatly from what we learned on the internet. Our cats seemed to have their own idea about what to do with him. Finally, we made our decision. Two days later, Kappi was swimming in a 10 gallon fish tank with fake plants and a tiki figure, along with three more fish friends and a crab, happily playing tag together.

"You should send the daycare the bill," my friend suggested.

"I look at it as a lesson in flexibility," I answered. "It's a useful skill to have. Plus, it's a good reminder to keep an open mind."

NightWriters, I have some goldfish to offer. A certain amount of time investment will be required on your part, but if you keep an open mind, the payoff might be well worth it.

***SLO NightWriters Unplugged:*** Every third Saturday of the month, we meet at The Moose Deli & Brew in Pismo Beach to talk about our projects. Meet with the fellow writers and let the creative juices flow! Stop by anytime between 8:30am and 11:00am for a little bit of chit chat or for a whole lot of brainstorming – it is entirely up to you. When creative people come together to talk about their work, amazing things happen!

***Celebrating Writers, the Entire Month of November:*** The month of November will be dedicated to writing! We hope you are joining the NaNoWriMo, but if that's too big of a fish to fry for you, we have an alternative. Every day of the month, we will be providing writing prompts for you. Follow our blog at [www.slouightwriters.com](http://www.slouightwriters.com) or like us on Facebook. Join our challenge, write every day, and at the end of the month you will have a flood of ideas for story line, character development and perhaps an outline. Then come to hash it out to our Unplugged meetings!

***Join our online book club:*** Starting January 2014, you can participate in SLO NightWriters online book club! We will be focusing on books of authors who will be presenting at the 2014 Central Coast Writers Conference, and those of local writers. Keep you inboxes open for more info to come.



Andrea Chmelík  
[chmelik.andrea@gmail.com](mailto:chmelik.andrea@gmail.com)



*Sharyl A. Heber*

*Critique Group Chair*

## "Critique Group Connections"

NW Members—Please, email critique requests to: Sharyl Heber, Critique Group Coordinator [sharylheber@gmail.com](mailto:sharylheber@gmail.com) or call her at 805-528-3116. 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 Sharyl for assistance if needed. And, if you form a group, please let Sharyl 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](http://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!

Poetry Critique Group Emerging! Any poet can join.  
Any poet can benefit from input of a group.  
Any interested poet can call Irene @ 481-3824.  
Together we can set time and place to meet.

## CRITIQUE GROUP REQUESTS:

Two New Requests this month!

**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](mailto:dreamsofcitylights@gmail.com).

**Anne Wyatt** is seeking a critique group for FICTION, NON-FICTION and MEMOIR. She would like a critique group or a 1:1 writing mentor[partnership]. She is an intermediate-to-advanced writer with a good amount of writing experience. She prefers a SLO City location. Contact Anne at [a.renewyatt@gmail.com](mailto:a.renewyatt@gmail.com).

**Sheri Humphreys** is seeking a critique Group for FICTION - ROMANCE genre specifically, SciFi and suspense are fine too. No specific skill level required. Preferred location is Cambria, Morro Bay, SLO.

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Contact Sheri by phone at 805-927-2453 or email at [sheri@sherihumphreys.com](mailto:sheri@sherihumphreys.com)

**Kristen Herrera** is seeking a critique group for FICTION and YA. Preferred skill level is intermediate to advanced/experienced. Preferred location is SLO City area or South County.

Contact Kristen by email: [kristenmbriggs@yahoo.com](mailto:kristenmbriggs@yahoo.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](mailto:tony@anthonyjtaylor.com)

## Critique Group Connections, Continued

**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](mailto:rolynna@earthlink.net)

**Irene Chadwick** is seeking a critique group or peer edit exchange for POETRY. Preferred Skill Level is Intermediate to Advanced. Preferred location for meeting is SLO City.

Contact Irene at 805-481-3824 or by email: [irenekooi@gmail.com](mailto:irenekooi@gmail.com)

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

Contact David at 805-868-3779 or by email: [david.flamm@yahoo.com](mailto:david.flamm@yahoo.com)

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

Contact Christina at 805-459-4923 or by email: [grimmpsych@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mckay01@gmail.com)

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## Critique Group Connections, Continued

**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](mailto: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](mailto:clb4u2c@charter.net)

**Griselda Rivera** is seeking multiple critique groups: MEMOIRS, TEEN & CHILDREN'S, ACADEMIC / EDUCATION / LINGUISTICS. Contact Griselda at [grissilvarivera58@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:fangio@charter.net)

### Quote of the Month

"I like density, not volume. I like to leave something to the imagination. The reader must fit the pieces together, with the author's discreet help."

~Maureen Howard

### Word of the Month "Sclerotic"

Definition: (Adj. Greek: *scleros*, hard) Hard, rigid, slow to adapt; relating to or affected with sclerosis.

Synonyms: hardened, rigid, tough, adamant, unbending

Usage: He was the most unpopular professor on campus, due to his sclerotic attitude toward independent thought.

## KUDOS... KUDOS... KUDOS

No Kudos were reported for this month... Be sure to send YOUR kudos in to the Newsletter: [aim2write@yahoo.com](mailto:aim2write@yahoo.com), with KUDO in the subject line.

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## 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 N
- 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 **Sharyl Heber** ([sharylheber@gmail.com](mailto:sharylheber@gmail.com)) 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.

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## MUSINGS AND NEWS: TOLOSA CORNER

Tolosa Corner is on hiatus this month. Keep writing and submitting your stories/articles to Tolosa, and I'll see you next month!

In the rhythm of writing,

*Judythe*



*Judythe Guarnera,  
Tolosa Submissions Manager*

## REPORTING ON...

# KATYA CENGEL, JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR

By: Andrea Chmelik

*Katya Cengel has written for Marie Claire, Wall Street Journal, Salon, National Geographic and Condé Nast Traveller. Her University of Nebraska Press book "Bluegrass Baseball: A Year in the Minor League Life" was a 2013 Kentucky Literary Award finalist. A former Louisville Courier-Journal writer, Cengel now reports from around the world and teaches journalism at U.C. Berkeley Extension.*

### *How did you become a journalist?*

I always wanted to write. I was taking writing courses in college and I was trying to figure out how to use writing to make a living, because being a novelist just didn't seem realistic to me. I decided to intern for a newspaper, just to see if it was something I liked. I fell in love with journalism. I loved sharing other people's stories. I figured that was a good way to get paid for doing what I loved – writing, and following my curiosity. That's how I started, and I have never been able to give it up.



*Katya Cengel*

### *You started your career in Latvia and Ukraine. How did you end up on the other side of the world?*

I look at it now and I think: "Oh, the stupidity of youth. What was I thinking?" (laugh) I am glad I did it. I think as we get older we overthink things and that stops us. I was in college and I was interning at the San Diego Union-Tribune. I didn't have a car and I was waiting for one of the journalists to give me a ride home one afternoon. While I was waiting, I walked over to a water fountain and saw a posting there. It said something like: "If you are up for an adventure in the former Soviet Union and want to go to an unexplored area, you should apply for a job for an English language newspaper." I decided to do it on a whim. I didn't think I would get the job, but once I did, I just decided to go. I had not heard about Latvia before the posting, but I researched it and thought it was interesting.

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*You write about a wide variety of topics – from dancing bears and mobile marijuana dispensaries, to inmates helping with battling the rim fire, to minor baseball league. How do you choose the subject?*

It's true that many people specialize in one area, for example sports. In some ways I think it would be easier if I wrote about one area, but I follow what I am interested in. What really interests me is a human aspect of the story. This is what ties all of my stories together. I especially love focusing on people who don't usually get to tell their story – immigrants, minor league players who are not famous yet – the voices you don't hear about.

*Is there any subject you prefer not to write about?*

I don't touch a whole lot on business and politics, mainly because I don't get business (laugh). I don't have a background in it. I don't write much about technology. I write about general issues, but I don't do actual political coverage. I write about people who were famous for a day, but not celebrities. I like to write about people who are not in the limelight.

*Do you have a favorite story? If so, which one is it?*

The ones that come to mind are usually the ones I have worked on recently. While I was in Ukraine, I did a story about jumping from airplanes. I liked that one because I got to jump out of an airplane! But the one I really liked was about a youth detention facility for young girls. They ran a program there where they paired up girls with retired racing greyhounds. The girls were responsible to teach the dogs how to become pets. Greyhounds don't know how to be pets. They spend their whole lives racing. All they know is how to race. It is a big adjustment for them once they retire. They don't know how to interact and be a part of the family. They don't even know how to sit. The girls taught them these skills, and in return, they learned how to take care of something. Hopefully once they get out, they can stay out of trouble.

*Do you ever follow up on the protagonists of your story?*

I wonder about many of them. I did a story about a young woman who was homeless. She had a 2-year-old son. She was trying to put her life back together and start over. Her little boy would be in grade school now. I have not followed up on her, though. I wonder what happened to her. But I did a series about young men from Africa. They resettled in Kentucky, leaving their wives and families behind. I followed a man who was able to bring his wife and a young boy over. I saw him a few years later. His wife was adjusting, she spoke English, and they had a little girl. It was neat to see. I get an intimate glance into people's lives, but then don't know what happens to them.

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*That must be emotionally challenging. How do you deal with that?*

I got better at being sympathetic, but knowing how to remove myself. I get to work closely with the photographers and they go through the same as I do, so we can talk about it and that helps a lot. I also hope that telling the story itself helps. For people who have been through a lot of drama, just talking about it and being able to bring a voice to it seems to help. And of course, others can learn about it then.

*Writing has been your life. In 2012, your first book was released. "Bluegrass Baseball: A Year in the Minor League Life" was rated one of the top ten non-fiction books of 2012 by Shelf Awareness and East Bay Express. What was the biggest challenge with writing a book? How was this experience different from writing an article for magazine?*

When I started I thought: "Everybody has written a book these days, how hard can it be? I write for living, it will be easy." When I write for magazines or newspapers, I keep things to a point and concise. I am used to writing like that. With the book, I kept trimming things down instead of expanding on them. My editor kept saying: "Write more, write more!" and I said: "This is all I have to say." I had to keep expanding it and it was hard for me to do. If I can say it in this many words, I don't need to go on for another two pages. Another difference was that when I write articles, I read them over to see how they flow, and to check for accuracy. You can't do it with a book. It is too long and too familiar to read at once, but if you read one part one day and another part the next day, you don't remember what you read before anymore and you can't recall if you mentioned something already. So the hardest part for me was editing - seeing if the parts flowed.

*You write travel pieces – which places would you like to visit?*

I want to go to lots of places – I would love to go to Mongolia. I am fascinated by North Korea and Cuba. I like places you don't have a lot of information about. I would love to see what is really going on there. Rural parts of China would be interesting, too.

*You teach at UC Berkeley Extension – what advice do you give to your students?*

I teach basic journalism and cross cultural reporting. The advice I have for my students is to follow their curiosity. I live by that advice. If you are curious about it, lots of other people will be as well. Always be open minded about where you can find stories. Learn to listen, and listen more than you talk. That's how you find a story.

*You can read more about Katya at [www.katyacengel.com](http://www.katyacengel.com). Her book is available at <http://www.amazon.com/Bluegrass-Baseball-Year-Minor-League/dp/0803235356>. Follow her on Twitter @kcengel, or like her on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/k2cengel>.*

## POWER MARKETING ON A PAUPER'S BUDGET

By: Susan Tuttle

One of the hardest parts of being published, whether by traditional or non traditional means, is promoting and marketing your book. With all the emphasis on social media these days, it's easy to forget there are some other great avenues to get your book noticed. Here are 25 non-social media tips. Some don't cost anything, and some carry a small price tag.

**1) Open an email account in the book's name** to keep track of all correspondence concerning your book. Imprint the email address on the back cover so readers, too, can contact you. Go through Yahoo, Google or any other free email service, and link the new address to your primary email, so all correspondence comes into that email inbox (that way you don't have to remember to check both addresses). FREE

**2) Print up business cards and bookmarks.** Include a picture of your book cover, your name, email address and ordering information for both retail and wholesale; bookmarks can hold a short description, too. Hand them out to everyone you meet. **Note:** For safety reasons, **never put your home address or phone number on any business cards or bookmarks.** (There are a lot of crazies out there.) LOW COST

**3) Put a card and/or bookmark in every piece of mail** you send out – even your bills! You never know who opens the mail.

**4) Use bookmarks to advertise your next book.** At the bottom, include a teaser description (and a cover pix if you have it), and an email address where the reader can sign up for "advance" notice of publication.

**5) Carry a copy with you** wherever you go and **keep 5 or more in your car.** Show it to everyone: your doctor, waitress, co-worker, salesclerk, etc. Don't miss an opportunity to sell your book directly to the consumer! And if more than one wants a copy, you have more right there in the car.

**6) Carry lots of your cards and bookmarks** with you. Hand them out indiscriminately. Business cards especially tend to float from hand to hand; you never know who will see it and then order a book.

**7) Get your book reviewed.** Call your local papers (if you're a California transplant, don't forget your hometown papers) and ask what the procedure is for submitting your book for review. Many reviewers are happy with just a few chapters in galley form. (If they want more, they'll ask.) Include a press-release detailing your writing experience, expertise in the field, and/or any human interest stuff that may catch the reviewer's eye, and a business card and bookmark. And don't forget to contact online book reviewers. That's a great way to spread the news about your fantastic book. Be sure to target only those who review your subject matter/genre. FREE

**8) Send press releases** to all local and hometown newspaper and radio stations detailing the merits of your book, your qualifications for writing it (if applicable) and any other human interest stuff. Check to make sure when they want press releases sent; some will not take them unless the book is already published, some want advance copies before publication, etc. FREE if sent digitally; SOME COST if sent via snail mail (be sure to add a card and/or bookmark).

**9) Send press releases to bookstores.** You can find lists of bookstores on the internet, usually through writing organizations. Some shops specialize in different genres; hit those stores first, they

Continued Next Page

may be more interested in your product. (The national website for Sisters in Crime lists mystery bookstores in the US, with land and internet addresses, phone numbers and contact names.) Be sure to include your card and bookmark, and detail clearly **wholesale ordering information**. Remember, most bookstores require that books be returnable. An added plus: you will also have the info you need to set up out-of-town book signings when you are traveling on business or vacation. FREE if done digitally; SOME COST if sent via snail mail.

10) **Contact your alumni newsletter from both college and high school.** Send them a press release for inclusion in their newsletter. Include all contact and ordering information. And offer to write an article for them about the writing/publishing business (high schools especially love these kinds of things to interest prospective students). End the article with ordering information. FREE if sent digitally; LOW COST if sent via snail mail.

11) **Print up T-shirts and/or sweatshirts** with the slogan "Ask me about...(the title of your book or a pix of the cover). Give them out to friends, relatives and anyone else who agrees to wear one. You can also bring the shirts to signings and sell them at cost. Check out Left Coast T-Shirt Co. in SLO, one of the cheapest around: [www.leftcoasttees.com](http://www.leftcoasttees.com) or check online sources. LOW to MEDIUM COST

12) **Have buttons made** that say "Ask me about (book title)" and wear it everywhere. Give them to friends and family, along with cards and or bookmarks to hand out when someone asks. LOW COST

13) **Anderson News** distributes books and magazines to small-order venues such as grocery and drug stores. And you may be able to talk some of your local stores into a book signing or two. They require a 55% discount off retail price, will not pay shipping, and all books must be returnable. Contact them at: [www.andersonnews.com](http://www.andersonnews.com). FREE to LOW COST

14) **Anderson Merchandising** (separate from Anderson News) distributes to all but a few Walmart stores across the country. Most Walmarts will do book signing events, especially for local authors, and they do heavy promotion. Send them a bound copy and a letter detailing retail price, suggested wholesale price, and any press or publicity received (if any). You can request distribution locally, regionally or nationally. Send it to: Anderson Merchandising, attn Marketing Dept., New Title Solicitation, 421 SE 34<sup>th</sup> Ave., Amarillo, TX 79103. The help desk did not know what discount they require, or how many books are ordered at one time. Send a letter for further information; enclose a SASE, card and bookmark (see #5). FREE to LOW COST

15) **Check Out Book Clubs:** Mystery Guild, Literary Guild, Quality PB Guild, etc. There's one for just about every genre, even non-fiction. You'll need to give them deep discounts, but the exposure and potential sales are tremendous. FREE

16) **Join National Writing Organizations** (ex: ILWW – International League of Women Writers), and **join their local chapters too** if there are any in your area. Most post author bios on their websites, a great place to tout your book, with contact and/or ordering information. And get active, if you have the time. The more that people get to know you, the more they will want to check out your book. LOW COST

17) **Check out the jackets and covers** of other books recently published in your genre and see who did the reviews. Contact them to do a review of your book. FREE if contacted digitally

18) **Blitz California bookstores** with press releases and ordering information, and requests to do signings. It's a big state, but because we're in the center, a good many locations are drivable,

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though some may entail an overnight stay. FREE to LOW COST; MEDIUM if overnight stay required.

19) **Contact and offer to do a presentation** for writing groups like NightWriters, etc. Use the area that presented you the greatest challenge as the focus of your talk. Bring books with you to sell and sign, and be sure to pass out your business card and bookmark to everyone in attendance. FREE to LOW COST

20) **To find reviewers**, contact the national writing group/s (ILWW, etc.) you've joined and ask for help. Or contact other published writers in the same genre and ask for their advice. FREE if contacted digitally

21) **Piggyback on any special interests or expertise** your book might have (ex: my protagonist is a professional quilter, and she suffers from Lupus). Contact the appropriate **local group/organization** (ex: local quilt guilds, Lupus Foundation) and give them a description of the book and ordering information for their newsletter. Request to share a vendor table at their next show, fundraiser, etc. Or ask if it would be possible to attend a meeting and sell your book before and after the meeting and during the break. Also, contact any **national organizations** (ex, the Lupus Foundation) and request ordering information be placed on their website or in their newsletter. Don't hesitate to ask for the best way to let their membership know about the book. FREE if all done digitally

22) **Check out different stores** in your area, not just bookstores. Some might be amenable to stocking two or three copies. For example, if your protagonist is an insurance agent, ask agencies if they would offer a few copies for sale. Or leave a comp copy for the waiting room with a stack of your cards/bookmarks for ordering. Or at least leave cards and bookmarks for their clients. Also, many small gift and clothing stores like to have "impulse" items at their registers. Why not your book? It doesn't hurt to ask; all they can do is say no. In any case, leave cards and/or bookmarks on the counter. LOW COST for gas money

23) **Print up "Local Author!" stickers**; you can get all shapes and sizes from any large office supply store and print them on your computer. Stick them on all books that to be sold locally; many people enjoy supporting local artists. For California and hometown signings, have a large poster made of your book cover, with "Local Author" emblazoned across the top. LOW COST

24) **Send an announcement to everyone you know** (even slightly), by email; use land mail for those not online. Include a short write-up of the book, your email address and ordering information, and a short personal note – "just thought you might be interested in knowing that my book is now out" – that kind of thing (include a card and/or bookmark in the envelopes). You'll probably be surprised at how many books you'll sell that way. Be careful with email – too many addresses in the 'to' window can direct the letters into bulk folders. Many people (me included) delete bulk messages without reading them. FREE if sent digitally; LOW COST if sent via snail mail

25) **Get magnetic signs made for your car** that advertise your book, with photo of cover, title and where available (Amazon, Local Bookstores). Magnetic signs will not harm your car's finish, and are easily removable when necessary. LOW to MEDIUM COST

Now that your first dream – a published book – has come true, you need to make your second dream – a strong, loyal readership – a reality. If you don't advertise, something awful will happen: nothing! And what good is a book if no one opens and reads it? Add some of these marketing avenues to your social media efforts as you reach for success. Happy marketing!

## The Poets Corner

SECOND PLACE LILLIAN DEAN WINNER:

### PITY THEM

By: Janice Konstantinidis

Sad are the days of those  
conferred of the melancholy spirit  
of song and poetry.

Pity them  
who walk the path of imagination  
to their own destruction.

Elude them  
who hold the dangerous gift of describing  
the moonbeam's splendor.

Take leave of them  
who disproportionately hallucinate  
the powers of nature,  
and delineate  
a concept of passion  
distinct from the corporeal.

Shun them  
whose possession is impression  
whose eloquence  
bespeaks the capacity of sensitivity  
and expresses the mystery of life  
beyond the indifferences of mere existence.

Forsake them,  
the poet and the musician,  
creative beings,  
who represent a dominion, humanly enclosed,  
for its own happiness in inscrutability.

## “PITY THEM” CONTINUED...

Avoid the artists  
who unveil the world and themselves.  
Their genius of individuality is a door  
to a often neglected chapel with a vaulted ceiling  
and ancient cloisters.

Beware these people,  
they were not born to contemplate mediocrity.



## SUNDAY POETRY

**South County Poets** meet on the 4th Sunday of each month in **Rooster Creek Tavern**, a popular restaurant at the corner of Short and E. Branch Street in the heart of the **Village of Arroyo Grande**. Parking is plentiful behind the restaurant.

Gather at 5:30 pm. Food and drink orders will be served only between 5:30 and 6:00 pm. Readings start at six, followed by a short break and open mic. There will be a break during the meeting. Bring your poetry to share and join NightWriter's own Evy Cole at Rooster Creek Tavern on October 27.

## CORNERS OF THE MOUTH

Poetry Readings held on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 7:00 pm. There is a featured poet, followed by open mic readings. Corners of the Mouth meet at Linnea's Cafe in San Luis Obispo, 1110 Garden Street. Join Kevin Patrick Sullivan and some of the area's best poets every 3rd Sunday at 7:00 pm. Bring some work to share.

## 3 TOP RULES OF SOCIAL MEDIA FOR AUTHORS

From blog.bookbaby, by Chris Robley

These days, building a large online readership and effectively promoting your work through social media is a must-do. Doesn't matter what you write: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, memoir, etc. You need an online presence. But most of us (your WordSmiths editor included) are still struggling with the how-tos involved. Here are 3 basic rules to remember when planning your social media promotional efforts, by Book Baby's top blogger, Chris Robley.

- 1. It's all about connection, not sales.** Don't be a social media spammer and constantly boast about your book(s) or ask followers to buy, buy, buy. Instead, provide value to make it worth their spending time reading your posts. Write and share useful information, or be entertaining (or both). Freebie give-aways and drawings are also a great attractor. When you make strong connections, your followers will be more likely to purchase what you have to sell.
- 2. Be a shinier, more compact you.** You can't communicate all your beauty, depth and complexity via social media. We can't even fully express all that in our daily lives. Keep in mind that social media is a way to communicate just a few of the most important facets of your personality, aesthetics and beliefs. Use it to supercharge that version of yourself, a heightened expression of a more focused you. Think of 3 or 4 things you want to convey to you audience and concentrate on those.
- 3. Authenticity is the key.** This doesn't contradict point #2. What it says is that you should never do anything online that makes (or will make) you feel drained, stupid, embarrassed or fake. Your audience will see right through it; social media followers have great BS detectors. Always be your best, most authentic social media self and you'll garner scads of loyal followers.

A focused version of yourself that fits comfortably within your sense of authentic self will help you make great connections on social media. And the more connections you make, the larger your online community will grow, leading to increased book sales, reading opportunities, etc. You never know who is on the other end of that electronic connection: readers, yes, but also CEOs, editors, agents, conference organizers, etc. Being your true, authentic, witty self online can lead you down many paths you might not even know are there.

### Editor's Note:

Book Baby has a great FREE downloadable guide, Blogging 101, to help us newbies get started on the right foot. All they ask for is your email address, name and interest level (ebooks or printed). Check them out at: [www.bookbaby.com/free-guide/blogging-101](http://www.bookbaby.com/free-guide/blogging-101)

*SLO NightWriters*

*Authors*

**Nature**  
*Sharing*

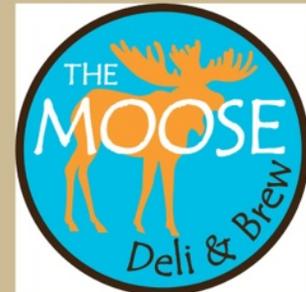
**Unplugged**  
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DISCUSSION  
**Connecting**

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Join fellow NightWriters the third Saturday morning of each month for a time of discussion, sharing and connecting. Bring your ideas, stories, and creativity. Come when you can, leave when you must between 8:30 and 11am. We will be meeting in the patio of The Moose Deli & Brew, 950 Price Street, Pismo Beach. This is an outdoor event - dress accordingly.

**Saturday, November 16**  
**8:30 - 11am @ The Moose**

Stay connected on FaceBook or at [www.slouightwriters.com](http://www.slouightwriters.com)



## NW HAS A NEW BLOG!

Be sure to check out our Blog for information, insights, encouragement, connections, etc. Especially now, during NaNoWriMo month. You'll find writing prompts, ideas, encouragements and lots more. Feel free to leave a comment on any of our posts.

Join us on our Blog: [www.slouightwriters.com](http://www.slouightwriters.com)

You can also access the blog from our website: [www.slouightwriters.org](http://www.slouightwriters.org)

## PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

NW is in need of a **Programs Director for 2014**. The Coordinator is responsible to make sure our monthly meetings, contest and other NW events are distributed properly through the social media/print/air venues. The coordinator does not necessarily do all the posting, just makes sure that the tasks are distributed and fulfilled as needed. Interested in exploring (not committing to, just further getting information) this opportunity further? Drop us a line at [slonightwriters@yahoo.com](mailto:slonightwriters@yahoo.com) or contact your Member-at-Large, Andrea Chmelik at [chmelik.andrea@gmail.com](mailto:chmelik.andrea@gmail.com).

## NEWSLETTER CO-EDITOR SOUGHT

Have you thought about editing a newsletter? It's great for your resume and a wonderful way to help hone your editing and writing skills.

WordSmiths is looking for someone to help with the editing process 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 volunteering some time to help make sure our news-filled newsletter gets out to members on time. Send enquiries to: Newsletter Editor at [aim2write@yahoo.com](mailto:aim2write@yahoo.com) or [slonightwriters@yahoo.com](mailto:slonightwriters@yahoo.com). Be sure to **put "Newsletter Editing" 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, is stepping 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 stepping as President when the 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](mailto:slonightwriters@yahoo.com)

## GREAT BEGINNINGS

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

### 6 THINGS TO STOP DOING TO FINISH YOUR BOOK

From Writers Digest online blog editor Brian Klems

You get a great idea for a story or nonfiction book. You join SLO NightWriters. You attend meetings and conferences. You talk about the book, do research if needed, maybe even start a Word file titled: My Book. But you don't actually sit down and do the writing.

Here are 6 things to stop doing immediately, so you can stop asking about how to write a manuscript and become the author who brags about your finished manuscript.

1. **Dump the excuses.** Yes, you're busy. Yes, writing is hard work. Yes, if you knew more, you'd get a page or two done. But excuses never changed any of that, nor did they get any work accomplished. They never inspired anyone, never brought a dream into reality. Don't suffocate your dream with excuses. Get rid of them.
2. **Stop trying.** Yoda said it best: "There is no try. There is do or do not." So quit concentrating on why you can't and simply sit down and do.
3. **Stop your "Inner critic's" crazy rants.** Our inner critic sits on our shoulder and tells us why our words and our stories are stupid, illogical, ridiculous, unbelievable, childish, etc. You need to stuff a rag in your Inner Critic's mouth. Don't let it make you doubt yourself. That's the fastest way to getting nothing done. (Ed note: a great way to shut the Critic off is to set a timer for 10 or 15 minutes, then work to finish your scene within that time frame. It takes some practice to get used to timed writing, but if you only have 10 or 15, or even 20 minutes to finish you don't have time to listen to the Critic. It shuts it right down, and you can write from the heart, where your stories live. For some great 10-minute weekly writing prompts check out my blog every Wednesday: [www.SusanTuttleWrites.com](http://www.SusanTuttleWrites.com))
4. **Don't overdose on caffeine.** Caffeine can be the enemy. It's true. Caffeine makes us jumpy, jittery and totally illogical. Hands shake, bodies tremble, hearts flutter, brains choke. Stay healthy and you can write for longer periods and be more productive.
5. **Don't get lost in research.** Even novels need a certain amount of research, to say nothing of nonfiction books. Beware: research can be addicting. It can soak up every speck of your time. You don't need to know everything to start writing. That's what 2nd, 3rd and 4th drafts were created for. Do enough research to get started, and then start writing.
6. **Stop thinking it should be easier.** It's like thinking gravity will get less gravity-ish. Writing is what it is, hard work. It's easier sometimes, like pulling nails at others. Expect it to be work, and you'll be thrilled when it doesn't feel that way.

## 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](mailto:slonightwriters@yahoo.com)

President: Dennis Eamon Young  
Vice-President: Sharyl Heber  
Secretary: Carol Schmidt  
Treasurer: Susan Tuttle  
Program Director: Judy Salamacha  
Contest Committee: Judith Bernstein, Sharyl Heber, Anita Hunt  
Publicity Director: Jeannie Bruenning  
Membership Director: Hanje Richards  
Critique Group Chair: Sherry Heber  
Member-At-Large: Andrea Chmelik  
Writers' Workshops Coordinator: Sherry Heber  
Tolosa Press Submission Manager: Judy Guarnera  
Welcome Committee: Griselda Rivera, Anna Unkovich  
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 Assistant: Rebecca Waddell

## 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: November 12th**, 7:00 pm, at PG&E Education Center, 6855 Ontario Road, San Luis Obispo. SLO Co Poet Laureate Jerry Douglas Smith with Nixon Borrah, and NaNoWriMo fun.. For writers of all genres.

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

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

Email all correspondence to: [slonightwriters@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 **Sharyl Heber, Critique Group Coordinator** to list your critique group and critique needs in the NW Newsletter and on the NW Web site. [sharylheber@gmail.com](mailto:sharylheber@gmail.com)

**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.slownightwriter.org](http://www.slownightwriter.org). Contact [slownightwriter@yahoo.com](mailto:slownightwriter@yahoo.com) or Sharyl Heber, Critique Group Coordinator ([sheber@charter.net](mailto:sheber@charter.net)) with your critique needs and genres and she'll do her best to assist you.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:liliasinclair@gmail.com)

### NORTH COUNTY GROUP

Meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 9:00 am-noon. Adult Fiction, Memoire, etc (See page 19). Non-fiction, too, until another group can start. Meets in Paso Robles. **CURRENTLY OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS**

Moderator: Lillian Brown, 215-6107  
[lilliofslo@aol.com](mailto:lilliofslo@aol.com)

### SLO CRITIQUES

This group has no genre restrictions and no skill level restrictions. Meeting location is San Luis Obispo. The day and meeting times will be open to discussion.

#### **CURRENTLY OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS.**

Moderator: David Schwab, 543-3111  
[daveschwab@sbcglobal.net](mailto:daveschwab@sbcglobal.net)

### 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,

# CRITIQUE GROUPS LISTING

## CRITIQUE GROUPS WITH OPENINGS

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 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. If enough interest is expressed, a night class may be started.

### CURRENTLY OPEN FOR MORE MEMBERS

Moderator: Susan Tuttle: 458-5234  
[aim2write@yahoo.com](mailto:aim2write@yahoo.com)

## NEW GROUPS FORMING!

### ADULT NOVELS

Lili Sinclair 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 Sinclair, 904-9697  
[liliasinclair@gmail.com](mailto:liliasinclair@gmail.com)

### POETRY

Irene Chadwick wants to start a new **POETRY GROUP**, open to all poets of all levels. Meeting place, time and date to be decided by members of the group.

Contact: Irene Chadwick: 481-3824

### WHAT IF? WRITING GROUP II

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.

### CURRENTLY OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS

Contacts: Susan Tuttle, 458-5234  
[aim2write@yahoo.com](mailto:aim2write@yahoo.com)

# CRITIQUE GROUPS LISTING

## FULL CRITIQUE GROUPS: CALL TO VISIT

### 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mdcomposes@yahoo.com)

### NOVEL IDEA

Meets twice monthly on the **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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

### 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 to advanced writers

# CRITIQUE GROUPS LISTING

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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](mailto:j.guarnera@sbcglobal.net)