

OUR JUNE 11TH MEETING

WALKING THE RED CARPET

Last month we went behind the scenes to understand the good, the bad, and the ugly of the silver screen business. On June 11th, 2013, we've invited our own SLO NightWriters stars to "walk the red carpet" as we celebrate the winners of the 24th Annual Short Story / Memoir and Poetry Competition.

This year's theme "A Perfect Storm" allowed broad interpretation from writers who submitted from across the United States and internationally as well! The top three winners will read their winning entries as they collect their cash prizes and Honorable Mentions will be commended with a certificate of achievement.

In June registration opens for the 29th Central Coast Writers' Conference at Cuesta College, September 20-21. Director Judy Salamacha and Foreword Literary Agent Danielle Smith will introduce SLO NightWriters to the variety of workshops offered at

this year's Friday-Saturday conference, including the all new Editor's 10-Page Critique with 10-Minute Facetime at the conference and 75-Minutes of random Agent Pitchtime. And to get you prepped to pitch Anna Unkovich will provide prompts for a pithy pitch.

The public is welcome to attend! Bring your friends, your family. June 11th, 7-9 pm, PG&E Education Center on Ontario Rd. San Luis Obispo. (the 101 frontage road near Avila Beach, San Luis Bay Dr. Exit).



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: INTERCONNECTIONS



Dennis Eamon Young

Do you get bogged down working meticulously on every last detail of your outline? Does it take weeks (or more) for you to get the lead out and move on with the story because you were not sure if the protagonist had a Lithuanian or Estonian accent? Have you put your critique group through thirty seven re-writes of chapter one only to get to the end of your book and find chapter one really belonged to another book? Some writers simply cannot imagine moving ahead until every detail has been planned out and honed to perfection.

We all want our sacred words to crawl onto the page as if etched in stone, never to be removed or altered in any way since they are the obviously perfect manifestation of our idea. Sorry folks, it turns out that people like George Bernard Shaw and Ernest Hemingway knew the big secret. Not the re-write secret, although that is what comes next. I'm talking about the FIRST big secret. The one that tells us to throw wide the doors and let it all pour out. Don't critique what is coming out, just let it flow.

Re-write presumes that you have already written something. You must have the first two or seventeen pages out there, naked and in plain sight before you can begin to get your idea straight. Even the Bible had to go through a re-write or two. My wife understands me almost perfectly. It's my critique group that doesn't seem to have a clue. After all, I understand my plot and characters just fine. They keep demanding all those pesky details and motivations. So, re-write I must. But first I must have a lot of material out there to examine and choose from.

Of course, it's a great idea to know your final destination, but you must understand that there will be detours along the way. A wild burst of enthusiasm can take you a long way towards your eventual goal, breathe fresh air into an otherwise tired plot or even bring a new character to life. You need to be able to trust those visions that arrive at three in the morning. Did Mr. Hemingway always stick to a proscribed schedule for his writing, or did he sneak some work in here and there at odd hours at the behest of his muse?

Erma Bombeck, asked if she had a special place and time set aside in order to concentrate on her writing, replied that most of her work was written at her ironing board, in the kitchen, while cooking and fending off a horde of children. The point being that if you are a writer, you will write. The when, where and how will not stop you. Writers have written on battlefields, on trains, planes and in cars. They have written when drunk, when

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President's Message...Continued

stone cold sober and at every stage between, not because they were planning to do so, but because the words would not be held back.

You need to trust that your muse knows what she, or he, is doing. Mozart wrote symphonies, hearing all the instruments progressing through the piece. He trusted himself implicitly and let it all just flow out of him. Beethoven struggled with his work, going in fits and starts. Both were superb geniuses, although their approaches were vastly different. We all are different and must find the way that works for us, but it is best if we learn to trust ourselves by not thinking ahead so much that we never get started.

Excelsior!

Dennis

Fellow Writers!

Is a writing partner sick?

Needing 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



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- * Discover opportunities in today's changing publishing environment.
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- * Runs from Sunday, July 28 through Saturday, August 3

Get full details on applying, tuition, housing and travel at: www.antiochsb.edu/swi



Sharyl A. Heber

Critique Group Chair

"Critique Group Connections"

NW Members—Please, email critique requests to: Sharyl Heber, Critique Group Coordinator 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.

***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:

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. Contact Sheri by phone at 805-927-2453 or email at 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

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

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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

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

David Flamm is seeking a critique group or peer edit exchange or 1:1 writing mentor/partner or editing fee for service, for COMMERCIAL FICTION. Preferred Skill Level is Intermediate to Advanced. Preferred locations for meetings are SLO City, South County/Santa Maria, Orcutt. Contact David at 805-868-3779 or by email: david.flamm@yahoo.com

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

Contact Christina at 805-459-4923 or by email: 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

Critique Group Connections, Continued

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

Contact Griselda at grissilvarivera58@yahoo.com

Shruti Manier is seeking a critique group for YA FANTASY / SCI-FI; SLO City location is preferred.

Contact Shruti at 458-8616 or by email: shruti.maniar@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

Quote of the Month

"He writes so well he makes me want to put my quill back in my goose."

~Fred Allen

Word of the Month

"Parnassian"

Definition: (Adj. Greek: after Mount Parnassus, Apollo's sacred mountain) of or relating to poetry

Synonyms: lyrical, poetical, tuneful, elegiac

Usage: He gave a speech that was parnassian in tenor and it brought down the house.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE CONNECTION

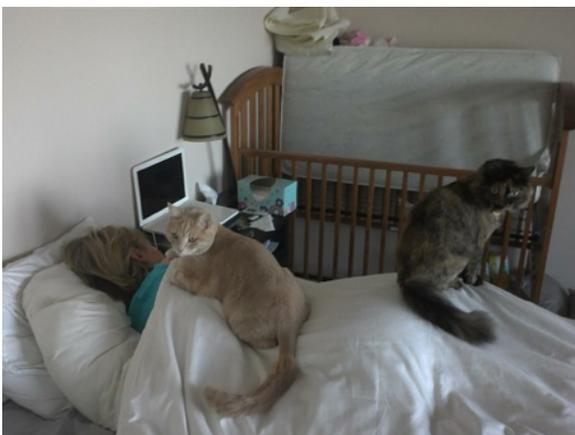
Dear NightWriters,

I have a question for you - how do you find the time to write? I am a stay at home Mom with a child that goes to daycare 4 days a week. One would think that these are perfect conditions for uninterrupted writing. Yet my days usually go like this:

- I am woken by the kid or by our cats. I pretend I have not noticed for as long as possible. This can be quite challenging since I usually have two felines sitting at the top of me and one little human repetitively yelling in my ear: "Mommy! Mommy! Mommy!"
- I finally roll out of bed, make breakfast and get the kid ready for daycare. Considering he is almost 3 and has an opinion about every single thing we do – and by default the exact opposite opinion to the one I have – mornings are long. By the time I get back home it is usually 10am.
- I decide it's a perfect time for second breakfast (Hobbit, anyone?) and a cup of coffee (decaf, as I am pregnant, but somehow it still makes me feel better...for about 5 minutes, after which the heartburn kicks in).
- Because of the heartburn and exhaustion from the morning chores (fixing several breakfasts is tiring and don't forget it's decaf that I drink) I go lay down and catch up on the world news and social media. I call it researching.
- Around noon I finally decide it's time to write. At 34 weeks pregnant I can't get comfortable. I try to stay in bed and keep the laptop on the top of my belly, but it soon starts to bounce because of the baby kicking. So I move to my desk and stare out of the window pretending I am gathering my thoughts. Thoughts are not coming, but hunger is (it's not my fault, I am pregnant!)
- I go to the kitchen in search of food. On the way there I step on at least three toys. I decide I can't ignore the mess any longer and start cleaning up. By the time I am finished, I am out of breath and need to take a nap.
- After the nap I remember I forgot to do the laundry, feed the cats and take a shower. After some prioritizing I usually feed the cats.
- I stare at my "to do" list. I know for a fact there should be at least 5 more things included there, but I can't remember what they are. I glance at



*Andrea Chmelik
Member-at-Large*



the clock. I need to go get the kid!

- Once I have the kid with me, he requires my full attention. I can't write in such conditions.
- When the kid goes to bed, I revisit the subject of laundry and shower. By the time I get done with those, I am ready to crash and sleep until two cats and one little boy climb into my bed.



Which brings me back to my question – how do you find the time to write? What works for you? Can you steal a few minutes here and there, or do you need to have a block of time set aside in order to be productive? What do you do when you don't feel inspired?

I would love to hear your suggestions and share them with others. Please, e-mail me at chmelik.andrea@gmail.com. Maybe you have the perfect recipe! I will compile a little “how to get it done” list and share it with all of you. Don't let me down, NightWriters!

Yours,

Andrea Chmellik

chmelik.andrea@gmail.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.
- 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) 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.

“In my own experience, nothing is harder for the developing writer than overcoming his anxiety that he is fooling himself or cheating or embarrassing his family and friends. To most people, even those who don't read much, there is something special and vaguely magical about writing, and it is not easy for them to believe that someone they know – someone quite ordinary in many respects – can really do it.”

~John Gardner

KUDOS... KUDOS... KUDOS

Anna Unkovich's 25 word entry in Writers Digest monthly "YourStory contest, was published in the May/June issue. No small feat. It was one of ten chosen from more than 1300 entries. Her story opener, using these three words: "tangled, fresh and hair" follows: "Sissy remembered when she first put fresh skunk scent on her tangled hair to keep her incestuous father at bay."

Judythe Guarnera's essay, "Acing the Final" won second place in the San Mateo County Fair Literary Arts Contest, Division Senior Essay. Her essay will be published in "Carry the Light," the San Mateo County Fair Literary Anthology.

Andrea Chmelik's blog post titled "What I Wish I Knew Before Getting Pregnant" that appeared on the blog "Thoughts, Stories and Other Randomities" has been featured in a Babble.com e-book. It is available from Hyperion Books. Titled "Parenting, Uncensored: Straight Talk from Real Moms and Dads on Getting Pregnant," it can be bought for \$1.99 here <http://www.hyperionbooks.com/book/parenting-uncensored-straight-talk-from-real-moms-and-dads-on-getting-pregnant-ebook/>. Both Babble and Hyperion are part of Disney group. <http://www.babble.com/mom/best-of-blogs-campaign/books/>

Terry Sanville's flash fiction story "Cold Sheets" will appear in an upcoming edition of "The P.Q. Leer Seasonal Journal." P.Q. Leer is a very small publisher located somewhere in the Northwest -- nobody likes to give physical locations any more. They publish both electronic and print versions of the journal and are staffed by the under-30 crowd. So why would they pick a story written by a geezer about an old women living alone in Morro Bay? Go figure!

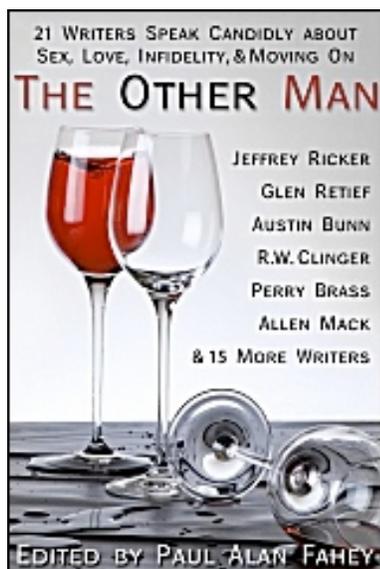
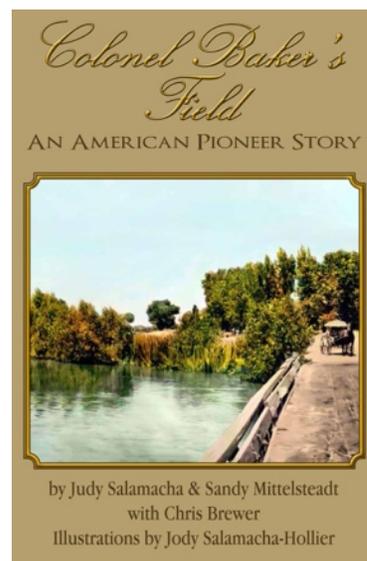
"Shanghai Steam" (the anthology containing **Laurel Ann Hill's** Moon-Flame Woman short story) has been nominated for an Aurora Award. Sponsored by the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association, the Aurora Award does not have a best short story collection category, so "Shanghai Steam" was nominated in "Best Related Work - English." Each category contains only five nominations. The winners will be announced in October. For more information about "Shanghai Steam," go to <http://www.shanghai-steam.com/>.

A review of **Beryl Reichenberg's** picture book for ages 3 to 6, The Mysterious Case of the Missing Birthday Cake, appeared on drbooks.blogspot.com. Said the reviewer, "This book encourages bravery, observation, kindness and friendship, and can be used to teach sequence of events. It's a great read-aloud story time book for pre-schoolers and kindergartners."

BOOK LAUNCHES

Judy Salamacha's nonfiction book is now out! *Colonel Baker's Field, An American Pioneer Story*, was co-written with Sandy Mittelstead, with Chris Brewer, and illustrated by Jody Salamacha-Hollier (Judy's daughter). As part of the launch, Judy appeared on Dave Congalton on May 29 at 4:00 pm., and gave a presentation and book signing in Bakersfield on June 1.

On July 31, Judy and her daughter, Jody, will give a presentation at the Morro Bay Library. Judy will be at Coalesce Book Store in Morro Bay on August 24th to sign books. Mark your calendars so you can get your own autographed copy of this fascinating, tightly-written, thoroughly-researched volume of local history.



"Something for everyone regardless of your sexual orientation. A delight to read such great writing." ~Regina Anavy, Writer/Editor/Essayist

Edited by **Paul Alan Fahey**, who is also a contributor, this anthology titled *The Other Man* is an artistic collaboration by and about gay men and their relationships. Twenty-one acclaimed authors write candidly about sex, love, infidelity and moving on.

Contributors, many of them Lambda Award winners and finalists, include: Perry Brass, Austin Bunn, Rob Byrnes, Mark Canavera, R.W. Clinger, Lewis DeSimone, Paul Alan Fahey, Wes Hartley, William Henderson, Allen Mack, Jeff Mann, Tom Mendicino, Erik Orrantia, Felice Picano, David Pratt, Glen Retief, Jeffrey Ricker, Rodney Ross, Jason Schneiderman, Philip Dean Walker, and Chuck Willman. Edited by: Paul Alan Fahey.

Available at JMS Books and on Amazon in print and digital. A portion of the proceeds go to the It Gets Better Project.

“CAREER OF FOOD-AND-FILM CRITIC TERI BAYUS AND THE BUSINESS OF WRITING FOR THE MOVIES”

Review of May Meeting by Andrea Chmelik

What if someone told you that they are working on a story in which the main protagonist is a woman who left law school to join the circus as a trapeze artist, lived with a star of the movie “Water for Elephants” for three years (the star being the elephant, not Reese Witherspoon), moved to the quaint California Central Coast, became a food and film critic, owned 20 businesses, taught writing and social marketing, raised two of her own children and fostered another six, and sold a movie script to Morgan Freeman? You'd probably say that does not sound realistic.

Now imagine they tell you this is non-fiction.

Meet [Teri Bayus](#), the speaker at our May general meeting. Teri first shared with us how she became a food and film columnist for Tolosa Press. If you are curious what skills you need to land a job like that (besides writing skills and a good palate) the answer is tenacity. After she was originally rejected by Tolosa, she stalked them relentlessly for eight months. When they decided to give a column to her broker husband instead, Teri did what she had to do and started writing the column in his name. Her identity was eventually revealed and her career as a food and film critic with Tolosa got a green light.

Teri's advice to writers is simple – set yourself up for success. Set the goals you can reach. If you can't get published, blog instead. If you are out of words, then tweet. Just make sure you write. She suggests to write reviews for web-sites like [Yelp](#), [Trip Advisor](#) or [Rotten Tomatoes](#). The more often you contribute, the better your rank gets and you can establish yourself as a reputable critic.

For those interested in screenwriting, Teri recommends [Dov Simmen's 2-day film school](#) that packs four years of film education into a single weekend. Dov's Grads include Quentin Tarantino ("Reservoir Dogs," "Kill Bill"), Chris Nolan (Director of "Batman Begins," "Memento") and Guy Ritchie ("Snatch," "Revolver").



Teri was passionate, inspiring and funny as all get out



A spellbound audience



Food and movie critic, script writer, stand up comic? Oh yes, all three!



Soaking up the facts and enjoying the humor



Mini eclairs - Yum!



Off to start that screenplay!

Teri's experience with Hollywood shows that anything is possible – yes, one day it could be you who picks up a ringing phone and hears Morgan Freeman on the other end of the line offering to buy your script. But it is also possible that more than a decade later the movie is still a work in progress. It all comes back to tenacity. Don't give up and keep working.

After the general meeting break Teri instructed an exercise on developing a strong character with us. If you want to create memorable characters (and without them your story will fail), you need to know them in and out. First we worked on building detailed character traits – from family background (parents, siblings, family structure) and basics (gender, physical attributes/problems, race, socio-economic status, location), through personality traits and personal habits, to professional life and more. Teri then asked us to put the character on the bus heading to San Francisco. Once there, we each had to decide what our character would do next. Then we put the character in peril. What were they going to do? How were they going to get themselves out of the situation? In the end the character needed to do something unexpected. Even though his action was totally unexpected for the reader, it still had to stem from the character's background and what we knew about him/her.

Teri's presentation had it all – useful information, entertainment, tips, advice, behind the scenes stories and a large dose of “never-give-up” medicine. We hope you who were there enjoyed it and we look forward to seeing you all in June!

Tap, tap, tap go the keys,

Andrea



Teri Bayus and her “fan club”

MUSINGS AND NEWS: TOLOSA CORNER



*Judythe Guarnera,
Tolosa Submissions
Manager*

Writers Digest quotes William Noble: "The longer we keep our reader guessing, the more attention they will pay to what they are reading," from "On How to Create Tension through Misdirection," from a guest newsletter excerpted from *Elements of Fiction Writing: Conflict, Action & Suspense*.

As I sat at my computer, trying to choose a theme or topic for this month's Tolosa Press Corner, I paged through writing quotes and previous columns. Nothing jumped out at me until I came upon a published Musing and News from a year ago. In it I had suggested things to avoid or to do to increase a writer's chance of being published, either in Tolosa Press or elsewhere.

Since I continue to receive submissions that do not follow those guidelines, I thought some of them might bear repeating.

As I have pointed out in the past, the process for submitting to the NW column in Tolosa is a much more forgiving process than what you are likely to experience from other editors. If you get it right here, you are increasing your odds elsewhere.

How many times have you submitted to magazines, journals, newspapers and never gotten any response at all? Why do you think your work was not accepted? I have done considerable research on this topic and can assure you that if you made it past the first look-over and it hadn't been rejected because of typos and misspellings, but was rejected at the next phase, there is a good chance you didn't follow the writer's/submission guidelines.

The likely next step is that your submission is tossed. Editors and publishers seldom have the time or inclination to let you know why your work was rejected. Although it is obvious to the NightWriter Editorial Committee that some NW members who submit have read and followed the guidelines, many others just as obviously have not. Even, given a gentle detailed reminder from us, the one submitting, probably in haste, may leave out a critical step.

For example: When you receive an e-mail from me asking you to re-send your piece with a bio in the body of the submission, I am surprised by the number of people who will send the bio in the body of the e-mail, instead. Then, instead of just saving the corrected attachment which should include the submission and the bio, I have to find the original e-mail and cut and paste the bio into the document and then save. When this happens repeatedly, it greatly increases the time spent to file your submission. Multiply this by the approximately 150 submissions that have landed on my desk in the last 4 years and you can see the problem.

Following are tips to ready your piece for submission and improve your chances of being published:

Devise a check-off list relating to some of your bad habits that need to be broken. The list might include:

* Does your piece have a story arc also known as dramatic structure? Follow this link for more information: <http://www.coffeestainedwriter.blogspot.com/2009/08/fiction-thursday-story-arc.html>

* Do you have compelling hooks, also known as narrative hooks, throughout? Go to <http://www.fiction-writers-mentor.com/narrative-hook.html> for more information.

* Watch for words you have repeated throughout or several times in a short space. *

Have you used pronouns when nouns would be stronger?

* Do a search for “ing” words and replace passive verbs with active verbs.

* Have you used adverbs in place of strong verbs?

* Have you varied the length of your sentences?

Customize your list to include your writing weaknesses, whether fiction or non-fiction.

CELEBRATION TIME * * * KUDOS

We salute the SLO NightWriters who were published in Tolosa Press since the last column.

Ed Longstreth’s essay, “Sugar Junkies,” takes the reader back to the shenanigans perpetrated by children on their unsuspecting parents.

Jean Moelter’s essay, “Matt and Jean Do Laughter Yoga,” relates a heart-warming and poignant story of her efforts to put two major losses into perspective and to regain the ability to laugh again.

“Thanks, Mom,” an essay by **David Schwab**, describes sharing his mom’s illness and her last journey in this special Mother’s Day essay.

Don’t forget that you can’t get published if you don’t submit and you can’t submit if you don’t write.

In the rhythm of writing,

Judythe

SCHOOL WRITING COMPETITION AWARDS

On May 20, the winners of the county-wide school writing competition, sponsored by Arts Obispo, were announced. Several NightWriters served as judges this year, and NightWriters awarded the 16 winners from 11th and 12 grades a free one-year membership as student members of NightWriters.

We are so proud of the level of sophistication in all the writing this year, and so proud of the winners from 2nd grade through 12th grade. If this competition is any indication, the future of writing is in good hands!

On this and the next page are some photos from the awards ceremony.



The joy of announcing the winners

SLO NIGHTWRITERS TEEN WRITERS WORKSHOP SIGN UP YOUR TEENS NOW!

Tues. June 25th – Thurs. June 28th
2:30 to 4:30pm @ SLO Library Conference Room
995 Palm Street, SLO 94301 781-5775

Facilitated by Shruti Maniar, Teen & Children's Writer, SLO NightWriter

Tues: Setting – Describe it like you are really there

Wed: Characters – Make them as real as you

Thu: Show it. Don't tell me – Write compelling action scenes

Fri: TeenZine – receive your excerpts in print (optional; short session)

Bring your laptop, or notebook and pen/pencil

[Print this page; fill in information, make a copy, and retain one for your records. Mail the other to SLO Library at the address above] Call Library at 805-781-5775 if you need to cancel

Name: _____ [Turn this part in to the Children's Desk]

Grade: _____ Email (for class updates only): _____

Is there a session you will NOT attend? _____

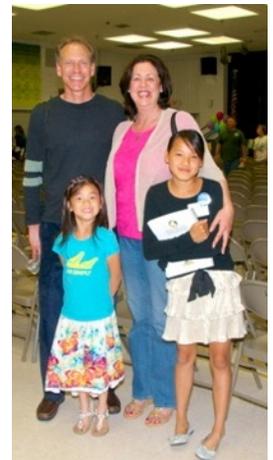


The winners lined up for awards



Charlotte Alexander and the Arts Obispo Crew

The proud family of one young winner



WRITE IT RIGHT ~ WRITERS CLINIC

**Explore Dialogue and Plot
in this 4-hour Hands-on, Interactive Workshop**

Saturday – July 20th

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Held at the PG&E Education Center, 6588 Ontario Road, San Luis Obispo

Unrealistic dialogue and weak plots can kill an otherwise terrific story. In this workshop, we will spend 2 hours on Dialogue and 2 hours on Plot, using “Write It Right” exercises to learn the skills and strategies we need to make our writing the best it can be.

This third in our acclaimed series of “Write It Right” workshops is designed for beginner, intermediate and experienced writers—fiction and creative nonfiction alike. Attendance at first clinics is **not** required.

Volumes 1–6 of the “Write It Right” Series will be available for purchase on CD at the clinic.

Guaranteed to improve and stretch your writing talent!

\$25 Member Early Bird Registration received by **July 13**

\$35.00 Non-member Early Bird Registration received by **July 13**

Walk-ins welcome (\$40.00 at door) but you **must email by July 18th** to reserve your seat.

Registration Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Genre: _____

Mail this form with your check payable to:

SLO NightWriters P.O. Box 6241, Los Osos, CA 93412
Questions and information: contact Susan Tuttle at aim2write@yahoo.com

INTERVIEW WITH INGRID ESCAJEDA



Ingrid Escajeda

Ingrid Escajeda got her first taste of entertainment as an undergraduate at UC Berkeley where, while working on a degree in biology, she studied acting and comedy. Hooked by the biz, she went on to get her MFA in film production from USC where she studied both directing and writing. Early in her career, Ingrid worked as a producer for lifestyle networks such as Fine Living, Travel Channel and Food Network (including FN's Hungry Girl). Alas, writing has always been her true passion and she got her start in narrative comedy staffing on Disney's Hannah Montana and ABC's Better Off Ted. Ingrid then transitioned to drama and has loved being part of the Justified writing team for the past two years.

What was your dream job when you were a child? Have you always wanted to be a writer?

I wanted to be a marine biologist. I grew up in San Diego, so I was totally obsessed with Sea World. But I did do a lot of writing back then. I even won quite a few awards for stories and essays. And I watched a ton of TV and movies – I saw SIXTEEN CANDLES so many times I knew it by heart. But as I got to high school, it was all about science. Well, that and partying. So the writing fell by the wayside. By the time I got to Berkeley, I was set on medical school.

Seems like a long way from medical school to entertainment...

My first taste of entertainment came in my senior year - I took an acting class and a class on comedy. One day in the comedy class, my friend Josh had a bunch of film school applications with him. I asked to look at them and it was like finding the Holy Grail. Up until then, entertainment always seemed like a world unto itself. To me, the whole "it's who you know" thing meant you had to know a head of a studio or be a star's kid or something. Plus it just seemed like such an unstable and flaky profession. I never thought it was something I could have actually done. Nonetheless, by then I was toying with the idea of taking a few years off to "find myself" anyway. I still took the MCAT and did pretty well. But on the writing sample, I got only one point away from a perfect score. It reminded me that not only did I used to love to write, I was actually quite good at it! So after a few years of your typical early 20s self-discovery and even an acceptance into law school (obviously I didn't go), I realized and accepted the entertainment spark had stuck with me. I finally applied to film school and got into USC. It was funny – my first week there, I ran into my friend Josh who was on his last year there. He was like – what the heck are you doing here?? I thought you'd be a doctor by now!

How does one become a writer for a TV show?

There's no set path. Some people come up through the ranks as writers' assistants, some

Continued Next Page

INGRID ESCAJEDA INTERVIEW...CONT'D

people come in through writing workshops like the ABC Fellowship, and some people – as I learned! – just know someone. But the one thing in common with all of us (other than ability) is perseverance. Because no matter how talented you are, it's a tough road. And for most of us, a long one. Frankly, had I known how tough it would be when I started out, I'm not sure I'd have ever started.

You have worked on Hannah Montana (a Disney teen sitcom), Better Off Ted (a satirical sitcom) and Justified (a TV drama). These are three completely different genres. What was your genre preference? How did you make a transition?

I always thought I'd be a comedy writer. Following my friend's suggestion I wrote a couple spec TV episodes of SCRUBS and CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM (spec TV episodes are not actually for the show – they're used as calling cards for potential jobs to show off talent, etc). Long story short, a manager who read them liked them, signed me on as a client and got me an agent. I wrote more specs and a few years later I finally got my breakthrough shot on HANNAH MONTANA. Being a multi-camera sitcom, HANNAH was a very joke-heavy show and thus, a joke-heavy writers' room. I learned very quickly that I was most definitely not a joke-heavy writer. I can go off on my own and write some hilarious stuff but I'm not a stand-up comedian. Not even close. And that's what fills a multi-camera room. I was surrounded by hilarious people who would toss out zingers left and right. My comedy was more like THE OFFICE or WEEDS, funny that stemmed from character and situation. So even though I was good at that and other stuff like story and structure, I felt like I could never keep up funny-wise and it was extremely stressful. It was a pretty awful realization. Here I was in my dream job – the job I'd been working for years to land and it was giving me an ulcer.

That sounds like Better Off Ted was a better fit for you.

BETTER OFF TED was better. It was more character-driven and just a really, really smart show. Personally, I think it was way ahead of its time as well as on the wrong network. But I digress. So yes, even though the material was a better fit for me, I still had the same problem and it nagged me that I felt like I was only good at 80% of my job. Plus by that point, I found myself craving more. Drama on cable was exploding and I was watching a ton of it – LOST, SIX FEET UNDER, BREAKING BAD, RESCUE ME, etc. I wanted a part of that depth and character. I wanted to explore motivations more. And darkness. And conflicts. You get the idea. So after TED was cancelled, I decided to make the move into drama. I knew it would probably be difficult to do but I was lucky to have a very supportive agent (who's now my manager). He encouraged me to go for it. "Sure," he said, "just go write a kickass drama." So

INGRID ESCAJEDA INTERVIEW...CONT'D

I went off and wrote a script about the LAPD bomb squad. (How that came to me is another long story – suffice to say we had a scare at my condo complex and I made a new friend.) That was the script that landed me on JUSTIFIED. And thank goodness it did! JUSTIFIED was exactly the kind of writing I was looking to do – character-driven, gritty. I seriously don't think I could have landed in a better place. Looking back, part of me does miss comedy somewhat, but really, the transition to drama was the best decision I ever made. It was only after I started on JUSTIFIED that my agent admitted to me how worried he had been, how a transition like that was crazy hard, especially for a writer with so few credits. I'm so glad he never told me that sooner!

How much plot is developed in advance as far as the number of episodes is concerned?

It's hard to say episode-wise, but the writers go in about three months before production starts, so we have a good sense of what the season is going to look like before we start shooting any footage. And we'll usually have about four scripts locked and loaded.

How do you proceed with the plot - do you react to audience feedback, critics' feedback, or something else entirely?

No audience or critic feedback. By the time anything airs, we've completed too much to take any of that into consideration. I know that the first couple seasons – before I got there – a lot of stuff came out of Elmore Leonard's "Raylan" book. (JUSTIFIED is based on the Elmore Leonard short story "Fire in the Hole".) Before seasons 3 & 4, I went to Kentucky – Lexington and Harlan – and did a ton of research. The U.S. Marshals in Lexington are a great group who always have stories for us. And Harlan is an incredible town filled with a lot of amazing people with stories that you wouldn't believe, so a lot of ideas came out of those trips. Our star Tim Olyphant (who is a producer on the show) is also a big part of the process and has a lot of great ideas himself. My boss, Graham Yost (Executive Producer/Creator) is also an idea genius. We'll toil over something for a while and he'll go off and do his "yellow-padding" and then come back with something that blows us all away. But day-to-day, it's the "discussing and processing" engine of the writers' room (headed by Graham) that churns out the storylines you end up seeing on TV.

What are your goals for the future? Any big plans or hopes you can share with us?

JUSTIFIED is currently on hiatus until July so I've been working on my own projects these days. I have a few irons in the fire for ideas that I would love to see come alive on the small screen (including my bomb squad pilot) so we'll see. And of course, high hopes that season five of JUSTIFIED will be our best one yet!

The Poet's Corner

THE BEAT OF FEET

by: Evy Cole

A red paddlewheel turns
Pushing our steamboat across the
Mississippi

Trumpeter on deck leads
a dapper guy on clarinet
with Butch Thompson on piano

playing great New Orleans Dixieland
No one in the crowd
can hold his feet still
The players tap their heels
I bounce my toes

Tears fill my eyes
with every song
Why do I cry and dance
at the same time
sitting all the while

I wonder if my ancestors
in the African Plains
tapped their toes or heels
to the heart-pounding sound
of this rhythmic beat

MY LITTLE DARLINGS

by: Kalila Volkov

Dear ones, I'm delighted to see you again!
I've waited many months for your return
How I missed your pretty faces
and I'm thrilled to welcome you back

Thank you for coming out
despite the biting wind
When I visit you up on the hillside
I must wear my thickest scarf
You wave gaily as I approach
yellow caps shimmering in the sunlight
with your sisters dressed in purple, pink
and blue

I like sitting with you
on less blustery days
when we bask in the warmth and quiet
the hush imprinted by waves unwinding
in the distance
and by sparrows serenading with birdsong

Old friends, you nourish me
Your gentle spirits soothe me
I relish the dazzling beauty
and perfection of all of you,
darling dainty flowers of springtime

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SUNDAY POETRY

South County Poets has finally found a new, quiet home. As of May 26, they will meet monthly in an insulated room 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.

We will meet there on the 4th Sunday of every month at 5:30 pm. Readings from our featured poet start at six, followed by a short break and open mic. Bring your poetry to share!

NEW VENUE: Rooster Creek Tavern, Corner of Short and E. Branch St., in Arroyo Grande Village. Parking behind restaurant.

NEW TIME: 5:30 pm, readings start at 6:00 pm, followed by open mic.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, June 23rd at 5:30 pm.

Join NW's own **Evy Cole**, and co-host David Ochs, listen to the guest poet, and bring a piece or two of your own to share.



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.

CORNERS OF THE MOUTH

From Kevin Patrick Sullivan: In conjunction with Julie Frankel's "Up In Arms," a creative response to gun violence at the Stynberg Gallery on July 5, there will be a special Poetry Reading sometime in July. Write your "Up In Arms" poems and have them ready.

"Up In Arms" is also the theme for the Corners of the Mouth open reading on July 7th at 3:00 pm at Linnea's, but there will also be a special reading as part of the exhibit.

Phil Taggart, Marsha de la O and David Ochs were featured on May 19 at Corners of the Mouth, followed by an open reading of original work.

BALLOT PRESS NOVEL CONTEST

Richard Keller's book, *Paradise (Not Quite) Lost*, a rollicking tongue-in-cheek sci-fi adventure, is happily working with an editor to ready his manuscript for publication. Now Ballot Press is searching for their next great "find."

If you have a finished manuscript, you can upload it to the Ballot Press website, and post 1,500 words from the novel for readers to comment on and vote for. While the voting goes on, judges read the complete novels and, in conjunction with reader comments and votes, choose a winner every other month.

The winner receives a \$500.00 prize and, if willing to work with an editor to bring the work up to Ballot Press publishing standards, will receive an additional \$1,500.00 when the book is in production. There are **no entry fees**. Ballot Press produces their books in both a print version and all e-formats, and does extensive marketing, including setting up an author website/webpage.

It's easy to enter. Simply upload your **finished manuscript** to the Ballot Press website (www.ballotpress.com/writing-contest/) and post a **1,500 word excerpt** from the book for open voting. Then tell everyone you know to go vote for your entry. For more information go to the Ballot Press website, or contact Ballot Press Publisher Karen Velie at 805-234-1703.

MIDLIFE COLLAGE LOOKING FOR SUBMISSIONS

Midlife Collage is looking for submissions for their weekly, free-entry, online writing contests. Cash prizes awarded. Must be your own true, nonfiction short story written by a US citizen or resident of at least 40 years of age. No word minimum, though they suggest 250 - 500 words. They will accept fewer words and up to 1,500 words.

They are seeking stories that are entertaining, enlightening, insightful, humorous or any combination of these. There is a video available on topic ideas on their Calendar page.

See complete details of contest rules and the FAQ page at www.midlifecollage.com. Entry form for your details and story are on the website. Online submission on their form only. Submissions page for the guidelines and contest rules.

LOCAL WRITING NEWS

Charlotte Alexander stepped down from the directorship of Arts Obispo, where she had held the position since the fall of 2011. She has accepted the position of the new Executive Director of the SLO Film Festival. Congratulations, Charlotte!

Jenna Hartzel, a resident of Atascadero, the former Program Director for Arts Obispo, has been appointed the Executive Director of Arts Obispo. She is replacing Charlotte Alexander. Congratulations, Jenna!

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

NW is in need of a **Program Director for 2014**. It can be one person, or a team of writers who collaborate to find interesting and entertaining programs for our monthly meetings. A team approach is a great way to go, so no one person has all the responsibility, and you have built-in brainstorming collaborators. Judy Salamacha, our current Programs Director, will be on hand to help with questions or problems. Interested in exploring (not committing to) 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 SUBMISSIONS WANTED

Do you have some great information other writers could use? Do you use a specific process or technique that would be of value to others? Do you follow interesting blogs, know of a fantastic website for writers? Have you read a great book—or a bad one—you could review? Do you have a quote, an interesting word, or do you know a writer you could interview? You're a writer: Why not write for WordSmiths? (Great for your resume!)

WordSmiths is looking for more NW members to submit articles, reviews, quotes, words, interviews, kudos, etc. Send to: Newsletter Editor at aim2write@yahoo.com or slonightwriters@yahoo.com. Be sure to **put "Newsletter Submission" in the subject line.**

THINK HARLEQUIN

Do you include a touch of romance in your stories? Are your heroines late teens to thirty years of age? Are your stories primarily for women. Then, think Harlequin when looking for a publisher.

There are an amazing number of opportunities available at Harlequin, not just traditional bodice-ripper romance novels. Take a look at this lineup of new and exciting genres and see if perhaps you fit somewhere in there:

1. **Series books:** First Series, American Romance, Blaze, Desire, Intrigue, Nocturne, Presents, Presents Extra, Romance, Romantic Suspense, Special Edition, Superromance, Kimani Romance, Love Inspired, Love Inspired Historical, Love Inspired Suspense.
2. **Harlequin Teen:** exciting, authentic fiction for every young adult reader who loves to escape beneath the covers of a great read. With its selection of heart-pounding, edgy stories, from established authors and fresh new voices, Harlequin TEEN captures the

THINK HARLEQUIN, CONT'D

growing young adult audience. Our range of genres includes everything today's young readers embrace—paranormal, contemporary, fantasy, dystopian, literary, romance and historical. For 2012, Harlequin TEEN includes *New York Times* bestselling authors such as Julie Kagawa, Gena Showalter, and Rachel Vincent, as well as rising voices such as Aimée Carter, Katie McGarry and Hannah Harrington. Harlequin Teen publishes from 1 to 3 new titles each month!

3. **Love Inspired Suspense®** is looking for new authors! The Love Inspired Suspense line is expanding from four books per month to six books per month in 2014, so opportunities abound for inspirational romantic suspense writers!
4. Carina Press: Adult books (RUSH ME by Allison Parr) of around 60,000 words and up. They can be any subgenre of romance, but the characters should fall in the age ranges of late teens to mid-twenties and be dealing with the emotional drama, high conflict and life changes that people in this age range usually experience. Though Carina Press acquires all genres of romance, we are particularly seeking erotic romance, m/m romance and historical romance. In addition to those genres, we're also interested in acquiring a paranormal romance series that we can break out and build, and we're also looking for authors to write contemporary cowboy romances.
5. **Harlequin MIRA** and **Harlequin HQN**: For MIRA, outstanding mainstream fiction including: women's fiction, multi-faceted contemporary romance, historical fiction, romantic suspense, paranormal novels and thrillers. For HQN, compelling romance of all kinds, including contemporary, paranormal, historical, romantic suspense, erotic romance and New Adult.
6. Harlequin E: A new line of digital stories that run the gamut of horror, reckonings, space opera, erotic vacation, etc. Harlequin E Shivers is moody, atmospheric, lush and gothic inspired. Harlequin E Grand presents sexy, juicy modern romances with no limits to settings, just big stories.
7. Cosmo Red Hot Reads: Fast-paced, passionate romances for today's fun, fearless females, set in big cities and glamorous locations. Satisfying endings with frequent fun, detailed and fantasy-oriented love scenes, strong conflict and a fresh, contemporary voice. No historicals or paranormal stories here. Stories of 25,000 to 30,000 words, published as Digital First offerings.

For complete details on the amazing opportunities you can find at Harlequin, or to submit your work, check out their website: www.harlequin.com

GREAT BEGINNINGS

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

5 WAYS TO DEVELOP A BOOK IDEA

From www.writersdigest.com/online-editor
by Brian Klems

Ideas come almost daily. Something happens and we think, "I should write a book about this." But all too often we replace this dream with the daily necessities of life: watching the sixteenth rerun of "Buffy"; digging out the weeds in the lawn by hand; watching your cousin's friend's neighbor's boss's daughter's softball game. Here are 5 "forces" to help you stop procrastinating and pick up that (virtual) pen and get that book done.

1. **Force yourself to sit down and think:** What intrigues you, revs your motor, gets your juices flowing? What subject matter would you stick to for the long months it takes to produce a book? Weed out what really doesn't intrigue you. If you can get fired about it, you will stick to it.
2. **Force yourself to do some research:** Books of every genre flood the market. You need to make yours stand out. Know what is out there, what's already been done, what still needs to be done. Haunt Amazon, bookstores, etc. The more you know, the more finely you can hone your idea. Then do some research specific to your idea (even fiction needs some research). If you just get more excited about your approach, you know you're ready for the long haul.
3. **Force yourself to write:** This is where the rubber meets the road. A great, unique idea is only half the battle. It's no good unless it gets down on paper. Schedule inviolate time to write every day; get up half an hour early, go to bed a half hour later. Eat lunch in solitude, just you and your laptop. Don't stop for editing or rewriting. There will be ample time for that later. Set a reasonable goal: 500 words a day; or 1,000; 1,500 - whatever feels doable in your writing timeframe. It might feel too slow, but remember: an 80,000 word book at 1,000 words a day will be finished in less than a year. Then you can go back and polish.
4. **Force yourself to form a game plan:** Until you know for sure which kind of writer you are (one who works from an outline, or one who writes as it comes), know as many of the specifics of your book beforehand as possible. For non-fiction, an outline is essential to stay on track, know how many chapters, etc. And you'll need it for your query. For fiction, it's essential to know your direction so that the main story arc stays on track and all subplots dovetail back into it. When you know your direction, you're more likely to forge ahead.
5. **Force yourself to have fun and believe in your writing:** We all have doubts about our writing and if we will be (or continue to be) successful, even published authors. After all, we're in a business designed to reject people over and over again, even best-selling authors (ask Katherine Ryan Hyde if you want details). If we don't believe in ourselves and our writing, no one else ever will. Even though it's hard work at times, writing should always be fun. And fulfilling. Otherwise, why do it? The more we work diligently at improving and telling a compelling story, and have fun doing it, the more likely we will be to succeed. (Editors note: We all need more encouragement and support than our parents or spouse. Join or start a critique group. You'll be more apt to believe the good things other writers say about your work, and believe it yourself.

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: 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: ****Vacant****
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
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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 Month's Meeting: July 9th, 7:00 pm, at PG&E Education Center, 6855 Ontario Road, San Luis Obispo. We've a great program planned, so make sure to mark your calendars.

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

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 **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

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. Contact slownightwriter@yahoo.com or Sharyl Heber, Critique Group Coordinator (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

'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
lilian Sinclair@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

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

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 2 MORE 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

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

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 **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

TEEN FICTION CRITIQUE GROUP

Meets every other Friday in Los Osos, with a specific focus on fantasy, sci-fi, paranormal fiction for teens. Members exchange work and critiques by email, then expound on comments in person at bi-monthly meetings. When needed, in-person meetings may be conducted via Skype.

CURRENTLY FULL — NOT OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS

Moderator: Shruti Maniar
shruti.maniar@gmail.com

CRITIQUE GROUPS LISTING

FULL CRITIQUE GROUPS: CALL TO VISIT

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 FULL – NOT OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS**

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

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. Writers of all levels from beginner to advanced 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