

*SLO Night Writers*

# WORDSMITHS

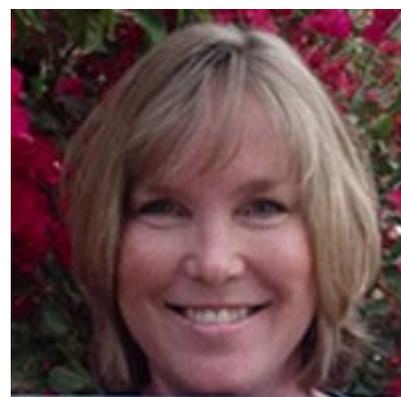


August 2019

## August 13, 2019 General Meeting to present an entertaining look at screenwriting



Jean Moelter



Teena Booth

Radio show host Jean Moelter will conduct a 30-minute interview with highly successful screenwriter and author Teena Booth. Topics will include character, story structure, and genre as well as persistence, meeting deadlines, and collaborating. Their discussion will be followed by questions from the audience.

The Central Coast Writers Conference director, Teri Bayus, will speak about this year's conference at Cuesta College, scheduled for September 26 - 28, 2019. Teri will raffle one free registration to the Writers Conference at the meeting.

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**“Don’t tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass.”**

— Anton Chekhov

## President's Letter

by Janice Konstantinidis

Hello fellow NightWriters,

Here we are well into summer, and I hope yours is going well. To those of you who garden, no doubt you'll be enjoying the results of your efforts, be they tomatoes or roses, or both. It's a lovely time of the year.

Our SLO NightWriters Golden Quill writing contest submission deadline has passed. Thanks to your interest and enthusiasm, we have 44 entries this year! I am looking forward to our September meeting, when we will announce our winners, award prizes, and hear the winning and second place entries, time permitting.

Our judges are busy this month evaluating your entries. Our thanks to these volunteers for their time and expertise.

Teri Bayus will be popping into our August general meeting to give a short talk about the upcoming Central Coast Writers Conference. Teri will raffle a free conference admission. I hope to see many of you there to take advantage of this opportunity. The CCWC is a wonderful resource for all writers, and we have it here on our doorstep.

I am happy to tell you that we are now an incorporated non-profit with a general liability insurance policy. In a nutshell, we had to be incorporated so we could take out an insurance policy. I am very grateful to our treasurer, Steve Derks, for his long



and hard work making sure we are indemnified and that we meet all the legal requirements. It is essential that we keep our non-profit status current.

Steve and I hit the ground running and have been on some steep learning curves ever since we took up our respective positions. It is imperative that we develop future board members who have the skills and knowledge to keep the organization running smoothly. Board members come from you, the members. If you are interested in helping, please let me know, or attend a board meeting. We would like to train others as backups to the current board, so that we can take a break or respond to emergencies without worrying.

*(Continued on page 3)*

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Umbrella of feathers reflected,  
a ballet on water perfected.  
Choreographed glory,  
a beautiful story,  
of nature's beauty perfected.

*Janice Konstantinidis*



Lorraine Flebmore Photography

## President's Letter

*(Continued from page 2)*

This month, Steve and I are interim newsletter editors. While we are happy to do all we can to make sure that SLO NightWriters continues to function well, we need more members to participate in the running of the organization. Please look on the last page of this newsletter or on the website to see our vacant positions. We need an editor for WORD-SMITHS. It's a wonderful opportunity to be involved. Members interested in helping keep NightWriters a great organization by filling board vacancies or serving as newsletter editor, please contact me at [jkon50@gmail.com](mailto:jkon50@gmail.com).

Our grateful thanks to Lillian Brown for her skillful management of the newsletter for many months. We wish her great success in her future endeavors.

Also, many thanks to Dr. Steve Mintz for volunteering as our new Programs Director. I am excited to see what he comes up with for 2020.

In the meantime, don't forget to take time to smell your roses, or someone else's for that matter. Summer is fleeting.

Kind regards,

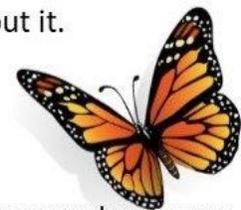
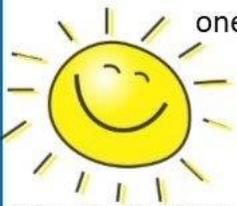
### Sunshine Corner

Need a Little Sunshine?

Into every life a little rain might fall, times when we long for sunshine, but no one notices.

NightWriters would like to send a card to any of its members who are ill, have lost a loved one, had surgery or an accident, but we don't always hear about it.

So, Fellow Writers, we need you!



Please email me, Judythe Guarnera: [judy.guarnera@gmail.com](mailto:judy.guarnera@gmail.com) and let me know when someone you know needs a little sunshine.

## July General Meeting Review - Part 1

Marilyn Meredith, the author of two mystery series, gave a presentation on writing a series and keeping it going.

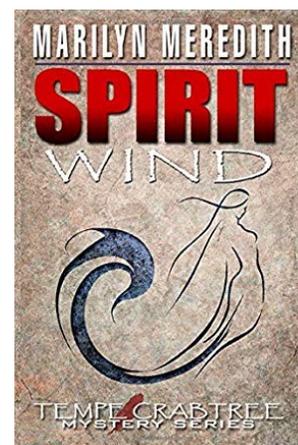
One of her biggest tips was to keep a "bible" on the series that contains all the information about the ongoing characters and the settings. She confessed that she'd done that in the beginning, but didn't keep up with it and wished she had.

Though she had no idea when she wrote the first book in either series, that they would be ongoing, she loved her characters so much she wanted to see what happened to them next. The only way to do that was to write another book.

She also suggested that you don't have to know what you want to write about these days. It's easy to find out about anything.

Marilyn latest book in the Deputy Tempe Crabtree series is *Spirit Wind*. It is set in Tehachapi. In the Rocky Bluff P.D. series, where she writes as F. M. Meredith, the stories are set in a small beach community between Ventura and Santa Barbara. The latest in that series is *Tangled Webs*.

If you have any questions, you can email her at [mmeredith24@ocsnet.net](mailto:mmeredith24@ocsnet.net).



## July General Meeting Review - Part 2

Dr. Steven Mintz talked about his journey from being a writer of technical material as a college professor for over 30 years to writing his first book for a commercial audience, *Beyond Happiness and Meaning: Transforming Your Life Through Ethical Behavior*.

Steve discussed the process of selecting the right genre for his book – self-help/philosophy – through the publication process. He explained his decision to outsource the editing process, publication of the book, and promotional efforts. He had branded himself as The Ethics Sage many years earlier through his blogs on ethics in society, workplace ethics and higher education ethics. Steve was already a recognized writer to his readers and others who follow him on social media. He emphasized the importance of branding to create an online persona and drive interest to one's books.

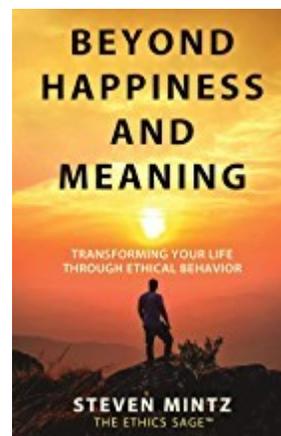
The second half of Steve's presentation was about how learning the art of ethical behavior can help to bring more happiness to our lives and greater meaning. We do so by making the right choices: doing things right not wrong; doing good things not bad. We can be happier by acting in accordance with The Golden Rule and treating others the way we wish they would treat us. The right choices are those which give us a good feeling about our ac-



tions and ourselves, help others in a tangible way, and advance the cause of civility. Two examples he discussed are a *Random Act of Kindness* and *Paying it Forward*.

Steve also discussed that when we feel pride in our accomplishments it adds meaning to our lives. This requires us to reach out beyond satisfying our own needs and attending to the needs of others. In this way we transform our inner ethical selves and act in ways that provide for the common good. The result is we are held in high esteem by others in our community.

His book is available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble in paperback form and e-book. Interested members can easily access these sites from his website: [www.stevenmintzethics.com](http://www.stevenmintzethics.com).



## TIPS AND TIDBITS

By Judythe Guarnera



When I looked at my calendar, I realized the deadline for the August issue of *Wordsmith* was upon me—along with several other deadlines. Although ideas of possible topics popped around in my head, I recognized the all-too familiar feelings of pressure and decided to utilize one of the resources I have in my files.

The fodder for many of my columns comes from the extensive research and reading on writing topics I expose myself to. The research I do when writing the *TIPS AND TIDBITS* column informs my writing experience. My hope is that the columns does the same for your writing.

For this month, then, I'm going to add, in full, a column from *Writers Relief*. They encourage sharing their work, as long as they are cited as the source.

The article is a Free Tutorial on generating new short story ideas. The ideas aren't limited to just new short story ideas but can also help a flagging

story idea in a current WIP, short story or novel.

Sometimes changing point of view—third person to first—the occupation or name of the protagonist, or one of the characters, the time of year, a rural town to an urban city—can pump new life into an existing story.

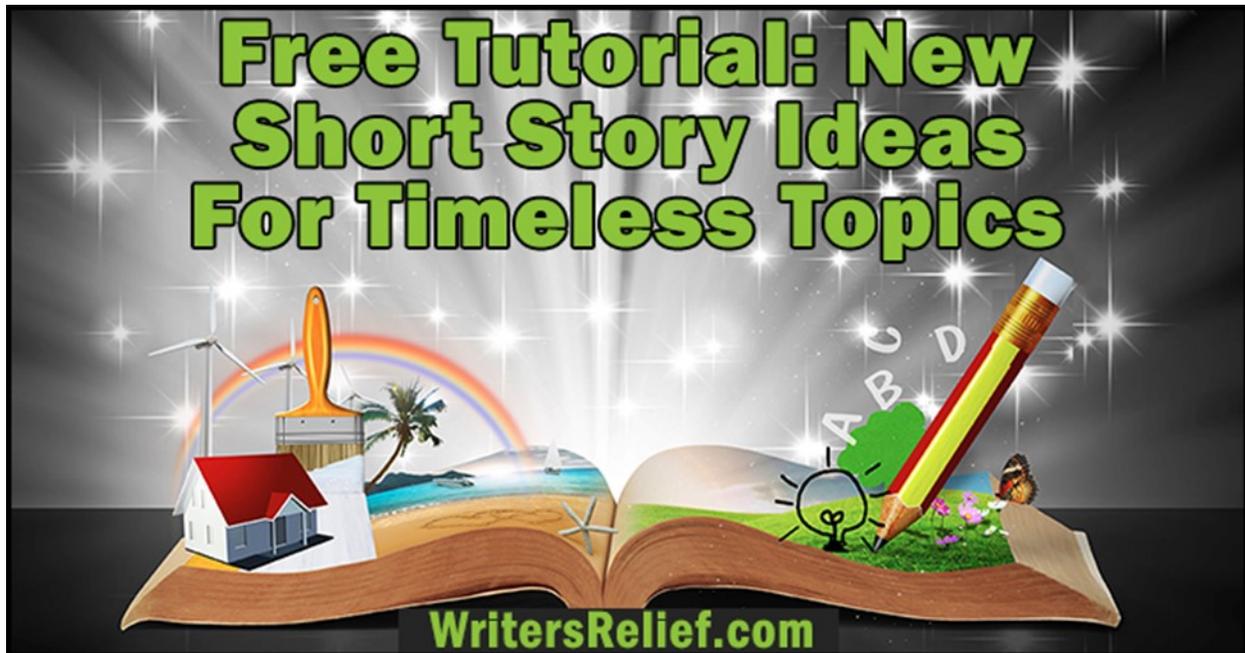
Then again, if you're goal is to venture from novel writing to short stories, look no further as *Writers Relief* demonstrates how to take old story ideas and put a new face on them.

*In the Rhythm of Writing,*

*Judythe Guarnera*

**WRITER'S RELIEF** EST.  
**AUTHOR'S SUBMISSION SERVICE** 1994

**Free Tutorial: New Short Story Ideas For  
 Timeless Topics | Writer's Relief**



Mark Twain believed there was no such thing as a new idea. But he also felt that old ideas could become new with a little inspiration. Writer's Relief feels the same way, which is why we created a mix-and-match idea generator to help you breathe new life into timeless topics for short stories. Check out this free writer tutorial and gain some fresh insights into classic short story subjects!

Editors at literary magazines love when writers put a new spin on traditional subject matter. Also, exploring new angles will help you become a better short story writer. It will challenge you to push boundaries and encourage you to move out of your writing comfort zone.

### **Here's How Writers Can Breathe New Life Into Classic Short Story Ideas**

When using this tutorial, you can deliberately make your narrative choices, or you can take a risk: Print this page, close your eyes, and let fate decide according to where your pen lands!

**One: Pick your overarching short story topic.** We recommend choosing one that hits an emotional trigger point for you.

- Death
- Birth
- Love
- Revenge
- Money
- Romance
- Parenthood
- Fear
- Courage
- Liberation
- Creativity

### **Two: Select a central character.**

- College professor
- Scientist
- Daycare assistant
- Chef
- Office worker
- Carpenter
- Stay-at-home parent
- Painter
- Store clerk
- Coach

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(Continued from page 7)

- Librarian
- Writer
- Retired soldier

**Three: Give your character some emotional baggage (aka backstory).** Take a moment to consider how the following broad topics might specifically apply to the character who has started to form in your mind when you chose from the list above.

- Isolation issues
- Professional stress
- Caregiving duties
- Financial pressures (from too little money OR too much)
- Divorce
- Recovery-in-progress
- Social pressures to conform

**Four: Choose a location for your opening scene.** Surprise yourself! Your choice doesn't have to correspond to your main character's profession. In fact, sometimes it's more interesting if it doesn't!

- Parking lot
- Bookstore
- Boardwalk
- Pet store
- Restaurant
- Monster truck rally
- Television studio
- Train station
- Emergency room
- Nail salon
- Fast-food drive-through lane

**Five: Pick a point of view.** Is your POV that of an observer watching your characters and plot unfold, or is it the main character doing the thinking/talking?

- First person
- Second person
- Third person

- Third-person omniscient
- Something else entirely

**Six: Select the inciting conflict.** Does your main character...

- Annoy the wrong person
- Overhear a secret that should be told
- Run to the rescue of another character
- Have to choose between stepping in and stepping away
- Break something valuable
- Get called out for a social faux pas
- Lose sight of an abducted child
- Need to wiggle out of a promise

**Seven: Determine the end.**

Now it's time to take the starting points you've selected and flesh them out into a fully developed story. You have a classic topic (one that taps into deep human emotions and resonates with readers), a main character who has an interesting backstory, and an inciting incident that can shed light on the subject matter at hand.

But...we're not going to give you prompts for how your story should end. After all, part of the fun of writing is taking the story's journey to a natural stopping point.

**How To Find Help Publishing Your Short Story**

Once you've completed your short story, you may want to explore the possibility of submitting it for publication to a literary magazine. There are lots of free short story resources to help you on our website.

But if you'd rather be writing than doing the legwork of making submissions, check out our professional [submission assistance services here at Writer's Relief!](#)

# WORD PLAY

by Morgann Tayllor

## CAUTION! RUNAWAY WORDS AHEAD

Our language waxes and wanes from one moment or one generation to the next. Some words pop up again in different contexts. Or sputter into misunderstandings or faux pas that bounce back and bite. Here are a few examples of what can happen, depending on your readership, audience or social group:

Some familiar words are **almost obsolete**. A few businesses still use paper invoice **carbon copies**, such as auto repair shops. **Roll down the car window** will join **hang up the phone** as mostly irrelevant now that one only has to touch electronic key pads, buttons or displays. These phrases are mostly vestigial, except as figures of speech or in stories invoking reminiscence of a particular era.

Other words, some **truly obsolete or seldom-used**, should be familiar again. A nation of **scoff-laws** (c.1920s) may be fuddy-duddy yesterday's news, but might now be spot-on in today's social climate. A **quidnunc** (c.1700-1710) was a gossip, a busybody who today could **twattle** (c.1600s) and **brabble** (c.1530s) with the most avid social media enthusiast. A **slugabed** (c.1585-95) was a lazy person who dawdled the morning away in bed. Slugfests or other fests the night before presumably didn't help the situation.



Moribund **zombie words** can be revived, sometimes with bared fangs. **Monsterful** (c. 1810s), as wonderful and extraordinary, might join today's

**wicked cool**. But look what's happened to **cool**. Depending on your social-speak, **cool** perennially, if not preternaturally, evolved from **cool** air temperature to **cool** jazz to finger-snapping **cool** with-it people, events, places, objects. But **cool** as snarky? "**Cool story, bro.**" (c. 2008-2010) is a sarcastic response showing indifference or boredom to a conversation or TL;DR text (Too Long; Don't Read).

Another **zombie word**, also obsolete, would fit nicely for those with a mortal fear of being ignored, forgotten or left out; or that other people might be having a good time without them. **Lethophobia** (c.1700s) is the fear of oblivion. This word is also undead and could easily play host to the twenty-first century version: **FOMO** (Fear Of Missing Out). Ergo: Letho becomes FOMO.



**Replacement words** are seeking employment in a world of new functions. Generations learned to **type** on typewriters with the QWERTY keyboard. The QWERTY keyboard is still with us electronically, but the typewriter is virtually a museum piece. It seems the word **type** to describe this function is here to stay. If not what do we tell our fidgeting digits at the keyboard?

But **carbon copy** has found its electronic niche; it has been repurposed. Because it's designated only as **Cc** in the address field for multiple email recipients, its unassuming initials have kept it safe and largely unnoticed. Even so, a possible **replacement word** or designation could be in it's

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# WORD PLAY

by Morgann Tayllor

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future: Cc as in **Cyber copy**.



Political or personal gaffes may amuse or astound listeners, but gag those who trip over their tongues. Politicians trying to steer clear of social minefields during campaign speeches inevitably detonate some wrong words. Witness the Virginia senator who cheerfully and unwittingly introduced an opponent's volunteer worker in the crowd as a "**macaca**" (**monkey/racial slur**) or a well-known attorney on a recent Meet the

Press TV program who announced that "**truth isn't truth**", a ubiquitous statement fraught with endless conjecture.

Words can be oops! or opportunity, sometimes coexisting. The result may not be what one intended, or it could be a portal for dynamic dialog. The language in its beauty is malleable.



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## Writers on the Radio



NightWriter Jean Moelter is the host of Artsy People, the radio show that promotes local artists of all kinds, their work, and events Thursdays at 2 p.m. with a rebroadcast Mondays at 5 p.m. It's heard on KYXZ Excellent Radio 107.9 FM out of Grover Beach.

Have you just published a book? Would you like to tell the community about it? Consider being a guest on Artsy People. Just send an email to Jean at [artsypeople@yahoo.com](mailto:artsypeople@yahoo.com). Or, if you have an event coming up, such as a book signing, email an announcement to Jean and she'll read it on the air.

Jean interviews a different artist, live, each week at the Excellent Radio station. So far, three NightWriters have been guests on the show. Jean has also interviewed musicians, storytellers, actors, and comedians.

To listen to past interviews, and to see the list of upcoming guests, go to Jean's website and click on Artsy People in the menu: <https://sites.google.com/view/jeanmoelter> Don't miss this great marketing opportunity for authors.

**SATURDAY ★ AUG. 10 ★ 9AM - 2 PM**

# SELF-PUBLISHED SUCCE\$\$

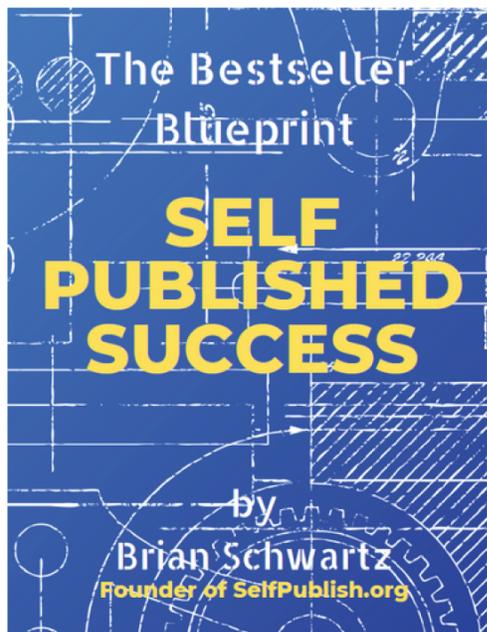
### Where?

Paso Robles Recreation Services  
Centennial Park / Live Oak Room  
600 Nickerson Dr., Paso Robles

### Questions?

Brian Schwartz  
805-225-1251 or  
brian@selfpublish.org

**Want to learn what it takes to publish a  
bestseller? It's *your turn* to make the  
leap from writer to published author!**



Student Workbook



**Register online  
[prcity.com/recreation](http://prcity.com/recreation)  
or in person Mon-Fri  
(Noon-5pm) @  
Centennial Park**

## Kudos, Kudos, Kudos...

### *Jim Aarons*

Jim Aarons has released a sneak peek preview of his audiobook *The Inconvenient Goddess*. Listen to a selection from his book at the following web address: <https://www.jeadvm.com/so/e3MkkFdfL?region=cec87d34-f5b3-4f79-d2df-4d69c23f67b5#/main>

### *Rolynn Anderson*

Rolynn Anderson has released a second edition of her debut novel *Last Resort*. This edition is available on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/Last-Resort-Rolynn-Anderson/dp/0997885963>.

### *Steven Mintz*

Steven Mintz, aka The Ethics Sage, has published his first nonfiction book *Beyond Happiness and Meaning: Transforming Your Life Through Ethical Behavior*. His book is available on Amazon ( <https://www.amazon.com/Beyond-Happiness-Meaning-Transforming-Behavior/dp/1642376299> ) and on Barnes & Noble ( <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/beyond-happiness-and-meaning-steven-mintz/1132224946> ).

## Member Connections...

**Paul Burri** is looking for another writer (or two) who is interested in exchanging material by email for critique, suggestions, comments, etc. If interested, contact Paul at [pburri@cox.net](mailto:pburri@cox.net).

**Patricia Gimer** is looking for an illustrator of children's books. If you can help or have information that could help Pat, contact her at [patgimer@gmail.com](mailto:patgimer@gmail.com).

## Have Kudos to Crow About?

**Do you have a recent article or story published in a local, national or even international print or online magazine? Or a book published?**

**How about a review, or an award, honor or recognition of your writing?**

**If so, we'd like to know about it. To have your literary kudos included in WordSmiths, send an email to Steve Derks at [derksps@gmail.com](mailto:derksps@gmail.com) by the 15th of the month.**

## PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITY

For those of you who need publishing credits or just enjoy seeing your work in print, the *Kind Magazine*, a new glossy, well-laid out bi-annual publication, is seeking submissions for its fall issue. The deadline is September 1<sup>st</sup>.

The general theme is to honor the kindness of community members, whether organizations of individuals, which make the Central Coast of California an outstanding place to live. In addition, the next issue will focus on generosity, which is the core of acts of kindness.

You may submit a profile, poetry, or an essay on kindness.

To receive a copy of the submission guidelines or to ask questions regarding the magazine or an idea you might have to submit, contact Judythe Guarnera at [judy.guarnera@gmail.com](mailto:judy.guarnera@gmail.com).

## NightWriters REVIEW BOARD

As writers, we need to read in order to see what's being done out there. We also learn what works and what doesn't, what we need to avoid and what we want to incorporate into our own bag of skills.

So, as long as we're reading, why not read other members' books and then write reviews for them? It's a win-win for everyone: we learn by reading, and authors garner those all-important reviews for their work.

NightWriters has set up a Review Board, where we connect member readers with member writers' new works. Below you will find a listing of members who are willing to read and review (on Amazon, Goodreads, or their other favorite review site) specific works by other members. You must be a NightWriter member in good standing to take advantage of this new board.

### *Review Board Members\**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Genres</u>
Tina Clark	<a href="mailto:theclarkfour@sbcglobal.net">theclarkfour@sbcglobal.net</a>	sci-fi, creative nonfiction
Jim Aarons	<a href="mailto:jim@jeadv.com">jin@jeadv.com</a>	historical fiction
Steve Bowder	<a href="mailto:sbowder@live.com">sbowder@live.com</a>	historical novel
Jennifer Rescola	<a href="mailto:jkrescola@charter.net">jkrescola@charter.net</a>	autobiography, novels
Steven McCall	<a href="mailto:steven.mccall7@gmail.com">steven.mccall7@gmail.com</a>	literary fiction
Jody Nelson	<a href="mailto:jjnteacher@gmail.com">jjnteacher@gmail.com</a>	fiction, creative nonfiction
Mary Silberstein	<a href="mailto:luvlamas@gmail.com">luvlamas@gmail.com</a>	poetry, fiction
David Brandin	<a href="mailto:dbrandin@earthlink.net">dbrandin@earthlink.net</a>	political, historical, general, science fiction
Martha Raymond	<a href="mailto:mrth.raymond@gmail.com">mrth.raymond@gmail.com</a>	YA fiction, literary fiction
Brian Schwartz	<a href="mailto:brian@selfpublish.org">brian@selfpublish.org</a>	non-fiction
Ruth Cowne	<a href="mailto:abuella10@att.net">abuella10@att.net</a>	memoir, flash fiction
Susan Tuttle	<a href="mailto:aim2write@yahoo.com">aim2write@yahoo.com</a>	mystery, suspense, paranormal suspense
Mark Arnold	<a href="mailto:markarnoldphd@gmail.com">markarnoldphd@gmail.com</a>	historical, science fiction

*\*To be added to our Review Board listing, write to: [derksps@gmail.com](mailto:derksps@gmail.com) and put Newsletter Info in the subject line.*

### **SLO NightWriter Officers**

President: Janice Konstantinidis  
 Vice-President: **Vacant**  
 Secretary: Leonard Carpenter  
 Treasurer: Steve Derks  
 Program Director: Steven Mintz  
 Membership Coordinator: Jim Aarons  
 Critique Group Coordinator: **Vacant**  
 Social Media/Publicity Coordinators:  
     Meagan Friberg &  
     Abigail Aarons  
 Submissions Coordinator: **Vacant**  
 Welcome Committee: Jean Moelter  
 Sunshine Chair: Judythe Guarnera  
 Website Master: Janice Konstantinidis  
 Web Assistant: Steve Derks  
 Newsletter Editor: **Vacant**  
 Art Director/Photographer: **Vacant**  
 Member at Large: Susan Tuttle  
 NW Historian: **Vacant**  
 Hospitality: Mary Silberstein

### **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: [jkon50@gmail.com](mailto:jkon50@gmail.com)

### **Monthly Meetings**

NightWriters’ Evening Meetings: the second Tuesday of every month, year round. We encourage interested visitors to join us. Admission is free; refreshments served. Next Meeting: Aug 13, 2019, at United Church of Christ, 11245 Los Osos Valley Road, San Luis Obispo 93405.

General meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Round Table presentations start at 5:15 p.m. Writers’ Critique Groups: Free for members, \$5 for non-members. These groups read and critique each other’s work and discuss the business of writing. Visitors are always welcome. For details, visit our website: [www.slouightwriters.org](http://www.slouightwriters.org).

## **Have You Checked Out Our Website Lately?**

### **Control Your Own Information**

Post your bio, picture, book covers and ordering links. Contribute a writing blog post-free publicity!

### **MEMBER SITE LINKS**

List your website(s) and blog(s) with live links — makes it easier for the public to find you and helps build your platform.

### **BOOK REVIEWS**

Get your book reviewed. Write a review—it’s a valid publishing credit.

### **WRITERS SERVICES**

Do you have a writing or professional skill? Get listed on our new Services Page. (Returning next issue.)

### **FACEBOOK**

Become a “Fan” of NightWriters! Visit NW’s Facebook page and sign up today! Also, link your Facebook page and your websites and blogs to NW sites.

### **LINKEDIN**

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

## Moved or Changed Email?

Notify NightWriters of any change in address or email: [jkon50@gmail.com](mailto:jkon50@gmail.com). Join NightWriters and send dues or renewal checks (payable to SLO NightWriters) to: SLO NightWriters, PO Box 2986, Paso Robles, CA 93447. Or join/renew online through our website: [www.slolightwriters.org](http://www.slolightwriters.org) and pay with a credit card.

## Submit Stories, Photos and Ads to the Newsletter

We will publish advertisements for NightWriters' books and book or writing related events. This advertising is Free For Members. Please provide the graphic (book cover or other graphic) for the announcement.

We will also accept original photographs, and unpublished Flash Fiction between 400-800 words from current members. Excerpts from published works, if they stand alone as their own mini-story, are also acceptable. We are also interested in articles, kudos and event notices. And if you have any other ideas for content, please let me know.

Send all submissions as attachments to: [derksps@gmail.com](mailto:derksps@gmail.com), and be sure to put **NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION** in the subject line. We're all writers... so, take advantage of this opportunity to be published in your newsletter.

*Steve Derks, Acting Editor*



*Complete Editing Services*  
*Let me help you Write It Right*  
Susan Tuttle, Award Winning Author

**Proofreading:** spelling, punctuation, and grammar only. The last step before publication.

Cost: \$5/3 pages

**What you get:** a corrected document. Turnaround time @ 1 week for a 250-300 page manuscript.

**Line Editing:** spelling, punctuation, grammar, word usage, sentence construction, consistency of voice/style.

Cost: \$5/page

**What you get:** two documents, one corrected (spelling, punctuation, grammar only), one with suggestions in track changes. Turnaround time @ 1-1/2 weeks for a 250-300-page manuscript.

**Developmental Editing:** full evaluation of the story and plot, including character development and growth, story arc, use of language, point of view, tense, consistency/believability of story line, subplots, beginning and ending, setting, author's voice/style, etc. Includes spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

Cost: @ \$850-\$1,200 for 250-300-page manuscript, depending on amount of work the manuscript needs. Flat rates also available.

**What you get:** a document with track changes for spelling, punctuation and grammar, and comments, suggestions, and examples on ways to improve the work. Turnaround time: 2-3 weeks, depending on amount of work needed.

I will never rewrite your work, I will only suggest ways you can make it better, with examples for clarification. My goal is to help strengthen your unique author's voice while making sure you tell the best story you can write.

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