

OUR NOV. 15TH MEETING

Writing For—and With—Young Readers

With Hugo Haselhuhn

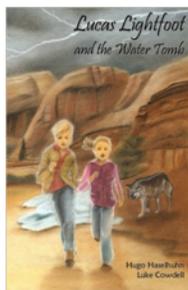
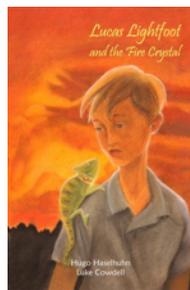
Hugo will discuss the journey of writing and publishing books with his grandson. The pair is ready to release a third book in their Lucas Lightfoot series.

Hugo, a creative design engineer by day and a creative storyteller by night, was asked by his then seven-year-old grandson, Luke, to help with writing a book. This plea became the genesis for a magical children's chapter book and *Lucas Lightfoot and the Fire Crystal* was born as a partnership between a grandfather and grandson.

As a teacher, Hugo can find positive lessons in everyday experiences. As a wordsmith, he has created a world where magical things can happen to ordinary kids and the readers become the heroes in the adventures. From the values in the book, Hugo has created a M.A.G.I.C. presentation he delivers at elementary school assemblies.

Luke Cowdell lives in Tustin and is in the 5th grade. He told his grandpa where he wanted to go with this book and Hugo created the road, painted the scenery and created the characters and adventures along the way.

Join us on November 15 at 6:60 pm to discover how this amazing collaboration came to fruition.



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NIGHTWRITERS “ROUND TABLES”

Join Terry Sanville and Mark Arnold at the Critique Table as they give feedback on pieces brought to the table. Please **keep your submission to 2 pages, typed, 12-point font, double spaced**. Note at the top what the genre is, and the age of your audience.

This is a great—and safe—way to see what the critiquing process is all about, get valuable feedback from two fantastic writers, and practice reading your work to a small audience.

More and more writers are coming to the Critique Table. If you want to make sure your piece is read, arrive before the start time to get your name on the list. The Critique Round Table starts at 5:15 pm sharp.

The Instruction Round Table will focus on creating that all-important tension/conflict in stories that keep readers turning pages. Come learn what tension/conflict is and why it’s needed in every story; the various types of tension; tension and intention in characters; crucibles and how to create them; the types of crucibles in stories; what makes an effective dilemma; how to craft opening scene tension/conflict; and how to analyze your story ideas for effective tension/conflict. Come at 5:15 pm and learn all about how to inject the right amount of tension/conflict in your stories to keep readers turning pages.

Critique Round Table begins at 5:15 pm, free to NW members, \$5.00 for visitors.

See you back at UCC at 5:15, or at the general meeting that follows at 6:30 pm.

Fellow Writers!

Is a writing partner sick? Need encouragement?

Getting married or having a baby?

Suffering from the loss of a loved one?

Email me at jandkvolkov@att.net and I’ll send them a card from their SLO NightWriters family.

Kalila





Dennis Eamon Young

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: INTEGRITY

Integrity: 1. The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness; a personal choice to hold oneself to consistent moral and ethical standards. 2. Completeness; wholeness; unimpaired condition; soundness; honesty; sincerity. 3. A value system's abstraction, depth and range of applicable interaction may also function as significant factors in identifying integrity due to their congruence or lack of congruence with observation. A value system may evolve in a while, while retaining integrity if those who espouse the values account for and resolve inconsistencies.

Whew! That got a bit heady towards the end, I know. The point here is that in thinking about how we writers approach our essays, short stories, novels, etc., we can sometimes gloss over certain areas. We may even expect our readers to make a leap of faith on our behalf. Let's turn that equation around. If we are the reader, are we willing to overlook lapses and inconsistencies in order to get on with the story?

Oftentimes, we define integrity in terms of the first two cases stated above: does our protagonist exhibit integrity in her/his approach to the obstacles you have provided at all times? Is this congruent with the normal behavior of the culture they are a part of? Do they rise above or fall below the average? Do they begin below and finally rise above that average by the conclusion of their story arc?

As in case number three, during the course of your story, does the character's value system evolve to a satisfactory point and are any inconsistencies accounted for and resolved throughout the full range of episodes and story arcs? If not, you will be cheating your readers as well as yourself. Also, you will have created characters that are damaged, not just flawed. Integrity must be applied to their flaws as honestly as to their more meritorious characteristics. This is what allows them to become real for you and your reader.

These are only the more obvious manifestations of integrity. This value affects everything in your work. We are all familiar with the saying that if a gun is introduced into a story, it must be fired, at the least. This is emblematic of plot integrity. You cannot introduce various elements into the storyline for no other reason than to dress up the

scenery. Everything must serve the basic purpose of moving the story forward. Even the introduction of a character anomaly must have some purpose other than as window dressing.

Your protagonist, antagonist, secondary characters and even your walk-ons must all exhibit some purpose that moves the story, or provides salient details not available in some other way. If you create a main character smarter than the average bear, but they suddenly are not able to comprehend the dynamics of a given situation, that would destroy their integrity. They would become an unreliable actor and so become less real to your reader.

Integrity is the major function of every item in your story from the story questions about character goals to the overriding philosophical constructs you are trying to impress upon your reader. The more consistent you are throughout the story, the more integrity it will exhibit and the more pleased your reader will be. If the story is part of a series, this becomes even more important, as your reader will be anxious to go get the next book.

One of the most difficult details to infuse your story with is speech patterns, accents and specific styles of speech. For those who can do so successfully, such as Alice Walker in *The Color Purple*, it's almost like adding an extra character. Done poorly, it could very well drive your reader to distraction and keep them from reading any other work of yours. Even if your story is powerful, this break in integrity could wreck all your other hard work. This is where a good critique group is worth its weight in gold. They could save you from disaster, or a lengthy re-write, at the very least.

Excelsior,
Dennis



NW MEMBER AUTHORS, SELL YOUR BOOKS!

Sell your books at our general monthly meetings! If you are a member of the SLO NightWriters, we encourage you to take part. We will have a table set up for you to display, discuss and sell your books.

Please note—SLO NightWriters holds no liability in this process. All authors participating are responsible for their own money exchanges and for the security of their own funds and books. Your dues with the SLO NightWriters must be current in order to participate.

We hope that you will welcome this opportunity. For more information about our meeting, please visit our website.

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

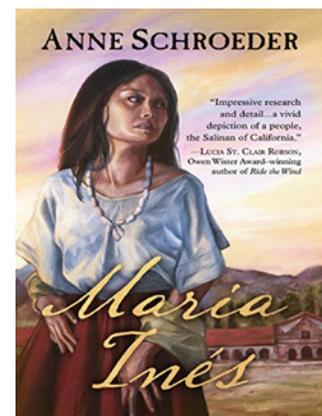
Terry Sanville's short story "Drakesbad" will appear in the upcoming edition of *Midnight Circus*, an online and print journal put out by EAB Publishing of Omaha. Check them out at <http://eabpublishing.com/>.

"Ghosts," a short story by **Terry Sanville**, has been accepted for publication by *Literally Stories*, an online journal that also puts out an annual anthology. These guys accept a wide range of work from around the world—all genres of fiction and poetry, from novice writers to seasoned vets. They are based in Scotland, but their editors love in Scotland, South Africa, France and Sweden. Check them out at: <http://literallystories3014.com>.

Terry Sanville's short story, "Delicious Food and Other Mortal Sins" has been accepted by *Quail Bell Magazine*, an online and print zine based in Falls Church, Va. They say their mission is to provide a place for real and unreal stories from around the world. Check out their interesting content at: www.quailbellmagazine.com

Maria Inés, an historical novel by **Anne Schroeder**, was released on October 19. Written with the assistance of Salinan tribal elders, this novel traces the life of a Salian Indian girl who witnesses the political intrigue and greed on Spanish, Mexican and Yanqui invaders who destroy everything she loves. A refugee in her own land during the Time of the Troubles, *Maria Inés* struggles to survive while she reclaims her family, her faith and her ancestral identity.

Maria Ines is available in hardcover and as an ebook on Amazon.com



"When I sit down to write a book, I do not say to myself, 'I am going to produce a work of art.' I write it because there is some lie I want to expose, some fact to which I want to draw attention, and my initial concern is to get a hearing."

~George Orwell

REVIEW OF OCTOBER MEETING

Four writers read their work at Round Table One. One of the works was science fiction.

Science fiction is fiction about science. All science fiction revolves around a central 'what if..?' question that addresses a deeper query:

1. What if androids were as emotionally complex as humans? *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* by Philip K. Dick
2. What if evolution continues according to our current social behavior? *The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells
3. What if a government try to cement power by elimination choice? *1984* by George Orwell
4. What of the ability to reproduce became rare? *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood

If you want to write science fiction, you should:

1. Know Your Thesis. What is your what-if question? If you are just writing about weird creatures in weird lands without a thesis, you are writing fantasy, not science fiction. Science is the approach in science fiction, not the topic. Use the world you create as a case study to prove your thesis to your reader.
2. Do Your Research. "There should be nothing in your book that is not based on something that



By Jan Alarcon





has already happened, or for which actual supporting documentation is not already available." (Margaret Atwood) Whether your thesis is 'what if we met aliens in the fifties?' or 'what if we all went deaf?' there should be real information you can research to learn how similar situations have gone in the past. Research what happened in our own past when new cultures met. Research what it is like to lose a sense.

3. Don't be Afraid of the New. While it may be true that every story has already been told, there are always new ways to examine and write about the human condition. What is new about your story: your crafting; your position in time; your unique voice?

*(The 3 Golden Rules of Writing
A Science Fiction Book: Robert
Wood: June 3, 2014)*

Tony Piazza, Central Coast mystery writer, spoke to us at our general meeting about incorporating the techniques of Hollywood into our writing. Tony is the author of four mystery novels, "Anything Short of Murder," "A Murder Amongst Angels," "Murder is Such Sweet Revenge," and "The Curse of the Crimson Dragon".

Tony's based his book "A Murder Amongst Angels" on the suspicious death of 1930's starlet Thelma Todd. Thelma was a gorgeous blond comedian, known as the 'ice cream blonde', who starred in many known movies such as "Horse Feathers" and "Monkey Business". On December 16, 1935, Thelma, aged 29, was found slumped over the wheel of her Lincoln convertible. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning. A grand jury determined the death to be 'accidental with suicidal tendencies' but no one could explain the broken nose, bruises on her throat, and cracked ribs. Many to this

day believe that Thelma Todd was murdered. The list of suspects is long.

Talk of the demise of a Thelma Todd reminded me of a few other starlet mysteries:

09/16/1932: Twenty-four-year-old starlet Peg Entwistle ended her life by jumping off the "H" of the Hollywood Sign. Reports were that she wasn't getting the kind of roles she thought she would, so killed herself in despair. Her suicide note read, "If I had done this a long time ago, I would have saved a lot of pain."

01/15/1947: Twenty-three-year-old Elizabeth Short's naked body was found in two pieces in a vacant lot in Leimert Park, Los Angeles. Short's unsolved murder has been the source of widespread speculation leading to several books, television, and film adaptations. She is posthumously named The Black Dahlia.

10/07/1949: Twenty-six-year-old aspiring actress Jean Spangler went missing. She purse was found with the following note inside: "Kirk: Can't wait any longer. Going to see Dr. Scott. It will work best this way while my mother is away." Speculations abound as to who Kirk and Dr. Scott were. Her body was never found.

02/05/1959: Fifty-one-year-old Danish actress Gwili Andre "the highest priced model in America" was dismayed that she had never become a successful movie star. Gwili was found sprawled on the bedroom floor of her Venice, California apartment, burned to a crisp in a funeral pyre made out of old publicity clippings.

02/12/1977: Twenty-seven-year-old actress Christa Helms, known as the disco-era Black Dahlia, was found stabbed to death outside of a party she'd attended. Christa was well known in the gossip columns but her murder received surprisingly little coverage. "Who she knew and how she knew them may be the reason her savage killing was barely reported."



I'd better leave you with something more up-lifting. How about some of the delightful quotes of Mae West, talented Hollywood starlet that lived to be 87?

1. "Between two evils, I always pick the one I never tried before."
2. "When I'm good I'm very, very good, but when I'm bad, I'm better."
3. "You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough."
4. "I used to be Snow White, but I drifted."
5. "I'll try anything once, twice if I like it, three times to make sure."
6. Save a boyfriend for a rainy day - and another, in case it doesn't rain.

And I guess one for all of us:

7. Keep a diary, and someday it'll keep you.

Until next month,
Jan Alarcón, PhD





GETTING TO KNOW NIGHTWRITER MEMBERS

SPOTLIGHT ON...

HUGO HASELHUHN

by: Mike Price

This month's spotlight is on our November speaker and NW member, Hugo Haselhuhn, who wrote a book with his grandson.

NW: Who are you?

HH: We have lived in Paso Robles for the last 14 years. I enjoy reading, writing stories and poetry, cooking and traveling with my bride of 43 years. We have five children and 14 grandchildren. By day, I am a creative design engineer and by night, a creative story teller. Through my books, my goal is *to improve the world one child at a time*.

When my coauthor and grandson was seven, he asked me to help him write a chapter book. Luke Cowdell lives in Tustin and is starting 5th grade. He is an avid reader with an active imagination. Luke is also a deep thinker who asks questions seemingly beyond his years. The result of our collaboration is *Lucas Lightfoot and the Fire Crystal*.

NW: Who is your greatest inspiration?

HH: Inspiration for the book came from my grandson and many of the events in the book happened to him. As far as the lessons within the story, for years I listened to tapes and read books by Dennis Waitley, Robert Conklin, Tony Robbins, Earl Nightingale, W. Clement Stone, Dale Carnegie, Napoleon Hill and Stephen R. Covey. Although the Lucas Lightfoot books are not religious, some inspiration comes from the scriptures.

For years, I have been a quotation collector. These are short meaningful statements that inspire and provide motivation each day. Each chapter in our books begins with an epigram that is meant to give the reader insight into a possible lesson that chapter will provide. These inspirational epigrams are also a discussion starter between parents (or grandparents) and children as they read the books.

NW: Do you have a blog or website?

HH: Yes. The website is: <http://www.lucaslightfoot.com/>. I have written a few BLOGS and published them on the website.

NW: What genre do you like to write?

HH: Currently, the genre is magical realism for middle grade readers, 7-12 years old. There will be future forays into other genres.

NW: “Magical realism” sounds like an oxymoron. I love oxymorons. Please tell us about your favorite story/article/essay that you have written.

HH: There are several chapters in the books that are favorites because they elicit strong emotions when the protagonist learns that “you never know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice.” These are the chapters that bring a climax to the end of the book.

I recently submitted a short story to the Central Coast Writers Conference entitled, “The Last Phone Booth,” which I enjoyed writing.

NW: Tell us about your latest project(s).

HH: I am currently promoting the just released book #1, *Lucas Lightfoot and the Fire Crystal*. I am finishing edits of book #2, *Lucas Lightfoot and the Water Tomb*, for Morgan James Publishing later this month. I have about three more chapters in book #3, *Lucas Lightfoot and the Sun Stone*, which will be released next year.

NW: Do you have a day job?

Yes. I am an engineering design consultant working for various companies developing products. My company is [Haselhuhn Design, Inc.](#) and I work with solid modeling software to create engineering products.

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

HH: My wife, Lydia, is my biggest supporter. She is my primary editor and will make corrections, but also remind me that I am writing for children and to use age-appropriate language.

My daughter, Heather, who is my coauthor’s mother, created the illustrations for the first two books. She is also the webmaster and set up the www.LucasLightfoot.com. And of course, Luke, my now 11 year old coauthor, collaborates with me on ideas for the books and offers edits as well. The rest of my children help with book promotion through social media and word of mouth.

NW: How does Nightwriters help you?

HH: I am just getting started with Nightwriters, but I am learning from the speakers each month. I am scheduled to be the NW Presenter on the Nov 8th meeting. I will be discussing my fantastic journey of writing a book with my grandson and some of the things I learned along the way.



NW: How do you handle rejection letters?

HH: Next!

NW Tell us something surprising about yourself.

HH: I have been to China on business over 25 times. When my daughter, Kristen, was about 12 years old, I took her to a Tony Robbins Fire Walk experience and she and I walked across burning coals, not once, but twice. I served as a Bishop for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for 5-1/2 years.

NW: Besides writing, what are your other hobbies?

HH: One of the most enjoyable “hobbies” that has sprung from the books is speaking at school assemblies on the M.A.G.I.C. (Mind, Attitude, Goals, Integrity and Choice) within the Lucas Lightfoot books. I write and preach a sermon once a month.

NW: Thank you, Hugo, for a rather enlightening Spotlight. I can’t wait to hear more about your fire walking.

I bet if someone were to ask Luke who his greatest inspiration is, he would say “My Grandfather.”

Mini Grammar Tips

Getting the simple stuff wrong can sink you with your readers. Here are some real-world faux pas from books both self and traditionally published:

1. **Misconnected Dependent Clauses:** “Born and raised in California, the earthquake did not bother her.” (So, the earthquake was born and raised here in CA? Lucky quake...) Don’t use dependent clause beginnings; turn your sentences around: The earthquake did not bother her since she was born and raised in CA.
2. **Misplaced Modifiers:** “We’d just taken our seats when Mrs Torkelson arrived with our hot mugs of apple cider and doughnuts.” Hot defines the liquid, not the mugs, though the hot cider could have warmed them up. Make it “...doughnuts and mugs of hot cider.”
3. **Too-Distant Adverbs:** “He hitched the left leg of her perfectly pressed navy blue Dockers up.” That’s a lot of distance between hitched and up. Try putting them together for clarity’s sake: He hitched up the left leg...
4. **Wrong Contractions:** “The pen cam was not as small as it’s name implied.” Always separate a contracted word to make sure it should have that apostrophe: It is...?
5. **Incorrect Pronouns:** “I so appreciate your desire to protect Lou and I.” If you’re not sure if it’s “me” or “I” take out the intervening people and it’ll be clear: “...your desire to protect I” is so obviously wrong once Lou has left the building.

Quote of the Month

"It ain't whatcha write, its the way atcha write it."

~Jack Kerouac

Word of the Month "Confute"

Definition: (V.T., L *confutare* (to check, silence) 1. to prove (a person or thing) wrong, invalid, or mistaken; disprove: 2. (obsolete) to put an end to.

Synonyms: disprove, belie, discredit, rebut, refute

Usage: It didn't take long for the history books on the shelves to confute his assertion that the South had won the Civil War.

SLO NW e↔Line Edit Exchange

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

All E-Exchange Partners are SLO NW members.

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

To be added, **contact our webmaster, Janice Konstantinidis**, (jkon50@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.

"For a born writer, nothing is so healing as the realization that he has come upon the right word."

~Catherine Drinker Bowen



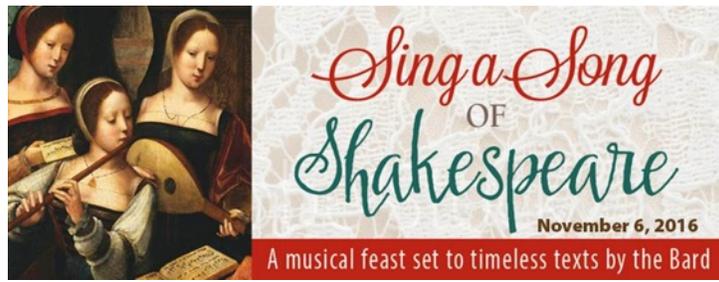
by: Liz Roderick

A WRITER'S PROCESS

This feature will return next month.

(If you would like me to feature your book, please contact me at [elizabethroderick@att.net!](mailto:elizabethroderick@att.net))

In the meantime, enjoy these photos of both the Book and Author Fair and the just-concluded CCWC



NightWriters's Sunshine Chair Kalila Volkov invites you to come hear her women's choir! Canzona Women's Ensemble is performing *Sing a Song of Shakespeare* on Sunday, November 6th.

In honor of the 400th anniversary of his death, Canzona explores a wide variety of contemporary and classical repertoire based on works by William Shakespeare. Scenes of jealousy and conquest, merriment and misadventure await you in an afternoon of music drawn from the Bard's plays, poems and sonnets. Featured composers range from Schubert and Vaughan Williams to Argento and Gardner in music that is in turn lively, humorous, contemplative and jazzy.

Guest Artist Susan Azaret Davies joins Janis Johnson and Canzona in Gardner's "A Shakespeare Sequence" for piano 4-hands.

Tickets:

\$25 in advance – \$30 at the door,

SLO United Methodist Church, 1515 Fredericks St.

\$10 students

online at: brownpapertickets.com/event/2590158/

or call 805.391.SONG



First Course on Self Publishing to be Offered at Cal Poly

On Nov. 5, SLO NightWriter **Brian Schwartz** will be teaching a one day workshop at Cal Poly on self publishing.

For nearly a decade Brian and his team has played the key role in publishing over 400 titles. Including such notable authors as Arlo Guthrie, Arun Gandhi, and Joe Cross (Sick, Fat, and Nearly Dead).



What do the bestsellers have in common?

From cover design to marketing, Brian will reveal how his most successful clients have turned their passion into profit.

Not sure where to start? Acquire the knowledge to build a blueprint and establish best practices from the start. You'll see how to build a business around your writing and establish yourself as a credible author/publisher.

Given that readers have more options than ever, getting discovered demands that authors are able to navigate the ever changing waters and leverage the waves of technology to their advantage.

What are the most common mistakes authors make?

Whether or not you've published a single word or are ready to publish your tenth book, you will gain insider knowledge from someone who's been in the trenches of publishing for nearly 10 years.

Learn more at www.SelfPublishedSuccess.com or contact Brian directly at brian@selfpublish.org or at 805-225-1251.

This is important enough that we included it again this month... food for thought for all NW members....

CALL FOR CANDIDATES FOR FALL ELECTION SLO NIGHTWRITER BOARD

As a long-time member of SLO NightWriters, who has served on the organization's board in various capacities, I've become aware of something important that needs a response from the membership.

If you've been coming around for a while, you see a few familiar faces, who you might note, are the ones doing all the work.

♪ It's time to give those board members a break.

Although many good things have happened under the current leadership, and the group has grown and thrived, it's time to give NW a shot of adrenalin. Non-profit organizations which run under volunteer power risk burn-out. On the opposite side of that risk are the benefits derived from adding new blood, fresh ideas, new directions.

Consider the skills you possess and make an appointment with current board members to compare your skills to board positions and offer to run for office or to be appointed to one of the exciting committees.

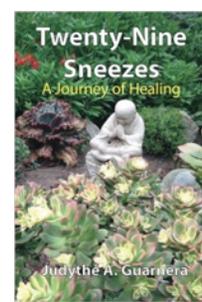
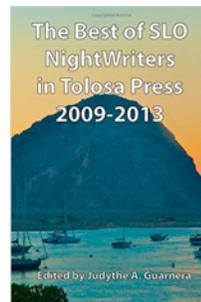
I can assure you that serving on the board is a privilege loaded with experience. It's fun to be on the planning and implementing ends of a vital organization like NightWriters.

You can be as involved as you want to be. There's something for everyone. Elections and appointments are coming up. Now is the time to put your name forward.

♪ Contact Dennis Eamon Young at: photodennis44@gmail.com

♪ Susan Tuttle at: aim2write@yahoo.com

Judythe Guarnera
NW Anthology Editor



I Once Dated a Writer

and writers are forgetful,
but they remember everything.
They forget appointments and anniversaries,
but remember what you wore,
how you smelled
on your first date...
They remember every story you've ever told them
like ever,
but forget with you've just said.
They don't remember to water the plants
or take out the trash,
but they don't forget how
to make you laugh.

Writers are forgetful
because
they're busy
remembering
the important things.

discovered on FaceBook and
submitted by Mark Arnold's wife, Linda



"One thing that helps is to give myself permission to write badly. I tell myself that I'm going to do my five or ten pages no matter what, and that I can always tear them up the following morning if I want. I'll have lost nothing—writing and tearing up five pages would leave me no further behind than if I took the day off."

~Lawrence Block

Join The NightWriters Facebook Group

Dear NightWriters,

For those of you who would like to socialize and get to know each other better, but can't attend our monthly meetings, we have created a Facebook group.

Facebook groups are dedicated spaces where you can share updates, photos or documents and message other group members. Just click on the link below and hit "join group" in the top right corner. Once our administrator approves your request, you are in!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1701340913423099/>

Invite other NightWriters and get going. Swap ideas, encourage each other, share your events and so on.

We hope that you will find a group of writing peers beneficial!

Sincerely,
Joanne Feeney



“If you tell the reader that Bull Beezley is a brutal-faced, loose-lipped bully, with snake’s blood in his veins, the reader’s reaction may be, ‘Oh, yeah!’ But if you show the reader Bull Beezley raking the bloodied flanks of his weary, sweat-encrusted pony, and flogging the tottering, red-eyed animal with a quirt, or have him booting in the protruding ribs of a starved mongrel and boy, the reader believes!”

~Fred East

"Critique Group Connections"

NW Members—Please, email critique requests to: Janice Konstantinidis (jkon50@gmail.com) 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 Janice for assistance if needed and she'll get you to the right people. And, if you form a group, please let Janice know so she can list it on the website. She can also forward your group's information to the newsletter. Critique Group Guidelines are available on the website at www.slonightwriters.org.

***SLO NW cannot guarantee critique group formation or availability but do we strive to facilitate connections between writers so they can initiate and develop their own writing affiliations. While we cannot be, and are not, responsible for any outcomes from these associations, we hope they lead to great creative magic and magnificent literary works!

CRITIQUE GROUP REQUESTS

Holly Thibodeaux works in fiction, non-fiction, screenwriting, memoir and experimental fiction. She is seeking a critique group or peer edit exchange with writers in a more structured environment with accountability to boost productivity. Intermediate level preferred; no location restrictions. She would also like to find others interested in exploring the philosophy of writing and the psychology of storytelling. Contact her at:

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

Tony Taylor is seeking a critique group for FICTION, YA, CHILDREN'S MIDDLE GRADE or VARIED GENRES, preferred skill level is advanced/experienced writers. Preferred location is SLO City area. Contact Tony at 805-704-3528 or by email: tony@anthonyjtaylor.com

Rolynn Anderson wishes to organize a **NEW PLOTTING GROUP** for LITERARY FICTION with elements of suspense and mystery. Preferred skill level is advanced. Preferred location is Arroyo Grande/Los Osos/SLO area.

Contact Rolynn at 805-473-5847 or by email rolynna@earthlink.net

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

Contact Griselda at grissilvarivera58@yahoo.com

Critique Group Connections, Continued

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

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

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

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

Steve Bowder is seeking a critique group that concentrates on true stories embellished to make them interesting, but that stay true to the facts that are known. Contact Steve at: sbowder@live.com

Be A NW Greeter!

Help NW out by becoming a Meeting Greeter. If you attend our monthly meetings and can come a little early, we need you! We'd like to form a Greeters Committee of 3 to 4 writers who can help out each month.

It's a fun and easy job, simply making sure that attendees sign in, either as members or guests, and handing out the appropriate name tags. It also entails arriving around 4:45 to 5:00 pm, to sign in those who attend the Round Tables, and collecting the small fee from non-members who attend the Tables. And about a half hour after the general meeting starts, your duties are done!

If we can get a dedicated group of 3 to 4 people who can take over this essential job, then you only need to be available 3 to 4 times a year for this assignment. It's a great way to meet the writers who attend, make connections and network with your fellow writers.

Hospitality Needs Your Help!

Our Hospitality Committee is doing a fantastic job of making sure we have scrumptious goodies for every meeting. But Baxter Trautman and Brian Schwartz could use some help. If a few more NW members pitch in, then each committee member would be responsible for only one or two meetings a year!

It's a fun job. All it takes is some shopping for goodies the day before/day of the meeting, spreading the treats out on the table to entice attendees, and cleanup after the meeting ends. All money outlaid is reimbursed at the meeting.

Contact our President if this sounds like something you'd like to help with. What better way to get what you'd like to snack on than being part of the committee?

Dennis Eamon Young: photodennis44@gmail.com

NW Needs a Presidential Candidate!

Elections are coming up in November and we need new blood on the Board of Directors. NightWriters meetings, events, etc. don't just happen. It takes a concerted effort on the part of dedicated members. The President is retiring; we need a new President to take office in Jan. If you're interested in exploring this vital role, contact Dennis Eamon Young via email: photodennis44@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor To “Retire”

This could be the final NW Newsletter... It's finally come, time for the editor of Wordsmiths to retire from the position. Life—and writing—needs dictate this move. We need someone willing to take over this vital position of getting out the information the membership needs to have each month.

The new editor is free to change/adjust/rearrange/re-format the newsletter into whatever form he or she deems best. It can be fancy, like it is now, or very simple and plain—or anywhere in-between. The length, departments, etc., are also determined by the editor.

Being the editor of the newsletter for a large organization like SLO NightWriters is a fantastic addendum to a writer's resume. It goes a long way to establishing him/her as a professional—someone other editors, agents and publishers want to deal with.

If you'd like to try your hand at our newsletter, contact Susan Tuttle for complete details: aim2write@yahoo.com

Give Advice and Get Published!

Do you have some tips, or have you learned a strategy that could help those just starting out on their writing career? Send in 300-400 words to the Great Beginnings column and you can be a contributor to both the Wordsmiths Newsletter and your fellow writers. It's a great way to help others hone their skills, and a great publishing kudo for your resume. Time to put that thinking cap on and then write: What advice would you give a beginning writer? Send to: aim2write@yahoo.com, with NW Newsletter in the subject line.

Take a look at the listing of Board Members on page 25. How many “Open” signs do you see? Seven? How many Board Members are doing double duty, taking on more than one board position?

It takes a lot to run an organization like NW, but no one has to be overburdened if all board positions are filled. Dennis will be stepping down as President; we still need a VP. And a membership director, a historian, a greeter, a hospitality coordinator, a critique group coordinator... and soon a newsletter editor.

If you have ideas to help NW be the best it can be, and a little bit of time, we need you! It's time to step up and help make it happen... before NW has to stop offering all the wonderful benefits you now enjoy.

GREAT BEGINNINGS

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



ROADMAP TO SUCCESSFUL AUTHORSHIP

Advice gleaned from Nina Amir's new book, *Creative Visualization for Writers: An Interactive Guide for Bringing Your Book Ideas and Career to Life*.

Seeing begins with visualizing your idea or goal. Create mental pictures of how that state of being or finished product will look and feel. This vision will help you create a map from where you currently are to where you want to go.

1. First, define what success means to you: leaving a legacy; selling lots of books; making a difference; inspiring readers; making a livelihood from your writing. There's no right or wrong. Define what success is for you.
2. Create clear publishing goals. Define what you need to achieve that goal and how long it will take you to accomplish it.
3. Journal about your goal: make it specific; create a timeline; develop a plan; what are you willing to pay?
4. Make your goals SMART: Specific (clearly defined); Measurable (tangible evidence of forward movement); Attainable (reachable while still stretching you slightly); Realistic (goals must represent an objective toward which you are willing and able to work); and Timebound (linking goals to a time frame creates a sense of urgency that keeps you working toward them.)
5. The make your goals SMARTER! Sensational (goals should excite and inspire you); Moving (you should be emotionally attached to your goals); Aspirational (should involve things for which you strive); Relevant (goals should have meaning in your life, connect you to your Big Why); Timeless (attach your goals to a big picture or vision that extends into the future); Elevating (goals should help you level up in some are of your life or career, forcing you to do and be better); Relatable (your readers, customers, clients must be able to relate to what your goal produces or helps you achieve.)
6. Draw your map to successful authorship: Start with a date, note where you are at this point and along the line note what you need to do or accomplish to reach each point. The line ends on the date you achieve successful authorship.
7. Fight procrastination: Author Tony Robbins says, "Stop being afraid of what could go wrong, and start being excited about what could go right." To move toward your goals riht now ask: What will I strive for today? This week? This month?

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: **Open**
Secretary: Carol Schmidt
Treasurer: Susan Tuttle
Program Director: Janice Konstantinidis
Contest Committee Chair: **Open**
Membership Director: **Open**
Critique Group Coordinator: **Open**
Social Media/Publicity Coordinator: Joanne Feeney
Tolosa Press Submissions: Meagan Friberg
Welcome Committee: **Open**
Sunshine Chair: Kalila Volkov
Website Master: Janice Konstantinidis
Web Assistant: Steve Derks
Newsletter: Susan Tuttle, Elizabeth Roderick
Art Director: Dennis Eamon Young
Assistant Secretary: Janice Konstantinidis
Board Assistants: Rebecca Waddell
NW Historian: **Open**
Hospitality: (Coordinator: **Open**) Baxter Trautman, Brian Schwartz

About Our Monthly Meetings

NightWriters’ Evening Meetings: the second Tuesday of every month, year round. We encourage interested visitors to join us at 6:30 pm. Admission free; refreshments served.

Next Meeting: October 11th, at United Church of Christ on Los Osos Valley Rd, San Luis Obispo 93401. General meeting begins at 6:30 pm. Round Table presentations start at 5:15 pm.

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

Notify NW of any change in address or email:

slonightwriters@yahoo.com. Join NW and send dues or renewal checks (payable to SLO NightWriters) to: SLO NightWriters, PO Box 6241, Los Osos, CA 93412-6241. Or join/renew online through our website: www.sltonightwriters.org and pay with credit card.

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 our webmaster and the newsletter editor at slonightwriter@yahoo.com to list your critique group and critique needs in the NW Newsletter and on the NW Web site.

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

CRITIQUE GROUPS WITH OPENINGS

Write Now

These bi-weekly Wednesday critique meetings are for more experienced and tech-savvy writers. Submit up to 3,500 words of your current project to Dropbox by Sunday night, and then, using track-changes in Word, upload your reviews of each other member's work to Dropbox by 6:00 pm Wednesday. Meeting time is used to cover discussion-worthy items: logic issues, theme problems, etc. Commas, punctuation, and spelling are left on the written page. We follow these [Rules of Conduct](#). Recommended reading is [Story](#) by Robert McKee.

Meetings are every other Wednesday at 6:00 pm. Email moderator for location and dates.

CURRENTLY OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS

Moderator: Cynthia Replogle
cynthia.replogle@gmail.com

PISMO SATURDAY GROUP

New group starts Saturday May 10. All levels and genres, short stories, poetry, novels and memoirs. Work is exchanged one week prior to group meetings. 1500 word limit on submissions. Meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 9:00-11:00 am. Contact moderator for location.

CURRENTLY OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS

Moderator: Tom Snow
coinerbop@gmail.com

MEMOIR AND NON-FICTION

Disbanded until there is more interest. If you would like to explore re-starting this group, please contact Judith directly.

CURRENTLY OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS

Contact: Judith Bernstein
ryewit@live.com
805-904-6365

CRITIQUE GROUPS LISTING

CRITIQUE GROUPS WITH OPENINGS

POETRY CRITIQUE GROUP

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

HI HOPES

This group was invented to fill a need for a Los Osos/San Luis Obispo group that incorporates writers who generate stories, essays, novels, poetry—you get the picture—writers of any description. Whether or not you wish to publish, we'll help you with ideas to improve your writing. Led by Sharon Sutliff, we meet on the **2nd and 4th Mondays at 9 AM and usually wrap up in time for lunch**. We meet in various locations. Call one of the moderators to arrange a visit, or get more information. **CURRENTLY OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS**

Moderators: Sharon Sutliff, 544-4034
Audrey Yanes, 748-8600

NORTH COUNTY RACONTEURS

This group has disbanded for various reasons until further notice.

SOUTH COUNTY WRITERS

Meets on the **second and fourth Saturdays from 9:30 AM to noon in Grover Beach**. This group thrives on variety, writing short stories, articles, poetry and novels, all genres from fiction to biography and memoirs. Members exchange work by email at least one week before the meeting in order to receive in-depth critiques aimed at eliminating weaknesses and increasing strengths in everything from plot and character

development to grammar and proper manuscript preparation. Intermediate to to advanced writers 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 OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS

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

WRITE IT RIGHT WRITING GROUP I (Wed. a.m. Group)

Meets **every Wednesday morning in 5 Cities area 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 (based on the lessons and exercises in the *Write It Right* Series), these sessions take writers through the process of writing fiction from inception of idea to the final resolution. This group is for all writers who want to learn the process of crafting a well-told story while developing their own voice and style. We explore such topics as ideas, character, story arc, tone, voice, POV, tension, dialogue, resolution, writing mechanics, etc. There is a small monthly fee involved for this class to cover materials.

CURRENTLY OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS.

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

CRITIQUE GROUPS LISTING

CRITIQUE GROUPS WITH OPENINGS

WRITE IT RIGHT WRITING GROUP II (Wed. p.m. Group)

For all writers of fiction and creative non-fiction, a writing instruction class that meets weekly and takes about a year to complete. **See full description under Wed. a.m. Group.** Meets from 3:00-5:00 pm in Los Osos. Current members are presently getting their work published after only six months or so.

CURRENTLY OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS

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

NORTH COUNTY CRITIQUE GROUP

Meets twice a month on Thursday from 1:30-4:00 pm at the Atascadero Library. the group includes intermediate and advanced level writers of fiction and non-fiction, both published and unpublished. Our critique process is upbeat and constructive. We send around pieces in advance, and read aloud at sessions. Potential new members are encouraged to visit to see if we are a mutual fit.

CURRENTLY OPEN TO A COUPLE OF NEW MEMBERS

Moderators: Lillian Brown, 215-6107
lilliofslo@aol.com
Mike Perry, 466-8311
dmperry1012@att.net

FULL CRITIQUE GROUPS: CALL TO VISIT

THE THURSDAY GROUP

This group meets at 9:00 am every other Thursday at The Coffee Bean in Pismo Beach. Anyone interested in joining them can email the moderator for full details.

CURRENTLY FULL—NOT OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS, but visitors are always welcome. Contact the moderator for details.

Moderator: Mark Ruszczyzky
zsur@aol.com

PISMO WEDNESDAY GROUP

New group began Meeting on May 1. All levels and genres: short stories, novels, poetry, memoir. Work is exchanged one week prior to each meeting; 1,500 word limit on submissions. Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 9:00-11:00 am in Pismo Beach.

CURRENTLY FULL—NOT OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS. Visitors welcome. Contact moderator for location.

Moderator Tom Snow
coinerbop@gmail.com

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 Anne Allen 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
Anne Allen, 528-1006

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

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