

April
2017



President's Message *Change of Seasons*

April is one of those months where we start off with sweaters in the morning, but wish we dressed in shorts by the afternoon. Warmer weather signals Spring's arrival, and the realization Summer will be here way too soon. The change of seasons. Many welcome the heat, while others (like myself) prefer rainy, cloudy days. As seasons change, so do our lives. We start new projects and pursue new passions. Or, we decide to renew our dedication to follow our dreams.

For more than three years, our current WOK board has dedicated countless hours in serving our club. We have worked together and bonded not only as writers, but as close friends who come together to make Writers of Kern the best writing club for our members. And as much as we would all love to keep serving, seasons change and many of us are ready to welcome a new group of dedicated volunteers who love this club as much as we do.

At the April 22 meeting, our Nominating Committee Chairperson, Annis Cassells, will speak about open board positions which include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Webmaster and Publicity Chair. Annis will explain the responsibilities of each position and take nominations. In the meantime, if you have a desire to come onboard and make a difference in our club, or know of someone who might be the perfect fit for one of these positions, please let us know. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to email me at president@writersofkern.com

Enjoy our Spring weather and see you at our next meeting!

Joan

Calendar

Meeting Schedule 2017

Mark your personal calendars for these dates

April 22, 2017 (4th Saturday)

Jennifer Burger, CSUB

“Narrative Nonfiction and the Human Experience”

May 20, 2017

WOK Honors Dinner
at Hodel's

June 17, 2017

Clarissa Kae

July 15, 2017

Aaron Gansky

And these important dates for 2018:

Spring Conference March 17, 2018

WoK Honors May 19, 2018

Meetings

April 22, 2017

Note: this is the 4th Saturday

“Narrative Nonfiction and the Human Experience”

Speaker: Jennifer Burger



Jennifer Burger

Following her insightful presentation at the Spring Conference, Jennifer Burger, writer and lecturer in journalism, appears at WOK’s April 22 meeting to present “Narrative

Now Available!

Writers of Kern is proud to announce the publication of “Overcoming Adversity” an anthology of winning entries from the Young Writers of Kern Competition held this past May. Copies available from Joan Raymond.

Activate!

Writers of Kern and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) will hold a free critique for children's writers Saturday, May 6 at 10:30 am at Russo's Books, 1601 New Stine Road in Bakersfield.

Participants should bring ten printed copies of up to five pages of one work-in-progress (picture book, middle grade, YA) to read and receive feedback. Manuscripts must be double-spaced, with the first page beginning 1/3 of the way down the page.

Those wanting to attend must RSVP to Rebecca Langston-George at cencal-ara@scbwi.org

Walk-ins and late arrivals risk not being able to participate.



Nonfiction and the Human Experience.” She will show us how to bring stories to life by using key details, scene setting, and dialogue which are elements of fiction writing,.

A basketball player who competes despite four knee surgeries. A student who picks citrus in the orchards to pay for college. A geology major who manages an immune disease while pursuing his love for studying rocks and fossils. What do these college students have in common? They all embody the human experience of overcoming hardships to succeed – a universal theme that most readers can identify with, whether or not they’ve been in those exact spots.

“Everyone has a story – it is up to the writer to draw out the compelling theme that extends beyond the individual and encompasses the greater human experience,” Burger says. She will show how to interview sources to get the deeper story and how to identify themes of the human experience and incorporate them into our stories.

Her program will center on the art of narrative nonfiction: identifying the universal themes of the human experience and utilizing narrative writing techniques to tell true stories. She will draw from her own experience as a newspaper features writer, award-winning stories she uses in her CSUB courses, and exceptional work by her students.

In addition to lecturing in journalism at CSUB, Jennifer Burger is an adviser to *The Runner* student newspaper, and a freelance writer for magazines. Previously, she spent twelve years working as a reporter and editor for newspapers from Oakland to Bakersfield.



Nuts & Bolts

Regular monthly meetings are held the third Saturday of each month (with the exception of special events in March, May, and December).

Meetings are held at Hodel's. Route 99, Olive Dr West turnoff, right turn onto Knudsen, big sign. Meeting: 9:15 to 11:15 am. Cost is \$10 for members, \$15 for visitors. Hodel's breakfast buffet is included and available from 8:45-9:30. See www.writersofkern.com to pay admission online.

New members are always welcome, both Active [previously published] and Associate [not yet published]. Writers of Kern energetically assists Associate Members who aspire to become Active.

Writers of Kern welcomes submissions of members' writing for the newsletter and the website. Send prose, memoir, poetry and essays to the Webmaster, and send book reviews and articles of general interest to the newsletter editor.

**The Write Way
April 2017
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PO Box 22335
Bakersfield, CA 93390-2335**

Members

New Members are always welcome. As are guests at monthly meetings, many of whom choose to become Members. So bring your friends along!

Calling All Poets and Poetry Lovers

We're still seeking poetry to feature on the Writers of Kern website for National Poetry Month! Send your poems – either newly written or oldies but goodies – to be published on the WOK Blog during April.

Submission Guidelines:

- Up to three poems
- Your 50-word bio
- Your head shot

Submit your poem and bio in 12 pt. Times New Roman or Calibri, Word docx or rtf format. Your photo as an attachment. Send to submissions@writersofkern.com

Look for the poem of the day at www.writersofkern.com under the Blog tab.

National Poetry Month, April 2017

There are a number of events during April 2017 to please any poet or lover of poetry.

First Friday Open Mic featuring spoken words of Thomas Lucero and Diana Ramirez. April 7, Friday, starts 6:00 pm. Sign-up for open mic at 5:50 pm of original poem or music. Hosted by Kevin Shah.

April 8, Saturday, April 4:00-5:15 pm, Webinar with Catherine Abbey Hodges on Writing and Revision, <https://www.picatic.com/CatherineAbbeyHodgesRevision>.

Both at Dagny's Coffee, 1600 20th St., Bakersfield CA 93301.

The Writers of Kern Executive Board

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Website:
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Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/writersofkern/>

Writing Poems of Awe and Wonder.

April 10, Monday, 10:00-11:55 am. Facilitated by Portia Choi.

Register online www.mercybakersfield.org/art.

Also, Evening of Poetry for Thirsty Heart and Minds.

April 20, Thursday, 6:30-8:00 pm: Facilitated by Donnel Lester.

Both at Art and Spirituality Center, Dignity Health, Mercy & Memorial Hospitals

2215 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield CA 93301

“Visions of Words.” Art inspired by poetry, and art by poets.

April 21, Friday 6:30-7:30 pm. Doors open 6:00 pm. Display of art and poetry reading.

Arts Council of Kern, Access Center, 1330 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield CA 93301.

Evening with featured poet (TBA)

April 22, Saturday, 3:00-5:00 pm. Workshop on poetry 3-4 pm.

Open Mic 4-5pm. Performance of your own or your favorite poem.

Dagny’s Coffee, 1600 20th St., Bakersfield CA 93301.

Walter Stiern Library presents “Poets Reading Work Poems”

April 25, Tuesday, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

December Room of Walter Stiern Library,

California State University of Bakersfield (CSUB). 9001 Stockdale Hwy, Bakersfield.

Don Thompson, First Kern County Poet Laureate presents "Poetry and Me"

April 29, Saturday, 3:30 pm. Followed by poets reading poems that were inspired by Thompson’s book, *Everything Barren Will Be Blessed*. Then open mic.

Dagny's Coffee, 1600 - 20th (Corner of 20th and Eye St.) Bakersfield CA 93301.

All events are FREE and Open to Public. Light refreshments will be served at some events. Info portia@kernpoetry.com, or (661) 717-1346.



Writers of Kern Officers' Duties

President

Draft board meeting agendas and run board meetings.

Draft the agenda and run general monthly meetings.

Act as program and publicity chair

Keep members informed of club business via email, social media, club website, and at meetings

Read email and respond in a timely fashion

Negotiate between other board members and chairs as needed

Provide leadership with a positive attitude

Vice President

Attend and participate in board meetings

Run monthly meetings in the president’s absence

Oversee the Peggy Connelly Scholarship program

Secretary

Attend board meetings

Take minutes at board meetings and distribute them to board members in a timely fashion

Correspond with membership as necessary

Check club P.O. Box for correspondence

Treasurer

Monitor and process income

Make bank deposits

Write checks for branch expenses

Reconcile monthly bank statements



Writing

Critique Corner

Countdown to our Pitch Perfect Critique Camp

It's not too late to win a \$100 Amazon Gift Card. This is for *everyone* who has a book in progress or ready to be published. Nothing centers a story like your pitch. It doesn't have to be polished to a shine (that's what we're here for). Refer back to last month's newsletter for more background.

To join, email critiquecamp@gmail.com with your name and the date you'd like to join the online session. Each session will be recorded and available to download. You *must register* to get the access code for these sessions. This is a free service for all Writers of Kern members. If you're not a current member you'll be sent an invoice for \$25 that can be applied to your future membership if you wish.

Sessions: April 12th (Wednesday) 7 p.m. or April 13th (Thursday) 7 p.m.

Clarissa Kae

Winner will be drawn on April 14th and recorded for all participants.



More Writers of Kern Board Duties

Appointed Positions

Membership Chair inputs new members and their information into the Member Record Management System (MRMS) and reports those numbers to the state organization, California Writers Club (CWC). Notifies Publicity Chair of new members and their contact information.

Newsletter Editor solicits, gathers, edits, formats, and writes newsworthy articles and features for the club's monthly online publication, *The Write Way*. Sends newsletter to the membership, webmaster, presidents and newsletter editors of the other CWC branches 7-10 days prior to the WOK monthly.

Publicity Chair obtains any information pertinent to the Club and drafts all news releases, and any other written publicity necessary, and sends out to all media. Coordinates printing to ensure uniformity in publicity and branding.

Hospitality/Sunshine Chair greets members and guests at meetings and events. Sends cards or appropriate communications to members (i.e. get well, condolences, congratulations).

Webmaster maintains and updates website, posts content.

Last Words

“The sound of the language is where it all begins. The test of a sentence is, does it sound right? The basic elements of language are physical: the noise words make, the sounds and silences that make the rhythms marking their relationships. Both the meaning and the beauty of the writing depend on these sounds. This is just as true of prose as it is of poetry, though the sound effects of prose are usually subtle and always irregular.”

Ursula K LeGuin in *Steering the Craft*