

January
2018



The Write Way

President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope everyone is looking forward to a new year of opportunities in your writing journeys. Think about the things you have control over (a definite writing schedule, editing/revising, submitting your work, attending conferences) and commit to making that happen. You'll be amazed at the progress by the end of 2018.

Writers of Kern has several extra events planned this year, along with our monthly speaker line up. And if you blink, you might miss something. While everyone should make a habit of checking the upcoming events on the calendar, I thought best to mention a few special ones here.

January 30, 2018, 6:00 pm (Online): A new series of live webinars kicks off this month with "Query Camp." Not only is it free to attend, you don't even need to leave your home because it's all online! See Clarissa's article for more details.

March 17, 2018, 8:00am-3:00pm (Hodels): Our annual Spring Conference. This is your chance to attend a local conference and learn from four successful writers from several different genres. Each will share their knowledge and experience; plus, this year we've added a pitch contest and other writerly activities to enrich your day. Early-bird registration is open now. See the Spring Conference flyer for more details.

April 7, 2018, 2:00-4:00pm (Clarissa's Home): WOK Strategy/Planning Get Together. This casual event, outside our Hodel's venue, is free to attend and open to members and guests to help us plan for the 2018-2019 WOK year. We'll talk about how WOK can serve our members better and what you are seeking from our organization. We'll also talk about leadership and volunteering, and who might be waiting in the wings to take positions when our current board decides to retire or hit the best seller list and go on a national tour. There will be goodies to munch on as we chat about making Writers of

Calendar

Meeting Schedule 2018

Mark your personal calendars for these dates

January 20, 2018

Frank Romano

"Activist for Peace in the Holy Land"

February 17, 2018

L.J. Martin, author

"Craft: No One's Born with It"



Kern *the* place for writers of every genre, interest, and skill level.

And one last thing... For those who have been asking and wondering about a WOK anthology, your voices have been heard. The board will move forward on this project after the Spring Conference. In the meantime, if you saved any of the Museful Moments (three-minute writing prompts at the beginning of our monthly meetings) please put them in a Word doc. We'll be taking those as submissions, along with other writing in the next few months. Watch for announcements at the January meeting.

Thank you for being a part of Writers of Kern. I look forward to what 2018 will bring for all of us.

Joan

Members

Welcome Aboard!

One new member in November:

Lois Henry

Writers of Kern looks forward to your active participation.

The winner of the Writers of Kern Fall Writing Contest was Ronald Jarrett. Congratulations!

It's WoK's Future and Your Future

[so it's worth mentioning again]

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March 17, 2018

Annual Spring Conference

Dave Congalton

"Writing for the Hallmark Movie Channel"

· **Ernie Zarra, educator**

"Make Them an Offer they Can't Refuse!"

Rebecca Langston-George, writer

"Revising with Vision and Purpose:

Tips to Push Your Writing to the Next Level"

· **Brendan Constantine, poet**

"The Haunted Line"

April 21, 2018

Barney Saltzberg

"A Morning with

Picture Book Author Illustrator Barney Saltzberg"

May 19, 2018

WOK Honors Dinner

June 16, 2018

Louis Medina

"Working with Local Kern Newspapers to Develop Published 'Clips' "

July 21, 2018 TBA

August 18, 2018 TBA

September 15, 2018 TBA

October 20, 2018

Joey Garcia

"Writing About Love and Relationships:

A Guide for All Ages"

November 17, 2018 TBA

December 8, 2018

Winter Dinner

Meetings

Members Meeting January 20th 2018

Guest Speaker: Dr. Frank Romano

“An Activist for Peace in the Holy Land”



Dr. Frank Romano

Current world events make for exciting stories that also inform. Long-time peace activist Dr. Frank Romano will be our featured speaker on January 20. He is the author of *Love and Terror in the Middle East* and *Storm Over Morocco*. We will have the opportunity to hear about Romano's first-hand peace activities as well as to learn some of the essentials that lead to success in writing and publishing.

Using examples from his books, Dr. Romano will discuss incorporating literary elements such as metaphor, description, and writing that “shows” in creative nonfiction. He will also cover how to prepare a manuscript for submission and how to find a publisher.

Since 2005, Romano has regularly traveled from Paris to the Holy Land, where he has

Activate!

Dan McGuire Blog Challenge

Three times a week since the birth of blogs, Dan published his trademark blog, Bako Heat. There are times I still scroll through his site, mostly to hear his humor. And his voice.

He was a man easy to love and a hard one to forget. In his honor, we're hosting the Dan McGuire Blog Challenge.

From February 5th to May 6th each participant will post 26 articles on his or her blog and comment on his/her fellow participant's blogs.

Dan took a detour to Smith's Bakery every time we had a board meeting. He'd show up with Apple Fritters and a joke or two in his pocket. The last time I went to lunch with him, we joked about how food filled his belly and his blog.

The Tuesday after he died, I bought an Apple Fritter. I couldn't eat it and wound up giving it to mother with a crying toddler. The loss of Dan still catches me off guard but there's hope in continuing his legacy.

Please join us in our tribute to a great man.

Clarissa



Dan McGuire

organized conferences, author events, peace demonstrations, and interfaith events involving Jews, Moslems, Christians and people of other faiths in Israel and Palestine.

Dr. Romano is a member of the French and California bars, and professor of law, literature, and history and philosophy of law at the University of Paris, France. For up-to-date information on his activities, see his Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/frank.romano.921>,

See you Saturday, January 20 at Hodel's. Our general meeting begins at 9:15. Come early and enjoy breakfast (8:45-9:30) and time with your writing friends. We'll be looking for you.

Winter Dinner, December 9th 2017

A few pictures to stir your memories..



Writing

Critique Corner

Thank you for your wishlist feedback. We're kicking off 2018 with not just one live webinar, but **a whole series**. First up, "*Queries*"!

Annis

Join our *Query Camp* on January 30th from the comfort of your couch. No matter where you are in the publishing journey, we'll help explain, critique and polish your query.

Click to register: <https://goo.gl/forms/JLaj73bhvznNcQtI3>

..and, Talking of Feedback..

WOK Strategy/Planning Get Together.

This casual event on April 7th is free to attend and open to members and guests to help us plan for the 2018-2019 WOK year. We'll talk about how WOK can serve our members better and what you are seeking from our organization. We'll also talk about leadership and volunteering, and who might be waiting in the wings to take positions when our current board decides to retire or hit the best seller list and go on a national tour. There will be goodies to munch on as we chat about making Writers of Kern *the* place for writers of every genre, interest, and skill level.

Contact *Clarissa Kae* or *Joan Raymond* for directions and more information on how to attend.



Nuts & Bolts

Regular monthly meetings of Writers of Kern 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
January 2018**

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Bakersfield, CA 93390-2335**

**"For last year's words belong to last year's language And next
year's words await another voice"**

T.S. Eliot



Annual Spring Conference

"Pitch, Polish, & Publish"

March 17, 2018

8:00 am to 3:00 pm at Hodel's Kern Room

Revision

Revising with Vision and Purpose: Tips to Push Your Writing to the Next Level
With **Rebecca Langston-George** learn to approach revision with mindfulness and purpose.



Publishing



Pitching Your Proposals: Make Them an Offer they Can't Refuse!

Ernie Zarra will share from experience tips and techniques for pitching your proposals and working with a publisher.

Poetry

The Haunted Line

Brendan Constantine will present a generative workshop exploring the strange and elusive qualities of the poem that 'stays with you.'



Screenwriting



Writing for the Hallmark Movie Channel

Dave Congalton explains the basic Do's and Don'ts of writing for Hallmark and how to improve your chances of sealing the deal.

Register Today!

Early Bird Registration through February 28, 2018

\$50 WOK & CWC, \$75 Non-Members, \$25 Full-time Students with ID

March 1st – Conference Day: Registration: \$95; Full-time Students with ID \$45

Includes: Continental Breakfast, Snacks, and Lunch

Visit: <http://writersofkern.com/events> to register

The Writers of Kern Executive Board

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CLASSIC CRITIQUE GROUP

This is the first entry of a new article for the WOK Newsletter concerning critique groups. The purpose of this series is to encourage others to improve their writing skills through the critique process by joining a group.

Leader: Terry Redman. Members: Annis Cassells, Ruth Smith, Richard Meeks, Joan Kerr, and Janet Skibinski.



Dana Martin, former WOK president, established the basic structure for the critique groups around 2010. Classic, the original group, was comprised of about 10 members. Today critique groups are limited to six participants. Terry Redman, Annis Cassells, Ruth Smith, Joan Kerr, and Richard Meeks were and continue to be part of the first members. Four years ago, Janet Skibinski became the final Classic

The Classics meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at Skibinski's home. According to the Meeks Rule, each member is encouraged to submit her/his entry by the Sunday before the meeting. That rule is occasionally stretched, according to the Skibinski addendum, to the Monday before. "Sometimes it's knowing my group is expecting a piece from me that makes me step up and produce something," Cassells said.

They follow the Critique Outline and reply to each topic with honest and thoughtful comments and suggestions. Everyone brings their critique sheets to the meeting and take turns reading what they've written. The author assumes a "fly on the wall" position. When all critiques are

done, the author may or may not answer questions or make his/her own comments.

When asked how she felt about the process, Skibinski said, "I find my writing has improved immensely since joining the group. I'm more thoughtful when choosing words to convey my thoughts. I'm doing more showing than telling."

Annis answered, "We've learned about writing from reading each other's writing and listening to questions and comments. I find the questions particularly helpful."

"Being able to share what it means to try to put words on paper in a meaningful way with kindred spirits makes me feel like I'm not alone in pursuing what is really a lonely way to spend one's available time. The knowledge that in order to be a truly valued member of a writing group, one must dig deep to offer something of value in a critique, not just a casual pat on the back," Meeks said.

Joan said, "Not only do we assist and encourage one another with thoughtful and helpful critiques, but we have bonded as a group and become true friends in addition to being critique partners." Terry concludes, "Thanks to the Classics, I am a better writer and reader. Finding the friendships makes the experience richer. *Such a deal!*"

Janet

Poetry

The Writers' Workshop of Asheville NC sponsors its 29th Annual Poetry Contest. Deadline to enter is 28th February. Full details and guidelines at www.twwoa.org

Happy New Year, welcome to 2018 !