



**October, 2013**  
**Volume 1, Issue 3**

**The Writers of Kern  
PO BOX 22335  
Bakersfield, CA**

**Regular meetings:**  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month,  
10 to noon. Registration, 9:45.  
Fee: \$10, members and guests.

**Clarion Hotel**  
3540 Rosedale Hwy.  
Hwy. 99 at Rosedale  
Bakersfield, CA  
[www.writersofkern.com](http://www.writersofkern.com)

**The Writers of Kern  
Executive Board**

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## **October Speaker**



### **The Creative and Restorative Power of Journaling**

Dennis VanderWerff

As a middle-aged man living in the “Paris of the Mind,” I am passionate about the creative and restorative power of journaling. Through journaling for nearly thirty years, I’ve learned that I am the main character of my own unique life script. All of the stories (novels, plays, screen plays, poems) I will ever write already live inside me.

Most of us follow and, indeed, accept without question, the scripts given to us by parents, teachers, society; scripts based on the themes, values, and myths of those who gave them to us. What we fail often to understand is our potential to re-frame, reshape and change our scripts to change our lives. How does one figure out whose script it is we are living? Journaling about the stories that

shape my identity give me insight into my life script and provide clarity about what changes can or must be made to live my life more fully and authentically.

I’ll talk about various journaling techniques and provide a short bibliography of books and articles on journaling as well as journaling resources.

## **Community Outreach**

WOK will be involved in The Kern County and Middle School Writing Contest. Dennis VanderWerff is meeting with Judge Tafoya to work out the details. Look for more information in future editions.

### **WOK Welcomes New Member**

Clarissa Kae

## **The September Meeting**

**Jason Brown**



Dr. Chuck Wall, the man who coined the phrase “Random Acts of Kindness,” was our speaker. He is a funny, enthusiastic speaker and an

inspiration to writers and non-writers alike. We look forward to hearing from him again. His enthusiasm and drive enabled him to overcome blindness to be a best-selling author and speaker.

*Kindness: Changing the World* is only one of the books he has written on the kindness platform. The act of kindness phenomenon began as a class assignment for his students at Bakersfield College and then spread worldwide.

Before Dr. Wall was invited by Oprah to do her show, a story about the project appeared in *The Bakersfield Californian*. His books were selling briskly during the break and after the meeting ended. For any writer seeking inspiration, and the charge to write that book this was the meeting to attend.

## Writers Getting Ink

This is a fun column to write, even more fun when an enthusiastic WOKian does the work for me. So, if you "Get Ink," or know someone who does, let us know. Every success inspires the rest of us.

**Caroline Reid** was mentioned at the last meeting for her entries at The Kern County Fair. She dropped me a note to clarify. "Terry, I don't remember what year, but I think two years ago, I won a first place ribbon for I Want to be a Policeman, about my son who was policeman. This year it was third place for His Music Fills My Soul, about my grandpa and his violin. No money, no trips, one ribbon (first place)."

**Joan Raymond** struck gold more than once over the past month. "I was/will be published three times in The Taft Independent. These include "Buttonwillow Family Farm Day,"

an interview with Lawrence Paik of Paik's Ranch House Restaurant, and a story about a young Taft resident who volunteered for the Army, Timothy Casteel. I interviewed the Taft College librarian, Terri Smith, and will be doing a huge article on the Historic Fort in Taft.

I was published mid-September in The Penman Review, my Southern New Hampshire University online literary review for a non-fiction resource article about interviewing people for my newspaper freelance position. In October I will be published (again) in The Penman Review for my fiction story "Appleseed Creek Neighborhood Watch."

I have an article in the October issue of Res Ipsa Loquitur, the Kern County Bar Association magazine, for my coverage of David Wolf's presentation to Writers of Kern in July. Also, in case that's not be enough, I won 2nd place in a student sponsored writing contest with my college (SNHU Writers Group.)"

**Annis Cassells** wrote to say, "My story, "You Should Get Married" took 3rd place in the Inland Empire Branch's writing contest. There's a \$50 prize and they asked if they could publish the story in their newsletter, Fresh Ink. This is my first time winning anything in a writing contest. Yahoo!!!"



Dana Martin was profiled in Bakersfield Life for her day job—scaring little kids.

She runs two Halloween themed businesses, Talladega Nights here, and Raven's Gate near Fresno.

This is her busiest month so she usually has to miss the October meeting. My guess is that on the 26th, she will be a very busy zombie. She got ink this time by being the subject, not the author.

## WOK Critique Groups

Open status may have changed

(Sci-Fi and Fantasy) **OPEN**

**Monday 1, Dan McGuire, OPEN**

**Monday 2, Jeff Hill, OPEN**

**Tuesday, 1:30 PM, Nan Rinker, OPEN**

**Wednesday AM, Dana Martin, Closed**

**Wednesday 1, Terry Redman, Closed**

**Wednesday 2, Joan Raymond, OPEN**

## WOK's Active Writers:

These are the writers who submitted articles and poems to The California Writers Club Literary Review, insuring that I will buy Annis a bagel as well as that glass of wine. Thanks and congratulations to all of you. ☺

**Annis Cassells, Jean Chapman, Jasmine Lowe, Dan McGuire, Richard Meeks, Davyd Morris,**

**Donnee Padgett-Harris, Joan Raymond, Terry Redman, Janet Skibinski, Sue Speake, Anna Stewart, Dennis VanDerweff**

**Email update:** We have official WOK email addresses using the [www.writersofkern.com](http://www.writersofkern.com) website. Please go to the website, or email to the following addresses. Thank you.

**Events:**  
events@writersofkern.com

**Information:**  
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**Membership:**  
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## Member Profile



### Meet Donnée Harris

**Donnée  
Harris** is an erotic romance writer and

owner/executive creative director of First Draft Publishing. She was born in Gary, Indiana into a family with five sisters and three brothers. She has a passion for reading and writing.

She graduated from Butler University with a BA in Journalism and a minor in political science. In January of 2012 she published her first novel Prohibited, an erotic novel written under the name Donnée Patrese. Shortly after that, she published two short story anthologies titled Insomnia: What happens when you can't sleep? and Erotic Encounters: Tales of the Paranormal and Preternatural. Her recent novel, Diary of a Wanted Woman, gives a nudge to the world of BDSM.

In August 2012 she moved from Indianapolis, IN to Bakersfield, CA with her husband, three daughters, and a cat named Pat.

She loves to cook and bake, and after the death of her mother in 2010, she combined her recipes with her mom's and created a website called "Cooking with Patt," where she displays recipes from the Midwest.

Donnée manages three websites and three blogs. When she isn't writing, she is spending time with her family.

## Calendar

**October 26**  
See page one.

**November 2**  
Nancy Ellen Dodd Workshop,  
Part I, 9:00A-1:00P  
at Westbrook Church Coffee  
Shop, Ashe Rd., south of District  
Blvd.

**November 16**  
Delia Latham will be the guest  
speaker.

**November 23**  
Nancy Ellen Dodd Workshop,  
Part II (as above)

**December 13**  
Winter Dinner Meeting  
Awards, Open Mic,  
and Book Exchange  
Friday evening, 6:00-9:00P  
at Hodel's. Winner of the Summer  
Writing Contest announced.

**January 18**  
Critique Workshop presented by  
Dennis VanderWerff, Patrick  
Kelly, and Critique Group  
Leaders.

**February 15**  
Speaker pending

**March 15**  
Carol Sanders

**April 19**  
Writers of Kern Writers  
Workshop

**May 17**  
Speaker pending

**June**  
Summer Members Dinner

## **THE BACK PAGE**

Kudos and thanks to **Dana Martin** who was informed of a room conflict on the 19<sup>th</sup> and saved the monthly meeting by taking the next available date, the 26th. This means we have a meeting and you still have time to decorate your home and buy candy for Halloween.

## *The Editors' Inkwell*

Terry Redman

Terry, "Why don't I have your bio and photo in my file?"

Bob Weiss, "Well, nobody asked me."

Writer bios give us a chance to meet different members, learn what interests them and what they write. The first one to accept the call was Donnèe Harris, so her bio is in this month's newsletter. A number of members recently sent their bios and we will print them in future issues—thank you. Like Bob, I am inviting each of you to send in a 200-word bio and headshot.

Thanks, Bob, you made a good point.  
Send to newsletter@writersofkern.com.  
In the same vein, at the last meeting we  
asked for volunteers to write up a report  
of the month's meeting. Jason Brown  
and Nancy Clover spoke up and then  
agreed to split the duty between them.  
Jason's review appears in this issue.  
Jason also took over as bagel angel.  
WOK appreciates your generosity.

*Editors' Dialog*

In last month's Editors' Dialog, I told Annis we could, "Get involved in the blog challenge. **And we can enjoy bagels and wine, but not at the same time.**" This month another editor\* joined the conversation but I had no good answer to his question. Ray, thank you for the kind words and for carefully reading our newsletter.

"Hi Annis, Great newsletter. You have some striking ideas about layout. Congrats, BUT Why can't we enjoy bagels and wine at the same time!!!!!"

*Ray Malus, State MRMS Administrator Webmaster, California Writers Club — San Fernando Valley Branch*

\*See Ray's San Fernando Branch website at <http://cwc-sfv.org>

# *What You Can Do*

Share your successes with the  
Newsletter Editors at

[newsletter@writersofkern.com](mailto:newsletter@writersofkern.com)

Send your bio, with a headshot or other good photo, to the Newsletter Editors at

[newsletter@writersofkern.com](mailto:newsletter@writersofkern.com). Volunteer to work on a committee or take on a responsibility for the good of the organization.

Write a short story, essay, memoir, or poem for the website blog and send it to

[submissions@writersofkern.com](mailto:submissions@writersofkern.com)

## **Read some Poems in October, Write a Novel in November**

November is NaNoWriMo time—the global challenge to write a 50,000-word novel in a month. Winners will be announced in December. See <http://nanowrimo.org> for details.

Anna Stewart,  
ontheink.blogspot.com, and Annis  
Cassells,  
poemsbyannis.blogspot.com, are

**The Write Way** is published monthly in Bakersfield, California. The deadline for submission of news articles is the first day of the month of publication. Send to [newsletter@writersofkern.com](mailto:newsletter@writersofkern.com)

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The Writers of Kern website seeks and welcomes submissions of members' writing for the website blog. Prose, memoir, poetry, essays, and book reviews should be sent to [submissions@writersofkern.com](mailto:submissions@writersofkern.com)

currently engaged in the poetry challenge, OctPoWriMo, to write 31 poems in 31 days. Drop by and read their poems and see [octpowrimo.com](http://octpowrimo.com) for details.



My winner's mug from  
NaNoWriMo, TR.

