



THE WRITE WAY

A PUBLICATION BY WRITERS OF KERN,
A BRANCH OF CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB
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The Winter Dinner - A Uniquely-WOK Event

Calling all WOK members! You and your guest are invited to the Writers of Kern Annual Winter Dinner on December 13, 2013, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The festivities take place at Hodels Country Dining on Knudsen Avenue in Bakersfield.

Along with the fine food and fun, you will want to be onboard for an evening of camaraderie and celebrating the craft of writing.

WOK bloggers will be honored for their participation in our club-sponsored A-Z Blog Challenge. And, the suspense from last summer will end as the winners of the 2013 Writers of Kern Summer Writing Contest will be revealed. This year, monetary prizes will go to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place contest winners.

We'll be entertained by members reading short pieces of their original work, five minutes or less, so we can have many writers share their work.

Bring a gently used, wrapped book to swap during the Book Exchange, and you and your guest can walk away with additions to your libraries.

How do you ensure that you'll have a spot at this extra-special evening? It's easy. Just make your reservation online at www.writersofkern.com/reservation by Friday, December 6, 2013. For your convenience, you can make your payment of \$20 per person on the website, or mail your check to Writers of Kern, P.O. Box 22335, Bakersfield, CA 93390-2335.

Show up at the Writers of Kern Annual Winter Dinner, and be in on the fun firsthand. We'll be looking for you.



We Welcome Our
Newest Member
[Sherry Firth](#)

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The Writers of Kern
PO BOX 22335
Bakersfield, CA

www.writersofkern.com

Regular meetings the 3rd
Saturday of the month,
10 to 12 registration 9:45
Clarion Hotel
3540 Rosedale Hwy.
Hwy. 99 at Rosedale

The Writers of Kern
Executive Board

President: Dana Martin
Vice President:
Dennis VanderWerff
Treasurer: Joan Raymond
Secretary: Janet Skibinski
Membership: Patrick Kelly
Newsletter: Annis Cassells,
Terry Redman
CWC Representative:
Sandy Moffett



THE NOVEMBER MEETING

What a meeting! The room was packed and we had people sitting in the aisles (don't tell the fire department.) Guests introduced themselves and members were invited to share their successes and rejections (a cause for celebration in this organization.)

The Winter Dinner at Hodel's was discussed. Joan Raymond reminded us that it's important to pay in advance because the restaurant needs to know how many tables to set up.

Critique Leaders will meet on Jan. 9th at 6pm at Covenant Coffee on Chester just north of Norris.

Someone wanted to know about setting up websites and Go Daddy was suggested as was Google, which is free.

KCYW (Kern County Young Writers) was discussed as our own Dennis VanderWerff is very involved in their organization. Read more about it on www.writersofkern.com, under the EVENTS tab.

Our featured reader was Robert Hargreaves who read an excerpt from his ebook, Mr. Bob the Chicken Doc.

And then we come to Delia Latham, our guest speaker. Mrs. Latham talked about writer's block and some of her techniques for getting through or around writer's block. Those who weren't here missed a phenomenal and informative speaker. Maybe, just maybe, those of us who were there will share the literature she passed, filled with helpful hints.

Keep your hats on: The Winter Dinner is just around the corner.

Nancy Clover



Calendar

December 13

Winter Dinner Meeting
Awards, Open Mic, and Book
Exchange
Friday evening, 6:00-9:00P at
Hodel's.

January 18

Critique Workshop presented by Dana
Martin and member panel

February 15

Speaker pending

March 15

Carol Sanders, author of *Spy on
Clinton Street*

April 19

Writers of Kern Annual Spring
Conference

May 17

Read the Book. Meet the Author
Reggie Ridgway

June

Summer Members Dinner

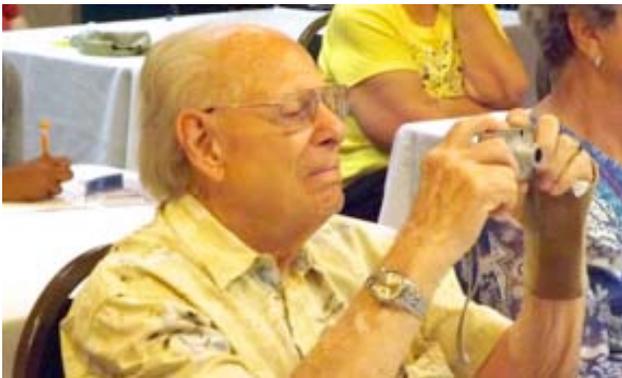




The cheerful DELIA LATHAM,
our November presenter



ROBERT HARGREAVES,
November's Featured Reader.



BOB CLOUD at the July meeting

Critique Group Leaders
Sunday, Jana Wong,
(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

“Old writers never die; seemingly they just “kudos” away.
I’ve always said, “I shall return.” Bob Cloud, Thanksgiving, 2013
I was saddened to read the email saying Bob Cloud had died so I wrote a tribute to him in this space. Maybe the email, or maybe the plant sent by WOK to his bereaved family, spurred Bob to clarify that he IS very much alive. What a treat for Thanksgiving!
I always look for him at our meetings and there’s no reason to stop now. Bob IS one of WOK’s nicest members, always smiling even when he does not feel good. You may remember that before speaking to the group he mentions he attended, “A little school down south called USC.” A litany of illnesses has prevented his writing, or attendance at our meetings; the curse the of getting old. Bob, we’d love to see you at the Winter Dinner on the 13th



President's Column December 2013

Dana Martin

The holidays are here, which mean some great changes are in store for us with regard to our annual WOK Christmas party!

First, the party is on a Friday night, and it's on the second (not third) weekend in December at Hodel's. It's still the same wonderful food, fun, and camaraderie, but with one special change: We will be announcing the winner of the WOK Summer Writing Contest!

Speaking of the contest, let me give you an update. All three judges have been complimenting the writing talent of our WOK members. We had 21 entries this year, including several standouts that made choosing first place very difficult for the judges. One returning judge reports that the writing keeps improving. "These entries," she said, "have the best writing yet."

Entrants can look forward to one of three chances to win. If you weren't at the November meeting, you missed the announcement that we are awarding monetary prizes to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places this year! So many great entries deserve more chances to win.

Attention bloggers! Those of you who participated in the blogging challenge will be recognized at the dinner, as well.

And as usual, we will be allowing short, 5-minute open mic readings from our members who wish to read a short story or poem aloud. Please keep in mind that many folks want to read, so make every effort to keep your piece to five minutes.

If you plan to attend, please go to our website and make your reservation. It's \$20 per person, and through the convenience of our website, you can pay by credit card or debit card (or you can still mail a check if that is your preference). If you plan to attend and still have not reserved your spot, please go now to the website and do so. We need to give Hodel's a count.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Friday the 13th! And no, I did not specifically choose that date because I love Halloween so much. It was just fabulous luck.



Meet Davyd Morris

Davyd's father claimed to be 100% Welsh, as his excuse for inserting "y's" into all five of his children's names. Davyd, born in 1955, is the fifth and final experiment of that nomenclature. He grew up in the Italian-Irish suburb of South San Francisco.

Davyd netted a full-ride scholarship to the University of the Pacific in Stockton, where he majored in history and dabbled with writing. After graduation he took a position in the advertising department for Procter & Gamble that led him to the far corners of the United States, and eventually Manhattan. There he met his future bride, Melissa. They have two sons who now tower over their father. Before leaving the east coast Davyd earned his M.B.A in marketing from George Washington University.

The Morris family moved to California in 1997, settling in Northern Monterey County. Davyd became a stay-at-home dad for his sons, soon getting involved in, among other things, theatre groups. For two years he wrote a newspaper promoting local drama organizations. Once, the younger son entered high school, Davyd jumped into teaching history after 30 years of denial.

When his wife's career took a detour to Bakersfield, Davyd dusted off his "novel in a drawer" and joined the Writers of Kern. Thanks to the many inspiring speakers and a supportive and keen-eyed critique group on Wednesdays, Davyd recently completed his novel. Dana Martin is currently editing *Late Boomer*, a working title since an East Coast writer snagged the title while the story occupied Davyd's desk.

Davyd and Melissa again live in the Salinas Valley, where she practices medicine while he writes and teaches. Davyd has joined the CWC chapter in Monterey (Central Coast Writers) and continues his relationship with WOK through his semi-monthly

If you like a good adventure story see *Catching Fire*, the film adaptation of the second book in the *Hunger Games* series.. Think *Survivor* broadcast without edits or commercials. The winner is the one alive at the end of the "game." Katniss Everdeen, and her friend Peeta Mellark, survived the first book, *Hunger Games*, and they are now drafted for a special elimination edition facing other winners from past games. **"May the odds be ever in your favor."**

Holiday Greetings

We come from diverse backgrounds and gather at our meetings because we share a love of writing. This year, amid the harried schedules, obligatory gatherings and ads on TV, we can find reasons to celebrate, religious or not. Spend time with loved ones and enjoy your time together. If the parties go well, you have something for your memoir, if not you have material for a short story.



Annis and Terry



Writer's Showcase

At the start of our meetings a WOK member reads a five-minute piece of his/her writing to the group. If you are interested in doing this, speak to a board member.

Upcoming Featured Writers are:

January, Nancy Clover

February, Reggie Ridgeway

March, Clarissa Kae



Getting Ink

My short story collection, Half-Life Short Stories, is free to download on Amazon all this week.
Reggie Ridgeway

I just finished my fourth straight NaNoWriMo book! 50,648 words, Rendezvous, a murder, mystery, thriller. Dan McGuire

I've been asked to be a one-time guest columnist in Bakersfield Life Magazine. My issue is January, which comes out on Saturday, December 28. Dana Martin

Ruth Smith will be discussing one of her stories in Chicken Soup. It will be streaming on www.blogtalkradio.com/breakfastwithbooks. Listen to the program on December 12th at 10:AM, EST.

The Back Page

The Editor's Inkwell Terry Redman

Each year I tally up my reasons to be thankful. It's a nice list—family, friends, health, faith and the tangible things like my house, the cars and the tech stuff I keep buying. This year my complacency has been tested.

Our heating unit had to be replaced and for a week we relied on a portable unit we moved from the common living area to the bedroom and back. Heat has always been available at the flick of a switch so I never considered living without this modern convenience. The new unit went online the day before Thanksgiving (we had the dinner on Friday) and we can host the critique group potluck dinner December 4th.

This year I am especially grateful for the modern conveniences I take for granted, and I better appreciate the hardship for those who can't heat their homes this winter. This winter I will say pray for the homeless and the other families who cannot heat their homes this winter; feel free to join me with a prayer, or a good thought.

Be of good cheer, bring a good book to share, and celebrate with us on the 13th.

Wine and Bagels

I made two bets with Annis Cassells encouraging WOKians to submit pieces to both our Summer Writing Contest and The California Writers Club Literary Review. You wrote, I lost; Annis got her bagel and wine. Congratulations to you, the writers, for submitting your work! This was a good bet to lose. Terry

At Panera Bread



At Tahoe Joe's

