



President's Message

How Do You Watch TV?

I've always enjoyed watching TV. Comedies, sitcoms, dramas, I have my favorites and I'm sure you do too. As a former TV-aholic, and before the invention of VCRs (you know, those old-timey tape machines that recorded up to six hours of video) I was terrible about not missing any of my favorite shows and wasting hours each night in TV-Land. With the invention of DVRs, I have a few shows I record and watch regularly. But, instead of being a passive viewer, I'm an active observer.

Now, I watch my shows as a writer. I take special care to see how characters and plot are developed. I delight in seeing how each character has nuances and a different voice (yes, they are actors and we can hear them, but they still have different character voices). And before you remind me television writing and novel writing are just a tad different, look beyond the different genres and see how they are similar.

Both require characters – protagonist, antagonist, minor characters -- plot, story arc, and the ability to keep us watching. Sounds a lot like writing fiction, non-fiction, memoir, children's stories, etc. doesn't it? Whether we are turning pages or flipping channels on the remote, the viewers must have a reason to keep coming back.

One of the new shows I continue to watch this year is "This Is Us." No spoilers in case you haven't watched it and decide to, but I want to mention a few reasons why this show fascinates me. One, the writing is superb. The characters each have a backstory and it's woven into the plot

seamlessly. Two, the characters while completely different are relatable, and I really care about them. Three, the story arc is unique. Three random people all celebrate their 36th birthday on the same day, and little by little we discover what ties them together.

Now, you may have watched this show and hated it. And that's okay. To each their own. But, this show caught my heart and more importantly, my writer's heart and mind. As I watch I mentally take notes on how backstory is used and how I might integrate it into my own stories. I also take note of the characters, how they are introduced and developed so viewers care and want to know what happens next.

This is my challenge to you: Watch your shows with a new purpose. See what you can glean from the writers and how you can use it in your own stories. Become active watchers, with the intention of becoming better writers.

Joan Raymond

And how do you like the new logo, replacing 'To Get Ink'?



Meetings

October Meeting, 15 October 2016

The Author-Entrepreneur: It's Not Just About Writing



Speaker: Barbara J Hicks

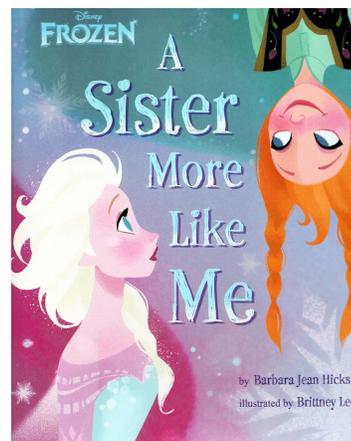
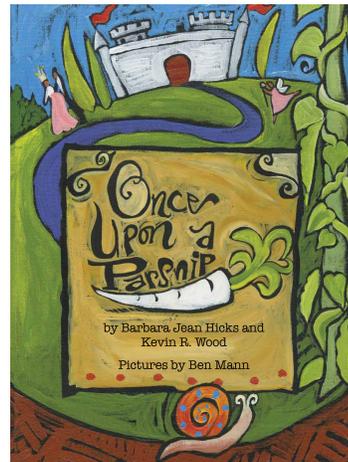
Take it from someone who's been there. Acclaimed author-entrepreneur Barbara Jean Hicks, a.k.a. "Barbara Jean the Story Queen," says, "Over the last few years I have transformed myself from an introverted, self-effacing, at-the-desk writer into a (still) introverted, tiara-wearing, in-the-marketplace author-entrepreneur, Barbara Jean the Story Queen."

She's our October speaker at Writers of Kern's monthly meeting, October 15, at Hodel's on Knudsen Drive.

In her talk, "The Author-Entrepreneur: It's Not Just About Writing," Ms. Hicks will introduce authors to a multi-pronged approach to promoting and marketing both their work and themselves. She counsels authors to get away from their computers to partner with booksellers, other author-entrepreneurs, nonprofits and small businesses interested in cross-promoting. "It's all about relationships!" she says, "Thinking outside the bookstore and understanding what value we bring to our marketing partners."



Ms. Hicks has published eight picture books, including two Disney-commissioned Frozen titles, *A Sister More Like Me* and *An Amazing Snowman*. Her most recent work is the independently-published *Once Upon a Parsnip*, which she's promoting on this book tour. In addition to writing for children, she has published thirteen romance novels and novellas and has taught at every level, from preschool to community college. See her website at www.barbarajeanhicks.com



Covers for 'Once Upon a Parsnip' and 'A Sister More Like Me'

Meetings

17th September 2016 Meeting

Four members received Active pins recognizing their successes in achieving publication. Total membership is now 133, with over 60% active.

Judy Kukuruzza read her two touching short stories 'Nothing' and 'Jenny's White Horse'.

Two opportunities for writing recognition were publicized, our Fall Writing Contest and the CWC Literary Review, submit before November 30th.

Robert Kimsey on 'Intellectual Property Law for Writers' stressed the importance of having any contract with a publisher or agent reviewed by an experienced lawyer. Not that publishers or agents are evil exploiters; but their interests and goals may run counter to the author's. He moved on to dismiss trademarks, trade secrets and patents as being less relevant to us than copyrights, which outlive authors by 70 years and their importance may not be recognized at first. Although rights exist at inception, a \$55 registration fee, paid before any infringement happens, allows recovery of substantial statutory damages.

Copyright law is rarely clear-cut, each case is arguable. To be safe, any artwork used in a book should have a written assignment of copyright. Creative commons licenses should be read with care. Even characters and story lines may be subject to copyright; fan fiction writers beware! Fair use of short extracts as in reviews or parodies, is allowed, but 'fair' could be disputed.

Use of any copyrightable material involves risk of litigation. Some copyright holders are notoriously vigilant, others may not notice or care – until your book becomes a best-seller! Lawsuits are typically a last resort, infringers may be forced to cease and desist, to withdraw and retrieve offending articles, and to sign license agreements.

There were many questions asked and answered during the lively and informative presentation.

Ian Cant



Members

Successes!

Phyllis Wachob has had 'Oasis Assassin' accepted for publication.

Karen Sallee has had a short story accepted by Graywolf Press.

Next time you see them, offer congratulations and ask about their stories. If *YOU* have a success in your writing, please let us spread the word.

Welcome Aboard!

Three new members last month:

Gary "Jake" Jenkins
Stephanie Gibson
Matthew Clinton

We all look forward to your active participation in the Writers of Kern activities.

New Active Members

Debbie Teofilo
Lori Lovelady
Jenny Estes

Congratulations on your publishing successes!

Opportunities

From Carolyn Lake: I am the Assistant to the Editor at Bakersfield Magazine and we are looking for freelance writers currently. Please have any interested members forward resumes and/or any writing samples to me at clake@bakersfieldmagazine.net

Writing



Critique Corner

What exactly is a critique group? It's more than a social group and certainly not an exercise in tearing your work apart. It's intention is to prepare you (and your work) for publication. It exposes your work in progress to an extra pair of knowledgeable, friendly eyes. An important part (dare I say the most important part) is to help you understand when you're not ready for publication. The "Last Words" piece in this issue deals directly with a writer's dilemma—am I ready or not? Read it, learn from it, and join a critique group for that final polish.

Clarissa Kae

October Poetry Writing Month

Four Writers of Kern poets are participating in the 2016 OctPoWriMo in which they write 31 poems in 31 days. Prompts are provided, which poets may use or not. Check out the work of your fellow writers and show them some love and encouragement.

- Anke Hodenpijl
<https://indoketut.wordpress.com/>
- Anna Stewart
<http://ontheink.blogspot.com/>
- Annis Cassells
<http://poemsbyannis.blogspot.com/>
- Terry Redman Terry is posting on the 'Poets on the Page' Facebook page

To read other participating poets from around the globe, see the OctPoWriMo Link up at <https://poetsonthepage.blogspot.com/p/link-up.html>

CWC Literary Review Submissions Sought

I am a writer. You are one too. Writers are creators. People who create want others to benefit in some way. It's the thing that drives them. We want people to benefit from reading what we write, to become more informed, entertained, uplifted, and to enjoy in some way. We want to be published. It's the thing that drives us.

The *CWC Literary Review* is a publishing vehicle. It transports our stories to the eyes of at least 4000 readers. The *CWC Literary Review* is news, and gets passed along—the stories and writers included. That, too, is appealing

All members of the CWC are invited to submit their work—two pieces, ten bucks. The work sees a selection board, and the good stuff gets in. We have no particular theme, most content is acceptable. We do look at the technical stuff. When assessing fiction and memoir, we chew over story and character development, realism, pacing, grammar, and reader engagement. Minor errors can be fixed. With essay we add information, persuasion, and factual interrelationships. And for poetry we want to be moved with an emotional experience: poignancy, humor, grief, sadness, disgust—maybe less of the latter.

I invite you to submit your stories, essays, and poetry to the *California Writers Club Literary Review*. Take a look at www.calwriters.org and follow the directions for submissions.

Dave LaRoche,
Editor, CWC Literary Review

Calendar

Meeting Schedule 2016-2017

Mark your personal calendars for these dates.

October 15, 2016

Barbara Jean Hicks
“The Author-Entrepreneur:
It's Not Just About Writing”

November 19, 2016

Don E. Thompson, Poet Laureate
Poetry Reading and
“Preparing/Publishing a Chapbook”

December 10, 2016

Winter Dinner at Hodel's
"Save the Date" Members and one guest.
\$20/person. Arrive 6 pm, dinner and festivities
start at 6:30. More details to come!

January 21, 2017

Joan Kerr
“Turning Travel Journals into Travel Tales”

February 11, 2017

Murder Mystery Dinner
[Details to be announced]

February 18, 2017

Mar Preston
“The Mysterious Mystery Marketplace”

March 11, 2017

Annual Spring Conference

**I'm so glad I live in a world
where there are Octobers !
[Anne of Green Gables]**



From other local CWC groups

Wednesday, October 28th: Hesperia Library 960
Seventh Avenue in Hesperia 6:30 to 7:45 pm.
Author, Editor and CreateSpace expert publisher
panel on what authors should do next at any stage
of development. Free admission. www.hdcwc.com

Sunday, October 23rd: Third annual Horror Book
Fest at the Courtyard Marriott 9619 Mariposa
Road in Hesperia. 1pm to 4pm. Features 'Edgar
Allan Poe', and readings by noted Evidential
Master Medium, Susan Grau. Buy a book and get
a chance for a free reading!

\$10 admission, \$5 for children under 12.
Authors can still purchase a table which includes
free admission for just \$20 to sign/sell their books.
cwrlsmith@verizon.net or mpseven@aol.com

Saturday, October 29th: 6th annual "Howl at the
Moon" Writers' Conference in Apple Valley.
Writer's Digest Author and Presenter, Gabriela
Pereira in an all-day writing workshop on "The
Writing Life". Admission \$50.

<http://www.hdcwc.com/>

6th Annual 805 Writers' Conference

November 5 & 6, 2016
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ventura, CA
www.805writersconference.com

The Art of Article Writing Workshop

Sunday, November 6, 2 to 5 pm, with award-
winning writer, photographer and visual artist,
R. Daniel Foster

**Poetry Workshop - Poems of Encounter:
Translating Moments of Truth into Verse**
Sunday, November 6, 9 am to Noon with poet,
essayist, past poet laureate of Santa Barbara,
and English professor, Paul J. Willis

Nuts & Bolts

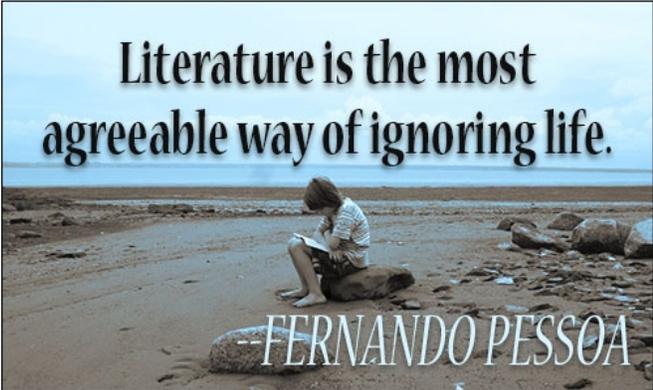
Regular monthly meetings are held the third Saturday of each month (with the exception of special events in March, May, and December).

Meetings are held at Hodel's. Route 99, Olive Dr West turnoff, right turn onto Knudsen, big sign. Cost is \$10 for members, \$15 for visitors, includes buffet breakfast starting at 0845.

New members are always welcomed, 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
October 2016
Copyright The Writers of Kern
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Facebook:
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Last Words

Ready or Not ?

You've edited (and reedited) your novel and suffered through bruising critique sessions—but is your manuscript ready? According to The Cheshire Cat, it depends a good deal on where you want (your book) to go...

Self-Publishing: Congratulations! You're now an entrepreneur. The quality of your novel depends on you. And only you.

You're the author, editor, marketer, distributor and financial advisor. Treat your book like any other business. *No one* is a master of all trades, be prepared to hire out (photography, editor, accounting...).

Remember, you pay for what you get. Lackluster sales are the product of cheap editors and lousy covers. Readers can spot a substandard, second-rate book a mile away. As well as superficial online reviews from your friends.

Readers depend on reviews for debut authors. If you have less than 200 sincere reviews or 5,000 in sales—pull the book and repeat the process.

When in doubt, don't send it out. Double check the list below.

- Self-Edit for inconsistencies
- Critique novel in full (twice)
- Send to editor or beta reader (not family, friend or neighbor)
- Write pitch (what appears on the back cover)
- Develop business and marketing strategy
- Research genre and comparables (sales and reviews)
- Wait for reviews. Do *not* solicit from friends.



- Less than 5,000 sales—your book has flopped, repeat the process

Traditional Publishing: The publisher pays for in-house editing, printing, marketing and distribution. They'll run a Profit & Loss statement to determine the projected worth of your story (and you as an author).

When, and only when, your critique group says you're ready to publish, send your manuscript to another writer.

Not your mom. Not your neighbor. Not your friend.

Get their feedback and then apply to an advanced critique group or hire a professional editor (remember, you pay for what you get).

If your inbox is filling with rejection letters, you've sent it off too soon. Stop submitting and repeat the process.

When in doubt, don't send it out. Double check the list below.

- Self-Edit for inconsistencies
- Critique novel in full (twice)
- Send to editor or beta reader (not family, friend or neighbor)
- Write pitch, query letter and synopsis
- Research your genre and potential agents (only submit up to 10 at a time)
- Wait for rejection/acceptance letters
- If more rejections than acceptance letters come, repeat the process

Beware of predatory publishers lurking in the corner. They'll disguise themselves as indie publishers but are little more than Create Space con artists.

Clarissa Kae