

July
2017



President's Message

Ask and You Will Receive

At the June meeting I distributed a survey and *asked* for your input on conference and workshop speakers. Thanks to you, I *received* many wonderful ideas. Your top picks included: How/Where to Submit Your Work; Writing Poetry; Researching Nonfiction Writing; Writing a Synopsis, and Marketing (yourself and your book).

After the meeting, our board members contacted a myriad of people who responded to our requests to speak at upcoming meetings. Because we *asked*, we *received* and then booked speakers who are experts in your top choices. I'm excited to share with you a sneak peek at our 2017/18 Speaker Line-up:

2017: July 15: Finishing Your Book; **August 19:** Marketing Workshop; **September 16:** Research Your Nonfiction Book; **October 21:** Strategy and Technique for Poetry and Prose; **November 18:** How to Fund and Publish your Work; **December 9:** *Winter Dinner.*

2018: January 20: Activist for Peace in the Holy Land. **Spring Conference, March 17, 2018:** We have two confirmed workshops: Screenwriting Panel w/Q&A session with Hollywood screenwriters; and a Synopsis Writing workshop.

Thank you again for your input. I look forward to learning along with you as our upcoming speakers encourage, share, and support each of us through our writing journeys.

Joan

Reminder: Annual membership renewals due by July 31; renew early and enter the draw for a \$50 Amazon gift card!

Calendar

Meeting Schedule 2017-18

Mark your personal calendars for these dates

July 15, 2017

Aaron Gransky
"Finish Strong"

August 19, 2017

Molly Jo Realy
"Marketing Mojo"

September 16, 2017

Warren Pechin
"Conducting Research for a Non-fiction Book"

October 21, 2017

Matthew Woodman
"Using Metaphors to Open Doors:
Strategy and Technique for Poetry and Prose."

November 18, 2017

Katya Cengel

Members

Members Meeting 15 July 2017

July Speaker Aaron Gansky



Aaron Gansky

Looking for the right way to end your novel or story? Didn't realize it would be so tricky, did you? At the July 15 Writers of Kern meeting, Aaron Gansky's workshop, "Finish Strong," will focus on the elements of fantastic endings as well as the techniques used to create those memorable endings.

The award-winning novelist and teacher said, "Attendees will learn strategies for wrapping up plot lines, and tying them all together in a believable way that will result in a powerful ending to their work."

In addition to his novels, Gansky has written two books on the craft of fiction; *Firsts in Fiction: First Lines* and *Write to Be Heard* (with Diane Sherlock). He is also the founder of the online literary magazine, *The Citron Review*. To learn more about Aaron Gansky and his work, visit www.aarongansky.com.

"How to Fund and Publish your Work"

December 9, 2017

Winter Dinner

January 20, 2018

Frank Romano

"Activist for Peace the Holy Land"

February 17, 2018

TBD

March 17, 2018

Annual Spring Conference

Screenwriting Panel

with Dave Congalton/Hollywood Screenwriters

Ernie Zarra

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

April 21, 2018

TBD

May 19, 2018

WOK Honors Dinner

Special Event! BYOB!

When: August 19 – WOK Meeting

Where: Hodels Meeting Room

What: Bring Your Own Books to Sell. Whether you've been traditionally published or self-published – rent a table, sell your books, share your wares. Full table \$10/Half table \$5. Spaces are limited. Email president@writersofkern.com for details and to reserve your space before it's too late. *Please note: Sellers are responsible for their own sales, making change, etc.*

Last month's meeting

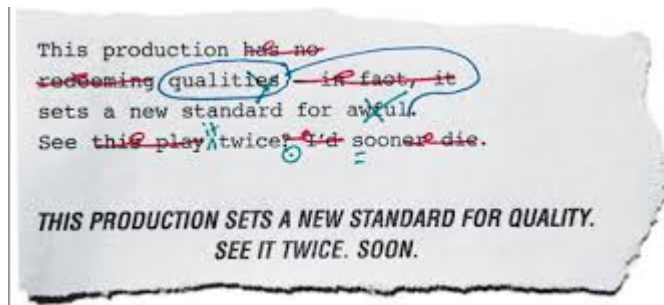
On June 17 Clarissa Kae spoke about 'Mastering the Craft: Creating a High-Caliber Critique.' She presented this as a workshop similar to a typical critique session, with participatory audience interactions. It was a most-instructive exercise in how to give – and to receive – deep and effective critiques.

She emphasised that prior participation in a critique group (not just a 'community') was now frequently desired by big-name publishers, and is therefore useful to include in the initial query letter. An effective critique group focuses first on the basic structural issues, the impact of characterization and story, and treats technical issues such as grammar and spelling as low-priority afterthoughts to be corrected by necessary final editing.

It is important to follow genre conventions in style and fashion, rather than seek absolute standards of quality; but quality is still important despite these variations.

What matters to the reader, and is therefore important to critiquers and publishers? Did the writing hold your interest? Did the piece open with a hook and close with a page-turner? Did the dialog move the story forward and make the characters credible and lively? Were both the setting and the characters multidimensional and realistic in context? And finally, was the manuscript complete, or did something vital get mislaid along the way?

Critique groups ask these questions, and satisfactory responses are the key to writing success.



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.

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Writing

Great Blogs for Writers Series

Hungry for writing tips? Try this month's featured blogger for creative inspiration and simple how-tos.

Featured Blogger: Jane Friedman

What Writers Will Love: With 20 years in the publishing industry, it's no wonder Jane Friedman's advice for writers covers the publishing gamut. Check out her blog and you'll find how to write book proposals, query letters, and novel synopses. She offers tips for navigating the publishing world for those going the traditional route, self-publishing resources for the independent at heart, and literary agent leads for both.

Looking to go in depth on a specific writing topic? Friedman's many books and online courses provide even more paths through publication, like how to break into ghostwriting or how to create your author website in under 24 hours.

Don't Miss: Friedman's extensive (and free!) list of trusted resources for writers.

Where to Find Her: janefriedman.com

Mandy Wallace

Mandy Wallace is a freelance writer and blogging mentor. Her blog, 'Write or Die', was featured as one of The Write Life's 100 Best Websites for Writers. Find her at mandywallace.com.

The Writers of Kern Executive Board

President & Program Chair: Joan Raymond
president@writersofkern.com

Vice President & Webmaster
Dennis VanderWerff
vicepresident@writersofkern.com
webmaster@writersofkern.com

Treasurer: Karen Sallee
treasurer@writersofkern.com

Secretary: Janet Skibinski
secretary@writersofkern.com

Membership: Jenny Estes
membership@writersofkern.com

Critique Coordinator: Clarissa Kae
critiques@writersofkern.com

Newsletter: Ian Cant
newsletter@writersofkern.com

SoCal District & CB Rep: Sandy Moffett

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Hospitality/Sunshine: Annis Cassells
sunshine@writersofkern.com

Events:
events@writersofkern.com

Information:
info@writersofkern.com

Submissions:
submissions@writersofkern.com

Website:
www.writersofkern.com

Facebook:

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