

Sept
2017



President's Message

Keeping it Simple

Sometimes it's easy to get caught up in what other people have, instead of taking advantage of what we already have. Take for instance, last month's eclipse. Bakersfield was supposed to be at 69% totality. I wanted to experience it, but refused to pay \$35 for a pair of eclipse glasses. Who knew if they were even safe. So, I found an empty cereal box, grabbed some scissors and foil, watched a YouTube video and made myself a "high-tech" pinhole eclipse viewer. I went outside at the appointed time, settled back in my chair, and stared inside my box watching a bright dot morph into a Pac-Man looking shape. WOW! Wasn't that exciting? Not really. I wasn't feeling it. All that hype. All the buildup. And I'm watching the inside of a cardboard box.

Right about the time when most of the sun was covered, I heard out neighbors next door. They were pointing and shouting at the sky. I walked around to their side of the rose bushes and saw them using a thick piece of green welder's glass (and extra eye protection) to view the eclipse.

When they saw my rudimentary box, they shouted, ran up to me, and asked if we could trade because they wanted to see what the eclipse looked like through my handmade device. In turn, they offered me the welder's glass and eye protection. I snuck a peek and was amazed to see the crescent-shaped sun blocked by the moon, which in fact, did live up to the hype. They, in turn, passed my box around to the whole family – grandparents, parents, and children squealed in delight at the scene in front of them. They asked me how I made it and marveled at the simplicity of the cardboard contraption offering a blurred likeness, when all the time their welder's glass gave a true representation of the history-making event in the sky.

Calendar

Meeting Schedule 2017-2018

Mark your personal calendars for these dates

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
"How to Fund and Publish your Work"

December 9, 2017

Winter Dinner
Hodel's

As I watched my neighbors, it made me stop and think. How many times have I believed someone else had something that would make my life easier or better? And, when it came to writing, would I be a better writer if I bought *this* new book or learned *that* new process? I realized, through the eclipse and my neighbors, that even though we were using two different methods, both were just as amazing because we had different perspectives.

When we think we're missing something, changing perspective will make a difference. This not only applies to life lessons, but our writing lives as well. As much as you might think other writers have it all figured out and you want to be like them, they might be looking at you wishing to be like you. When you find yourself wishing you had the fancy green welder's glasses, be happy with the pin-hole cardboard box. Sometimes simple solutions are best, even if you must work a bit harder and use a little more imagination for the end result.

Joan

Meetings

Members Meeting 16th September 2017

Speaker, Warren Pechin



Warren Pechin

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"

March 17, 2018

Annual Spring Conference

Screenwriting Panel

Dave Congalton and Hollywood Screenwriters

· Ernie Zarra, educator

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

· Brendan Constantine, poet

"The Haunted Line"

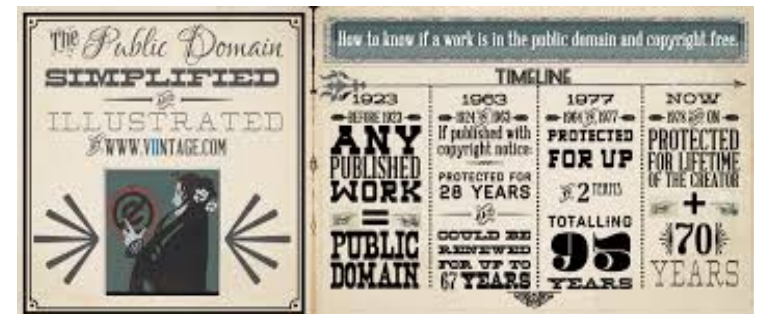
Rebecca Langston-George
 TBA

April 21, 2018

TBA

May 19, 2018

WOK Honors Dinner
 Hodel's



Do old buildings with ornate designs enthrall you or ignite your curiosity? If so, be sure to join us at the September 16 Writers of Kern meeting. Writers of all genres, history buffs, and lovers of architecture will enjoy hearing architect Warren Pechin, author of *Historical Bakersfield Buildings*.

Pechin's nonfiction book is the result of extensive research using a variety of sources and data, as well as his professional experience. In his presentation, "Conducting Research for a Nonfiction Book," he will explain his process and identify how to uncover important, previously hidden information that will assist in illuminating history.

Attendees will learn how to compile and synthesize previous texts, pictures, and historical information to create a final version of a nonfiction book that is factual, informative, and enlightening.

Research is often like detective work, and Pechin notes, "Writers will gain an appreciation for confirming historical data that differs between sources."

Included in his book is a map depicting prominent buildings during different eras of Bakersfield history. Pechin will explain how creating easily understood graphic data augments historical text and provides the reader with a greater understanding.

A California-licensed architect since 1975, Pechin has completed over 800 commissions on a variety of projects, including schools, government buildings, commercial, churches, and residences, in California, Nevada, Wyoming, Arizona, and Texas. He joined Writers of Kern in 2016 and is currently working on a full-length novel titled *Retribution*.

Annis Cassells

August Meeting Report

"Marketing Mojo" by Molly Jo Really

Members were treated to succinct words of wisdom from Molly Jo Really as she gave practical advice for authors trying to make their way in the current marketing climate. Writers should learn to "be a zebra" to stand out from the crowd. Social networking is

Activate!

Young Writers of Kern Call for Volunteers

The Young Writers of Kern writing competition for 2018 will be starting soon. Our mission statement is: To cultivate successful writers and critical thinkers among middle and high school students. In the meantime, we need everyone's help with fundraising (among other things). Would you like to be on the fundraising committee? We'll be soliciting donations from members and others to fund the prizes and the dinners for students and their parents. \$20 buys a student dinner; \$40 buys two student dinners, or one student and one parent; \$60 buys one student and two parents; \$150 funds a junior high/middle school award; \$200 funds a high school award. And, of course, if none of those amounts quite suits you, you can give whatever amount you wish and designate the purpose (e.g., \$100 for 5 dinners). Our fundraising goal is \$5,000, so we're looking for grants as well as single donations. We've got lots of ideas, but we need a committee to follow through and confirm donations. Please let Dennis know at the next meeting if you can help.



valuable but not vital: while media is for networking, real marketing is for sales, and time should be allocated carefully to land those sales. “Word-of-mouth only works if the mouth is opened,” she advised.

Outside the social media rabbit warren there are many other opportunities for purposeful advertising. Print media still work, there are a multitude of clubs looking for speakers, and there are events to be attended. A well-planned book tour with advance flyers, prepared human interest stories for local newspapers, book signings and meet-the-author in coffee shops are all effective; so are Facebook ads, Goodreads, and a stable of reviewers armed with advance review copies. With a three -month-long launch plan and some imagination, the necessary buzz can be created without resorting to life-consuming social media activities.

Altogether, a most entertaining and useful talk from a real-life expert on the topic.

Members

Welcome Aboard!

Five new members in August:

Joe Peterson
Suzanne Smith
Steven Adams
Tom Clark
Srey Khoy

We look forward to your active participation.



Writing

The Writers of Kern Fall Writing Contest is now officially open.

Eligibility: Current members who renewed or joined by August 31, 2017.

See Guidelines and Requirements:
<http://writersofkern.com/fall-writing-contest/>

Cash Prizes: for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

Unleash your creativity and let your fingers fly!



FREE Website for Writers
www.AuthorsPreview.com

Submit your Writings to showcase your:
Short Story, Poem, or Chapter of Your Book
Receive feedback from Readers



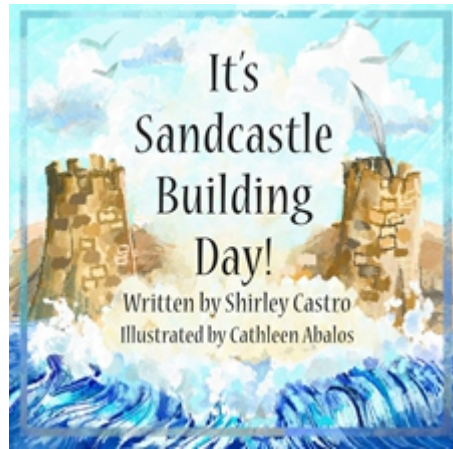
To contribute your Writings, logon to the web site and select: "How-To-Submit". Include a brief bio, photo if you choose, and one of your writings.

And you can enjoy reading others' writings. Many are personal life stories – serious and funny, full of life problems – often with unique solutions, rich with history from many different cultures, countries, and religions, which come alive with each writer's inner thoughts and feelings.

Contact: AuthorsPreview@gmail.com

Alan Wills

New Books by Two of our Members



WOK members are invited to Shirley Castro's house, Saturday, September 16, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. for the launch of her new picture book, *It's Sandcastle Building Day*.

The book will be available for sale, plus Los Angeles illustrator, Cathleen Abalos, will be there to sign them and showcase her other art. That day, Shirley's Pelican Family Series books will be on sale for half price. Location: Four Seasons 55+ community off of Highway 178 at 9917 Stockholm Place.

For more information:

Shirley – pelicancounting@aol.com

www.pelicanfamily.com

Face book -PelicanFamilySeries

Instagram --@PelicanFamilyBookSeries

Cathleen -- Facebook --artcabalos

Instagram -- @crystafett

Critique Corner

Writers of Kern strives for one thing above all else, helping writers—no matter their skill level—achieve their literary goals. In that vein, we've selected Creative Nonfiction as the official genre of the 2017 Fall Writing Contest.

Creative Nonfiction is the sugar in our diet, springing up in our newsfeed, movies and coffee tables. It touches everything. We don't realize how much we're consuming. Even after a professional highlights our addiction, we toss caution to the wind, devouring more.

Quite simply Creative Nonfiction are true stories well told. It can be an essay, journal article, research paper, memoir, poem or dare I say, tweet? We crave humanity, the villain and the champion. We want truth—but we want it with a pretty bow. Preferably gray instead of black and white.

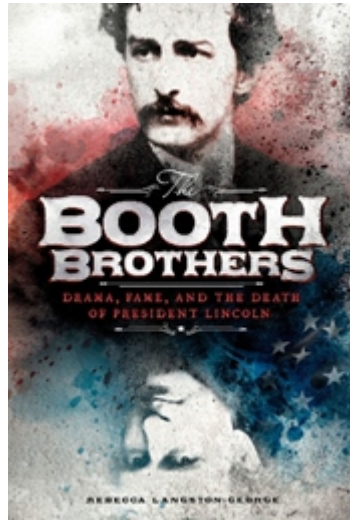
Creative doesn't mean fiction, it means literary. Think Laura Hillenbrand's *Unbroken* or Jeannette Walls's *The Glass Castle*. Both true stories. Both filled to the brim with facts. And both brought us to tears.

The goal is to make nonfiction stories read like fiction so that your readers are as enthralled by fact as they are by fantasy.

Join me for Creative Nonfiction Part Two, Memoir vs Literary Journalism

Clarissa Kae





Rebecca Langston-George's new book *Booth Brothers* will be launched on Tuesday September 26th at Russo's Books, 1601 New Stine Road, Bakersfield. Anytime 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Refreshments and photo-op with President Lincoln are offered.

20% of all sales at the event are donated to Shirley Lane Elementary School.

661-665-4686, www.russosbooks.com

Success Story!

A couple of months ago, at my husband's suggestion, I sent a copy of my memoir, *A Rough Season*, to POZ Magazine and asked that they review it in the magazine. POZ is a magazine by and for people who are HIV+, like me. This week, I got an email from one of the editors saying that he *loved* my book and will do a piece on it in a future issue. But that's not all! He also suggested that I nominate myself for an award that the magazine is giving to 100 women who have contributed to the HIV/AIDS cause, which I have done. Then he invited me to become a blogger for the magazine. That should be up and running by mid-September. You'll be able to find it at poz.com/blogs (or on my blog at marthawarrinerjarrett.com)

Martha Warriner

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
September 2017
Copyright The Writers of Kern
PO Box 22335
Bakersfield, CA 93390-2335**



CWC Bulletin

See the Summer 2017 *CWC Bulletin* for club news and branch highlights. (WOK on page 20.) In Memoriam features WOK members we lost this year: *Nancy Edwards*, *Harvey Bondurant*, and *Dan McGuire*.

The *CWC Bulletin* goes out to approximately 2,000 CWC members. Advertisement space can be purchased by any member. Read, enjoy, and be inspired. Also, following up on last month's notice, the *President's Desk* newsletters (at least the recent ones) can be found on the CWC website, <http://calwriters.org/resources-for-branches/#president>

Poetry Corner - OctPoWriMo

Signs of autumn, pumpkin spice lattes, and Halloween are not the only things to anticipate in October. October Poetry Writing Month, aka OctPoWriMo, is just days away. With prompts and poetry tips, participants create and experiment, writing a poem each day of the month.

Poet and artist Morgan Dragonwillow created OctPoWriMo six years ago. She and a team of poets provide prompts, tips, and encouragement for each day. You receive them by subscribing to the [OctPoWriMo blog](#). This year, I'm proud to be a member of the OctPoWriMo team and will contribute several prompts during the month.

Post your poems on your own blog. You can also share your work with poets from all over the world via the [OctPoWriMo link up](#). Be sure to sign up before October 2nd. You can also join Poets on the Page on Facebook and post your work there.

Not ready to share? No worries. Go ahead and write but save your work in your poetry notebook for later refining or to add to your poetry portfolio.

Drop me a note at sunshine@writersofkern.com if you plan to participate. That way I can inform you of any local OctPoWriMo "Write-Ins" or activities where we can get together and call on our collective creativity.

Composing a poem each day for 31 days is a great way to flex your poetry-writing muscles. And, it's a good way to add to your own poetry portfolio. Why not start fulfilling your poetry-writing dreams in just a few days. It's almost October!

Annis Cassells

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

Member-At-Large: Martha Jarrett
atlarge@writersofkern.com

Membership: Jenny Estes
membership@writersofkern.com

Critique Coordinator: Clarissa Kae
critiques@writersofkern.com

Newsletter: Ian Cant
newsletter@writersofkern.com

CB Rep & SoCal District Rep: Sandy Moffet
cwcrep@writersofkern.com

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/>