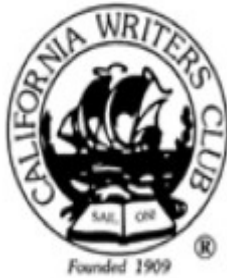


Oct  
2017



## President's Message

### Thankful for Writing Friends and Friendships

I've started this column three different times and deleted my progress each time. The right words weren't coming. This has been a rough week. Beginning with the tragic shooting in Las Vegas to the death of Tom Petty. Then as I tried to avoid Facebook, I saw my long-time friend Vicki post that her mother had passed away. Vicki and I have been friends for 50 years, her mom was like my second mom. I was numb, and sad, and I couldn't find the words to express my grief. She posted the funeral would be Friday, October 6, at a Catholic church in Fresno. And then it hit me. Friday, the 6th was also the 39th anniversary of my own mother's passing. I finally realized why everything hit me so hard.

Vicki and I met in 4th grade. Both of us started in April, a few months before the end of that school year because our fathers had transferred to Fresno from other cities. We became close friends, and until we graduated from 8th grade, Vicki and I spent almost every Friday night at one of our houses. We played Scrabble (she always won), made cookies from those big refrigerated cookie dough packages, played Heart and Soul on the piano, and we wrote. Over those four years we wrote a radio play "Dead Cooks Tell No Tales." We wrote parodies of the 11:00 news shows. And we wrote a lot of stories. After we wrote them, we read and recorded them on cassette tapes – many of which I still have! She also snuck a peek at my diary and told the entire 8th grade class about my crush on one of our classmates. But I forgave her, and because of our friendship and shared love of writing, I continued on the writing path.

As much as I tried to write a different president's message, this is the one that wanted to be written. It would seem that over the years I'd know enough to let the words flow

# Calendar

## Meeting Schedule 2017-2018

Mark your personal calendars for these dates

**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



instead of forcing something I thought would be better. I've always been a 'pantser' – one who writes by the seat of their pants, not a 'plotter' one who plots it all out. I have to wait until the story is ready to come out instead of planning it. And although is a different kind of message this month, I wanted to share it to say, it's okay when the words don't come. Because eventually they will, but maybe not as we envisioned them. Sometimes, even though we're writers, we need to be patient. And wait. And take the time to remember back to those first stories or diary entries and who and what inspired us to start down our writing paths.

If it's possible, I encourage you to take the time to thank someone who has inspired and encouraged you on your writing journeys. The mentors. The teachers. The friends or family members. The ones who made a difference in where you are today. Maybe they never knew. Maybe they did. Either way, it's always good to remind people how important they are (or were) in your writing journey. And if they're not with us any longer, write a note of gratitude. We're writers. That's what we do.

*Joan*



*...so says Aristotle*

**January 20, 2018**

Frank Romano  
"Activist for Peace 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  
with Dave Congalton/Hollywood Screenwriters  
Ernie Zarra

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

Rebecca Langston George

"Revising With Vision and Purpose: Tips to Push Your  
Writing to the Next Level"

Brendan Constantine, poet

"The Haunted Line"

**April 21, 2018**

Barney Saltzberg  
"A Morning with Picture Book Author Illustrator Barney  
Saltzberg"

**May 19, 2018**

WOK Honors Dinner

**Activate!**

We are looking for someone to take over as Membership  
Chair. Please let Joan know if you'd like to help.

# Meetings

## Members Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017

Speaker: Matthew Woodman



*Matthew Woodman*

### **Using Metaphors to Open Doors: Strategy and Technique for Poetry and Prose**

Are you interested in taking your writing up a notch? Honing the craft often comes with discovery and practice of different ideas and techniques. This month, poet and CSU Bakersfield educator Matthew Woodman will discuss strategies for implementing metaphors to provide structure and deepen meaning. “We will examine how authors have constructed effective metaphors in both poetry and prose, and we will brainstorm ways we can use metaphor in similar ways in our own writing,” he said.

Woodman is an often-published poet who uses metaphor as a tenet of his own work. And though we often think of such devices as “for poetry,” he will show how metaphors can help expand the range of meaning in any given literary work. Attendees will learn the elements of an effective metaphor and how to apply these elements to their own writing.

## **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. The topic for 2018 will be “What does it mean to be responsible members of US society?”

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 Joan or Martha Jarrett know at the next meeting if you can help.



In 2016, Woodman spoke at the WOK Annual Spring Conference and most recently at the Central Coast conference at the end of September.

Matthew Woodman teaches writing at California State University, Bakersfield and is the managing editor at the on-line literary journal "Rabid Oak." His stories and poetry appear or are forthcoming in Tishman Review, Sonora Review, and Sierra Nevada Review. More of his writing and links to other publications can be found at his website: [matthewwoodman.com](http://matthewwoodman.com).

See you at Hodel's for the October 21st meeting. Members pay \$10; guests, \$15. Breakfast is available from 8:45-9:30. Meeting begins at 9:15. Come early and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow writers.

*Annis Cassells*

### September Meeting Report

At the regular Members meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September we were treated to a lively interactive talk by Warren Pechin on conducting research for a non-fiction book. As an architect Warren is uniquely well-placed to write about the older buildings in Bakersfield and the web of history surrounding each one. The importance of researching settings, and of sticking to places you know, gives you credibility with your readers; so take care to finish your homework!

Bakersfield has lots of history. Early visitors included Kit Carson, Colonels Fremont and Baker, General Beale and, of course, Father Garces early in his travels through the South West in 1776. Yet the number of buildings listed for historic preservation in Bakersfield is only fourteen; Fresno boasts two hundred and eighty three. Some of this is explained by the massive earthquake of 1952 and the two big fires of 1888 and 1893.

Warren's own book is thoughtfully laid out, with a separate volume for the full-page illustrations. This allows the reader to have text and associated pictures open simultaneously and side by side, no need to cross-refer back and fro as you follow the history. This meticulous forethought and attention to detail is what makes a good book great.

## 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](http://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**

**October 2017**

**Copyright The Writers of Kern**

**PO Box 22335**

**Bakersfield, CA 93390-2335**

\*\*\*\*\*

# Members

## Welcome Aboard!

Two new members in September:

*Bryan Nolan*  
*Armando Soliz*

We look forward to your active participation.

## Meet your Sunshine Committee

*Stephanie Apsit, Annis Cassells, Gay Chambers, and Dan Morgan*

The Sunshine Committee's mission is to welcome members and guests and encourage the friendly atmosphere WOK is known for.

Writers of Kern sends a burst of Sunshine to members for birthdays and congratulations as well as in times of illness and loss.

Do you ever receive unsolicited packets of greeting cards in the mail? Cards that you don't plan to send out yourself? The Sunshine Committee can use them! You can help by donating them at a WOK meeting.

And, when you know of an occasion when we need to send a WOK friend a card, please tell us or contact us at [sunshine@writersofkern.com](mailto:sunshine@writersofkern.com). We can help brighten their day if we are in the know.

## Great Blogs for Writers Series

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

**Featured Blogger:** Christine Frazier of Better Novel Project

**What Writers Will Love:** Better Novel Project lands regularly on Writers Digest's 101 Best Websites for Writers for a reason. Founder of Better Novel Project, Christine Frazier, broke down bestselling novels to see what they have in common. Then she put those common elements together to create a basic story structure that any writer can follow to take their stories to the next level.

Some might think this approach would take the mystery and magic out of writing. But like many plot structures, from the Hero's Journey to the Rags to Riches tale, stories that use Frazier's approach are far from rigid. Instead, these common elements deliver on storytelling patterns that are at once infinitely versatile for writers and deeply satisfying to readers.

Her blog is another great resource for writers and covers everything from legal issues that affect authors to symbolism and even tips for writing fight scenes.

**Don't Miss:** Frazier's Master Outline, a chapter by chapter outline covering the shared elements of bestselling colossals *Harry Potter*, *Twilight*, and *The Hunger Games*. Even if you didn't personally love these novels, Frazier makes it easy for writers to take advantage of the shared elements that made them famous.

**Where to Find Her:** [www.betternovelproject.com](http://www.betternovelproject.com)

*Mandy Wallace*

# Writing

**Fall Writing Contest** is closed. (Deadline was September 30<sup>th</sup>). All submissions that arrived before the deadline are ready for the judges. Winners will be announced at the Winter Dinner, December 9, 2017, where we will hear the First Place entry.

## GuideStar Recognition for Young Writers of Kern



With a few hours of concentrated effort, and a little help from Lou Medina and our friends at the Kern Community Foundation, we now have our GuideStar Silver rating! This means that not only will we qualify for donations for Young Writers of Kern and the Peggy Connelly Scholarship, but we'll be listed in next year's Charity Giving Guide for Kern County. That allows people who've never heard of Writers of Kern and its programs to find us and make donations to help fund our programs. Over the next few months, we'll be working on getting our rating up to Gold. In any event, we should be very proud of our current accomplishment.

So what is GuideStar all about? They claim to be the world's largest source of information on non-profit organizations. Martha Jarrett has got our foot in the door with young Writers of Kern and will be working to add the Peggy Connelly Scholarship to the list. It is a big deal in effective fund-raising for worthy causes. Please check out [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org) to find out a lot more.

## The Writers of Kern Executive Board

**President & Program Chair:** Joan Raymond  
[president@writersofkern.com](mailto:president@writersofkern.com)

**Vice President:** vacant  
[vicepresident@writersofkern.com](mailto:vicepresident@writersofkern.com)

**Treasurer & Webmaster:** Dennis VanderWerff  
[treasurer@writersofkern.com](mailto:treasurer@writersofkern.com)  
[webmaster@writersofkern.com](mailto:webmaster@writersofkern.com)

**Secretary:** Janet Skibinski  
[secretary@writersofkern.com](mailto:secretary@writersofkern.com)

**Member-At-Large:** Martha Jarrett  
[atlarge@writersofkern.com](mailto:atlarge@writersofkern.com)

**Membership:** Jenny Estes  
[membership@writersofkern.com](mailto:membership@writersofkern.com)

**Critique Coordinator:** Clarissa Kae  
[critiques@writersofkern.com](mailto:critiques@writersofkern.com)

**Newsletter:** Ian Cant  
[newsletter@writersofkern.com](mailto:newsletter@writersofkern.com)

**CB Rep & SoCal District Rep:** Sandy Moffet  
[cwcrep@writersofkern.com](mailto:cwcrep@writersofkern.com)

**Hospitality/Sunshine:** Annis Cassells  
[sunshine@writersofkern.com](mailto:sunshine@writersofkern.com)

**Events:**  
[events@writersofkern.com](mailto:events@writersofkern.com)

**Information:**  
[info@writersofkern.com](mailto:info@writersofkern.com)

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

**Website:**  
[www.writersofkern.com](http://www.writersofkern.com)

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