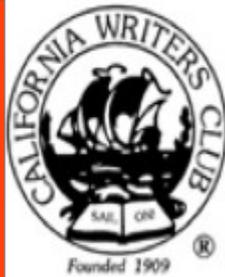


March
2018



President's Message

Forward to the Future!

As we move closer to the end of our fiscal year, it's time again to chat about the future of Writers of Kern. As most of you know, this will be my last term as president. As of June 30, I'll hand over my President's hat to someone new. After serving six years on the Board, I'm looking forward to attending a meeting as just a member.

To ensure WOK continues to grow and thrive a new set of leaders needs to step up. With elections coming up in June, there are two open positions this year including president and vice president, as our beloved Dennis VanderWerff has let the Board know he will also not be seeking re-election. We will also be seeking nominations for Secretary and Treasurer, as required in our bylaws. (Note, these are Board voting positions and are decided by member vote.)

We also have several non-voting positions open, which are appointed by the president. Those include Publicity Chair, Webmaster, Sound Person, and Club Photographer.

While it might seem like we are losing several key people, I'm excited to see who will join the WOK Board and bring new excitement and vision to our club. If you are considering volunteering, please know you won't be alone. I'll still be around and will help with the transition of the new leadership team, along with the other outgoing Board members.

In case you might be considering the position of President, the Board would like to suggest co-presidents or even three people to work alongside each other to share responsibilities. This arrangement has been done successfully within other CWC clubs

Calendar

Meeting Schedule 2018

Mark your personal calendars for these dates

April 7, 2018

Strategy Meeting

See President's Message for more information

**ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND
TO HELP SHAPE WoK's FUTURE**

April 21, 2018

Barney Saltzberg

"A Morning with

Picture Book Author Illustrator Barney Saltzberg"

May 19, 2018

WOK Honors Dinner

June 16, 2018

Louis Medina

"Working with Local Kern Newspapers to Develop Published
'Clips' "

and allows several people a chance to lead the club without always having to be on point by themselves.

Whether you are interested in volunteering for a Board position, helping each month at our meetings, or just helping occasionally, mark your calendar and plan to attend our upcoming free event, *The WOK Strategy Meeting* on Saturday, April 7, from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Location: 7404 Saddleback Drive, Bakersfield, 93309.

You'll have a chance to ask questions and learn more about volunteer opportunities within WOK. Plus, we'll be talking about future speaker topics and the vision we have for our club going forward through 2018 and beyond.

Together we will make certain Writers of Kern will flourish and improve for the next generation of writers. See you all on April 7!

Joan

Meetings

Members Meeting March 17th

This is our Annual Spring Conference

Are you ready for the annual Spring Conference?

This highlight of the Writers of Kern year will be held March 17, and we have a great line up of speakers, events, and vendors.

If you're wondering why you might even need to attend a conference, take a look at Clarissa Kae's recent blog post, ["To Conference or Not to Conference."](#)

Conference speakers provide encouragement as well as useful nuggets about craft. Judy Kukuza, author of *One Body, Many Souls*, said, "Matt Woodman talked about letting your voice be heard and not to give up. So thinking of his words, I kept on. Now my book is a reality."

July 21, 2018
Members' Workshop details TBA

August 18, 2018 TBA

September 15, 2018
Joan Raymond
"Developing three-Dimensional Characters"

October 20, 2018
Joey Garcia
"Writing About Love and Relationships:
A Guide for All Ages"

November 17, 2018
Mar Preston
"Suspense: Not Just for Crime Fiction"

December 8, 2018
Winter Dinner

New! New!! New!!!

Pitch Contest at the Conference

Writers of Kern is changing its conference game. For the first time, we're offering a pitch contest like no other. Pitch us your best *and* pitch us your worst.

Come prepared or do it on the fly. No more than 200 words per pitch.

See you at the conference (whether your pitch is your worst or best yet).

What I love is getting valuable information from every speaker, no matter the topic, no matter whether it seems related to my genres. Later on, I'm always amazed that something I heard from one of these speakers becomes a gem I can use to further my writing goals.

The action begins at Hodel's at 8:00 a.m. with registration, continental breakfast, and a chance to meet and greet fellow writers. Throughout the day, you'll have the opportunity to learn from four outstanding speakers. They include poet Brendan Constantine, local author Ernie Zarra, screen writer David Congalton, and our own Rebecca Langston-George, recipient of the WOK Robert Hargreaves Award.

A brand new addition for this year is our fun and creative Pitch Contest, headed up by Critique Camp leader Clarissa Kae.

Plan to give yourself the gift of a day dedicated to your writing. Come and be ready to mix it up. The conference promises to include plenty of interaction. It's your "pot o' gold," that will widen your circle of writing friends as well as your writing repertoire.

You can still register online at <http://writersofkern.com/spring-2018/> or at the door March 17. The fee is \$95, or for full-time students with ID, \$45. Registration includes breakfast, lunch, door prizes, and access to vendors.

Members

California Writers' Club Announcement

2018 CWC Election Nominating Committee Announcement

At the January 28, 2018 Central Board Strategic Planning meeting, President Joyce Krieg appointed Bob Isbill as the Nominating Committee Chairman. He is therefore in the process of putting together a slate of CWC members to stand for election this coming July for a one year term. Those interested in running for any of the Central Board offices are encouraged to contact him at risbill@aol.com or phone 760.221.6367.

Poetry

National Poetry Month

National Poetry Month was inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in 1996. It is an annual event in Bakersfield since 2010.

Once again, Writers of Kern is celebrating National Poetry Month with a Web Poetry Slam! Each day in April, we'll publish a WOK member's original poem on the website blog.

Works by aspiring, practicing, and experienced poets are welcome. Send your poems to submissions@writersofkern.com Along with your poem, please submit a head shot and a 50-word bio.

And, for those who enjoy reading poetry more than writing it, check in often at www.writersofkern.com/blog/ during the month to read and encourage your fellow WOK members.

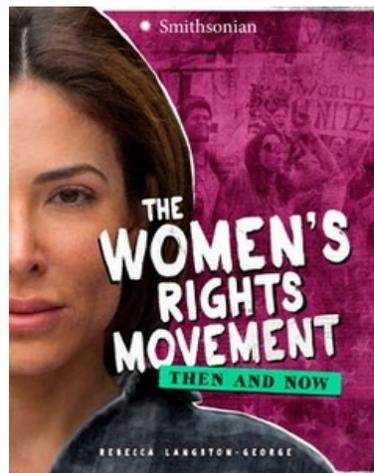
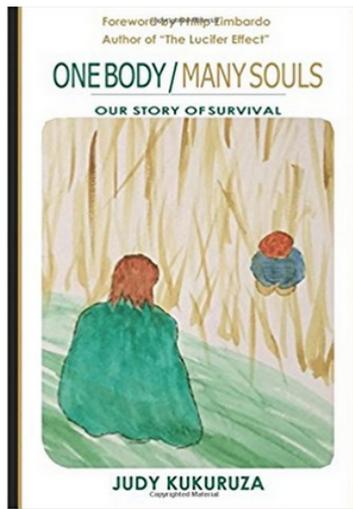
Here are the events for National Poetry Month, April 2018 in Bakersfield. All events are free and open to the public.

Kick-Off : Jimmy Santiago Baca weaves together his poetry with his autobiography. April 4, Wednesday at 10 AM and at 7 PM. He has a poetry collection, *Singing at the Gates*, and a memoir, *Place to Stand*. Levan Center for the Humanities, Bakersfield College, 1801 Panorama Dr, Bakersfield.

Those offices to be elected are: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Any CWC member in good standing is eligible to run for Secretary or Treasurer. Eligibility to stand for President or Vice-President requires that the person be on Active status within their own branch, and that the nominee be a member of the Central Board for one year out of the last five years. Therefore, there are members who are not presently on the Central Board who would be eligible to stand for those offices. The person elected to any of the four offices except for the office of President would automatically become the home branch's Central Board Representative. Please refer to the CWC Policies & Procedures which can be found at www.calwriters.org for further information on job descriptions and election rules. The Central Board is also considering an appointed position as Executive Director who would assist the President in gathering information from the branch representatives to complete timely reports. At this point in its formative stages, the position would not require travel away from home, but mostly communication over the Internet via emails and the collection of necessary reports. If you would be interested in such a position, please contact **Bob Isbill**.

Success Stories

Congratulations to recently published WOKians, **Judy Kukuza** and **Rebecca Langston-George**!



First Friday Open Mic features LisaAnn LoBasso. Her books of poetry are *Oleander Milkshake* and *In The Swollen*. April 6, Friday at 6:00 PM. Sign-up for open mic at 5:50 PM of **original** poem or music. Dagny's Coffee, 1600 20th St., Bakersfield.

Don Thompson, Poet Laureate of Kern County presents at Kern County Board of Supervisors meeting. (All are welcome to show support of poetry in our community.) April 10, Tuesday at 9:00 AM in the Supervisors Board Chambers, first floor, 1115 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield.

Walter Stiern Library presents "Poets Reading Flora and Fauna Poems." April 10, Tuesday at 6 PM. Dezember Room of Walter Stiern Library. California State University Bakersfield, 9001 Stockdale Hwy, Bakersfield.

Children's Poetry Open Mic April 21, Saturday at 3 PM. Sign-up at 2:45 PM. Kern County Beale Library, 701 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield CA 93301

Poems of Healing. Reciting a poem that was healing, one's own or another poet's. April 29, Sunday at 12:30 PM Center for Spiritual Living, 222 Eureka St., Bakersfield.

For further information, contact Portia Choi at 661-717-1346 or portia@kernpoetry.com.

Portia Choi and Annis Cassells

Judy Kukuruzza, *One Body, Many Souls: Our Story of Survival* This is the story of one body's journey to come to grips with a diagnosis of Dissociative Identity Disorder (aka: Multiple Personality Disorder), and learning to survive in a world where to be other than "normal" is barely tolerated, let alone understood.

Rebecca Langston-George, *The Women's Rights Movement: Then and Now (America: 50 Years of Change)* Discusses the main concerns of the women's movement in the 1960s, and how those have evolved since; what's changed for the better, what might be worse, and where do we go from here.

Both Rebecca and Judy will have their books for sale and signing at the Spring Conference, March 17.

If you've had a story, poem, chapbook, book, article, or letter published in print or online, be sure to let us know at newsletter@writersofkern.com so we can give you a shout-out for your accomplishment!

Peggy Connelly Scholarship

Tips for Crafting a Successful Scholarship Application

The Peg Connelly Scholarship was established by Writers of Kern to both honor the late children's writer Peg Connelly and encourage all children's writers in Kern County to achieve their goals. Up to two \$500 scholarships are awarded annually. Applications will be accepted March 17 through April 7, 2018. To apply, writers must submit an application along with either the full text of a picture book OR the first ten pages of a young adult or middle grade manuscript. Full details can be found online at www.writersofkern.com/pcs-application/

What can the money be used for? Writing conferences, retreats, and classes as well as travel expenses for research are all appropriate ways to use the scholarship money. Applicants could also use the money for tools such as a computer or books on writing craft. If finding time to write is a problem, the money could even be spent on childcare. Basically, anything the applicant feels would help him or her achieve personal writing goals is an acceptable use of the money.

What does a successful application look like? Applicants who express specific goals along with a brief itemized budget show they have given the task careful thought and have an actual plan they want to accomplish. These type of applications are much more

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
March 2018**

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

likely to be awarded money.

Specific: My goal is to work on infusing my middle grade novel “Joey’s War” with a unique voice, so I plan to attend the Highlights workshop titled “Characters with Voice” August 21-24 in Honesdale, PA. The workshop costs \$425 which includes lodging and food. A flight from LAX costs \$200 for a total cost of \$625. I can cover the additional \$125 if I’m awarded the \$500 scholarship.

Non-Specific: I plan to go to a writing workshop and need some money!

In addition, applicants who demonstrate a knowledge of craft in the way they format their materials stand out as professionals. Manuscripts should follow the industry standard: double-spaced, in a 12 point serif font, with one inch margins and the first line beginning one-third of the way down the first page. The age category (picture book, chapter book, middle grade, young adult) should be placed in the upper right corner with the word count below it. Entries should carefully adhere to all guidelines, be free from spelling errors, be written in an active voice and demonstrate the writer is a professional with a lively interest in writing as well as growing as a writer.

This is a great opportunity for local children’s writers. With a little thought and planning you could be this year’s recipient, and further your writing dreams.

***** ***** *****

Opportunity to Buy Exposure – aka The Write Way small ads

Starting next month, members can place business card ads in The Write Way. The cost is \$10 per issue or \$100 for a full year. The Editor and Board reserve the right to ensure that all published material is appropriate for Writers of Kern. A sample ad is shown below:



The Writers of Kern Executive Board

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

Vice President: Dennis VanderWerff
vicepresident@writersofkern.com

Treasurer: Karen Sallee
treasurer@writersofkern.com

Webmaster: Dennis VanderWerff
webmaster@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/>