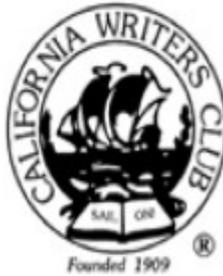


May
2018



President's Message

In Writing and In Life: Pantser or Plotter?

When I write, I'm a 'pantser,' meaning I write by the seat of my pants. Without an outline. Using brief notes. I write better when I'm not confined to parameters. The characters talk. I listen. The story unfolds.

But, when it comes to life, I'm a plotter. I live by sticky notes and reminders in my planner. I have stacks of Post-Its on my nightstand, my kitchen table, and on my desk. I've realized at my age, once thoughts come to mind, I have to write them down or they leave my mind quickly.

My birthday was this past March. The Big 6-0. With Michelle living in Portland and Brian in Ventura county, we don't get together very often. Several months ago, my kids said they'd be in town and we could do something (belated birthday/early Mother's Day). They asked me to figure out where I wanted to go. I chose a trip to Tehachapi. We decided on the last weekend in April. Michelle flew in. Brian drove over. Matt took the day off work.

Being a real-life plotter, I asked my friend Ian (Tehachapi resident/WOK newsletter editor) if he could suggest things to do. He made a list of hikes and train loop watching, along with several other exciting ideas for the day. We were ready, except for one thing. My husband sprained his ankle about a month ago at work. Still having difficulty walking, we modified our trip to make it easier on him. And, much to my disappointment I became a life-pantser for our outing.

We started at the Train Museum. A delightful, informative tour in case you haven't been. While a train passed the station, I learned how to tell if the tankers or boxcars were empty or full just by looking at the springs. (Hint: If you can see through the

Calendar

Meeting Schedule 2018

Mark your personal calendars for these dates

May 19, 2018

WOK Honors Dinner

June 16, 2018

Louis Medina

“Working with Local Kern Newspapers to Develop
Published ‘Clips’ “

July 21, 2018

Clarissa Kae

“Pitch-Perfect Workshop”

August 18, 2018

Donnee and Marcus Harris

“Self-Publishing Systems”

springs, it's empty. Compressed springs, it's carrying a load.)

Next, we perused antique stores and a quilt shop. Then, we found Las Palmas, a Mexican restaurant a few blocks away. Wonderful food. Happy tummies.

Continuing our pantsier-tour, we checked out another antique store, then ended up at Kohnen's Country Bakery. Everyone chose a treat, including one of the best peach pies I've tasted in a long time. As I was savoring my delightful treat, I happened to notice two Santa Clauses eating behind us. Realizing I couldn't pass up the chance to have a picture with Santa, I mustered up my courage and asked if we could take a picture. I explained we were there to celebrate my belated birthday. One Santa (Casey Claus) asked my name and before I knew it, both Santas sang happy birthday to me. They explained they were professional Santa Clauses and were thrilled to take picture. We stood close, me in the middle of a "Santa Sandwich." Anyone who knows me, knows this was beyond special to me. I love everything about Christmas, I even have a seasonal tree up year-round with decorations to match the season. We chatted for a while, and they ho-ho-ho'd, then left to take pictures with other people.

Looking back, I realized, being a life-pantsier was eye-opening. Keeping my nose to a list, would have meant missing out on so many unplanned events, especially talking to Santa(s). When the timing is better, David and I will go back to the list of Tehachapi to-do's. While sticky notes and planners are good most of the time, sometimes it's better to be a pantsier both in writing and in life.

Whether you're a pantsier or a planner, try to change it up once in a while. Write what your characters tell you instead of what's on the outline. Close the planner and experience the joys of unplanning. You never know what's going to happen. And sometimes that's a great thing.

Joan



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



Clarissa Kae

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Meetings

WOK Honors—The Place to Be

May 19, 2018, 6:00-8:30

Writers of Kern (WOK) members love seeing students' faces light up with pride at recognition of their accomplishment. And their parents and teachers are just as proud. This is WOK Honors, the annual dinner event where winners of the Young Writers of Kern Writing Competition, who have earned cash prizes and publication, are presented.

This year we also honor our own members who have completed the 2018 Dan McGuire Blog Challenge. Members who have recently achieved active status will receive the exclusive WOK "Active" pins, and the winner of the Robert Hargreaves Achievement Award for traditional publishing will be honored.

Mark your calendars and make your dinner reservations for May 19, 6:00-8:30 at Hodel's in the Kern Room. Cost is only \$20 per person, with 5% going back to help fund prize monies for YWOK winners. Reservations must be made by May 14.

Unable to attend, but want to support WOK Honors? Go to the website [registration form](http://writersofkern.com/wok-honors-dinner/) <http://writersofkern.com/wok-honors-dinner/> and make a donation. Your contribution will help provide dinners for competition winners and their parents. **Photos from last year's Dinner:**



Active Members Pinned



Volunteers Recognized

The Writers of Kern Executive Board

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Activate!

Creative Writing Workshop
Right here in Bakersfield
Writer in Residence - Workshop:
Matthew Woodman, Poet.

Thursday, June 7, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
CSU, Bakersfield, Walter Stiern Library, Ablin Conference Room



Join Matt Woodman for this one-day creative writing workshop. This is a professional writing course for writers at all levels, offering techniques for stimulating creative thought and discussion, guides to interpreting and understanding poetry, and the chance to create new work in all genres. Free and open to the public. Please submit your application by June 1st.

More information and applications are available at csub.libguides.com/events/WriterinResidence.

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
May 2018

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

 Mother's Day

Calling All Writers

WOK Press, an imprint of Writers of Kern, is now accepting submissions to be considered for its 2018 publication. We are seeking high quality writing from writers of all levels.

Please carefully read and use the guidelines found at <http://writersofkern.com/anthology-2018/> to prepare and send your submissions.

Submission Categories:

Museful Moments (<150 words)

Flash Fiction (<500 words)

Short Stories – Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, Memoir (<1200 words)

Poetry (Max 50 Lines)

Images for Cover Art (Note: Only one (1) submission will be chosen per edition.)

Email to submissions@writersofkern.com with WOK 2018 ANTHOLOGY: (GENRE) in the subject line. For example: WOK 2018 ANTHOLOGY: MUSEFUL MOMENTS. Submissions will be accepted from May 1, 2018 – July 31, 2018

For images: Email to submissions@writersofkern.com with WOK 2018 ANTHOLOGY: IMAGES in the subject line. File format Jpeg @ 250 dpi.

Tentative Publication Schedule: Pre-sales to begin October 1, 2018. Anthologies planned to be available December 1, 2018.



The Tower of Babel

Babble:

Noun: the sound of people talking quickly and in a way that is difficult or impossible to understand.

Verb: talk rapidly and continuously in a foolish, excited, or incomprehensible way.

