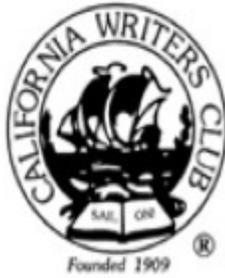


June  
2018



### President's Message

A few months ago, I signed up for a six-week drawing boot camp. I didn't tell a lot of people about it, after all I'm supposed to be a writer. And writers are supposed to write and not be distracted with other 'hobbies,' right? After all, we've all been told anything that might eat into our writing time, or (gasp) take the place of writing should be avoided. It might break up the flow of our works-in-progress or it might give us excuses to avoid the dreaded blank page. Although, drawing does start with a blank sketchbook page, so in reality one would be trading one blank page for another.

I did my lessons on scribbles. And gesture drawings. And lessons on turning circles, rectangles, and squares into animals, humans, and buildings. I learned (and struggled with) one-point and two-point perspective. But, at the end of the six weeks I came away with a newfound knowledge on observation. To draw something, one must first observe it, then be able to transfer that observation into a visual rendering.

After drawing simple buildings from images found on the internet, I began discerning the more complex intricacies of buildings in downtown Bakersfield. Details I'd never noticed before – like how bricks curved under sets of windows and were separated by small round designs between them. I noticed cracks and flaws in the bricks, along with multiple hues of reds and greys.

I began to realize my 'drawing distraction' had accidentally taught me to be a better writer – especially when it came to describing scenes and settings and bringing readers deeper into my stories. Until this point, I'd used the internet to find images of buildings to describe in my scenes, but observing an image is much different than observing, then drawing that same image. Forcing the senses to see nuances in the bricks and patterns in

## Calendar

### Meeting Schedule 2018

Mark your personal calendars for these dates

**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”

**September 15, 2018**

**Joan Raymond**

“Developing Three-Dimensional Characters”

the window layouts gave me a better idea of what I was seeing (and what my characters were seeing).

Since that class ended, I've continued sketching and using watercolors and colored pencils – creating everything from silly creatures to reproducing images of pomegranate blooms from our backyard. I'm sketching along with my journal entries – giving myself written and visual reminders of what happened during the day. Each time, more practice in observation and visual storytelling.

If you haven't tried sketching, I encourage you to grab some paper (computer paper will work) and a sharp pencil (no need to purchase special pencils just yet) and observe, then draw the image – a flower, the apple sitting on your counter, the television, even the top of your desk. After you sketch something, you'll have a better understanding of how to describe it in a scene in your work in progress. And you never know, maybe you'll enjoy sketching as much as I do and make it a regular practice. Don't fear the blank page (or sketchbook page). Enjoy the creative process and learning new skills to enhance your writing.

*Joan*

## Activate!

### *Advance Information*

Kern County Arts Association plans to hold an event entitled *'Stories from the Sidewalks'* in Bakersfield in January or February 2019. They will be looking for scripts dramatizing Bakersfield history.



**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**

## Members

A quality critique can have more influence on an author's evolving craft than any other aspect of the learning to write—including (dare, I say) reading. Agents and editors alike question prospective authors on their use of critique groups. Writing contests across the nation have renovated their competitions, opting for professional critiques instead of cash prizes.

Critiques are, and will continue to be, the driving force behind published authors. Even with my acceptance of the presidential nomination, Writers of Kern will provide high caliber critique groups—but we need your help.

Volunteers, you are needed. There are plenty of opportunities to serve, emailing prospective authors, organizing dates and times, checking on new critique groups—for five seconds or five hours, you are needed. Email for more information. [kaeclarissa@gmail.com](mailto:kaeclarissa@gmail.com)

# Meetings

## Members Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> June 2018

*Featured Speaker – Lou Medina*

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



*Lou Medina*

If you're a writer living in Kern County, you could be just what the area's numerous local publications need. Because of staff reductions over the last few years, many local newspapers welcome contributing or freelance writers.

Being published in a local publication on a regular basis gets you name recognition and credibility as a writer. It also secures your Writers of Kern "Active" status.

Join us at the June 16 meeting to hear Lou Medina, Manager of Community Impact at Kern Community Foundation, WOK member, and contributing writer to many of our favorite local publications.

Medina will share tips on how to plan for writing to a theme, writing short and concise journalistic pieces, writing on deadline and how to work with local publications to become a contributing writer.

## 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](mailto:submissions@writersofkern.com) with WOK 2018 ANTHOLOGY: (GENRE) in the subject line. For example: WOK 2018 ANTHOLOGY: MUSEFUL MOMENTS.

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

**Submissions will be accepted from May 1, 2018 – July 31, 2018.** Tentative Publication Schedule: Pre-sales to begin October 1, 2018. Anthologies to be available December 1, 2018.

A former reporter for The Bakersfield Californian, Medina has established productive relationships with editors at a number of local publications, including *The Californian*, *Bakersfield Life Magazine*, the *Kern Business Journal*, *The Tehachapi News*, *The Bakersfield News Observer*, and *El Popular*.

He is also the winner of the 2014 Writers of Kern Fall Writing Contest for his story “Life, Death, and the Modern Day Jalopy”.

*Annis Cassells*

### Writers of Kern Honors Dinner, May 19<sup>th</sup> 2018



Some of the Young Writers of Kern



More Young Writers of Kern Award-Winners

# 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.

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**The Write Way  
June 2018**

**Copyright The Writers of Kern  
PO Box 22335**

**Bakersfield, CA 93390-2335**

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**YOUNG WRITERS**



**Allison Kimmel receives her Active Member Pin**



**Honoring our Volunteers – Stephanie Apsit and Martha Jarrett**

## **The Writers of Kern Executive Board**

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

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

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



Rebecca Langston-George receives the Robert Hargreaves Award

**A Good Time** was had by all who attended. This annual event is always a favorite, especially for those who deserve recognition for their achievements. See you there next year?



## Critique Corner

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Critiques are, and will continue to be, the driving force behind published authors. Even with my acceptance of the presidential nomination, Writers of Kern will provide high caliber critique groups—but we need your help.

Volunteers, you are needed. There are plenty of opportunities to serve, emailing prospective authors, organizing dates and times, checking on new critique groups - for five seconds or five hours, you are needed.

Email for more information. [kaeclarissa@gmail.com](mailto:kaeclarissa@gmail.com)

