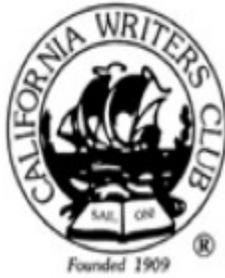


July  
2018



## President's Message

Writers,

Cheering and teaching fledging authors started as a simple hobby but quickly grew to an all-consuming career. For months, I vacillated back and forth on accepting the looming nomination for President of Writers of Kern. Thankfully, the decision forced me to revisit priorities and schedules. My three small children (ages eight to thirteen) who are active in both the school and the community have more than the lion's share of my time.

Add critique groups and clients, I had mere minutes left for my writing and WOK until I reached out to our incredible board. Overnight, I had volunteers to help with critique groups and substitutes for the upcoming busy months already scheduled with my kids' competitions and events.

I've spent the last several years working side by side on a board dedicated not just to our beloved Writers of Kern but to each other. Through these friendships we built a new caliber of critique groups, added Young Writers of Kern and expanded membership.

We played a bit of musical chairs and restructured positions; our past president now sits at the helm of our WOK Anthology while our past Vice President captains our ever growing YWOK program.

And now, we embark on a new fiscal year with the same eagerness and same hunger to help our authors as before with our new Mentorship Program. Writing might be solitary but editing and publishing doesn't have to be. Sending that first submission (or the hundredth) can be overwhelming—we know, and we'd like to help. From contests to queries, we'll be here to help our members through their publishing journey.

Details will be unveiled as we solidify dates and workshops.

*Clarissa*

# Calendar

## Meeting Schedule 2018

Mark your personal calendars for these dates

**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”

**October 20, 2018**

**Joey Garcia**

“Writing About Love and Relationships:  
A Guide for All Ages”

# Meetings

## Members Meeting July 21<sup>st</sup> 2018

*Featured Speaker: Clarissa Kae  
“Pitch-Perfect Workshop”*



*Clarissa Kae*

The publication journey is filled with obstacles. Among them is “the pitch.” At the July 21<sup>st</sup> Writers of Kern meeting, Clarissa Kae will present a workshop that will demystify the art of the pitch. Writers will discover what a pitch is and what it isn’t--and why we authors need one.

We'll learn the basics (what, where, and how) of a pitch and then work together to reconstruct a more polished pitch. At the end of the workshop, there will be a Good Pitch, Bad Pitch contest, where each participant can win a prize for their Perfect Pitch.

“A Perfect Pitch is the very soul of the novel—and the crowning moment in the author’s craft,” says Clarissa, longtime board member and this year’s WOK president.

November 17, 2018

Mar Preston

“Suspense: Not Just for Crime Fiction”

December 8, 2018

Winter Dinner

# Activate!

## 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.)

Clarissa has worked with publishing editors and the online presence for Writers Digest and others and garnered clients for traditional and self-publishing clients before breaking out on her own. See her website at [www.clarissakae.com](http://www.clarissakae.com) to learn more about Clarissa Kae and her enthusiasm for helping writers get published.

Join us on Saturday, July 21, for this exciting topic.

*Annis*

# Members

## Welcome Aboard!

Five new members in June:

*Victoria Ivey*  
*Susan Lippert*  
*Randy Pham*  
*Lynn Cartwright*  
*Sandy Ryan*

Writers of Kern looks forward to your active participation in our group.

## **The Path to Active Membership: An Opportunity to “Get Ink”**

They make us smile, uplift our spirits, or make us tear up—these are the hallmarks of *Chicken Soup for the Soul* stories. Writers of Kern has a long history of members being published in this popular series.

Stories and poems are always true memoir pieces of 1200 words or fewer. They don't accept “as told to” stories or fiction. This summer, the list of callouts for *Chicken Soup* stories and poems offers many opportunities:

**Grandparents:** They want “heartwarming, insightful and humorous true stories celebrating that unique relationship of grandparent and grandchild.” Whether you're

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.

\*\*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*\*



writing as a grandparent about your grandchildren or remembering an incident from your own point of view as a grandchild, your story has a chance. August 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

**Mom Knows Best:** Stories about lessons learned from mothers of all ages and types are welcome—“mom, stepmom, foster mom, mother-in-law, grandmother, or someone who was like-a-mom to you.” Those lessons and special times might have been funny or heartwarming. The editors want to know how what she taught you made you the person you are today. September 30 deadline.

**Life Lessons from the Cat and Life Lessons from the Dog:** Other cat and dog titles have been so popular, and they are expecting these two books to be the same. They want first-person true stories about what your pet has taught you or how your pet has had a big impact on your life. Serious or humorous, they are expecting these stories will be both entertaining and heartwarming. Deadline for **Cat** is October 31, and **Dog** is November 30.

**Running for Good:** This title has two meanings: one is about the healthful benefits of running for mind, body and spirit. The second meaning is about doing good by raising awareness of an issue or raising funds for a cause. *Chicken Soup* is teaming up with Dean Karnazes, an ultramarathoner for this one and is looking for quirky or heartwarming stories about all aspects of running. December 15 deadline.

**The Golden Years or Second Wind:** They seek humorous and fun adventure stories about actively enjoying one’s “senior years.” Maybe you’re retired and still have energy and passion to start a second career or go out and enjoy new interests or do all the things you’ve always wanted to do. Now you have time, and *Chicken Soup* wants to hear about it. December 30 deadline.

For complete information and suggestions for stories for the above books, see the website at <http://www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/possible-book-topics>

Offering your story to *Chicken Soup for the Soul* may be your chance to step out on the path to Active WOK membership by being published. We have Writers of Kern members who can help you navigate their submission process. That’s what we do at WOK.

*Annis Cassells*

## 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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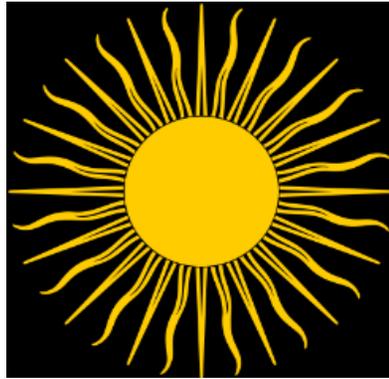
**The Write Way  
July 2018**

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PO Box 22335**

**Bakersfield, CA 93390-2335**



***Our heartfelt condolences to Carolyn Tilton, whose wife Bethany Christman, died June 29 after a long bout with cancer.***



***The Sun always shines in WoK!***

Writers of Kern Sunshine Committee is looking for a few good folks to meet, greet and welcome members and guests to our monthly meetings.

Spreading sunshine is a great way to become more involved in Writers of Kern. To volunteer contact Annis at [sunshine@writersofkern.com](mailto:sunshine@writersofkern.com)

**If any WoK Member needs a bit of TLC or celebration, let us know!**



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

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

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

**Treasurer: Martha Jarrett**  
[treasurer@writersofkern.com](mailto:treasurer@writersofkern.com)

**Secretary: Janet Skibinski**  
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**Webmaster: Mandy Wallace**  
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**Member-At-Large: Martha Jarrett**  
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**Membership: Sandy Moffett**  
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**Newsletter: Ian Cant**  
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**Hospitality/Sunshine: Annis Cassells**  
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