

Sep
2018



President's Message



Ever so slowly, the temperatures dip along with our daylight hours and we welcome Fall's changes. It's tempting to toss our writing goals aside with the starting of school (whether it be for our children or grandchildren—or even ourselves) and holiday season just around the corner.

Tempting—yes, but not for the publishing industry. Fall is when agents and editors are coming back from vacations and tackling projects with gusto. While most authors are sitting back with a steaming mug of cocoa, the industry is gearing up for their end of the year mad dash. Just like authors are ranked by their book sales, agencies are ranked by their book deals.

Calendar

Schedule 2018

Mark your personal calendars for these dates

September 1, 2018 Fall Writing Contest Accepting Submissions

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

To help, I'm kicking off **Word Crush Wednesday** and **Monday Madness**. Every Wednesday I'll give a set amount time with a word count goal while every Monday we'll do the reverse—instead of writing, we'll be editing.

Join in via Facebook page (Clarissa Kae) or my blog (www.clarissakae.com) with your own set time and goal. Together, we'll finish (and polish) your manuscript.

Mentorship Survey

Just like our bodies need a little TLC, so does our writing.

We are learning to flex our manuscript muscles—and doing some serious cardio on our characters at Writers of Kern. We'd like to take our training to the next level with our upcoming Mentorship Program. We'll be rolling out details early 2019. But first, tell us about your “problem areas” with our Mentorship Survey at

<https://goo.gl/forms/udp0A8WiPq4kvIud2>

Clarissa

Meetings

September 15th 2018 Monthly Meeting

Featured Speaker – Joan Raymond

“Creating Three-Dimensional Characters”



Joan Raymond

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. Visit 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 both the newsletter and the website. For prose, memoir, poetry and essays submit to the Webmaster. For book reviews and articles of general interest, submit to the newsletter editor.

**The Write Way
September 2018**

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Great storytelling relies on great characters. And now there's a fun system to help you develop yours. Join Writers of Kern and creative writing instructor, Joan Raymond, on September 15th for our monthly meeting and our latest workshop for writers, *Creating Three-Dimensional Characters*.

Joan will walk writers through all the easy steps and fun questions that lead to those realistic characters in breakout stories.

Meet us at Hodel's Country Dining, 5917 Knudsen Drive in Bakersfield, 8:45am-11:30am. Tickets are \$10 for members, \$15 for guests, and include a buffet breakfast

As always, you can pay online or at the door.

See you there!

Mandy Wallace

"Self-Publishing Made Simple!"

Our members' meeting on August 28th was enlivened by Donnee and Marcus Harris' highly professional presentation on how to self-publish with style and success. Seven books in seven years – that speaks for itself. Following the template of selling a house, they took us step-by-step through the practical necessities of publishing and marketing. Step 1 is to have a clean manuscript and a system to adhere to. Then you edit in step 2. to ensure the foundation is strong. Find your mentor [realtor?] in step 3, then 'stage' your product in its attractive cover. Step 4 is to market yourself through blogs and social media. Set a realistic price using comparables within your genre and format [hard-cover, paperback or e-book]. When ready for step 6, put your book on the market and let the party begin. But do not stop there; you must maintain momentum for yourself and the book via social media and reader interactions.

Thank you, Donnee and Marcus, for an instructive and entertaining explanation. And for those who wish for even more help and information, an on-line course is available at focus1media.teachable.com



The Writers of Kern Executive Board

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Members

Did you hear about Joan?

Joan Raymond has led us from “Inspiration to Publication” and charged us to “Just Write.” In her tenure as a member of Writers of Kern, Joan has served formally as Membership Chair, Treasurer, Program Chair, and President. She is also well regarded by club members as a writer, editor, critique group leader, innovator, and chief encourager.

Since the beginning of the WOK Blog Challenge, now known as the Dan McGuire Blog Challenge, Joan has promoted and participated in this club event. Her aim was to encourage regular writing and to have more members set up blogs as a way of getting their work out to the public.

She’s also led by example in the submissions department, sending her stories to the CWC Literary Review, entering the WOK Fall Writing Contest (and placing twice), and sending her short stories out for publication in literary journals and online zines.

Believing in the power of publication to ignite a passion for writing, Joan organized, edited, and oversaw publication of the Young Writers of Kern Anthologies, *Overcoming Adversity* and *Social Media News: Fake or Fact*. The faces of those young writers when they saw their name and story in print in an actual book proved Joan’s point.

She secured a lucrative gig for Writers of Kern. Fifteen volunteer members judged thousands of entries for the Scholastic Writing Awards over two weeks, earning \$2000 for WOK’s general fund. Joan served as the organizer and moderator of that undertaking.

Joan encouraged and brought in new board members that infused the board with energy and ideas that helped build our organization and widen our reach in the community.

Though she’s stepped away from the board this year, Joan’s still involved and working hard for Writers of Kern. While president, she became determined to revive the anthology tradition. She’s spearheading the publication of our first WOK anthology for many years.

“Thank you” is just two words, but they hold tremendous gratitude for all the dedication, work, and meaning Joan Raymond has poured into Writers of Kern.

“Thank you, Joan! You’re the best!”

Annis



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Congratulations

