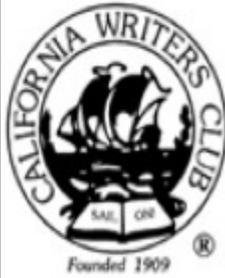


Jan  
2019



### President's Message



Our Writers Of Kern Spring Conference is just around the corner and we are bursting with excitement. As a board we spent hours sifting through suggestions and surveys—you spoke and we listened.

Our members want to hone their craft *and* get help with publishing.

We've done it. Our Spring Conference delivers the best of both worlds.

We've secured Amy Friedman, a woman set on changing the world with the written word and Adam Berg, who not only writes killer comedy but cofounded a studio with his fellow coworkers. We have top-notch teachers to lead our workshops but we didn't stop there.

We're continuing our Good Pitch, Bad Pitch Contest. Whether it's a perfect pitch or a full out fail, we'll laugh and learn together. Each table will have its own team in our Battle of the Tables. And of course, we'll have giveaways galore.

Between our platinum level presenters and publication games, you're guaranteed to have an unforgettable experience.

Don't miss out on our early bird [tickets](#) of \$30 for students, \$60 for adults and \$300 for a table of six. Hurry! Tickets are selling fast. After the first 75 price jumps to \$85.

*Clarissa*

# Calendar

## Schedule 2019

Mark your personal calendars for these dates

19<sup>th</sup> January  
Vaun Thygerson  
"Finding Your Story"

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Write Way**  
**January 2019**  
**Copyright The Writers of Kern**  
**PO Box 22335**  
**Bakersfield CA 93390-2335**

\*\*\*\*\*

"The only kind of writing  
is rewriting."

Ernest Hemingway - A Month in the Country

# Meetings

**January 19th 2019 Monthly Meeting**

***Featured Speaker – Vaun Thygerson***

**Workshop: Finding Your Story**



*Vaun Thygerson*

You're a writer. You have something to say. But, who are you writing for? Yourself? Or, do you have a specific audience in mind?

When Vaun Thygerson takes the podium at the January 19 Writers of Kern meeting, she will help writers learn to identify their potential target audience and discern what may interest them.

# 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](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 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.



“Everybody wants to hear a story that interests them. Not everyone wants to hear the same story,” says Thygerson, contributing writer for [Kern County Family Magazine](#) and [Central California Parent](#).

Writers will also learn how marketing relates to writing and how to engage your audience.

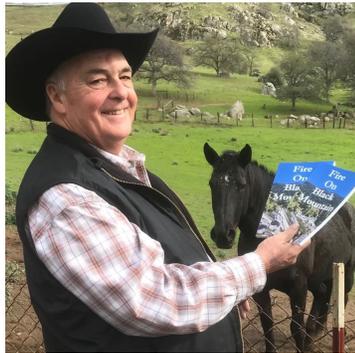
Vaun Thygerson lives in Bakersfield and teaches public speaking at Bakersfield College and California State University, Bakersfield.

# Members

## *Welcome Aboard!*

Welcome aboard to **Natalia Corres**, Volunteer Coordinator. Natalia is lending her expertise and making great strides in developing our cadre of volunteers. She’s also leading our Tech/Communications Team.

## *Success Story!*



*Brent Gill*

Brent Gill recently published his YA novel, *Fire on Black Mountain*. Learn about Brent’s writing and process in an interview on [Joan Raymond Writing and Design](#).

## 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**  
[secretary@writersofkern.com](mailto:secretary@writersofkern.com)

**Webmaster & Publicity Chair: Mandy Wallace**  
[webmaster@writersofkern.com](mailto:webmaster@writersofkern.com)

**Member-At-Large: Martha Jarrett**  
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**Membership: Sandy Moffett**  
[membership@writersofkern.com](mailto:membership@writersofkern.com)

**Critique Coordinator: Clarissa Kae**  
[critiques@writersofkern.com](mailto:critiques@writersofkern.com)

**Newsletter: Ian Cant**  
[newsletter@writersofkern.com](mailto:newsletter@writersofkern.com)

**CB Rep & SoCal District Rep: Sandy Moffet**  
[cwcrep@writersofkern.com](mailto:cwcrep@writersofkern.com)

**Hospitality/Sunshine: Annis Cassells**  
[sunshine@writersofkern.com](mailto:sunshine@writersofkern.com)

### **Events:**

[events@writersofkern.com](mailto:events@writersofkern.com)

### **Information:**

[info@writersofkern.com](mailto:info@writersofkern.com)

### **Submissions:**

[submissions@writersofkern.com](mailto:submissions@writersofkern.com)

### **Website and Facebook:**

[writersofkern.com](http://writersofkern.com),  
[www.facebook.com/writersofkern](http://www.facebook.com/writersofkern)

# STORIES ON THE SIDEWALK



February 9, 2019

Downtown Bakersfield 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Straight from the mouths of those who were there, *Stories on the Sidewalk* is a fun, educational walk through history, where colorful and amazing characters from Kern County's past come alive on the streets of Bakersfield. Eleven stops in downtown Bakersfield will feature actors portraying some of Kern's most famous – and infamous – residents, such as Colonel Thomas Baker, Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren, Madge the Madam, the outlaw Dick Fellows and more. Presented by the Arts Council of Kern, these exciting stories of Kern's rich history, told in riveting, locally written dramatic presentations and performed by local actors, will be right on the streets of Bakersfield. *(May contain some adult language. Not recommended for children under 18)*

The journey down Kern's past will start at the Arts Council of Kern. Then visitors will walk to some of downtown's most historic (and some notorious!) locations.

Tickets \$5 Free to Arts Council members.

Tours depart every ten minutes and last approximately two hours. You will be walking and standing for the entire tour. Sign up for a tour time when purchasing tickets.

For tickets visit: [www.kernarts.org](http://www.kernarts.org)  
or call 661-324-9000

ENTERTAINMENT

EDUCATION

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Volunteers

*The Writers of Kern Anthology 2018* became a reality thanks to volunteers who committed to editing, designing, formatting and inputting: **Joan Raymond** and her editorial team of **Annis Cassells, Shelley Evans, Donneé Harris, Clarissa Kae, Karen Sallee,** and **Mandy Wallace.** **Dennis VanderWerff,** interior formatting and design; **Mandy Wallace,** cover design; **Cynthia Bermudez,** design, formatting, and publishing.

WOK's Young Writers of Kern Writing Competition is a main focus of the club. Judging the middle and high school students' essays this year are: **Charlotte Abrams, Annis Cassells, Natalia Corres, Jill Egland, Debbie Fogle, Paula Glover, John Hefner, Judy Kukuruza, Mark Nessia, Susan Reep, Pam Reeves,** and **Stephiny Winslow.**

It's great to have these talented members step up and take action to help continue the Writers of Kern mission and legacy. Tech/Communications Team include: **Isaiah Ramos,** Webmaster; **Lou Medina,** Web Content Curator; and **Cynthia Bermudez,** who's been taking photographs at our meetings and events.

Our sincere thanks to our previous Webmaster/Publicity leader, **Mandy Wallace** of Hypist. Mandy spent countless hours overhauling the Writers of Kern website. She brought us into the 21st century and infused new energy into our communications.

## Do NOT Forget About Our Spring Conference

Here's a sneak peek at the 2019 Spring Conference lineup you won't want to miss:

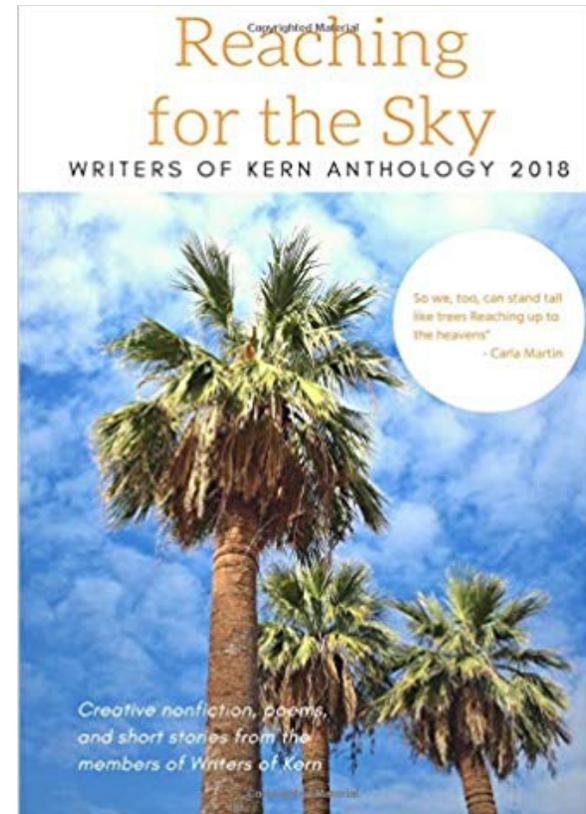
- Adam Berg (actor, screenwriter, novelist, and JK Studios co-founder) will unlock the secrets of **screenwriting and believable dialogue**
- Amy Friedman (author, teacher, and POPS the Club co-founder) will cover everything you need to know about **story arcs**
- **workshops** will improve your writing and publishing skills
- Battle of the Tables
- look the part with **professional author headshots**
- and find out exactly how to pitch your next book to an agent or editor with our annual **Pitch Perfect Contest**

Early bird tickets are limited. So [pick up your Spring Conference tickets now](#). Once they're gone, they're gone.



## 2018 WoK Anthology is Available Now

After eight months of reading submissions, sending acceptance and decline emails, editing, proofing, more editing, and formatting, our Writers of Kern anthology, "Reaching for the Sky" is live on Amazon! A big thanks to everyone involved in the process. We did it!!!



**Finally, the Good News you have all been waiting for: The Dan McGuire Memorial Blog Competition will happen again in 2019, February thru April.**

# Poetry

## Invitation to Participate and Be Published

For the past few years Matthew Woodman has headed up CSU Bakersfield's National Poetry Month celebration, featuring a reading and journal of local poets writing on the same general theme.

This year's theme is "Sound," which one can interpret in terms of music, noise, volume, pattern, source, or perception. Woodman expects there will be a robust variety of styles and approaches.

Those whose work is accepted are invited to read their poems the night of the event. It's great fun to read and to hear the other poets' interpretation of the theme.

Writers of Kern members submitted poems for the last several editions and read at the poetry celebration event : Carla Martin, Portia Choi, Anke Hodenprijl, Rose Lester, Shelley Evans, Jana Wong, and Annis Cassells. It was lovely to get together to read our work and to cheer and support each other.

So, come on, WOK poets, and get involved! Write one or two "sound" poems! Woodman says, "form or join a writing group to give each other constructive feedback and encouragement (I recommend Writers of Kern: <https://writersofkern.com/>)."

Plan on having final drafts finished by the end of February and submitting to Matthew Woodman at [mwoodman@csub.edu](mailto:mwoodman@csub.edu). Meanwhile, contact Annis at [heyannis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:heyannis@sbcglobal.net) if you'd like to form a writing/critique group. Let's write poems!



## WOK VOLUNTEERS ROCK!

Fifteen Writers volunteered to help with this year's Scholastic Awards. They read and scored hundreds of young writer entries from across America. From Dramatic readings to poetry, journalism to science fiction, our volunteer judges covered the full spectrum of genres and styles. With diligence they faithfully tackled their assigned pieces and were first hand witnesses to the creative milieu of today's youth.

The judges were: Stephanie Apsit, Cynthia Bermudez, Ian Cant, Annis Cassells, Natalia Corres, Bethany Fleisher, Martha Warriner Jarrett, ,Janice Konstantinidis, Judy Kukuza, Carla Martin, Richard Meeks, Sandy Moffett, Joan Raymond, Pam Reeves, and Bob Steel.

A big thank you to each judge for completing their assigned pieces on time. You represented Writers of Kern on a national platform and made us proud.

## WE APPRECIATE YOU!

# Last Words

"Read a thousand books, and your words will flow like a river."  
— Lisa See

"The first draft is just you telling yourself the story."  
— Terry Pratchett

"You don't start out writing good stuff. You start out writing crap and thinking it's good stuff, and then gradually you get better at it."  
— Octavia E. Butler

"You can always edit a bad page. You can't edit a blank page."  
— Jodi Picoult

**..aint that the truth..!**