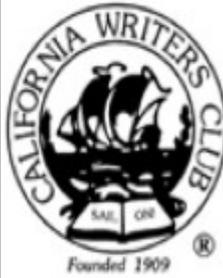


May
2019



President's Message

Graduations and summer are just around the corner but nothing has me looking to the future quite like my recent injury - my horse accidently stepped on my leg.

The girls were spearheading their largest fundraiser to date. It was a split event with a gymnastic mock meet inside the facility and a fundraising fair outside.

Instead of elevating my leg, I trudged onward. And yet, I would have forced my little gymnast to lay down and take it easy but as a mother of three, the show must go on. My saintly mother-in-law flew in to help with our massive undertaking but even with her, I spent far too many hours on my feet.

By Saturday afternoon, my leg quit working altogether. Swollen twice its normal size—with a beautiful array of blue, black and purple coloring—I was forced to sit. Damon called in a work favor and here I am with my leg in a compression sleeve and crutches within arm's reach. Until the MRI is read I'm going to pretend the hematoma will miraculously shrivel to nothing and that the torn calf muscle is just a sprain.

We have fifty chickens, four dogs and two horses. The daily chores of collecting eggs and shoveling horse manure aren't exactly conducive to sitting—or crutches.

But in the midst of the chaos, I've learned a few things.

One, my children are naturally kind and genuinely want to pitch in and take care of their mother.

Two, it's okay to let go. I like a clean house *and* a clean paddock. Physically, I can't keep up with either. The kids already have their list of chores, homework and practice (gymnastic, mock trial and instruments).

Three, there's beauty in being still. I love to streamline—I *love* efficiency. There's

Calendar

Schedule 2019

Mark your personal calendars for these dates

ANNUAL WRITERS OF KERN HONORS DINNER

May 18, 2019, 6:00pm – 8:30pm, at Hodel's

Join your Writers of Kern (WOK) members as we recognize and honor our community's creative and literary accomplishments. Bring a guest and enjoy a good, old-fashioned meal.

This year we will pay tribute to:

- Young Writers of Kern (YWOK) who participated in the YWOK Essay Contest whose essays were chosen for the YWOK Anthology 2019. Let's join their families in celebrating these young writers
- Our own members who have completed the 2019 Dan McGuire Blog Challenge
- Members whose writing activity qualifies them for advancement to WoK Active Status membership
- The winner of the Robert Hargreaves Achievement Award for traditional publishing

always a quicker or more productive way to accomplish tasks. Yes, even writing. My brain does a happy dance every time I find a more efficient way to do something. But sometimes, I forget there's also merit in doing nothing.

With summer just around the corner, take a moment to put down the computer or the pen and just be. Who knows, maybe your next novel will bubble up in the midst of being still.

Clarissa



Attention members

If you have been traditionally published (or know a fellow member that has) please let us know! All traditionally published authors—not self or indie published—are eligible for the Robert Hargreaves Award every year.

Dan McGuire Blog Challenge Recipients

Our fellow bloggers will be receiving their award, come and help celebrate their success!

Joan Raymond

Clarissa Kae

Natalia Corres

Judy Kukuza

Lily Hobbs

Ann Cook

**Unable to attend, but want to support WOK Honors?
Go to the website registration form <https://writersofkern.com/2019/03/15/18-may-2019-annual-celebration-wok-honors-dinner/>. Your contribution will help provide dinners for competition winners and their parents.**

June 15

Esther Hatch

The Pros & Cons of Small Press Publishing

July 20

TBD

August 17

Catherine Hodges, Poet/Professor

September 21

TBD

October 19

Nancy Ellen Dodd, Writer/Professor

November 16

TBD

December 14

Winter Dinner

In Memoriam

Our condolences and deepest sympathy to two of our Writers of Kern family:

To **LaVerne Lovelady** on the passing of her husband, Bob.

To **Martha Jarrett** on the loss of her husband, Ronald Jarrett, who was also a member of WOK.

Meetings

Members' Meeting, 13th April 2019

Featured Speaker Jeanne De Vita

“Romance Writing Master Class”



Jeanne De Vita

After editing some 500 romances, Jeanne De Vita knows whereof she talks when she tells writers to focus on the structure of their novels, since structure applies across all genres. Her handout encourages authors to read and analyze their favorite books, concentrating on five essential topics: character, plot, internal and external conflicts, world-building and the stakes, highlighting the decision and reaction points which drive the novel to its outcome. She pointed out that there are three necessary acts in the story, the setup followed by the confrontation and ending with the resolution.

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
May 2019**

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PO Box 22335
Bakersfield CA 93390-2335**

Writers of Kern Executive Board

President & Program Chair: Clarissa Kae

president@writersofkern.com

Vice President: Donnee Harris

vicepresident@writersofkern.com

Treasurer: Martha Jarrett

treasurer@writersofkern.com

Secretary: Janet Skibinski

secretary@writersofkern.com

Webmaster: Isaiah Ramos

Website Curator: Lou Medina

webmaster@writersofkern.com

Members-At-Large: Martha Jarrett, Gay Chambers

atlarge@writersofkern.com

Membership: Sandy Moffett

membership@writersofkern.com

Critique Coordinator: Natalia Corres

critiques@writersofkern.com

Newsletter: Ian Cant

newsletter@writersofkern.com

CB Rep & SoCal District Rep: Sandy Moffett

cwcrep@writersofkern.com

Publicity: Annis Cassells, Susan Baker, Pam Cyn Bermudez

Hospitality/Sunshine: Stephanie Apsit

sunshine@writersofkern.com

Volunteer Coordinator: Natalia Corres

Events: events@writersofkern.com

Information: info@writersofkern.com

Submissions: submissions@writersofkern.com

Website and Facebook:

writersofkern.com,

www.facebook.com/writersofkern

Last Words

“Start writing, no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on.”

— *Louis L'Amour*

“Every secret of a writer's soul, every experience of his life, every quality of his mind, is written large in his works.”

— *Virginia Woolf*

“And by the way, everything in life is writable about if you have the outgoing guts to do it, and the imagination to improvise. The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt.”

— *Sylvia Plath*

“Don't tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass.”

— *Anton Chekhov*

“When your story is ready for rewrite, cut it to the bone. Get rid of every ounce of excess fat. This is going to hurt; revising a story down to the bare essentials is always a little like murdering children, but it must be done.”

— *Stephen King*