

NEWSLETTER



Jenny Margotta is famous for presentations that have pop!

WRITERS OF KERN MEETING OCTOBER 21, 2023 JENNY MARGOTTA

Writing as J Margotta-Ferrara, she is the author of four books, most notably the braided memoir, *The Woman in Room 23*, *Retribution*, *Resolution*, and *Some Like it Hot: The Culinary Adventures of One Hot Momma and One Cool Dude*.

EFFECTIVE SELF-EDITING

You've done your research. You've worked and slaved and agonized and the final page has been written. You're done, right? Probably not. Unless you're an as-yet-undiscovered creative writing prodigy, your work is going to need to be edited. No matter how good a writer you are, your work can always be better. Even if it's just tweaking that one adjective or adverb that really nails an emotion. You need a good editor, but there's a lot you can do on your own before spending money. As a professional editor, my job is to take your great story and make it that much better. But I can give you lots of tips do to on your own that will greatly improve your writing before you pay an editor. And you won't even need to buy your own copy of the 1,200-plus page *The Chicago Manual of Style* to master those tips.

Jenny Margotta is a professional copy editor, book formatter, and a book-cover designer. She has edited nearly 200 books in all genres for authors across the country.

The Woman in Room 23



J Margotta-Ferrara

WRITERS OF KERN

WRITERS OF KERN MEETING, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023 FEATURED GUEST AND SPEAKER TRACY KELLY

WRITING YOUR LEGACY



At this workshop, Tracy Kelly entertained us all with a humbled opening about the importance of writing our legacy. He gave several examples of important things we may write, such as our own obituary, a short story, a novel, or a goodbye letter to loved ones.

Tracy Kelly was lively, animated, and entertaining as he described how the people and things that we learn from, such as our grandparents or even parents, can be vital information for our children and grandchildren. He discussed the importance of keeping an autobiography or memoir, and he emphasized the value of sharing our stories.

The true gift of Tracy Kelly, though, is his powerful and motivating demeanor. The man shines knowledge as a joyous, beautiful, motivational beacon of light.

Add a little bit of body

text

From Your Membership Chair

Time is Almost Up

“All aboard.” “The boarding doors will be closing...”

We’ve all heard those final warning notices. Well, here’s today’s version. Renewal for Writers of Kern closes on September 30th at midnight. I know you’ve heard it before, but for some reason you’ve procrastinated. But procrastination comes with a price – in this case an extra \$20. If your renewal has not been paid via PayPal or at a recent meeting or “the check’s in the mail” to the PO Box address, you are in jeopardy of that \$20 reinstatement fee.

I hate to spend money that I don’t have to, and I’m sure you feel the same. So, take advantage of your window to get your renewal in ahead of the deadline.

Momma Moffett 😊



Fall Writing Contest



Extended Deadline

**Announcing the Fall Writing Contest.
(Flash fiction writers, this is your chance!)**

OPEN TO ALL PAID MEMBERS OF WRITERS OF KERN

This contest will award cash prizes to the three winning writers (\$200, \$100, and \$50) who submit their work between September 1 and October 30, 2023. We invite unpublished submissions of 2000 words or less using the topic of 'Gratitude'. The winner will have their work read at the Winter Dinner.

This writing contest is a long-standing tradition at Writers of Kern. Available to paid members of Writers of Kern, the Fall Writing Contest provides an opportunity for writers of short stories to hone their skills, win an award, and bask in the kudos of their fellow writers.

Submit in the month of September to: phylliswachob@gmail.com. Please use a Word document with no names or other identifying remarks. Use Times New Roman, 12pt font, double-spaced, and use the attachment function to send your submission. Submissions will be blind-judged on setting, originality, style (including grammar and spelling), voice, character development, and storyline.

Winners of the Fall Writing Contest will be announced on December 16, 2023, at our winter dinner!

Phyllis Wachob, Chair of the Fall Writing Contest

WRITERS OF KERN

Thank You

TO GAY CHAMBERS,

Incoming officers of the Writers of Kern as well as our members and guests wish to express our sincerest gratitude to Member at Large Gay Chambers for her continued dedication, diligence, and hard work. At every board meeting, conference, Writers of Kern breakfast, and dinner event, Gay has been an integral participant who has been and continues to be selfless, dedicated, and extraordinarily generous with her time. Writers of Kern would not be the same without her and her light-the-world smile.



Congratulations!

"Presidential Congratulations!"

Presidential Congratulations! is a publicity opportunity for newly published books. Anyone who has published a book since the last meeting can bring their newly published book to this month's Writers of Kern meeting. A picture will be taken with the author and the book. That picture along with a congratulatory message from the President of Writers of Kern will be posted on Facebook and in the next newsletter.

Presidential Congratulations! is limited solely to participating members of Writers of Kern.



Tuesday, October 31st is Halloween!

October 31 is the eve of All Saints Day, a day in which Christians remember and honor the dead. However, many people believe the holiday originates from an old Druid festival called "Samhain."

WRITERS OF KERN



You are invited!

Level up your writing. Our monthly meetings include a delicious breakfast at one of Kern County's most treasured restaurants, known for its fantastic buffet. As we dine, experts in the writing and publishing field present informative and dynamic workshops on a diverse arena of subjects.

Community

Come and enjoy our community of writers as we gather to learn and celebrate unique voices.

Writers of Kern is a nonprofit professional organization. Monthly meetings are at 9:15 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month at Hodel's Country Dining. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for guests. Please check our website for information on calendar exemptions and featured guests.

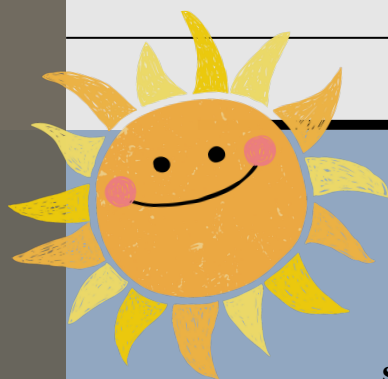
Hodel's Country Dining is a locally owned and operated restaurant celebrating 50 years of tradition as Kern County's best buffet.

Welcome

First-time visitors are
always welcome.



WRITERS OF KERN



From Your Sunshine Chair

The Sunshine Chair sends holiday, get-well, birthday (if we have your birth month), sympathy, and other supportive cards to the Writers of Kern members. Every card is filled with nurturing, caring thoughts from all the other members of our club, sending rays of peace and comfort to uplift our fellow members' spirits. How do we know when those special occasions, illnesses, or hardships arise? We rely on you, our WOK members, to alert the Sunshine Chair by emailing her the information: sunshine@writersofkern.com



WOK Critique Group News Interested in a Critique Group?

Carla Joy Martin, Critique Group Chair
critiquegroups@writersofkern.com

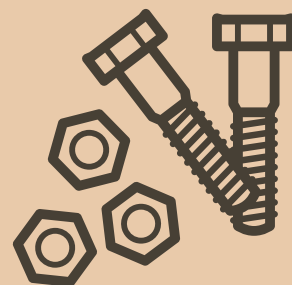
Nuts and Bolts

New members are always welcome. whether you are a published writer or not! Writers of Kern energetically assists all members who aspire to become published.



The Write Way
The Writers of Kern
PO Box 22335
Bakersfield CA 93390-2335

Tami Beaulieu Temp. Editor





WRITERS OF KERN

FORTY-SECOND PITCH SHOW & SELL

**EXTRA!
EXTRA!
EXTRA!**
Read all about it!



Saturday, October 21st Show & Sell

Authors, this is your chance to show and sell your books. For \$5.00, you can display your books on a section of a table. Before the meeting, during the break, and for a half hour after the speaker concludes her presentation, you will be able to sell your books. This is a great opportunity for networking and sales techniques.

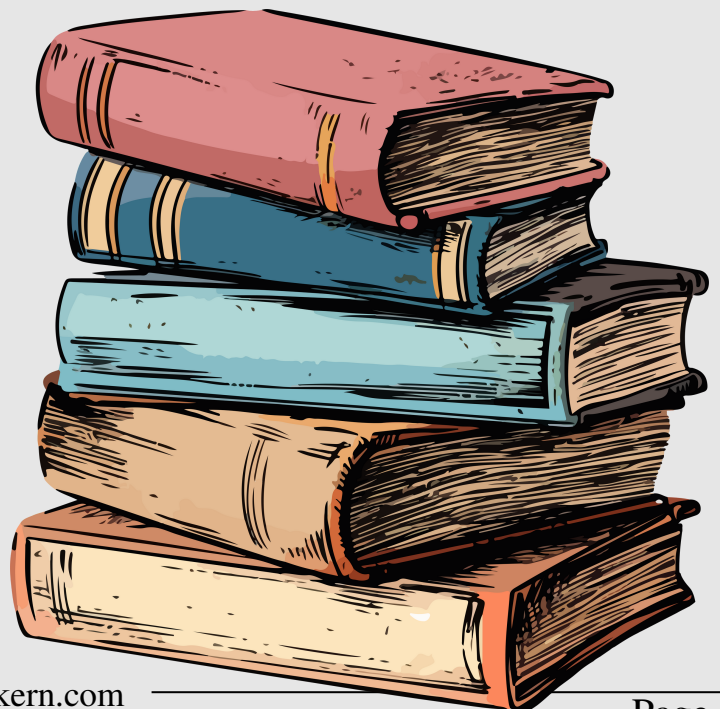
Saturday, October 21st meeting will feature “Bring Your Book Pitch”

Authors, this is a great chance to practice your pitch.

Guidelines: authors give a 40-second pitch about their book during the meeting. This activity can be used as an avenue to help authors improve their skills while advertising their work.

A panel of writers will provide feedback on each pitch, which will include positive accolades as well as kind-hearted recommendations for improvement.

Bring Your Book Pitch is an encouraging and uplifting way to improve the salesperson in you!





WRITERS OF KERN DISTINGUISHED WRITER

DONNÉE PADGETT-HARRIS

Donnée Harris
is an author,
blogger,
mentor,
loving mother,
community icon,
and a social
media sensation



Donnée Padgett-Harris

Donnée was born and raised in Gary, IN where her love for writing blossomed. She worked as a Journalist at The Post Tribune and the Indianapolis Recorder for 2 years and won an award with the Indiana Association of Black Journalists before deciding to be a full-time novelist.

She has a BA in Journalism from Butler University in Indianapolis, IN, and is a lifelong member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority. In 2012, Donnée Harris moved to Bakersfield, CA where she and her husband raise their beautiful daughters.

California Writers Club, one of the nation's oldest professional clubs for writers, is dedicated to educating writers of all levels and disciplines in the craft of writing and in the marketing of their work.

Jack London Award

Every other year, each CWC branch nominates one member to receive a Jack London Award in recognition of outstanding service to the organization. This year, Writers of Kern nominated our own Donnée Padgett-Harris. Donnée will receive her award at the annual corporate meeting at a luncheon on Sunday, October 22, at the Oakland Airport Holiday Inn.

Congratulations!

Donnée! Writers of Kern could not be more proud or honored of such an accomplishment.

Donnée writes spicy romance and spicy romantic murder mystery novels and has self-published eight titles in those genres. She is currently working on her ninth novel, a sequel to one of her murder mysteries.

Love and dedication to Writers of Kern knows no limitations as Donnée has served four terms as Vice President of the branch. She has run meetings, planned summer and spring conferences, and completed any task that the president has needed her to do.





WRITERS OF KERN FEATURED AUTHOR

JENNETTE GREEN

Jennette Green
is a award-
winning
romance author,
poet, and
blogger



Her Reluctant Bodyguard

Alexa had never met a more exasperating man...

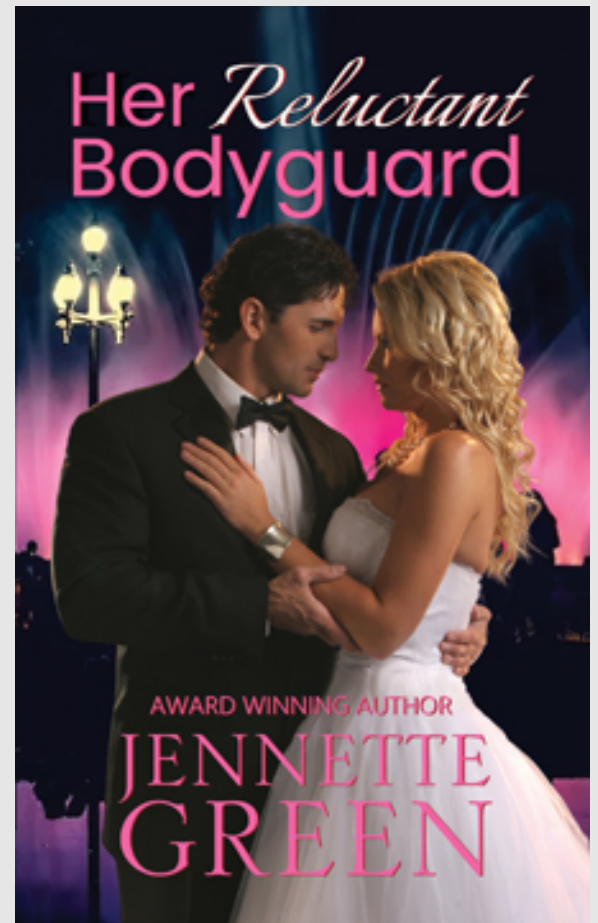
When English pop star Colin Radcliffe asks Alexa to write his biography and tour with him in Europe, she is thrilled—until she begins to receive death threats.

To her dismay, Colin puts her under the 24/7 protection of his Italian chief bodyguard, Jamison Constanzo—a man with whom she's clashed from day one. If only she could spend more time with her perfect man, Colin, rather than spending all of her days with this black-hearted thorn in her side!

Alexa struggles to control her flip attitude toward Jamison. Why does opening up her heart to him feel almost as dangerous as dealing with the stalker's threats? But when the killer strikes, Jamison is the only one she can turn to...

Welcome to my website!

Jennette writes sweet romance with a touch of spice. She fell in love with writing stories when she was seven years old. As a teen, while traveling on a sailboat with her family in Central America, Jennette filled many notebooks with stories. She wrote her first book when she was eighteen. Her books have received the awards of "Top Pick," "Reader's Favorite Hero," and "Reviewer's Choice Award," and *Ice Baron* also won third place in Speculative Fiction in the Global eBook Awards. In addition, *The Commander's Desire* was optioned to be translated into Thai and published in Thailand.





WRITERS OF KERN FEATURED AUTHOR

TAMI BEAULIEU



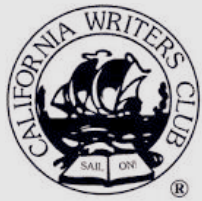
Tami Beaulieu
writes under the pseudonym January Joyce.

Tami Beaulieu
is a poet and
children's author who
enjoys graphic arts,
and painting murals
and all of her
valued friends
at Writers of Kern

GRANDMA GOOSE SPOOKYTIME STORIES

Kids love scary stories. Scary stories are fun. A toe-curling, age-appropriate spooky story will show children that it is okay to sometimes be afraid as they face their fears and become braver. Grandma Goose Spookytime Stories are unique, entertaining, and occasionally sprout a few goosebumps. That's okay because these Grandma-approved stories are perfect for anyone who loves Halloween!!!!





WRITERS OF KERN

KERN POETRY

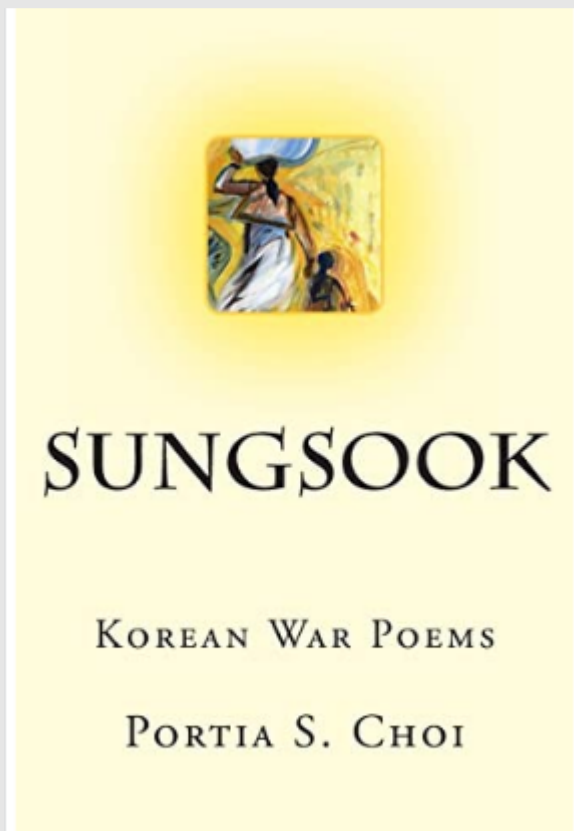
OUR MISSION IS TO SHOWCASE LOCAL POETS, INFORM THE COMMUNITY OF POETRY EVENTS, AND SHARE INFORMATION ON POETS AND THEIR POETRY

PORTIA CHOI

Portia Choi is the founder, director, creative visionary, and - above all - a humble and welcoming ambassador of Kern Poetry.

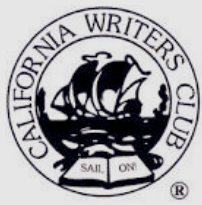
Portia Cho has written poetry for thirty-five years. Portia, with other community poets, has organized National Poetry Month – Kern County in April since 2010. She facilitates the First Friday Poetry Open Mic.

Portia S. Choi is a public health and preventative medicine physician. Born in Wonju, Korea, and previously a resident of Los Angeles, she now enjoys a quieter life in Bakersfield with her husband and two sons



Portia Choi promotes poetry by hosting the First Friday Open Mics, and publicizing events during National Poetry Month in April. Portia published *Sungsook, Korean War Poems*, a chapbook of her poems about experiences of the war as a young child and those of her family, and American veterans of that war.

She also promotes peace for oneself and for the community. Portia, with Bakersfield community partners, commemorates the U.N. International Day of Peace every September 21.



WRITERS OF KERN

KERN POETRY

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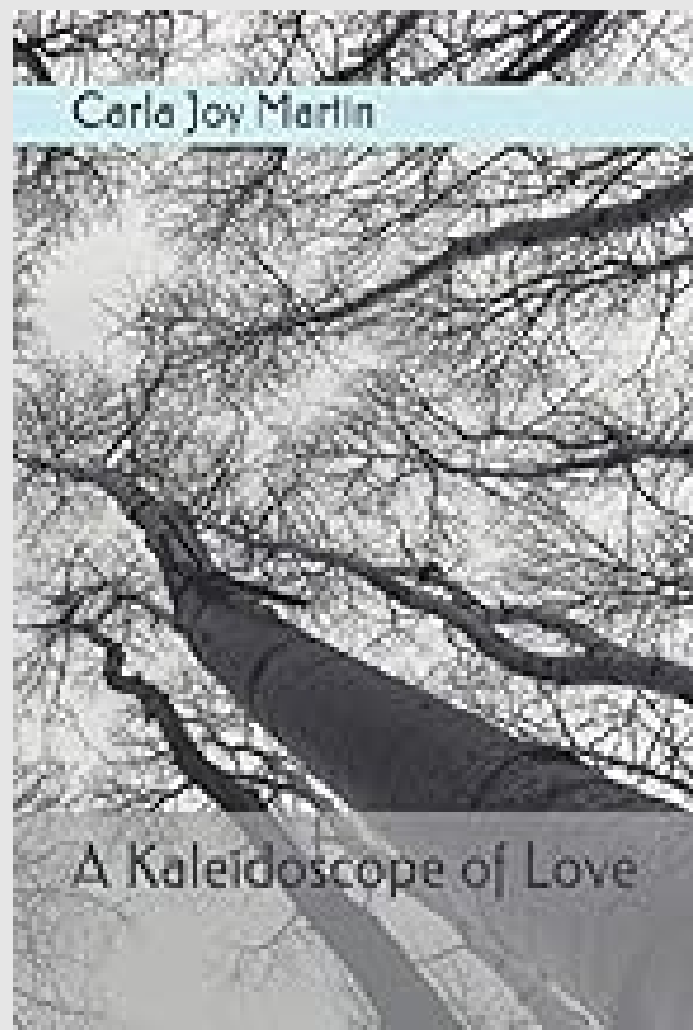


CARLIA JOY MARTIN

Carla Joy Martin co-hosts First Friday Open Mics with Portia Choi at Dagny's in downtown Bakersfield and interviews the participants for KernPoetry.com. She is a poet, piano instructor, and artist. She received her MA in English Literature from Stanford. Carla Joy is the critique group chair for Writers of Kern. She has published poems in *Rabid Oak*, *Reaching for the Sky*, *Writing Fields*, *Writing Sound*, *Writing Flora*, and *Writing Fauna*. Carla published her first poetry chapbook, *Kaleidoscope of Love*, in 2020, which is available on Amazon. She is currently obtaining a publisher for her second chapbook, *Coffee Cafe Customers: An Americana Collection*.

A Kaleidoscope of Love

The poems in this book, written in chronological order, follow Carla's romantic journey through unexpected turns. Intimate and honest, Carla's colorful words capture her emotions during this time. Feelings of excitement, trepidation, wonder, grief, and gratitude paint a beautiful picture -- a kaleidoscope of love.





WRITERS OF KERN

KERN POETRY

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EVENTS, AND SHARE INFORMATION ON POETS AND THEIR POETRY

CHRISTOPHER NIELSEN



Christopher Nielsen is a writer, photographer and web designer. Back roads provide inspiration out in nature for photography and writing. His works have appeared in *Barren Magazine*, *Kern Poetry*, *Mojave Heart Review*, *Poetry Super Highway*, *Rabid Oak*, *Rue Scribe*, *Song of the San Joaquin*, *The Blue Mountain Review*, *The Opiate Magazine*, and *West Texas Literary Review*.

Currently, Christopher is writing a book of original photos and poems.

Christopher does website design, graphics, and social media.

[Christopher Nielsen Poetry](#)

MARTIN CHANG

Martin Chang is an integral part of the Kern Poetry team. Martin has several years of experience creating websites. He was the Editor-in-Chief of *The Renegade Rip* in 2013. He also has a B.A. degree in Journalism and Public Relations from Chico State. He is interested in poetry in all its forms. In particular, the lyrics in popular music. His favorite lyricist is Bob Dylan. His favorite music groups are Nirvana, Tegan and Sara, and The Ramones.



WRITERS OF KERN



CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB

A 501(c)3 NONPROFIT

OUR MISSION: TO EDUCATE WRITERS OF ALL
ABILITIES IN THE CRAFT OF WRITING AND THE
MARKETING OF THEIR WORK.

The California Writers Club (CWC) is one of the oldest and largest writers' clubs in America. With a proud heritage going back to 1909, CWC has over 1,900 members in 22 branches spread across our state.



CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB KERN COUNTY BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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WRITERS OF KERN

Community, Workshops, & Writer Support

FREE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

OPEN MIC

Featuring Shelley J. Evans, making life rhyme until the bells chime.

FIRST FRIDAY
October 6, 2023
STARTS 6PM

DAGNY'S COFFEE
1600 20th Street (Corner of 20th and Eye St)
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Poetry, Spoken Word and Music: **Only Original Creations for 5 Minutes.**
To perform your poems, words or music, sign in at 5:50pm.

For Information, call, text or email Portia:
661.717.1346 or Portia@Kernpoetry.com
Sponsored by Dagny's Coffee and Kern Poetry - Kernpoetry.com



“

Local Authors

Kern County is home to many talented writers and the Kern County Library is happy to provide a digital home for their work through our OverDrive platform.

”



SEPTEMBER 23 - NOVEMBER 11
THE WITCHES OF WESTCHESTER

Stars theatre

YOUNG FRANKENGTEIN

October 13th - November 4th

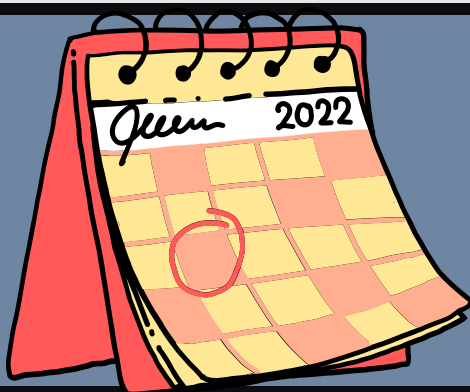


FIRST FRIDAY FREE ADMISSION
EXTENDED HOURS: 10AM-8PM
IN PARTICIPATION WITH DOWNTOWN BAKERSFIELD'S FIRST FRIDAY EVENTS.
BMOA IS PROUD TO OFFER COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSION WITH EXTENDED HOURS UNTIL 8PM.



WRITERS OF KERN

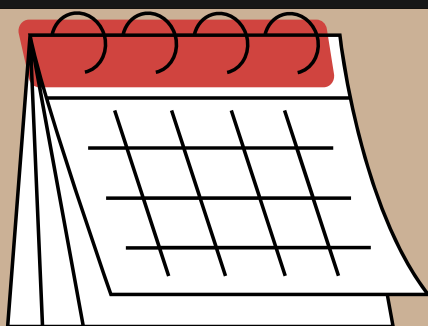
Mark Your Calander



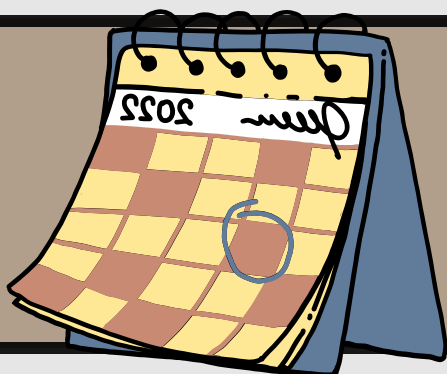
OCTOBER 21, 2023
JENNY MARGOTTA
Self-Editing



NOVEMBER 18, 2023
NANCY DODD
Spark: Learning the Process



DECEMBER 16, 2023
WINTER DINNER
5:30 - 9:30 at Hodels
Winners of the Fall Writing Contest
Will Be Announced



JANUARY 20, 2024
T.B.A.

WRITERS OF KERN

Useful Writing & Submission Links

WRITER'S DIGEST

Chicken Soup
for the **Soul**

Winning
Writers
best resources for poets and writers



THE
NEW YORKER

NER

**Next Generation
Short Story Awards**

A Not-for-Profit International Awards
Program for Authors of Short Stories

www.ShortStoryAwards.com



THE **CIN
CIN
NATI** REVIEW

UNIVERSITY OF
Cincinnati



NARRATIVE

**Next Generation
Indie
Book
Awards**

**The
Washington
Post**

THE **GEORGIA REVIEW**  **QUARTERLY
SINCE 1947.**

AGNI