



## WRITERS OF KERN

# NEWSLETTER

### *The Snowflake*

Each year, our world transforms into a winter wonderland filled with snowflakes, some real, some imaginary. As each snowflake has its own intricate pattern and shape, we, too, have unique experiences and perspectives that influence our writing. And just like how the yuletide snowflake holds a special place in the hearts of many, our writing can touch the hearts of those who read it. Whether writing a novel, a blog post, or a simple email, we can craft words into something meaningful, entertaining, and life-changing. Happy Holidays from all of us at Writers of Kern.

### *SNOWY SNOWBALL*

I'm a little snowball  
Round and fat  
When I hit your brother  
I go splat

As I sail through the air  
You hear not a sound  
If I land in neighbor's yard  
I form a messy mound

When it comes to winter  
For hours, I time spend  
Or I sit all by myself  
'Cause I'm a loyal friend

Any time you go outside  
I'm ready for fair play  
Making me is a great way  
To spend a winter's day

Yet, when it comes to bedtime  
Don't get it in your head  
Sneak me under covers  
And I will wet your bed

Grandma Goose Seasons Greetings

January Joyce.com

Copyright@2023





December, 2023

# WRITERS OF KERN WINTER DINNER



**OUR ANNUAL  
WINTER DINNER  
IS A GREAT TIME FOR  
FUN AND  
CAMARADERIE**



**Saturday, December 16th  
6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Hodel's  
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.**

Writers of Kern members and their guests are invited to this festive and wonderful event as we celebrate the season with our friends. This event is for active members of Writers of Kern (and their guests) current on annual dues. \$28 per person. RSVP on the website.

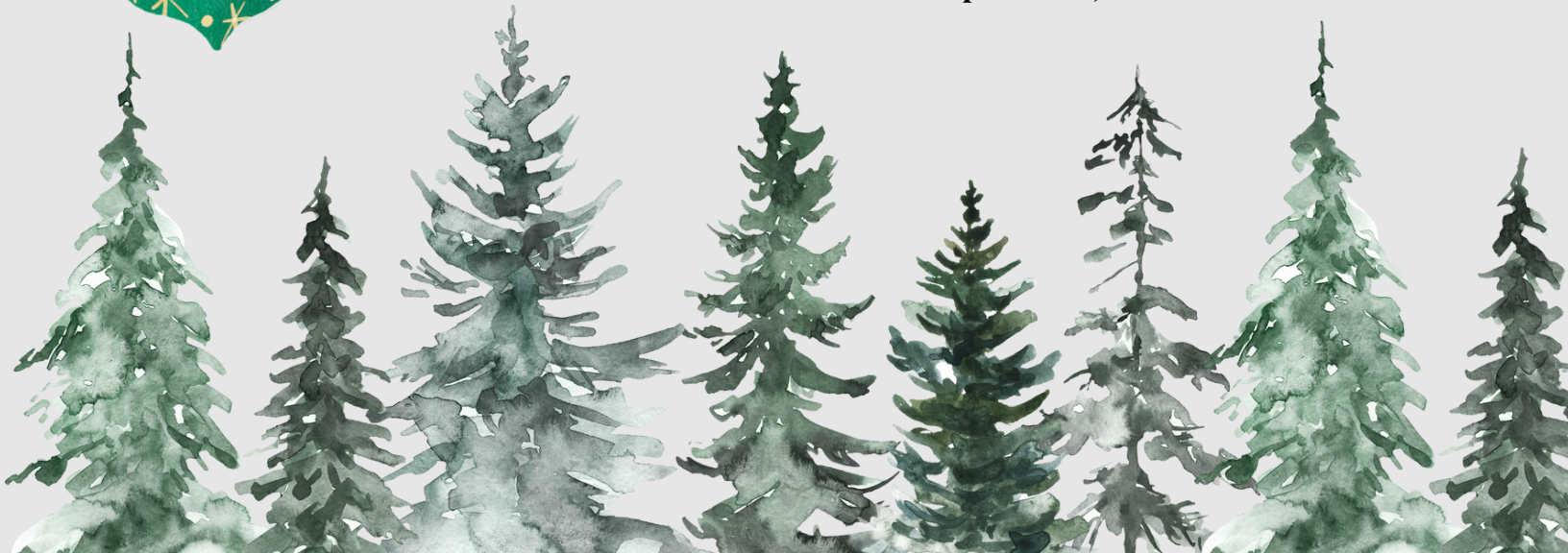
Winners of the Fall Writing Contest will be announced. Featured stories will be read.

Please bring a new or gently-used book for our book exchange.

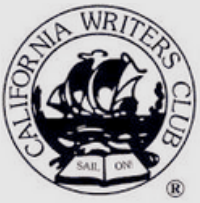
Gift baskets will be up for an opportunity drawing.

Authors may bring books for exchange or donation to benefit the Bakersfield Homeless Shelter.

Please reserve a space soon, as attendance is limited.







## WRITERS OF KERN

# NEWSLETTER



### WRITERS OF KERN MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 2023 NANCY DODD

Nancy Ellen Dodd earned an MPW (master's in professional writing) and an MFA (in playwriting) from USC. Her book, *The Writer's Compass: From Story Map to Finished Draft in 7 Stages* (Writers Digest), covers the creative storytelling process. She formerly taught advanced screenwriting at Pepperdine's Seaver College and has published more than 130 articles in local and national publications. Dodd was also formerly the academic editor of the peer-reviewed *Graziadio Business Review* at the Pepperdine Graziadio Business School, where she taught electives "Presentations & Stories" and "Business Storytelling." Currently, she works as an editor and a consultant internationally and is earning her Ph.D. in Global Leadership and Change, focusing on spark—the moment that ignites creativity.

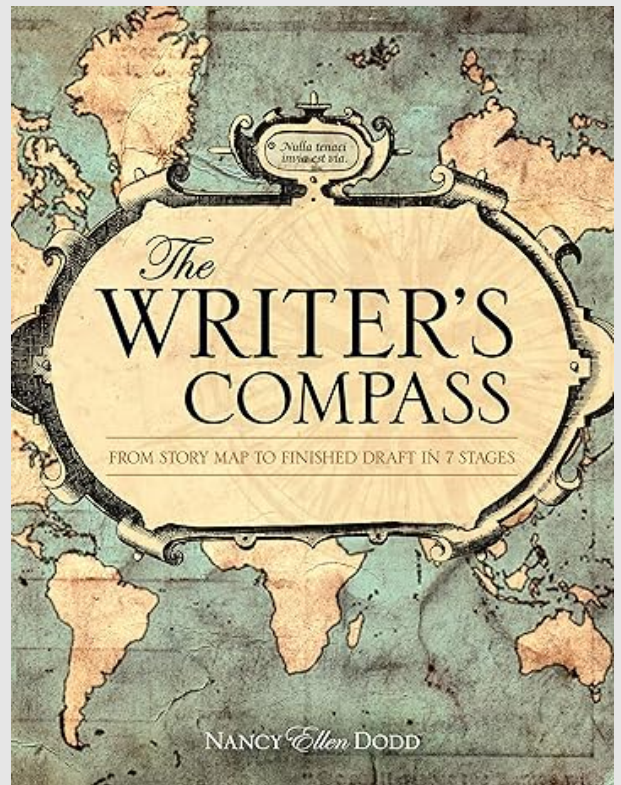
### *Nancy Ellen Dodd*

Nancy Ellen Dodd is a renowned writing coach who has helped countless local authors ignite their creative spark and hone their writing skills. Her workshop was a treasure trove of information on how to learn the writing process, starting with the basics and building up to more advanced techniques.

Nancy's infectious enthusiasm for the craft of writing is evident in every word she speaks, and her vast knowledge of the industry is invaluable for anyone looking to pursue a career in writing. Her workshop covers everything from character development, plot structure, dialogue, pacing, and much more.

If you want to take your writing to the next level, Nancy Ellen Dodd is the person to turn to. Her passion for the craft and dedication to helping others succeed is truly inspiring, and her workshop is an experience you won't want to miss. So why not join one of her sessions today and let her spark your own creative journey?

Author of *The Writer's Compass: From Story Map to Finished Draft in 7 Stages*







December, 2023

## WRITERS OF KERN FEATURED AUTHOR

# DONNÉE PADGETT-HARRIS



### 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.

### On Santa's List

When you're on the naughty list, you never know what Santa will bring...

Christmas. A time for exchanging gifts, decorating the Christmas tree, sharing meals with those you love and waiting for Santa to arrive.

Shannon Montgomery, a depressed housewife, can't get into the holiday festivities. Her mind is consumed by her lonely life with four children and an angry, abusive husband. Not to mention her cold and insensitive in-laws.

When a Christmas Eve trip to see Santa Claus finds Shannon falling for another man, she finally sees hope for her future. Will this new relationship chase away the dark clouds hovering over her world?

Her heart no longer belongs to her husband, but can she leave him without losing her kids?  
When an obsession arises, and Shannon is caught up... murder seems the only way out.







## WRITERS OF KERN FEATURED AUTHOR

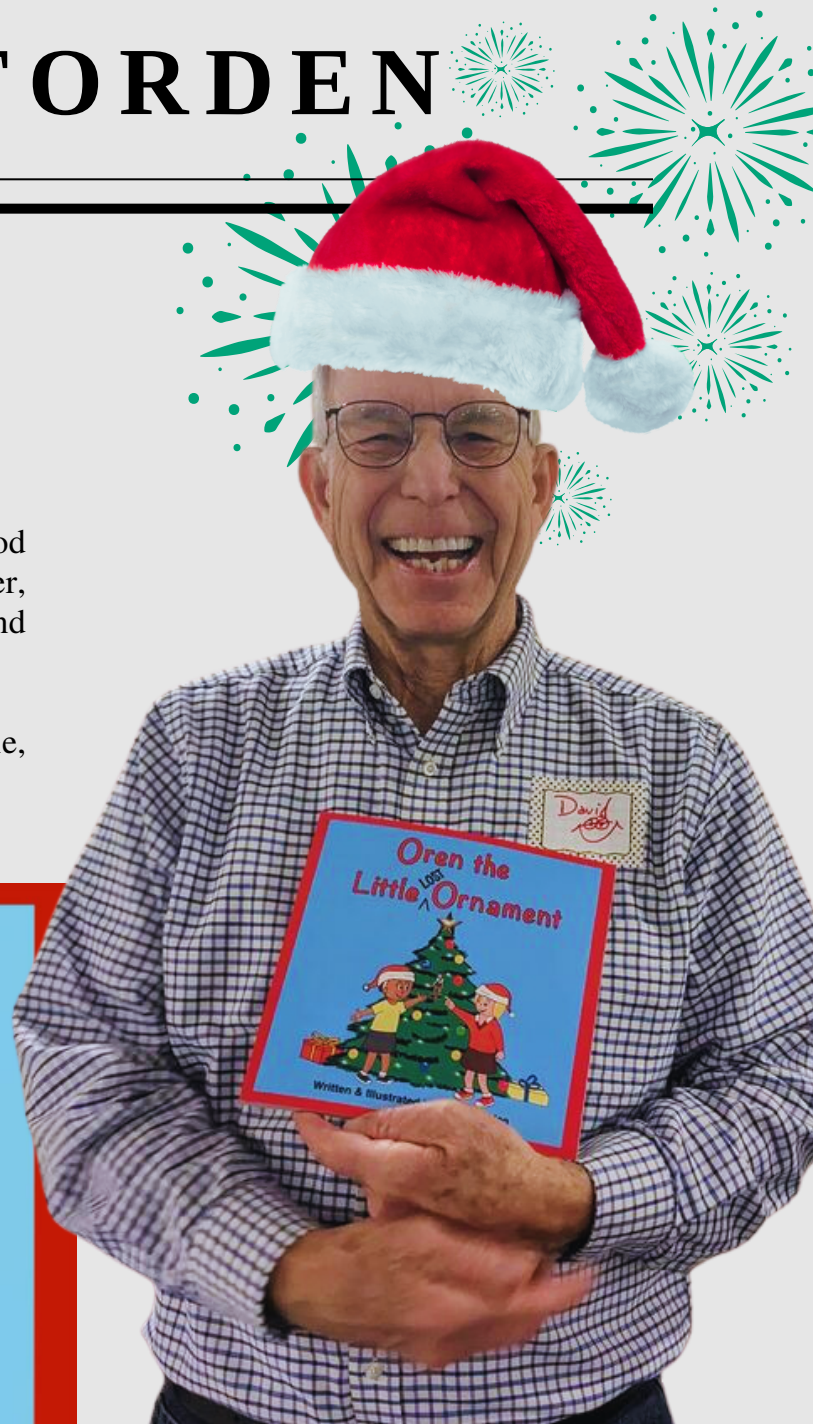
# DAVID FORDEN

## Happy Holidays!

*David Forden*

Children's author David Forden has had the good fortune to celebrate his life as a husband, son, father, brother, minister, U. S. Army Reserves Chaplain and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

He lives in California with his lovely bride Annie, without whom writing books would not be possible.



## Oren the LOST Little Ornament



Written & Illustrated by David Forden

Elisabeth thought Oren was lost forever during Christmas tree recycling. But a school assignment just might help her feel better about what happened to Oren the Ornament. This is a story about how kindness created a new friendship and a wonderful Christmas memory.



## WRITERS OF KERN FEATURED AUTHOR

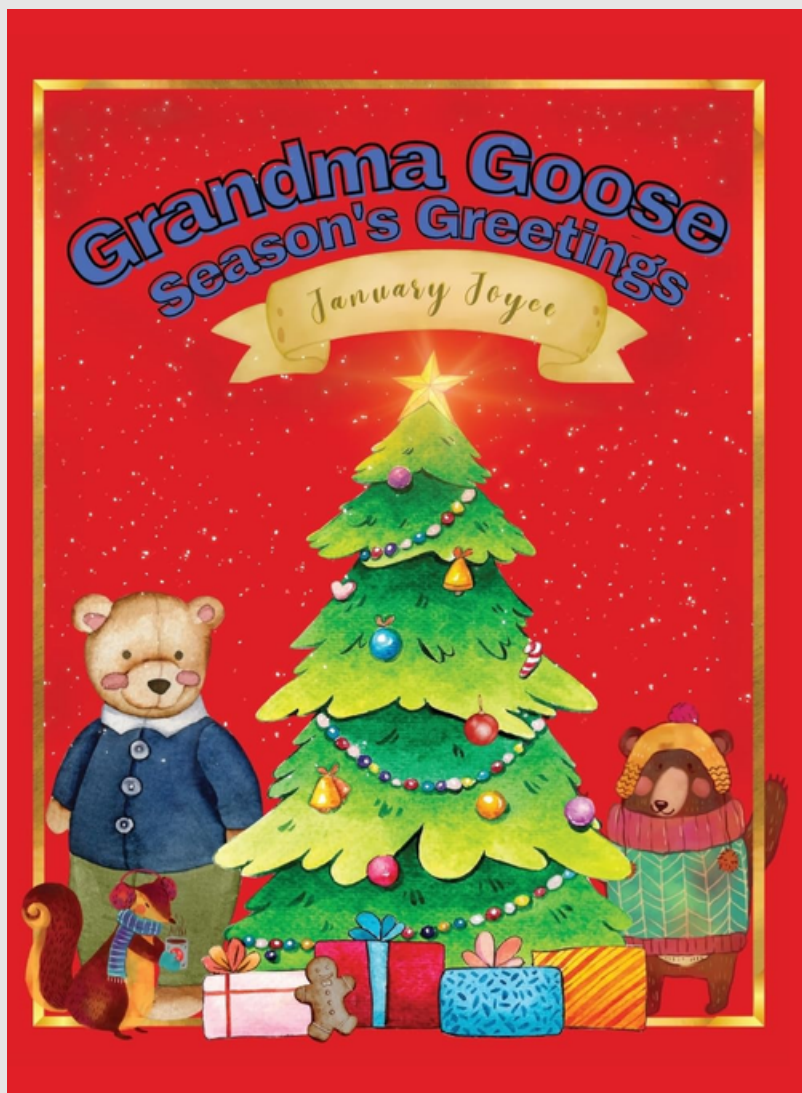
# TAMI BEAULIEU

HAPPY  
*Holidays*



### GRANDMA GOOSE SEASON'S GREETINGS

Christmas is the magical time of the year when hearts ignite with merriment and joy. It's a great time for families to snuggle together and share a good, old-fashioned picture book. The rhymes in Grandma Goose Season's Greetings are a fun, imaginative take on this wonderful season. Paired with colorful illustrations, these are the stories children will cherish for years.







## WRITERS OF KERN FEATURED AUTHOR

# JOAN RAYMOND



### Joan Raymond

Joan Raymond published three new books! Joan's earliest memories of writing go back to the fourth grade. An avid reader of the Happy Hollister's Mysteries series, she penned her first two short stories, "The Mystery of the Missing Bread" and "The Snake That Had Legs." Not best-sellers by any means, but her teacher and classmates loved them, sparking her interest in writing. In sixth grade, her mother gifted her with a 5-year diary, which sparked a passion for journaling and writing, which continues to this day.



**Cozy  
Mysteries  
make the  
best gifts!**





# Two Poets Read

December 9, 2023  
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.



Annis Cassells



Catherine  
Abbey Hodges

2215 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield  
(Art & Spirituality Center)

For more information:  
[heyannis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:heyannis@sbcglobal.net)  
[catherineabbeyhodes@gmail.com](mailto:catherineabbeyhodes@gmail.com)

*"Poetry validates the oneness of all humans."*  
Delhi World Public School, Orai



# Spotlight on Sandy Moffett



## Sandy Moffett

Sandy Moffett is a writer, singer, speaker, and good friend to all of us at Writers of Kern.

Sandy Moffett's contributions to Writers of Kern cannot be overstated. She has been a consistent and dependable member of the organization, always willing to lend her time, expertise, and support to further the goals and objectives of the group. As a past president (and just about every other position), she helped guide the organization through challenging times, and her leadership has been invaluable in shaping the direction of Writers of Kern. But more than that, Sandy is a friend to many within the organization, offering encouragement, advice, and a listening ear to those who need it. Her warmth, humor, and generosity of spirit make her an integral part of the Writers of Kern community.

Thank you, Sandy, for all that you do, the 1001 positions you cover, the hundreds of hours, and the artwork, gift bags, gift baskets, knick-knacks, and money you have donated through the years. Thank you, Sandy, for all you have done for Writers of Kern in various positions, as a past president, and as a trusted friend to many Writers of Kern would not be where we are without you.

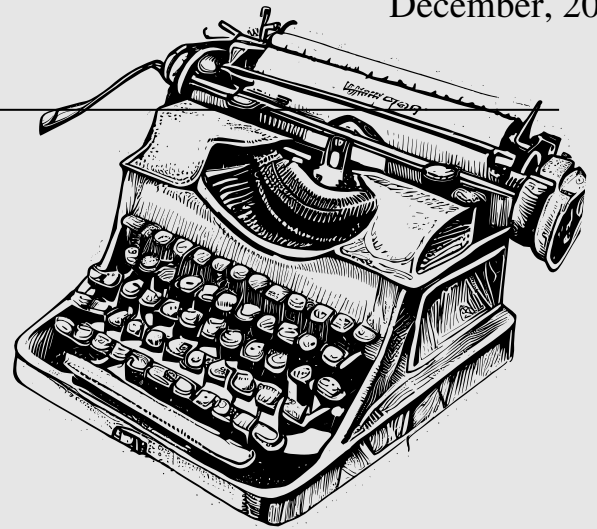


# Merry & Bright



## WRITERS OF KERN

# Thank You



Dear Bethany Fleisher,

Writers of Kern, we would like to express our deepest appreciation for your unwavering dedication, diligence, and hard work as the WOK Social Media liaison. In this era of digital communication, managing social media platforms, particularly Facebook, can be challenging. We acknowledge your exceptional commitment in balancing work and personal life while executing your duties with excellence, kindness, and compassion.

## 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.

# Happy Holidays

### *Hanukkah*

Begins: sunset Thursday, December 7, 2023

Ends: evening Friday, December 15, 2023

### *Christmas*

December 25, 2023

### *Kwanzaa*

December 26, 2023 - January 1, 2025



December, 2023

## 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.*

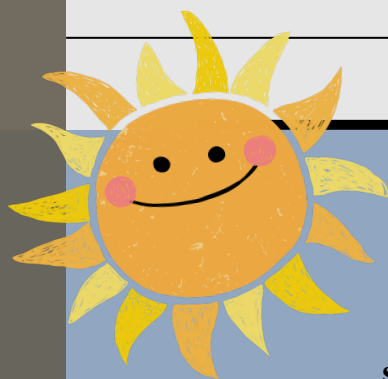
# *Welcome*

First-time visitors are  
always welcome.



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

# 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](mailto:sunshine@writersofkern.com)



## WOK Critique Group News Interested in a Critique Group?

Carla Joy Martin, Critique Group Chair  
[critiquegroups@writersofkern.com](mailto:critiquegroups@writersofkern.com)

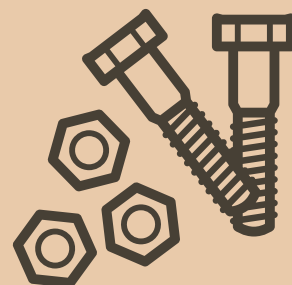
## Nuts and Bolts

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 SPRING CONFERENCE



OUR ANNUAL  
SPRING CONFERENCE  
Writer Workshops to  
Network, Learn, and  
Achieve

Saturday, March 16th  
8:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Hodel's

The upcoming workshop on Saturday, March 16th, is sure to be a valuable experience for all attendees. The event will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Hodel's in Bakersfield, California.

**EARLY BIRD DEADLINE** (before February 1st): attendance costs \$50.00 for WOK & CWC members, \$75.00 for nonmembers, and \$25.00 for full-time students (18 and up) with ID. After February 1st, the cost is \$60.00 for WOK & CWC members, \$95.00 for nonmembers, and \$45.00 for full-time students (18 and up).

Can't miss the  
Writers of Kern  
Conference!

The registration fee includes a continental breakfast, snacks, and lunch at Hodel's, known for its world-famous cuisine. Our conference will feature **a panel of experts on the ups and downs of navigating the world of self-publishing** and speakers including Kern County's beloved journalist, columnist, editor, author, and reporter **Bob Price**; songwriter, producer, and comedian **Dan McGowen** will discuss classic comedy and the importance of humor in writing and everyday life; and award-winning poet, author, and life coach **Annis Cassells**.

Interested individuals are encouraged to register soon to secure their spot, as attendance is limited.

Tables &  
Publicity  
Opportunities  
for authors  
to sell books

SAVE  
-THE-  
DATE

# 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***



### **PRESIDENT**

Tami Beaulieu

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Phyllis Wachob

### **SECRETARY**

Jennette Green

### **TREASURER**

Sandy Moffett

### **MEMBERSHIP CHAIR & PUBLICITY**

Sandy Moffett

### **MEMBER AT LARGE**

Gay Chambers

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Bethany Fleisher

### **CRITIQUE COORDINATOR**

Carla Martin

### **SUNSHINE**

Stephanie Apsit

### **WEBSITE**

David Raymond




## WRITERS OF KERN

### Community, Workshops, & Writer Support

PRESENTED BY  
**Adventist Health**

**Holiday Lights**  
at **CALM**  
CALIFORNIA LIVING MUSEUM

*A Stroll Through Experience*  
NOV. 25 - DEC. 30 \* 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM



A SPECIAL HOLIDAY  
6 PM - DECEMBER 1, 2023  
FIRST FRIDAY OPEN MIC AT DAGNY'S  
1600 20th Street  
Communal Singing of Seasonal Songs  
and Sharing of Poems  
Come and perform your own or your favorite  
seasonal poems, words or music, for 5 minutes.  
Sign-up at 5:50 pm  
Light refreshments will be served!  
For Information, email Portia:  
Portia at Kernpoetry.com

*Kern Poetry*

“

#### 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.

”



January 27 - March 11th  
Rustlers of Rio Bravo



December 1st - December 23rd

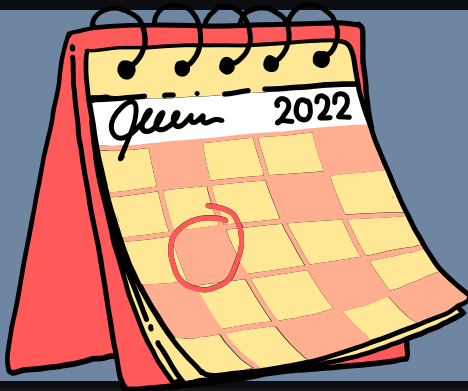


**FIRST FRIDAY FREE ADMISSION  
EXTENDED HOURS: 10AM-8PM  
IN PARTICIPATION WITH DOWNTOWN  
BAKERSFIELD'S FIRST FRIDAY EVENTS.  
BMOA IS PROUD TO OFFER  
COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSION WITH  
EXTENDED HOURS UNTIL 8PM.**



# WRITERS OF KERN

## *Mark Your Calander*



**DECEMBER 16, 2023**

**WINTER DINNER**

**5:30 - 9:30 at Hodels**

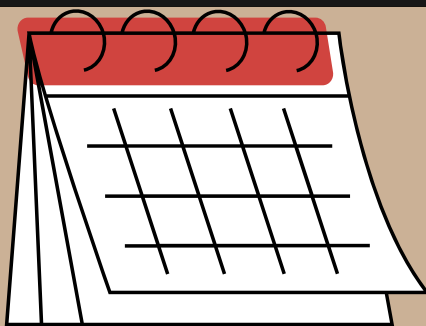
**Winners of the Fall Writing Contest  
Will Be Announced**



**JANUARY 20, 2024**

*Kathleen Kline*

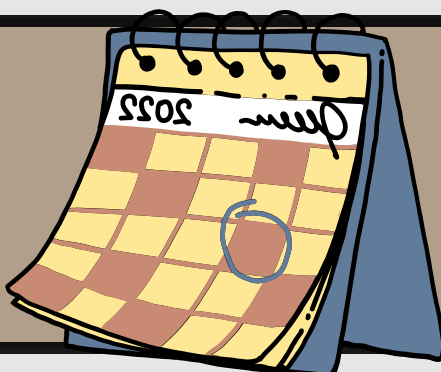
**Promoting Fiction in Today's  
Tech-Saavy World**



**FEBRUARY 17, 2024**

*Phyllis Wachob*

***Developing a Unique Writing Voice  
and Exploring Points of View***



**MARCH 16, 2024  
SPRING CONFERENCE**



## 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](http://www.ShortStoryAwards.com)

THE **CIN  
CIN  
NATI** REVIEW

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Cincinnati**

**R**<sup>80</sup>  
rattle

**N** **NARRATIVE**

**Next Generation  
Indie  
Book  
Awards**

**The  
Washington  
Post**

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

**AGNI**