



WRITERS OF KERN

NEWSLETTER

Nancy Ellen
Dodd is a
dynamic and
entertaining
speaker



WRITERS OF KERN MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 2023 NANCY DODD

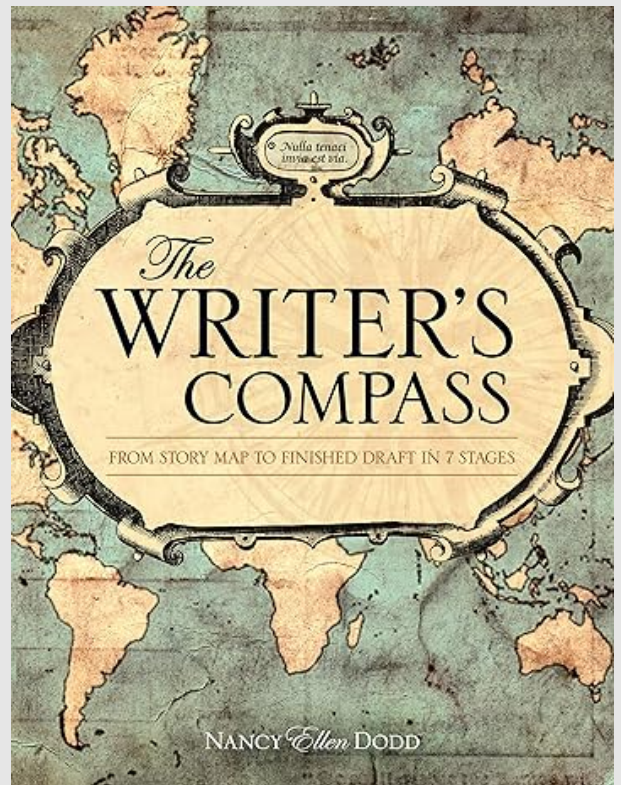
Nancy Ellen Dodd earned an MPW (master's in professional writing) and an MFA (in playwriting) from USC. Her book, *The Writer's Compass: From Story Map to Finished Draft in 7 Stages* (Writers Digest), covers the creative storytelling process. She formerly taught advanced screenwriting at Pepperdine's 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.

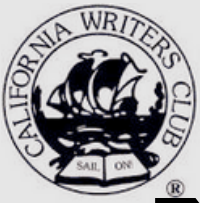
Spark: Learning the Process

Spark is that aha moment when an idea ignites. Understanding your process and the rhythm for igniting spark may influence what and how you write, how to develop good ideas, and when you are allowing spark killers to stop you. Dodd will present her recent research from interviews with those who have succeeded, as well historical documentation of successful people, in the arts, on the importance of spark. This will be an interactive program and intertwined will be her knowledge and experience as an editor and writer.

Nancy Ellen Dodd, MPW, MFA, PhD Candidate
Creative Consultant | Author | Lecturer

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





WRITERS OF KERN

NEWSLETTER



WRITERS OF KERN MEETING OCTOBER 21, 2023 FEATURED JENNY MARGOTTA

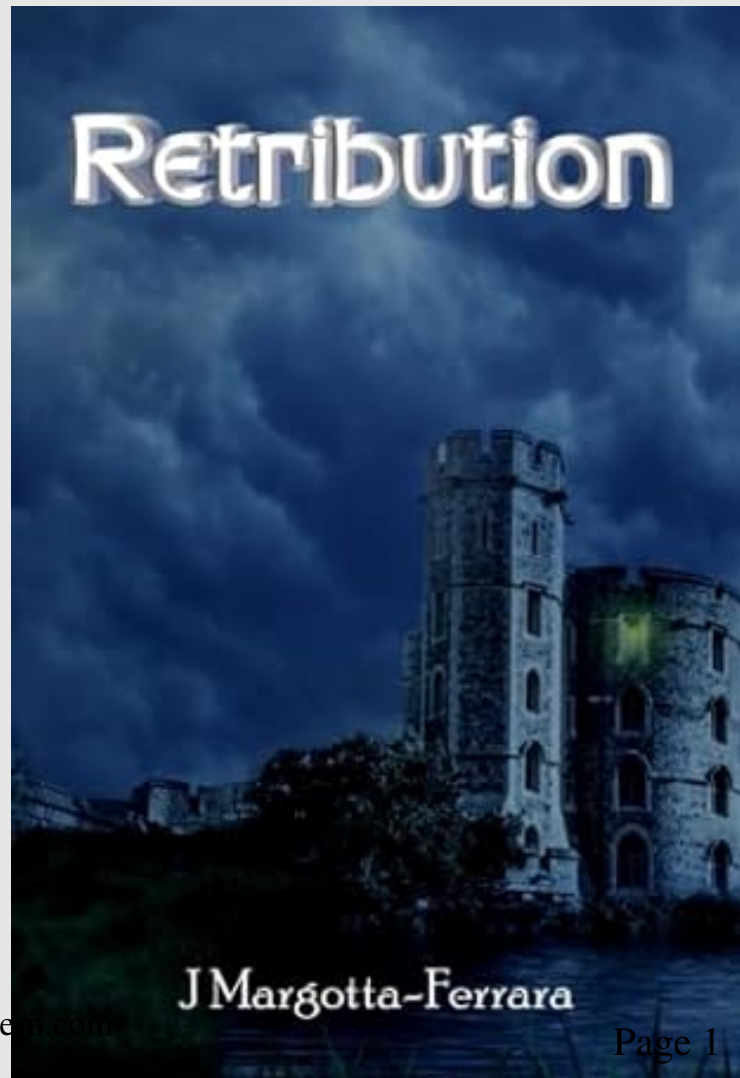
Writing as J Margotta-Ferrara, she is the author of four books, most notably the braided memoir, *The Woman in Room 23. Retribution, Resolution, and Some Like it Hot: The Culinary Adventures of One Hot Momma and One Cool Dude.*

EFFECTIVE SELF-EDITING

Jenny Margotta was charismatic and entertaining as she delighted us with an informative, enlightening workshop with many suggestions and ideas to improve writing skills. Among her ideas, Jenny suggested practicing daily with periodical reviews so that all of the edits don't mountain into a gigantic project.

She encouraged proofreading aloud and advised us to use Word to track changes and mark ideas in the view screen. Jenny, being the professional proofreader and editor that she is, warmly recommended that if things seem insurmountable, step away from your project for a while and take a break. "Remember," she eloquently said, "the right word can truly enhance a story."

Jenny Margotta used all the right words and all her beautiful incite to make this a workshop to remember.



WRITERS OF KERN

Thank You



TO JENNETTE GREEN,

Incoming officers of the Writers of Kern as well as our members and guests wish to express our sincerest gratitude to WOK Secretary Jennette Green for her continued dedication, diligence, and hard work. No one can type like Jennette. Within minutes of every board meeting, Jennette sends out perfectly formatted notes in clear, concise order. At every board meeting, conference, Writers of Kern breakfast, and dinner event, Jennette 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.

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 Thanksgiving

**Thursday, Nov 23, 2023
is Thanksgiving!**

Thanksgiving Day, annual national holiday in the United States and Canada celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year.

Spotlight on Cyn Bermudez



Writers of Kern has been around since 1996. That is when great minds first got together with writers in Bakersfield and surrounding communities to provide a forum for published and pre-published writers to share ideas, hone their craft, and encourage each other.

As the new president of Writers of Kern, I would like to thank those who paved the way before me. This is particularly important in that when I volunteered to run for this position I had no clue regarding the amount of work that goes into the mechanics of the job. Today, I would like to acknowledge our friend and Writers of Kern past president Cynthia Bermudez for outstanding leadership and dedication.

THANK YOU

Cyn Bermudez is a Filipino-Mexican author, poet, and artist living in California. She is the author of the *Brothers* series, *And the Moon Follows*, *The Dragons Club*, *Graffiti Heart*, and more. When she is not working or writing, she's making art, doing yoga, baking grain-free bread, or playing board games. Cyn writes in multiple genres and is a hybrid author with both independent and traditional publications.

Thank you, Cynthia, 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.

Tami Beaulieu – Still-Learning-President
Writers of Kern



WRITERS OF KERN

Fall Writing Contest



**The Writers of Kern Fall Writing Contest
Is now closed!**

**TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE FALL WRITING
CONTEST:**

THANK YOU!

Thank you for participating in the Fall Writing contest. Your continued activity and support not only can earn you money but also encourages other writers.

Our winners will be announced and the cash prizes will be awarded at the Winter Dinner on Saturday, December 16, 2023. We hope everyone attends this festive and fun function. At the Winter Dinner, the winning short story will be read aloud.

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.

Phyllis Wachob, Chair of the Fall Writing Contest

November, 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.

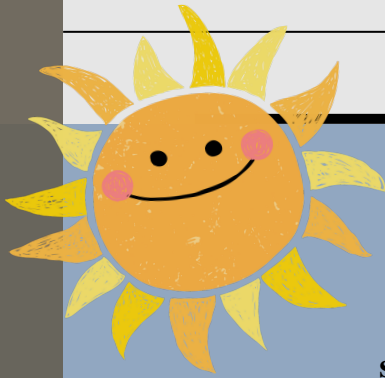
Hodel's Country Dining is a locally owned and operated restaurant celebrating 50 years of tradition as Kern County's best buffet.

Welcome

First-time visitors are
always welcome.



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

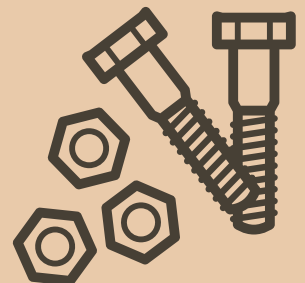
Nuts and Bolts

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





November, 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 DISTINGUISHED WRITER

SANDY MOFFETT

SANDY MOFFETT



Sandy was born born Sandy Lynn Helm to Marshall “Digger” and June Helm on February 27, 1958. Her sister Kristi Joy Helm joined her family in 1960. Both of her parents remarried when she was quite young, and through this came the blessing of siblings to our extended families..

Sandy is a multifaceted writer, singer, poet, speaker, retired funeral director, mother, grandmother, and wife to child star James Gregory “Greg” Moffett.

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.

Ina Coolbrith Service Award

Every other year, the CWC Central Board, bestows this award on a member for exemplary service to CWC and/or the Central Board. This year, CWC nominated our own Sandy Moffett. Sandy received her award at the annual corporate meeting on Sunday, October 22, at the Oakland Airport Holiday Inn.

Congratulations!

Writers of Kern is proud of your accomplishment.





WRITERS OF KERN DISTINGUISHED WRITER

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.

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.

Congratulations!

Jack London Award

On Saturday, October 22nd, the California Writers Club awarded our own Donnée Padgett-Harris with the Jack London Award in recognition of outstanding service to the organization. This is a tremendous honor. We at Writers of Kern could not be more proud of Donnée. She is an inspiration and a friend to all.



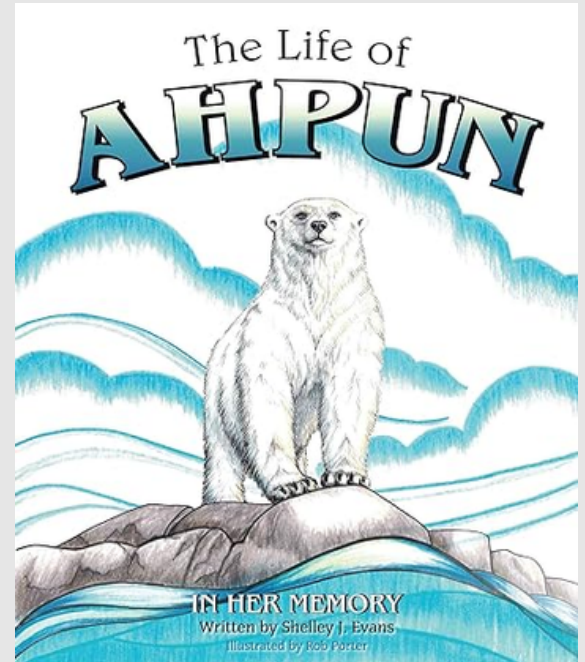


WRITERS OF KERN FEATURED AUTHOR

SHELLEY EVANS

Shelley Evans

It was destiny for Shelley Evans to be poetically inclined, named after the English Romantic poet whose last name was Shelley. She began writing poetry as a child, and several of her pieces have been published in anthologies and chapbooks. She performs regularly at monthly open mic nights and at yearly CA State University Bakersfield poetry events. Shelley and her husband of 46 years have 3 grown daughters and a dog. Not only was Shelley awarded several blue ribbons and honors for her poetry at the Kern County Fair, Shelley was The Featured Speaker for Kern Poetry at Dagnys, dazzling the crowd with her poems, passion, and dazzling personality.





November, 2023

WRITERS OF KERN FEATURED AUTHOR

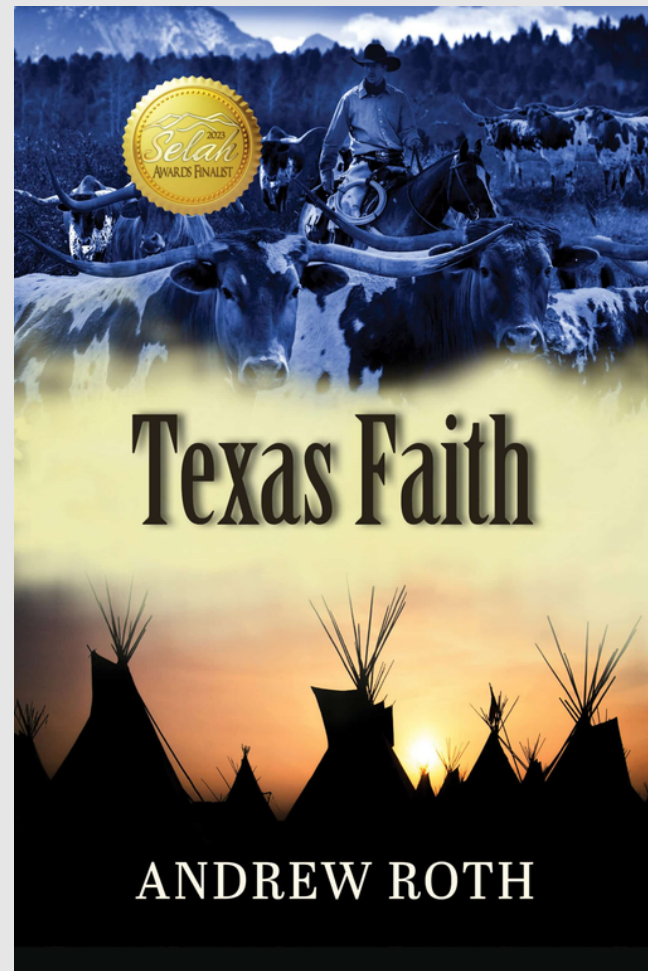
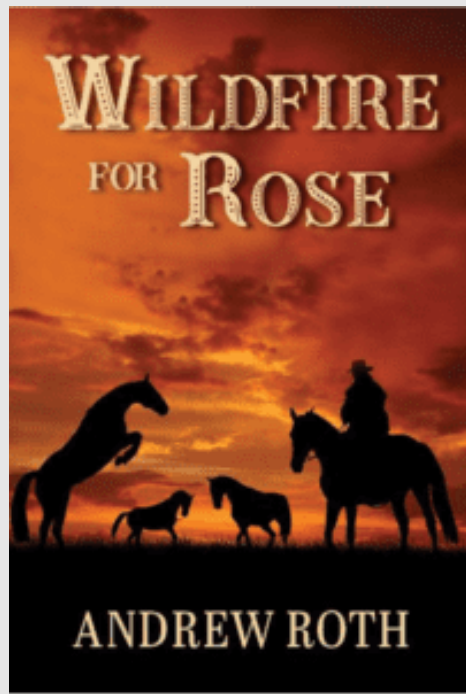
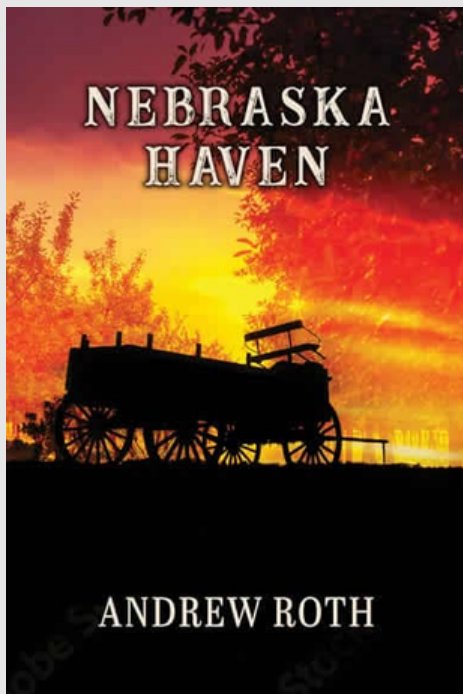
ANDREW ROTH



Andrew Roth



Andrew started writing historical fiction novels in 2013, attending writer's conferences up and down the state, pitching his books to publishers until he landed his first contract. A decade later, his 8th novel will be released this month, and he signed a contract for another. Andrew is a Selah finalist and recently received the Will Rogers Gold Medallion for Best Inspirational Western of 2022. In addition, Andrew is now making audio versions of two of his books.





WRITERS OF KERN FEATURED AUTHOR

ANDREW ROTH

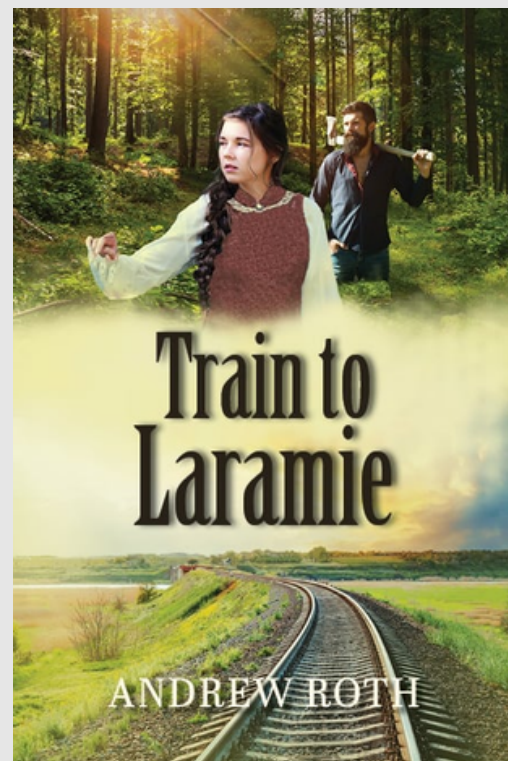
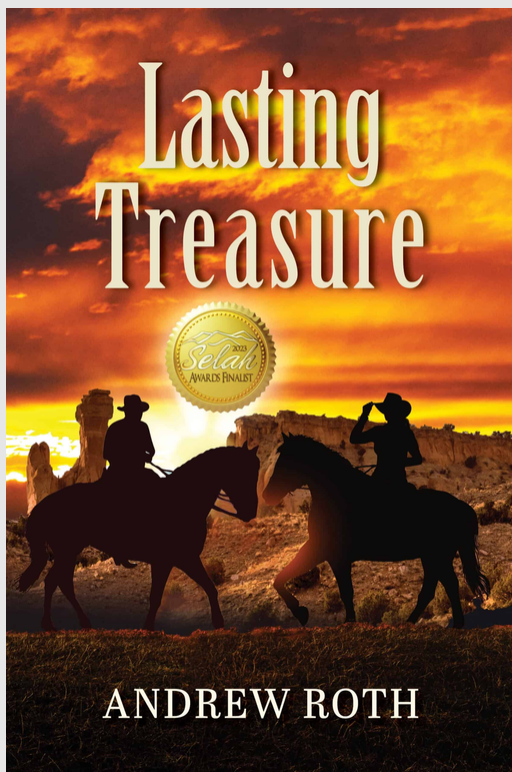


Andrew Roth



Andrew Roth served in the U.S. Army before attending college, where he received a degree in English Literature and a supplemental degree in History. He taught American History for twenty-two years at the middle school level before beginning his literary career. He lives in Bakersfield, California, with his wife and is a proud father and grandfather. A native of Kansas, Andrew was raised with a deep love and appreciation for history, particularly the Old West. A Christian for more than three decades, Andrew's hope is that his writing will encourage readers and rebuild lives.

Andrew is a vital member of Writers of Kern. He attends almost every meeting, providing honest critiques, writing advice, and encouragement. Writers of Kern is honored to have you.



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
November 3rd
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.

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SEPTEMBER 23 - NOVEMBER 11
THE WITCHES OF WESTCHESTER

Stars theatre

YOUNG FRANKENGTEIN

October 13th - November 4th

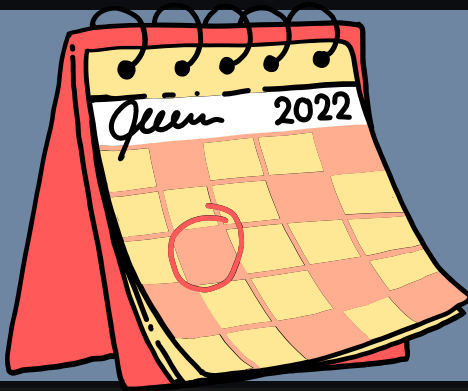


FIRST FRIDAY FREE ADMISSION
EXTENDED HOURS: 10AM-8PM
IN PARTICIPATION WITH DOWNTOWN BAKERSFIELD'S FIRST FRIDAY EVENTS.
BMOA IS PROUD TO OFFER COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSION WITH EXTENDED HOURS UNTIL 8PM.



WRITERS OF KERN

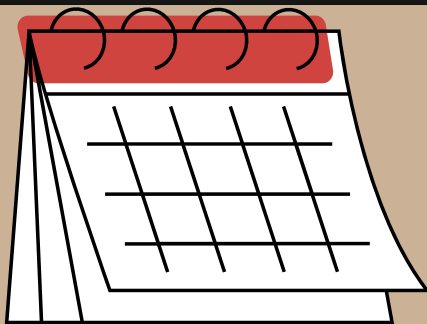
Mark Your Calander



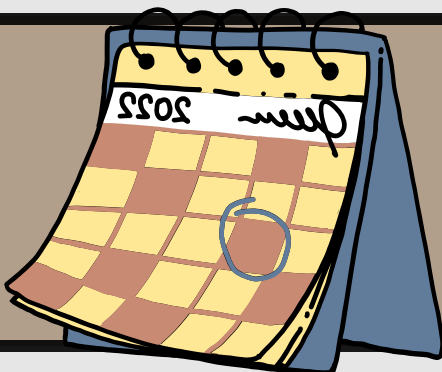
NOVEMBER 18, 2023
NANCY DODD
Spark: Learning the Process



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.



FEBRUARY 17, 2024
Phyllis Wachob

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
CINNATI
REVIEW

UNIVERSITY OF
Cincinnati



NARRATIVE

Next Generation
INDE
BOOK
AWARDS

The
Washington
Post

THE GEORGIA REVIEW



QUARTERLY
SINCE 1947.

AGNI