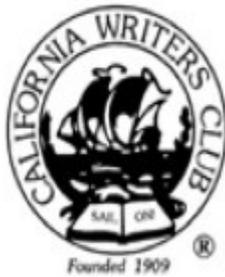


March  
2017



### President's Message *Conference High*

Yesterday I attended our annual Spring Conference. Four incredible speakers motivated and encouraged our attendees during the all-day event. There's something special about being around other writers, especially during a conference. More time to visit. More time to learn. More time to be with like-minded folks. I went home yesterday tired, yet incredibly inspired.

Our first speaker, Jeremy Adams, energized the room by encouraging us not to quit. No matter how hard it gets, keep moving forward. Then Dennis VanderWerff gave us ideas for stories, our own family histories. Next Jennifer Burger took the mystery out of query letters, and last Daniel Stallings give us ideas on promoting our finished work in an interactive way. We were taken from point A (the beginning of writing) to point D (creative marketing).

On the way home, all I could think of were my works in progress. Wondering which point in the A-D I was at in each project. Calculating how long it would take me to go through all the steps. I went to bed early but woke at 3:30 am, unable to go back to sleep from mulling over the previous day's events. At first I was frustrated, but then I recognized I was experiencing "Conference High" - *The inability to sleep through the night for the days (and weeks) following a life-changing creative event that wakes you in the middle of the night because excitement keeps running through your veins.* While awake, I journaled the ideas rushing through my mind – ideas for new fiction, non-fiction, and children's stories. Ideas for markets for my written stories. Ideas for query letters. Ideas for interactive media promotions. After a few hours, I snuggled back

## Calendar

### Meeting Schedule 2017

Mark your personal calendars for these dates

**April 22, 2017 (4<sup>th</sup> Saturday)**

Jennifer Burger, CSUB  
"Narrative Nonfiction and the Human Experience"

**May 20, 2017**

WOK Honors Dinner  
at Hodel's

### Now Available!

*Writers of Kern is proud to announce the publication of "Overcoming Adversity" an anthology of winning entries from the Young Writers of Kern Competition held this past May.*

*Now here's a teaser – the cover art. You could win the original, framed and signed. Draw tickets are available at Members meetings.*

up under the covers and managed to sleep a bit before the alarm sounded. But, even though we sprung forward this morning (not my favorite day of the year) I was ready to get up and start the day, still filled with inspiration and ideas to explore.

For those of you who were fortunate to attend the conference, I hope you were as inspired as I was. I hope you are also experiencing a burst of creative energy and a new-found motivation to pursue new ideas. Enjoy the Conference High and take advantage of it for as long as it lasts.

*Joan Raymond*

## Meetings

Joan supplied the words about the Spring Conference. Here, thanks to John Skibinski, are some pictures:



*The Spring Conference in Action!*

# Activate!

**2017 TRI-VALLEY WRITERS CONFERENCE**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017**

The Tri-Valley Writers Conference is a full-day event on the art and business of writing. Held Saturday, April 22, 2017, the focus will be on craft, marketing and self-publishing. Attendees will have an opportunity to win \$150 in prizes. This is a great way to network with authors, marketers and innovators who share a passion for writing.

Date: Saturday, April 22, 2017

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

<http://www.trivalleywriters.org/conferences/conference2017/registration/>





Jeremy Adams, speaker



James Brown, vendor



Shirley Castro, vendor



Daniel Stallings, speaker

## *Opportunity from California Writers Club*

The CWC has arranged for an exciting member discount, approved by the Central Board at its January meeting:

CWC has arranged for its members a discount of more than 50% for the BookExpo New Title Showcase exhibit, June 1-4 at the Javits Convention Center in NYC. The New Title Showcase is an official exhibit of BookExpo. We are working with the Combined Book Exhibit who manages the New Title Showcase for BookExpo which is the major book industry event in the US. We are now able to offer CWC members a significant discount to display their books at this major event with either a print book, ebook or both. A print display will cost \$150 (published rate \$315); an ebook display at \$150 (published rate \$315); or a combo rate of \$210 (published rate \$525). The cost includes the physical display of your book with full cover showing, a fully searchable online catalog and database, and listing in the New Title Showcase print catalogue and/or ebook electronic display. To participate, members will register and pay directly with Combined Book Exhibit,

[https://secure.combinedbook.com/cbe\\_reseller/cwc/](https://secure.combinedbook.com/cbe_reseller/cwc/).

The deadline for registration is May 13. CWC will not be involved in the transactions.

***Donna McCrohan Rosenthal***



# Nuts & Bolts



Erica Lawson, YWOK author



Javier Garcia III, YWOK author



Ethan Howard, YWOK author



Athena Brandon, YWOK author

Special kudos to the four Young Writers of Kern who contributed to the anthology *Overcoming Adversity* and also devoted time to signing copies. Fame sometimes starts young!

Regular monthly meetings 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. See [www.writersofkern.com](http://www.writersofkern.com) to pay admission online.

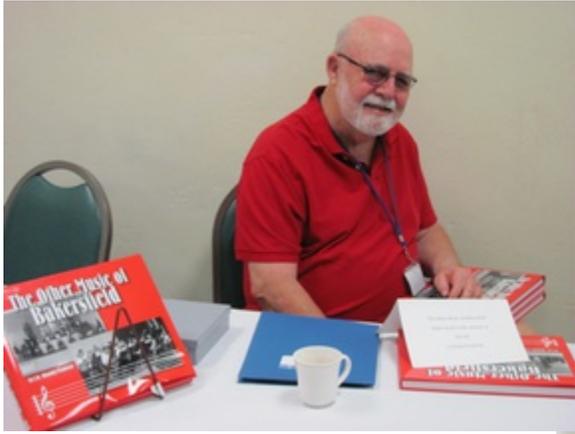
New members are always welcome, both Active [previously published] and Associate [not yet published]. Writers of Kern energetically assists Associate Members who aspire to become Active.

Writers of Kern welcomes submissions of members' writing for the newsletter and the website. Send prose, memoir, poetry and essays to the Webmaster, and send book reviews and articles of general interest to the newsletter editor.

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**The Write Way  
February 2017  
Copyright The Writers of Kern  
PO Box 22335  
Bakersfield, CA 93390-2335**

\*\*\*\*\*



Randy Fendrick, vendor



Dennis VanderWerff, speaker



Jennifer Burger, speaker



Sam Yocum, vendor

## The Writers of Kern Executive Board

**President & Program Chair:**

**Joan Raymond**

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

**Vice President: Dan McGuire**

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

**Treasurer & Webmaster**

**Dennis VanderWerff**

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

**Member-at-Large, CB Rep &  
SoCal District Rep: Dan McGuire**

**Hospitality/Sunshine: Annis Cassells**

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

**Events:**

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**Information:**

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

**Submissions:**

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

**Website:**

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

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/writersofkern/>

# Members

## Welcome Aboard!

*Rossely Harman  
Christy Gavin  
Sudha Reddy  
Jana Wong*

We all look forward to your active participation in Writers of Kern activities.

# Poetry

Writers of Kern celebrates National Poetry Month (aka April) with a month-long poetry slam. Each day, a WOK member's poem will be featured on the website blog. Thirty days' worth of poetry. It doesn't get much better.

Published or not-yet-published works by aspiring, practicing, or experienced poets are welcome.

To participate, send your poems to [submissions@writersofkern.com](mailto:submissions@writersofkern.com). Include your poem(s), your head shot, and a 50-word bio when you submit.

**We can't wait to read your poems.**

## The Poetry Cup Overfloweth...

*Extra-Special Community Poetry Event*  
**Juan Felipe Herrera, U.S. Poet Laureate to  
appear at Bakersfield College  
March 29 at 7:00 PM**



This year's Annual Levan Lecture features Juan Felipe Herrera at BC's Indoor Theater, the Simonsen Performing Arts Center.

Herrera, the 21<sup>st</sup> Poet Laureate of the United States, is the first Latino to hold the position. He will discuss the power of poetry in the lives of people and communities in his talk, "Surveillance, Violence, Creativity and Compassion."

In addition to poetry, Herrera is the author of a novel in verse and several children's books, one of which was adapted into a musical for young audiences. He is also a performance artist and activist on behalf of migrant and indigenous communities and at-risk youth.

*Annis Cassels*

# Writing

## Critique Corner

### *Pitch Perfect Critique Camp*

The heart of your story, the hook of the reader boils down to the pitch. Whether you're readying for querying or finishing that novel—you must have an iron clad pitch. It's the foundation of a manuscript and the skeleton of the characters.

At Writers of Kern, we'll do more than help outline the importance, we'll *show* you. Join our online Pitch Perfect Critique Camp. Choose one of the following live sessions and put your name in the ring for a \$100 Amazon Gift Card for the Pitch Perfect Critique Camp Winner.

The winner will be announced on April 14<sup>th</sup> in a live video (explaining how and why the winning pitch was chosen).

#### Requirements:

- Must have current CWC/WOK membership (or pay \$25 entry fee)
- Must have access to a computer/camera for live sessions
- Must have access to word processor
- Register via [critiquecamp@gmail.com](mailto:critiquecamp@gmail.com)

Sessions: April 12<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
April 13<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) 7 p.m.— 8 p.m.

You do *not* need to attend a session to participate in the drawing, however the sessions allow for critiques, pointers and suggestions.

*Clarissa Kae*

## The A-to-Z Blog Challenge Update

Terry Redman: <https://terrystdesk.com>

Already reached Z on Feb 20, but skipped a few

Donnee Harris: <http://good-bad-bipolar disorder.blogspot.com/>

Up to J by March 13

Joan Kerr: [www.travelswithrobby.com](http://www.travelswithrobby.com)

No alphabet yet, but wonderful animals and travel.

Jenny Estes – [jennyestes.org](http://jennyestes.org)

Five posts this year, all colorful.

Martha Warriner: [marthawarrinerjarrett.com](http://marthawarrinerjarrett.com)

Eight posts on 'A Rough Season'

Anna Stewart: [ontheink.blogspot.com](http://ontheink.blogspot.com)

A and B so far..

Sandy Moffett: [www.sandymoffett.com](http://www.sandymoffett.com)

Three posts

Joan Raymond: <http://joanraymondwriting.com/blog/>

Three posts, on top of everything else she does.

Judy Kukuza: [definitionstruths.blogspot.com](http://definitionstruths.blogspot.com)

Working methodically, has posted A-to-I

Ian Cant: [www.khotisarque.com](http://www.khotisarque.com)

Methodical but slow, posted A-to-G so far

**Bloggers thrive on readers – check out the wide variety of topics and styles, some you'll like and some you'll like more. All conversation starters.**