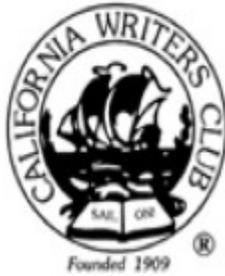


May
2017



President's Message

WOK Honors

Are you planning on attending WOK Honors? What was that, you don't know what I'm talking about? I'm sure you've heard of these prestigious awards and the celebration associated with them: the Grammy (excellence in the music industry), the Oscar (excellence in the film industry), the Tony (excellence in Broadway theater), and the Emmy (excellence in the television industry). And then there's Kennedy Center Honors (recognition given to those in the performing arts for their lifetime of contributions to American culture).

At Writers of Kern, we believe in recognizing members and writers in our community for their contributions to our club and for excellence in writing. That event is better known as WOK Honors.

On Saturday, May 20, Writers of Kern will roll out the red carpet, gather at Hodel's, and honor Blog Challenge Survivors, Peggy Connelly Scholarship winners, the Robert C. Hargreaves Achievement Award winner, The Jack London Award honoree, WOK volunteers, Newly Pinned and Active members. A special new award will be presented. An additional highlight of WOK Honors is presenting awards to the 18 Young Writers of Kern (YWOK) writing competition winners.

Two new features this year are the chance to buy the anthology of stories from the 2016 YWOK winners along with an opportunity to win the professionally framed, original cover art from the anthology. Proceeds from sales will help publish the 2017 anthology. Books and raffle tickets will be available for purchase and the raffle winner will be announced during the event.

I look forward to this event each year because this is our night to shine the spotlight on

Calendar

Meeting Schedule 2017

Mark your personal calendars for these dates

May 20, 2017

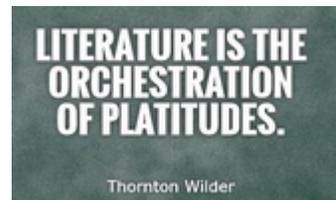
WOK Honors Dinner
at Hodel's

June 17, 2017

Clarissa Kae
{Topic to be announced}

July 15, 2017

Aaron Gansky
{topic to be announced}



many deserving individuals. It is our night to award those who have made a difference for our club, honed their writing skills, and persisted no matter their circumstances. Follow this link for more information and to RSVP: <http://writersofkern.com/wok-honors-dinner/>

Registration deadline May 12, 2017. Please consider being a part of this memorable evening and supporting your fellow writers.

Meetings

Membership Meeting April 22, 2017

Jennifer Burger, lecturer at California State University, Bakersfield, working with the student paper “The Runner”(14 awards), a feature writer for newspapers, spoke to the W.O.K. members and guests at the monthly meeting. Her topic was non-fiction writing.

Ms. Burger listed seven key points to bring real life situations, people, and facts to life in non-fiction writing. They were as follows:

1. Compelling leads—this can start with an opening tense scene, an anecdote, or anything to immediately engage the reader.
2. Theme—what is the story about and the recurring theme? What is the *real story* below the surface story? The *real theme* is explicit and answers core, hard questions.
3. Direct quotes—brought about via the interviewer asking open-ended questions (*why*), details, five senses questions.
4. Details—both seen and unseen details. There are 22 senses for description as one tries to describe scenes, people, feelings.
5. Dialogue—between two people interacting/conversing. The writer would be the fly on the wall, observing, listening to interaction taking place.
6. Anecdotes—generally are examples an interviewer will ask for clarification/gain more detail that will aid in relating/connecting readers to the larger story. Can be used as an opener or throughout.

Joan Raymond

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 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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7. Strong ending—leaving a lasting impression on the reader. It will often circle back to the lead via facts presented. It can also be a “nugget of details”—a surprise (nugget) at the end not previously exposed.

Jennifer was asked what she got from presenting to the W.O.K. members. Her response —“I get to share techniques of journalism... and be an ambassador. I also love the research preparing a presentation. Makes me a better teacher.”

Thank you, Jennifer!

Judy Kukuza

Members

Welcome Aboard!

Three new members:

Carla Martin
Diane Lobre
Janice Konstantinidis

and two new Active members:

Christy Gavin
Rebecca Langston-George

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

A Huge Thank You to new volunteers to help run WOK:

Bethane Banks, Renee Geffken, Judy Kukuza
Diane Lobre, Dan Morgan, Mary Morton
Nelson Varon, Many Wallace

The Writers of Kern Executive Board

President & Program Chair:
Joan Raymond
president@writersofkern.com

Vice President: Dan McGuire
vicepresident@writersofkern.com

Treasurer & Webmaster
Dennis VanderWerff
treasurer@writersofkern.com
webmaster@writersofkern.com

Secretary: Janet Skibinski
secretary@writersofkern.com

Membership: Jenny Estes
membership@writersofkern.com

Critique Coordinator: Clarissa Kae
critiques@writersofkern.com

Newsletter: Ian Cant
newsletter@writersofkern.com

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

Hospitality/Sunshine: Annis Cassells
sunshine@writersofkern.com

Events:
events@writersofkern.com

Information:
info@writersofkern.com

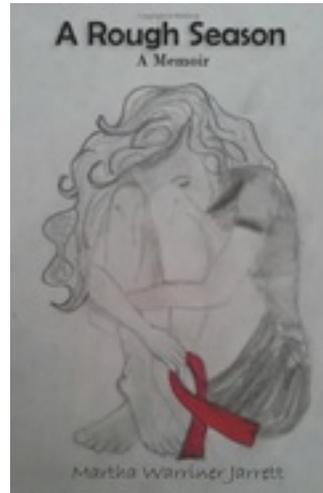
Submissions:
submissions@writersofkern.com

Website:
www.writersofkern.com

Facebook:

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

Successes



Martha Jarrett on her new book *A Rough Season*:

I've fallen way behind on my blog posts, mainly because I've been so busy working on book promotion. I'm currently ranked #10 on Kindle and #30 on paperback for books on AIDS. I sent out my electronic press kit to local media on Monday. There'll be an announcement of my book launch in the Californian on the day of the book launch party at Art Center Gallery. And I'll be interviewed on the morning news (on KBAK/KBFX) on Wednesday, May 17 (the day before my book launch). I know they often repeat soft news stories all day long, so hopefully, my interview will air on both stations for the entire news day. I dropped off a copy of my book yesterday so they can look at it before they interview me. Stay tuned.

Several friends from LA are driving up for the launch party on May 18, and the head of public affairs for Planned Parenthood in Fresno will be coming too. We're taking him to dinner at Chef's Choice Noodle Bar (catty cornered to the Gallery). We're working together to get me involved in PP's HIV education and testing programs so I can do some speaking for them.

Poetry

The 2017 National Poetry Month Website PoetrySlam is a Hit

Seventeen poets unveiled their work on the Writers of Kern website during the 2017 National Poetry Month Website PoetrySlam! Serious, introspective, humorous, reminiscent, fun, and thought-provoking poems graced our page. If you missed any, or want to savor them once again, visit www.writersofkern.com and go to the BLOG tab. Our delight and thanks to all who participated:

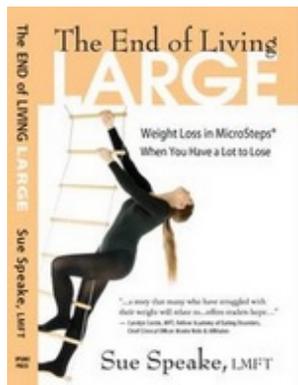
Anke Hodenpijl, Annis Cassells, Dan Morgan, Donnée Harris, Janet Skibinski, Joan Raymond, Khoti Sarque, Nelson Varon, Portia Choi, Rebecca Langston-George, Sandy Moffett, Shelley Evans, Stephanie Gibson, Sudha Reddy, Terry McGhee, Terry Redman, and Warren Pechin.

NPM Kudos

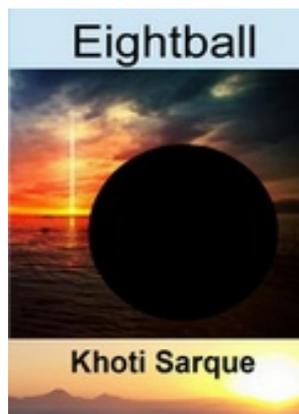
Poems by Writers of Kern members Anke Hodenpijl, Annis Cassells, Jana Wong, Portia Choi, and Shelley Evans appear in *Writing Work: A Collection of Poems from the Southern San Joaquin Valley*. The poets participated in a reading at California State University, Bakersfield.

CONFLICT IS THE SOUL OF LITERATURE

ERICA JONG



Sue Speake's new book *THE END OF LIVING LARGE: Weight Loss in MicroSteps® When You Have a Lot to Lose* was just named a Finalist in the HEALTH/WELLNESS (NON-FICTION) Category of the 2017 Next Generation Indie Book Awards (NGIBA). They emailed her: 'Your achievement will be published in the next few weeks at www.IndieBookAwards.com along with the other Finalists and Winners. We will be sending out a Press Release announcing the Grand Prize Winners and advising media where they can see the complete list of Winners and Finalists. Your book will be listed as a Finalist in the 2017 NGIBA catalog and distributed at Book Expo America (BEA) in New York as a countertop handout at registration desks. Your book will be promoted to book buyers, book lovers and library reps along with media and industry professionals.'



Finally, the SF novel *Eightball* by Ian Cant's evil twin, Khoti Sarque, has been published in Kindle and paperback editions.

Kern County's National Poetry Month is a Success Once Again

Thanks to Writers of Kern member Portia Choi in collaboration with Dagny's Coffee, Arts Council of Kern, the Art & Spirituality Center, CSUB, and Kern Poetry, National Poetry Month in Bakersfield proved to be a successful venture that provided many opportunities for expression for our growing poetry community. "There is a demand and need for poets to express themselves through readings," Choi said.

Festivities culminated with a reading and conversation with Kern County Poet Laureate Don Thompson.

"Poetry's about language, mystery, sentimentality, history. It's about being happy," he told the audience



Don Thompson

of about 25 who gathered April 29 at Dagny's Coffee. He shared the poem, "Traveling Through the Dark," by William Stafford and confided this was the poem that hooked him in his youth. After reading from his own work as well as Shakespeare, Rilke, and Wallace Stevens, he happily took questions from the group.

The final part of the day's program included an Open Mic section during which WOK members Terry Redman, Shelley Evans, and Annis Cassells read original works and Portia Choi ended with a poem from Thompson's 2012 chapbook, *Everything Barren will be Blessed*.