

August  
2018



## President's Message

For years I've visited clients and conferences alike and the greatest frustration I've heard writers express is the lack of community in their local cities. It's easy for us here in California to take for granted our WOK family and all that it entails. Writers pretend to be lone wolves but we secretly crave that pat on the back from our fellow bibliophiles. Creating characters worthy of sharing is a passion—or cross to bear, depending on the writing day—that binds us as authors.

Yet in the last month, I received nearly thirty emails from shocked Bakersfield residents. Each and every email expressed pleasant surprise that California's Central Valley had a writing group of its own. It's a little ironic that an organization uniting writers has yet to "spread the word" to our own family and friends.

And so, I challenge you (and myself) to open our mouths, extend an invitation and invite budding writers to a meeting. We've revamped our Student Membership with a low \$10 annual fee and for those eighteen and younger meeting fees are waived.

We hope to expand our reach and include members from all walks of life whether they are young in years, young in spirit or on the periphery of society—Writers of Kern has a place for everyone.

*Clarissa*



# Calendar

## Schedule 2018

Mark your personal calendars for these dates

**August 18, 2018**

**Donnee and Marcus Harris**

“Self-Publishing Systems”

**August 31, 2018, Membership Renewal Deadline**

**September 1, 2018 Fall Writing Contest Accepting Submissions**

**September 15, 2018**

**Joan Raymond**

“Developing Three-Dimensional Characters”

**October 20, 2018**

**Joey Garcia**

“Writing About Love and Relationships:  
A Guide for All Ages”

**November 17, 2018**

**Mar Preston**

“Suspense: Not Just for Crime Fiction”

**December 8, 2018**

**Winter Dinner**

# Meetings

**August 18th 2018 Monthly Meeting**

***Featured Speakers – Donnee and Marcus Harris***

**“Self-Publishing Systems”**



***Donnee and Marcus Harris***

Ready to self-publish your book but don't know where to start?  
Join Writers of Kern and First Draft Publishing executive duo, Marcus and Donnée Harris, and discover exactly how to create and market a self-published book readers will love to buy.

# Nuts & Bolts

Regular monthly meetings of Writers of Kern 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. Visit [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 both the newsletter and the website. For prose, memoir, poetry and essays submit to the Webmaster. For book reviews and articles of general interest, submit to the newsletter editor.

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**The Write Way  
August 2018  
Copyright The Writers of Kern  
PO Box 22335  
Bakersfield CA 93390-2335**

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This writers' workshop will cover the tools you need to publish and sell a manuscript, how to use easy social media resources to find new readers, and how to make the most of Amazon's self-publishing platform.

More here: <https://writersofkern.com/2018/07/26/self-publishing-workshop/>

# Members

**“Let the Sunshine in!”** Your WOK Sunshine Committee is dedicated to acknowledging members’ personal successes and challenges. Stephanie Apsit sends birthday, get well, congratulations, and condolence cards to our membership.

How can you help? Contact us at [sunshine@writersofkern.com](mailto:sunshine@writersofkern.com) and make us aware of the need for a card. We appreciate your help in spreading the sunshine!

## The Importance of Critique Groups

Some people feel they know the basics of writing. They can describe people, settings and emotions. Others may be unsure of themselves as writers. Still others could be over confident and feel they don’t need anyone’s input or criticism. However, all these writers can benefit from being part of a critique group.

For those who haven’t participated in a critique group, the most important thing to remember is you are joined by other writers who wish to improve no matter their level of skill. Perhaps, the most accomplished writer thinks that her story is clear and understandable. To her, it is. But another person will it and wonder what she meant.

The novice may feel he can’t write anything remotely interesting only to find out the critique group is in awe of what he just put down on paper. Maybe he needs a stronger word here and there. But he may also have written a phrase that is so poetic the group asks how he came up with it.

To me being part of a critique group is like being part of a support group in a non-threatening atmosphere. Each person has been in your shoes at some point. My writing has become better thanks to my critique group. If you aren’t in one now, I encourage you to join one. Come to the next Writers of Kern meeting and ask for more information from any of the Board. This is a benefit of your membership. Use it!

*Janet*

## The Writers of Kern Executive Board

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