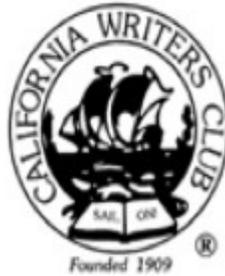


Nov  
2018



### President's Message



It must've been fate as I've had two completely different President's Message be deleted over the course of a week. The first was an apology over a miscommunication with the last speaker, the second was an all-out beggar's plea for volunteers and now this—a newfound gratitude for the literary community.

My daughters began a kindness campaign roughly two years ago and although publicly it appears their message has resonated but behind closed doors and through the veiled darkness that only anonymous emails and profiles can provide, there's been a deep ugliness. Pure, unadulterated kindness somehow threatens the very souls of people—not unlike raw and well told stories. Books take readers outside of themselves, asking them to stop looking through their own glasses but their neighbors'.

One by one, authors, editors and agents have extended beautiful messages of hope to my daughters. It's this community (that is sadly is used to being silenced) that has linked arms with this rising generation and their Kindness Revolution. It is November, the month we tend to stop and glorify gratitude—and today, I am no different.

I am grateful for the stories, the lives and the books we read and write—and more importantly, share. We are the storymakers, the "changer of lives" as my youngest daughter likes to say. And so, I say, thank you.

## Calendar

### Schedule 2018

Mark your personal calendars for these dates

December 8, 2018  
Winter Dinner



Thank you for chugging along on the uphill battle to publication.  
Thank you for submitting despite the mountain of rejection letters.  
And thank you for rallying around the under dogs and the silenced.

*Clarissa Kae*

## Nuts & Bolts

# Meetings

**November 20th 2018 Monthly Meeting**

***Featured Speaker – Mar Preston***



*Mar Preston*

This Saturday, keep readers fidgeting and turning pages with these...wait for it...cliff-hanging suspense tips from crime novelist, Mar Preston.

Preston will cover some of her best tips for injecting any fiction story with page-turning suspense. From structure and stakes to conflict and pacing—there are many places to

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Write Way  
November 2018  
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PO Box 22335  
Bakersfield CA 93390-2335**

build suspense into your story. After Mar's workshop, you'll know exactly how to spot them and the best techniques to pull it off.

As always, members and guests are welcome.

Where: Hodel's Country Dining, 5917 Knudsen Drive in Bakersfield.

When: Saturday, 17 November, 8:45am-11:30am.

How to Get In: [Pay now online](#) or at the door. \$10 for members. \$15 for guests. All tickets include a buffet breakfast.

See you there, writer!

### **SUBMIT YOUR BEST WORK TO THE CWC LITERARY REVIEW**

The California Writers Club is looking for great writing from our members for publication in the 2019 CWC *Literary Review*.

Submissions are now being accepted in four categories: fiction, poetry, memoir and essay. For guidelines and the required submission form, go to the CWC website, [calwriters.org](http://calwriters.org). Deadline is November 30, so don't delay.

This year instead of the traditional Managing Editor, the *Literary Review* is chaired by four volunteers: Tish Davidson (Fremont Area Writers), Kimberly Edwards (Sacramento), June Gillam (San Joaquin Valley) and CWC President Joyce Krieg. The team points out that even though the publication has "literary" in its title, genre fiction is welcome, as are pieces that are humorous or deal with lighter themes and topics. The emphasis is simply on good writing that entertains, informs or inspires, regardless of style or subject matter.

The CWC *Literary Review* offers members the opportunity to showcase their work in a high quality, glossy print magazine that is sent through the U.S. mail to some 2,000 fellow CWC members. Publication of the next edition is slated for May or June of 2019.

### **The Writers of Kern Executive Board**

**President & Program Chair: Clarissa Kae**  
[president@writersofkern.com](mailto:president@writersofkern.com)

**Vice President: Donnee Harris**  
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**Treasurer: Martha Jarrett**  
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**Hospitality/Sunshine: Annis Cassells**  
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**Website and Facebook:**  
[writersofkern.com](http://writersofkern.com),  
[www.facebook.com/writersofkern](http://www.facebook.com/writersofkern)

# Members

*Let's Hear It For Our Volunteers!*

Jenny Estes for volunteering to do Sound at the meetings!  
Cyn Bermudez is also doing photography at the meetings.

## Congratulations!

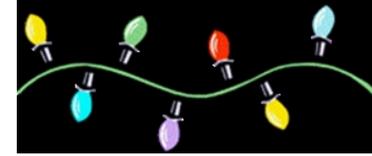
Rebecca Langston-George writes, "The Booth Brothers is in the Scholastic Book Club Catalog: TAB edition, December 2018, item #12T4 and Scholastic's blurb is fabulous!! As a writer and teacher, this is a dream come true, friends. I have always hoped one of my books would end up there."

## WOK Anthology Update!!

We will be taking pre-release orders for the paperback version of the WOK Anthology at the November 17th meeting.

Pre-release price: \$12, contributor copies: \$10. (No limit). Anthologies will be available for pick up at the Winter Dinner.

Once released on Amazon, we will have traditional and eBooks available for purchase.



## Writers of Kern Annual Winter Dinner

**Saturday, December 8, 2018**

6:00- 8:30 at Hodel's  
Dinner at 6:30

2017 Fall Writing Contest Winners  
(Hear the 1st Place Entry)

Book Exchange – New Active  
Members Pinned

Make your reservations today  
~~ \$20 per person

An evening of fun and camaraderie  
for Writers of Kern members  
and their guests.



# Poetry

Kudos to three WOK members who completed OctPoWriMo 2018: **Natalia Corres, Jasmine Lowe, and Judy Kukuza**. They wrote a poem each day during the month of October and are each sharing one of their 31 poems in this issue. Congratulations!

## To Santi

Our friendship started strangely,  
as a result of a co-worker's prank that backfired because  
we saw in each other a kindred spark  
and became friends instead  
of the drama that had been orchestrated.  
You invited me into your world of musicians and ex-pats and a part of the culture  
that I had only glimpsed before,  
and I engulfed myself in our adventures,  
late nights listening to live music and nursing the cover drink for hours,  
and loved that we were so opposite and yet so alike.  
You are so much light and I, so dark.  
We have been as soul-friends, able to lead separate lives and yet,  
when we come together again,  
online, email, phone call or in person -  
it feels as though no time has lapsed and we are always present  
enjoying now.  
And though we are separated by many hundreds of miles, I feel you with me  
when I hear the music or have a meal I know you'd enjoy.  
I feel your pain when a loved one passes, and I feel your joy  
when love is with you.  
Every day, your friendship is a part of who I am, with gratitude.

- Natalia Corres October 8, 2018. See more of Natalia's poetry at [Wind in Her Mane](#)

## Rose Bushes

The deep brilliant reds bleed through  
the thick dark green leaves of your miniature trees.  
These tall rose bushes stand firmly  
as they drink just enough water to remain in full bloom.

You tell your children to prune back the lush bushes  
that sit proudly in front of the yard.  
And carefully watch the swirling patterns  
of the local insects allowing only visits from the bees.

The elegant petals would occasionally fall  
past the sharp thick points on the thorn,  
and would either be raked up by playing children  
or collected by you for potpourri.

I remember how I used to draw your birthday cards  
with a large rose in full bloom on top.  
And how I thought of you while walking past the roses  
that stood there before I was born.

Over time I watched the roses as they dried  
and looked on while most of the bushes were removed.  
I no longer found you bending over in your garden  
to rake rose petals or dig up weeds.

I watched on as the roses in the rose bed  
were slowly replaced with other decorative things,  
and waited patiently for several years now for the  
growing cycle of the roses to be renewed.

- Jasmine Lowe, October 1, 2018. Find Jasmine's poetry at [Jazzed About Stuff](#).

## Thank YOU

Bellies full and sated.  
Cookies baked with their mama,  
Children happy and at peace.  
Words of meaning shared.  
No masks, no hiding—  
just open and honest discourse.  
The fear will come, as always,  
But this day will be remembered  
when life was good, happy, and loving.  
And because of today,  
Tomorrow will be better.  
Thank you—we love you

- Judy Kukuza, October 26, 2018. Read more of Judy's poetry at [storywritersthoughts](http://storywritersthoughts)

