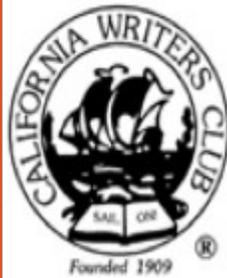


Feb
2019



President's Message



I recently overheard a group of men talking about the Chinese Zodiac predictions for 2019. According to these men, this year is set to be the year of money, love and career. They went on planning how they were going to spend their increase in fortune.

While optimism is a worthy trait, there's more to achieving success than hoping and dreaming—especially in the subjective world of publishing. Positive thinking is an incredible tool that can sustain us during darker moments, when rejections are pouring in and our confidence is in shambles. But that's where the benefit begins and ends.

Work—I know, *work* is a four letter word, pun intended—work is a one way road toward success. Networking might give us a lift, speeding the process. Education, either through conferences or traditional classes can help us along, give us direction. But no amount of wishing will catapult you on a bestseller's list.

The only thing is work. And work (in our publishing world) is writing. It sounds trivial. Maybe even a tad silly.

But we are authors and we need to write.

This is the reason we do Museful Moments at our meetings. This is why we sponsor the

Calendar

Schedule 2019

Mark your personal calendars for these dates

February 16

Allan Katz, Writer/Producer

“Writing Comedy for TV, Movies, and Stage”

March 16

Annual Spring Conference

Adam Berg, Screenwriter

Amy Friedman, Writer/Teacher

And much more!

8am—3pm

April 13

Jeanne De Vita, Editor/Author/Teacher

“Essentials in Writing: Arc, Beats & Craft”

May 18

WOK Honors Dinner

6pm—8 pm

Good Pitch, Bad Pitch at our Spring Conference. This is why we accept the Blog Challenge.

We can't become better writers if we don't write. Whether you're just starting out and can barely put two words together, *write*.

Join our Blog Challenge. Join our critique groups. Join us—and write.

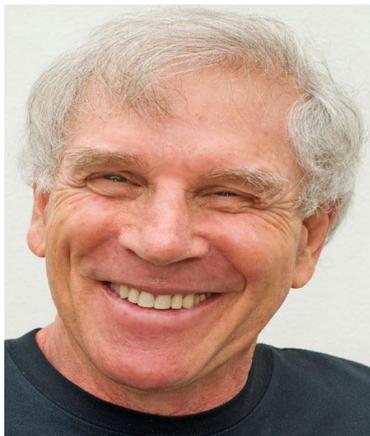
Clarissa

Meetings

Monthly Meeting 16 February 2019

Allan Katz

**Workshop on Writing Comedy for TV, Movies, or Stage
“Secrets of Screenwriting and Believable Dialog”**



Adam Katz

June 15
TBD

July 20
TBD

August 17
Catherine Hodges, Poet/Professor

September 21
TBD

October 19
Nancy Ellen Dodd, Writer/Professor

November 16
TBD

December 14
Winter Dinner

A writer's prompt for the Year of the Pig ...



... Kung Hei Fat Choi !

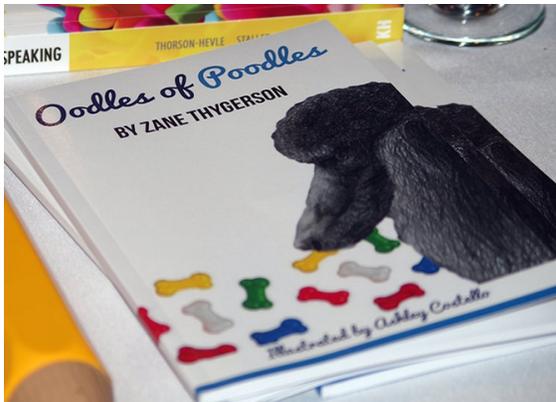
Have you ever asked “how do they do that?” when watching a sitcom, screenplay, or play? Your opportunity to find out comes at the February 16 Writers of Kern meeting. Allan Katz, writer and producer of countless favorite and beloved television shows, movies, and plays, will share many of his experiences. Writers of all genres and fans of both small and large screens would be interested in this program.

Katz will discuss the differences between a sitcom idea, a screenplay, and a play. He says, “‘The Odd Couple’ was all three—and it defined a genre.” He will talk about the determining factors and how to approach each form.

Arrive at the meeting with questions. Katz says, “I’m much more attuned to a dialectic teaching approach. I find people are more interested and learn more when they’re directly engaged with me and each other. You’ll learn a little about what you don’t know and probably be surprised about how much you already know.”

A successful advertising campaign landed Katz a job on “Laugh-In.” He went on to write “All in the Family,” “Sanford and Son,” and “The Mary Tyler Moor Show.” He wrote and produced “Rhoda,” “M*A*S*H” and “Roseanne” as well as numerous specials, roasts, and pilots. His plays, musicals, and features have been produced and he’s also had articles published in the New York Times and LA Times.

**Some Pictures from the January meeting,
at which Vaun Thygerson talked about
“ Finding Your Story “.**



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 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
February 2019**

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PO Box 22335
Bakersfield CA 93390-2335**



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Photos thanks to Cynthia Bermudez

Members

Terry Redman Remembered

I first met Terry Redman when I attended a Writers of Kern meeting in July, 2001. I had just retired from teaching, and was at last fulfilling a long-held desire to write fiction.

At that time, WOK monthly meetings were held in a back room at a coffee shop across the street from Buck Owens Crystal Palace. Filled with trepidation, I was unsure whether I would be accepted into this inner circle of special people who knew how to create whole universes by putting words on paper.

When I entered the room, Terry jumped up from his chair and came over to me. Grinning broadly, he held out his hand and said, "If you're looking for a bunch of crazy people who write, welcome to The Asylum."

Terry was a fellow teacher who shared some of the same interests I did. He made me feel welcome and introduced me to many of the WOK members, who convinced me that I could do "this writing thing," and that I was among friends.

In those days, critique groups were a rarity and hard to get into. Terry knew that I wanted feedback, and he suggested I tag along to his group's biweekly meeting. That group, called "The Classiques," invited me in, and over the next decade provided critical support, and wonderful comradeship.

Terry was a true inspiration, and when he passed away on January 11, 2019, from complications of open heart surgery, he left a legacy of friendship and inspiration to everyone who knew him.

Richard Meeks

*Editor's Note: Terry received the Jack London Award for service to Writers of Kern, edited *The Write Way* newsletter twice, and led our Critique Groups for several years.



Volunteers

A huge Thank You goes to these WOK and community members who judged the Young Writers of Kern Writing Competition entries. Charlotte Abrams, Annis Cassells, Natalia Corres, Jill Eglund, Debbie Fogle, Paula Glover, Judy Kukuza, Mark Nessia, Susan Reep, and Pam Reeves. We couldn't have done it without them! Winners will be presented with their awards at the WOK Honors Dinner in May!

Flex your writing chops this Spring!



The Dan McGuire Blog challenge begins now!

<http://www.clarissakae.com/2019/02/and-were-off.html> has all the information you will need.

Do NOT Forget About Our Spring Conference

Here's a sneak peek at the 2019 Spring Conference lineup you won't want to miss:

- Adam Berg (actor, screenwriter, novelist, and JK Studios co-founder) will unlock the secrets of **writing comedy**.
- Amy Friedman (author, teacher, and POPS the Club co-founder) will cover everything you need to know about **story arcs**
- **workshops** will improve your writing and publishing skills
- Battle of the Tables
- look the part with **professional author headshots**
- and find out exactly how to pitch your next book to an agent or editor with our annual **Pitch Perfect Contest**

Early bird tickets are limited. So [pick up your Spring Conference tickets now](#). Once they're gone, they're gone.



Within the 2019 Spring Conference Workshop

The Arc of the Story: *Amy Friedman*, author, ghostwriter, and creative writing teacher has written nearly every genre--from news stories to children's books, from memoir to fiction--and along the way, with each story or book, has developed methods for finding a way to shape a story so that it is satisfying for readers.

She says, "I don't provide formulas--I don't believe they work. But I do know that understanding archetypes helps writers to find their way through any story, in any genre."

Whether you're writing fiction or nonfiction, in this workshop you'll learn new ways to hook your readers--how, where and when to begin, how to tighten those saggy middles, and methods for creating powerful and enduring endings.



How to Write Comedy or Die Trying: Screenwriter and actor *Adam Berg* of JK Studios has written and performed hundreds of sketches. His material has garnered millions of views, and he's written on two upcoming sitcoms for JK! Studios.

"Everyone can be funny, even though many people think they are not," Berg says. "It's a skill that can be developed and crafted with experience and education."

This workshop will focus on writing comedy for the screen. Berg will cover structure, tips, tricks, and pitfalls of writing comedic material. He says, "So if this workshop doesn't make you laugh, you know you can disregard everything in it."