
 <p>California Writers Club SAIL ON! Founded 1909</p>	<h1>The Write Way</h1> <p>A publication of <i>The Writers of Kern</i>, a Branch of the <i>California Writers Club</i> August 2007 © 2007, Writers of Kern.</p>
<p>The Writers of Kern PO Box 22335, Bakersfield, CA 93390-2335 www.writersofkern.com</p>	<p>President: Carol Black; Vice-President: Joe Tomasi, Secretary: Lucinda Soria; Treasurer /Membership/CWC Representative: Sandy Moffett; Program Chair: Margie Custer; Publicity: Camille Gavin; Newsletter: Marty Gorsching</p>
 <p>TO GET INK WRITERS OF KERN</p>	<p>Regular meetings are the 3rd Saturday of the month, 10:30 to noon at the Best Western Inn on Buck Owens Blvd. Join us for lunch after the meeting.</p>

Coming Up

Next Meeting: August 18
Special Guest: Michael Prince



Michael Prince began his writing career at the age of eighteen with the feature film *The Fourth Wall*, which he also directed and co-produced. He has since written and directed five short films of various styles and genres, which have premiered at festivals around the country. In 2006 he began writing comedies with his brother James Mongold for the Gaslight Melodrama

Theatre and Music Hall, where he also serves as the Artistic Director. He has written or co-written five plays, as well as numerous vaudeville revues, over the past year and a half that have each received high praise and sold-out audiences. He currently lives in Bakersfield, CA with his wife Jennifer and their son Jack.

There is still time to get your entry in for the First Annual Kern Projections Film Festival:

Kern Film Festival
Contact: Emily Thiroux, Festival Director
PO Box 12440, Bakersfield CA 93389
telephone: 661-428-3610
email: Kern.Projections@yahoo.com
website: www.KernProjections.com

Deadlines and submissions fees: **Early-bird deadline-July 15, \$20 regular and \$15 student; Regular deadline-August 10, \$25 regular, \$20 student; Late deadline-August 24, \$35 regular and \$30 student;**

Latest deadline-September 1, \$45 all entries. For more information on category requirements and submissions information, go to <http://www.kernprojections.com> or <http://www.withoutabox.com/login/6102>.

In Memory

It is with sad hearts that we mourn the passing of one of our most beloved Writers of Kern members, Ralph Vanderberg.

Peg Connelly provided this tribute:

The Reverend Ralph J. Vanderberg was a gentleman in more ways than one. He was what we call 'old school'; friendly, courteous, polite, always willing to help others and he loved to make people laugh. Even at age 89 he still liked to tease and flirt with the ladies in WOK. Ralph loved people and they in turn loved him.

His passing brought tears to my eyes, but I'm sure he would have said, "Don't shed tears over me, I'm going home. The Lord has given me a wonderful life and has blessed me with a loving family and dear friends. What more could I have asked for."

Ralph told me one time, he looked forward to the WOK meetings. He loved to write poetry, stories, and about his memories from his younger years. Ralph loved to make new friends and enjoy the company of old friends. He told me he considered the Writers of Kern to be his home away from home.

Ralph blessed us with some of his stories at our special dinners; he participated in the Anthologies, and even held one of our pot luck dinners at his home. His daughters came to many of the dinners with him and you could tell how proud he was of his girls. I'm sure, they in turn, were proud of their father.

We will miss you Ralph Vanderberg, but now we have an Angel in Heaven watching out for all who knew you.

LOS ANGELES

The 2007 DIY Book Festival has set Sept. 25, 2007 as the deadline for entry to its sixth annual celebration of independent authors and publishers.

The DIY Book Festival will consider self-published or independent publisher non-fiction, fiction, biography/autobiography, children's books, teenage, how-to, cookbooks, science fiction, audio/spoken word, photography, art, comics, 'zines, fan fiction, poetry and e-books published on or after Jan. 1, 2005. All entries must be in

English and have been self-published or issued by an independent publishing house.

[Print-on-demand (POD) authors with iUniverse, PublishAmerica, Infinity Publishing and other outlets are eligible for the competition.]

Grand prize: \$1500 cash and a flight to the awards ceremony.

For more information:
www.diyconvention.com

Phone: 323-665-8080

Marty's Muse

Something to think about . . .

August 2007



Words, words, words.

Words buzzing around my head like hummingbirds around a feeder—darting in and out, colliding, chasing one another away, chattering, scolding, complaining.

It's not that dread writer's dysfunction, *Writer's Block*. Rather, it's the complete opposite. Too many words. As soon as I get one good germ of an idea, another jumps in demanding attention. One thought drives out the other. Nothing gets written. No journal entries, no essays, no character sketches, nothing.

Flitting, fighting, frustrating words.
Flummoxed!

Who would ever have thought that a writer could get distracted by the words coming at him, coming out of him? Words as distractions.

Distractions.

I started a new job last week. Distraction.

We bought a new car Friday. Distraction.

A new fence and windows are going up this week. Distraction.

That's a tremendous amount of money spent in just three short days. Major distraction.

Distractions. The stuff of non-writing.

A few weeks ago, Terry Redman gave us

permission not to write, and to do it free of guilt. That's a great attitude to keep in mind. Wonderful. Freeing. When writing ceases to be fun, it becomes a burden. Still, we have deadlines to meet, obligations to fulfill. So we cannot always enjoy the freedom, the pleasure of lounging in guilt-free non-writing. Writing is a precarious art. It requires a delicate balance between intense concentration, and awareness of surroundings. A writer who is not connected to his surroundings misses many opportunities for creative ideas. A writer who is not fully involved in his writing isn't writing.

So, I leave you with this, one of the most profound philosophical statements of all time—right up there with *hakuna matata*—from the Disney film, *Finding Nemo*. When you simply cannot write another word; when you feel that as a writer you'd probably make a good dish washer; when you're completely discouraged about your writing, or lack of it, remember this: "Just keep swimming." That's it. Just keep swimming. You'll get there eventually. Just keep swimming. It'll come to you. Just keep swimming. The words will fall into place. Really. Consider this. An hour ago, I started with a blank page and too many words. Now I have a finished essay.

Happy writing!

**Marty "Help-I'm-Drowning-In-Words"
Gorsching**

**Notice to all poets: The
next Poetry Group
meeting will be August
11th**

Members Write

Contributions from fellow WOKers



Presidents' Column
Carol Black

Welcome to a new year with a new President. I will strive to do a good job for our club and I expect that you thought I would, because you voted me into office. Behind me stands a great board made up of hard workers who are also dedicated to doing a good job.

So... who is Carol Black? Many of you know that I've been a member of Writer's of Kern since 2001 when I moved to Bakersfield. You also may know that I was Vice President of our club for one year during Joe Tomasi's first year as President. I bowed out of the job to spend a year in

Florida during the worst hurricane season on record at that time. Dumb idea!

But, who else is Carol Black? I have a Bachelor's Degree in Education and a Master's Degree in Administration. I taught school for several years and then became an elementary school principal of a K-5 year-round school in Fairfield where I was teaching at the time. I also taught in Rogue River, Oregon and Visalia. I began writing when I retired ## years ago.

Right away, writing became my passion and I wrote everyday for several years, turning out, "Never Ask Permission" that was published last year. I have another novel, "Preamble to a Life" which I'm working on now. There is another novel in my head fighting to come out. In addition to my novels, I have written for "The Northwest Voice", "The Legend" (Florida), "The Emerald Coast Review" (Florida), and our own anthologies I and II.

I'm also an artist. Acrylic, watercolor and drawing are my forte, but I don't paint or draw nearly as much as I want to because writing gets in the way. A couple of my paintings have been sold and I like to display my art all over my house.

So, welcome to a new year. Let's have a good one!

WOK-Abouts: Clips, Quips, & Kudos

Brag, boasts, and bravos --

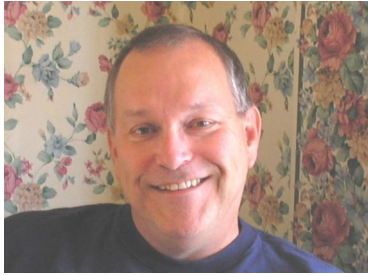
Jack London Awards

Every other year, CWC branches may nominate one of their members to receive a Jack London Award in recognition of outstanding service to the organization.

Joe Tomasi is this year's Writers of Kern recipient of the Jack London Award.

Previous recipients include:

2005, Terry Redman; 2004, Camille Gavin; 2003, Beth Davisson; 2002, Maggie Caldwell-Smith; 2001, Peg Connelly; 2000, Helen Shanley; 1999, Jim Imel; 1998, Barbara Nelson; 1997, Barbara Gabel.



Stephen "Joe"

Tomasi has been a member of the Writers of Kern for the past six years. During that time, Joe has served as President, Vice President, Member At Large, and facilitator of a fiction critique group. He also lent his expertise in one of the Writers of Kern annual workshops.

Joe is the author of numerous manuscripts, short stories, and articles and has most recently published a children's book, *Miss Wheezer Comes to Stay*. He has written articles for *Today's Christian*, *Foster Parenting Today*, *The Bakersfield Magazine*, *The*

Northwest Voice and the Southwest Voice. Joe is quick to contribute his writing success to the support of his family as well as his colleagues in the Writers of Kern.

He has been honored with awards at the annual Lillian Dean Writing Competition at Cuesta College and has placed twice in a Writers Digest contest.

Born in Alameda, California, he has grown up in Bakersfield, which he considers to be his home town. In the fifth grade Joe met his future wife, Debbie. They have one married daughter, Allison, son-in-law, Daniel and two very spoiled dachshunds, Rachel and Seymour. Retired, the Tomasi's divide their time between Bakersfield and Morro Bay, California.

(Bio contributed by Peg Connelly)



The Meeting Last Month
Terry Redman

It was all dramatic—the election of officers for the next year, the handing over of the gavel, the talk with interaction by the audience and the setting. Our July meeting took place in the empty bar, where our featured speaker often sings karaoke. The truth is, I liked the bar; it was quiet, roomy and the waitress put a carafe of coffee on a hot plate for a sort of drink as you go approach.

WOK's officers for the new year are **President: Carol Black, Vice-President: Joe Tomasi, Secretary: Lucinda Soria,**

Treasurer: Sandy Moffett. After the election Carol presided over the meeting. **Sandy Moffett** planned to attend the meeting but was in an auto accident Wednesday and is home getting TLC from her husband. "I'm black and blue all over—my favorite color, purple."

We had some new faces in the group and these are the names I was able to collect. **Ralph Macluso** of Tehachapi, a local artist named **Nancy Torii**, and one of the winners of WOK's scholarships for Young Writers, **Ashley Hennen**. **Anna Stewart** from the Science Fiction and Fantasy group attended her first general meeting.

Critique groups: **Ann Williams** reports that the Poetry group is active and a lot of fun. They meet the 2nd and 4th Saturday, 10 AM at the McRay Lab 19th and Oak Streets. For more information, call Ann Williams at 324-1055. The Fiction group

and the Romance group are taking the summer off. Donnalee says the Non-Fiction group needs a new facilitator. See this newsletter for specific meeting times.

Julie Jordan Scott, Director of Productions at the Bakersfield Community Theater gave a rousing talk about writing for the stage. Writers! The One Act Festivals have been going on for 20 years and February 1, 2008 is the deadline for your script submissions. She likes to get them in email (jssbct@hotmail.com) and asks that you use standard formatting.

Julie's enthusiasm spread to the audience—we had a number of BCT play writers among us and they added tips and asked questions as the presentation went on.:

Vickie Jameson, Terry Willey, Donnalee Huffman, Margie Custer and somebody I just know I have forgotten. Julie wants play writers to know the limits of the stage, use simple or no set changes, parts for kids make things complicated, and have the play read aloud by living people to see how long it really is. Use 2-4 characters and the script will be 1- to 15 pages to make the 15 minutes of performance time. **Margie Custer** in the new program chair and she is off to a great start.

Julie noted that BCT means Bring the Community as well as Bakersfield Community Theater.

I will see you next month.

Places to visit

WOK Members' Websites

Annis Cassells, www.connectionsandconversations.com

Carol Black, www.publishedauthors.net/CarolBlack00

Maggie Caldwell Smith, www.magpiepress.com

Robbie Byrne, www.robbybyrne.com is dedicated to my writing, and another website is dedicated to cultural music, www.bagpiper-weddings.com

Peg Connelly, www.grannywrites4kids.com

Marilyn Meredith, author's website, <http://fictionforyou.com> .

<http://www.marilynmeredith.blogspot.com/>

Sandy Moffett, www.sandymoffett.com

Debra Blackmon, www.debrablackmon.com

Susan K. Stewart, www.skstewart.com

Vicki Jameson, www.thegolden10.com

California Writers Club, www.calwriters.org/

Writers of Kern, www.writersofkern.com

WOK members: Do you have a personal site you would like to list here?

Critique Groups

Children's & Memoir: **Peg Connelly**, 399-0423, 1st & 5th Mondays, mispegg@aol.com

è **Non-Fiction:** **Sponsor/facilitator need**

Fiction: **Vicki Jameson**, 831-2046, 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 7:00 PM, 1301 Taft Hwy #3 (call for directions) meawrtr@sbcglobal.net

Poetry: **Ann Williams**, 324-1055, 1st Saturday, 10:00AM, 3123 19th St. awmidge@atginternet.com

Romance Writing Group: Carol Black & Bertie Warren, 832-9242 2nd Tuesday at 6 PM, 7105 School House Lane. Nanab5@bak.rr.com.

Sci-Fi, Fantasy Critique Group: Joe Tomasi, 391-9124, 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 7 PM, (currently closed to new members) jtomasi@bak.rr.com

Screen Writing: Carol & Terry Baker-Willey, 588-4943, 4th Saturday 10 AM at the Barnes & Noble Café in the Barnes and Noble store on California Avenue. Cinehunden@juno.com

Conferences, Contests, and Other Things

The 2007 SAN FRANCISCO WRITING FOR CHANGE CONFERENCE

Change the World, One Book at a Time.

August 23rd—25th, 2007 at Grace Cathedral

For more information, contact:

Elizabeth Pomada, 415-673-0939 or Robin Carpenter, 415-601-4491

The Muse Online Writers Conference:

<http://www.freewebs.com/themuseonlinewritersconference/>

“Where and how to sell what you write”

www.writersmarket.com

Writer’s tools and resources

www.writersdigest.com

A good source for market, contest listings, etc

www.writeradvice.com/markets.html

Coffeehouse For Writers

<http://www.coffeehouseforwriters.com/>

“Coffeehouse for Writers is an internet-based community of writers from all genres. There are more than ten thousand members all over the world including ships at sea!”

Freelance Writing e-zine

<http://www.writersweekly.com/>

- Regular club meetings are held at **10:30 AM the 3rd Saturday** of the month at Best Western, **2620 Buck Owens Boulevard, Bakersfield, CA** (next to the Crystal Palace).
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About Our Organization...

Writers of Kern is one of fourteen branches of the **California Writers Club**. CWC was started by Jack London and fellow writers for the purpose of socializing together, and helping aspiring authors.

The **Writers of Kern** was formed in 1993 by Helen Gordon (an English professor at Bakersfield College) with the help of underwriting from The Arts Council of Kern, to bring together professional and aspiring writers in a creative atmosphere, sharing their knowledge and skills through critique groups, general meetings, conferences and workshops. WOK became associated with the California Writers Club in 1995.

We now have over 60 members in our club.

Based in **Bakersfield**, Writers of Kern serves the western half of Kern County while our sister branch, **The Ridge Writers**, based in Ridgecrest, serves the eastern half.

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