
 <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> <b>November 2007</b> © 2007, Writers of Kern</p>
<p><b>The Writers of Kern</b> PO Box 22335, Bakersfield, CA 93390-2335 <a href="http://www.writersofkern.com">www.writersofkern.com</a></p>	<p><b>President:</b> Carol Black; <b>Vice-President:</b> Joe Tomasi, <b>Secretary:</b> Lucinda Soria; <b>Treasurer /Membership/CWC</b> <b>Representative:</b> Sandy Moffett; <b>Program Chair:</b> Margie Custer; <b>Publicity:</b> Camille Gavin; <b>Newsletter:</b> Marty Gorsching</p>
 <p>TO GET INK WRITERS OF KERN</p>	<p>Regular meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, 10:30 to noon at the <b>Best Western Inn on Buck Owens Blvd.</b> Join us for lunch after the meeting.</p>

## Coming Up

**Next Meeting:** Nov. 17  
**Special Guest Speaker:**  
**Jason Gutierrez**



Having stepped into journalism right after high school, Jason's writing career moved quickly. From a student writer to a community news reporter, Jason spent countless hours in the community writing articles on nonprofit organizations and events while

taking his own pictures. In 2005 he became the assistant on *The Bakersfield Californian's* first glossy, monthly publication, *Bakersfield Life Magazine*. In July 2006, he assumed the role of editor, and since then, has helped pave the way for *Bakersfield Life* to become Bakersfield's premier city magazine.

### Announcing:

The Children's group is now the Children/Memoir/Non-fiction critique group, and meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. The group is open to people who write or wish to write for any of these venues. If you are interested in attending, call Peg Connelly, 399-0423 or e-mail, [mispegg@aol.com](mailto:mispegg@aol.com) for directions.

The Romance group is now the Fiction group, and includes all areas of fiction except Sci-fi/Fantasy and Children's literature.

è Don't Forget:

In lieu of our regular December meeting, we will celebrate with our **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**, at Joe and Debbie Tomasi's house. Announcements will be sent out later.

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Since the end-of-year holidays are upon us, if you have special holiday anecdotes, send them to me ([mgorsching@bak.rr.com](mailto:mgorsching@bak.rr.com) or PO

Box 22335, 93390-2335), and I will get them into a **S**pecial **H**oliday **E**dition, to be distributed at the Christmas party. Don't limit yourself to Halloween, Thanksgiving, or Christmas. If your favorite memory concerns 4<sup>th</sup> of July, write about that. Please try to keep all essays to 1000 words or fewer.

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**There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: "abstemious" and "facetious."**

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## Members Write

### Contributions from fellow WOKers

### President's Column

Carol Black



On October 21<sup>st</sup> Joe Tomasi received the dedicated service award from the California

Writer's Club. It was my pleasure to attend the ceremony. My husband and I made the trip to San Jose the day before in order to take in some of the cuisine at one of the many Santana Row excellent restaurants. Our party consisted of the Tomasis and their daughter and son-in-law.

The Sunday luncheon was held at the Windham Hotel in downtown San Jose,

during the California Writer's Club all day meeting. Our party arrived in time for the lunch break and were ushered to our table by CWC's president, Barbara Truax. I would like to say that the food was outstandingly delicious. However, I try to be truthful as much as possible, so therefore, the sandwich and salad luncheon was just that. A sandwich and salad luncheon.

It was the ceremony that was outstanding. Our own CWC delegate, Sandy Moffett was the Mistress of Ceremonies and she did a terrific job. Sandy introduced each recipient and told a little about each person before they received the plaque and shook hands with the presenter. When it was his turn, Sandy introduced our Vice President, Joe

telling how he has given many long hours of service to the Writer's of Kern. How he has served as President and as host for the Sci-Fi/Fantasy critique group, is a member of other critique groups and how he unselfishly volunteers to do whatever is needed. In addition, Joe has hosted one club Christmas Party at his home and will host this year's party as well. Upon receiving his plaque, Joe gave a short speech of appreciation.

Congratulations Joe!



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## BEGINNING A NEW SERIES BY JOE TOMASI:

Abandoned-By-The-Sea  
Joe Tomasi  
Part 1

We should have known better. We should have listened to our friends and families. We should have thought twice before moving to Oregon – but we didn't. If we had realized we were about to cross more than a state line, we might have reconsidered. After all, we were moving to the land of aging hippies, a soggy paradise where my wife's cleanly shaved legs branded her as an outcast. But, sadly we were totally ignorant of the fact that we were soon to become, not residents of Oregon, but expatriate "Californicators!"



At the time, moving seemed like such a good idea. After all, we were young, with no children and except for family we had no other entanglements. And since it was the seventies, we were mesmerized by the folk songs promising eternal peace if one could only get back to nature. So, with Alex and Diane, another like-minded couple, we set out that spring day on a voyage of discovery. Regardless of our California roots, we were determined modern pioneers. Oregon or bust!

It seemed so right as we piled into the car with our friends, their shiny red Honda gassed up and loaded for the 900 mile journey. We'd been so clever. Having written ahead to several Chambers of Commerce, we set out with a list of possible towns. I must emphasize the word "town" because we were determined to live in a small coastal village, no more than 3,000 souls or so, and as far away from freeways and convenience stores as possible. We were to pay dearly for this flawed thinking!

As we pulled onto Interstate 5, my wife remarked, "How hard can this be? If those thousands of pioneers who came by covered wagon, facing hardship after hardship for 6 months, could make it to Oregon, surely we can handle a fifteen hour trip in the backseat of a two-door Honda Civic." Oh, but we were young, and as the odometer continued to add miles, the trip became less and

less exciting. The womb-like interior of the rear seat was so small we nearly had to stick our heads outside the window just to change our minds. Face it, there is simply NO WAY to get comfortable in the back seat of a Civic.

The first time we saw the Oregon Coast, we were goners. It was cool and windy, but not a cloud in the sky. A flawless day. And, what was that rumor about rain? Surely it had been over-exaggerated. Besides, we rationalized, what's wrong with a little rain? And, in spite of the fact that we were in a region known as the Pacific Rain Forest, we were blinded by cheap real estate. We just couldn't see beyond the dollar signs.

That fateful morning, the last day of our Oregon trip, it started to rain. This should have been immediately recognized as an omen, but we were young and foolish. As we were pounded by the rain, we quickly found a sporting goods store, purchased four matching yellow slickers, and began our trek down the coast, the final leg of our journey.

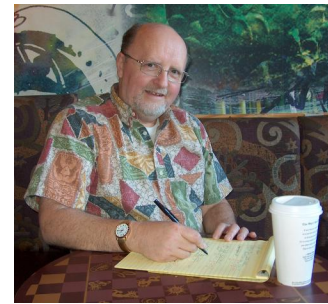
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## From Terry's Pen

Terry Redman

At the October Meeting

"Share your Voice," presented by Lisa Wuertz



These are the recommendations Lisa gives as the key to publishing in one, or both of the "Voices." [*The Northwest Voice* and *The Southwest Voice* –ed]

- Ø These free newspapers rely on citizen journalist (that's us)
  - focus on the NW or SW area.
  - emphasize positive, local news—sports, youth, churches, local events
  - local interest articles, such as, education, wine tasting, parenting, gardening etc.
- Ø Go to the website and see how to get involved.
  - [www.northwestvoice.com/](http://www.northwestvoice.com/) or [www.swvoice.com/](http://www.swvoice.com/) to read their guidelines.
- Ø They expect accuracy and truth. Think of it as style plus facts
  - See their tips on short, accurate quotations. This is important!
- Ø Ask yourself: "What is the point of the article and how can I make it interesting?"
  - Remember the W's: what, where, when, why, who
  - Remember the H: how
- Ø Ask yourself: "How does this impact this area of town?"
  - interested in both a general perspective and the human dimension.
- Ø Don't be redundant and repetitious
- Ø Your article will be edited and checked for style
- Ø Enjoy writing the articles and keep them coming.

Thank you Lisa for a great presentation and encouraging us to write for local publications.

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“ The October meeting was both fun and informative, so if you were not there you really missed a good one. **Carol Black** announced that right after the meeting she was leaving to join **Joe Tomasi** and **Sandy Moffett** as Joe received his well-deserved **Jack London Award** for service to the Writers of Kern.

“ A few new folks were at the meeting and several members announced book signings, getting [royalty] checks & book deals. Before and during the meeting there was a lot of laughter and fun repartee that made the whole meeting a pleasure.

“ “Fiction” and “Memoir” groups are combining; so check the meeting times in this newsletter, for this and some adjustments to other critique meeting times. **Lucinda Soria** announced that the Anthology will be ready in the spring to coincide with the **Beale’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary** celebration. When the **Beale Library** opened, members of WOK were on hand to read. Following in that tradition, we will be doing readings and have a table set up to (1) sell the new Anthology and (2) our own books. Be a part of history, get those Anthologies, and have fun—more details to follow. Plan to have a reading of about 5-10 minutes. Lucinda mentioned that this Anthology will be dedicated to the five members who have passed away in the past

year. This is one more nice touch she has added to the Anthology project. J

“ Mark your calendars. We will have the annual Christmas party at **Joe Tomasi’s** house again. More details will follow, but it will be **December 15**, at **5:30**. Joe has mentioned he needs help for setting up and taking down the tables and chairs.

“ **Lisa Wuertz**, Editor of *The Northwest Voice* and Manager for *The Southwest Voice*, spoke about how to write for those publications. Several of WOK’s members already contribute to one, or both, “Voices” and had supportive comments about what Lisa said. She used Power Point slides and a handout of the slides for notes—one of the most effective formats for a presentation I have seen.

“ Everyone in Writers of Kern congratulates our own **JOE TOMASI** for winning the **Jack London Award**. Joe has contributed ever since he joined WOK and has served as president and vice-president. He is active in at least 2 writing groups, one being the science fiction group that meets at his home. *Joe, you deserve the award and we are proud of you!* - Terry

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## Marty’s Muse

Something to think about . . .

November 2007



I sat at my favorite coffee spot the other day, pencil poised over notebook, waiting for Inspiration to strike. I

took a deep breath and let it out slowly (procrastination-stopping technique #1. Remember?)

“I’m at a loss for words,” I said.

“That’s impossible,” my companion Muse replied, which surprised me, since I thought I was alone.

“Didn’t see you come in,” I remarked.

“You never do,” she said, sipping her herbal blend. “You are not very observant.”

“I’ve been observing things all morning,” I replied, somewhat miffed. After all, I didn’t invite her to sit there.

“You have been looking at things, not observing them.”

“Huh?” I said in my most academic voice—by which I meant, ‘How dare you challenge my intellect, intrude upon my thoughts.’

“I am your thoughts.”

“Oh. What did you say?”

“That it is impossible to be at a loss for words. Words are everywhere. They fill the air.”

“Oh, yeah?” I challenged. “Sez who?” Maybe *her* air was full of them, but the air in *my* head felt entirely empty. “Name one.”

“Homonym.”

“You mean that stuff made out of corn?”

“That’s ‘hominy’.”

“Nunt-uh. ‘Hominy’ is ‘the pleasing combination of two or more tones in a chord’.”

“That’s ‘harmony’. Besides, ‘cord’ is a type of string. A *homonym* is a word which agrees with another in pronunciation, but differs from it in signification, origin, and, usually, spelling.”

“Huh?” Where does she come up with this stuff?

“Read, reed.”

“Huh?”

“Sea, see.”

“What are you talking about?”

“Saw, saw.”

“I don’t get it. You’re saying the same thing. It sounds the same.”

“Exactly.”

“You’re confusing me. I’m leaving.”

“Yes, you do look a bit green.”

“Huh?”

She smiled bemusedly over the rim of her teacup. “Same time tomorrow?”

“What? Oh. Yeah, tomorrow. Okay.”

Happy writing!

Marty “Bemused-confused” Gorsching

Yes, it's hard to write, but it's harder not to.  
Carl Van Doren

The Muse

by Margie Custer

She slinks along in the shadows  
Slipping from view if she can  
Playfully laughing  
Gracefully dancing  
Teasing me with silvered tongue  
Making promises  
If not expressly  
Then implied  
For an opus, an ode, an opulent piece of prose  
But her perverse sense of humor prevails  
And she laughs  
Narcissistic and pompous  
She gloats o'er her power

For the muse does walk  
Where she will walk  
Without care or concern  
for the clock on the wall  
She sleeps when she will  
And wakes just the same  
And dithers away time just for fun

But when she decides  
That there is work to be done  
She nags and whines like an ill-mannered pup  
And nips at my heels till she's through

She commands that I do

Just what she says  
For should I stray from her bidding  
She pouts  
Leaving me all alone  
And then I am lost  
Without map I am blind  
No landmark  
No compass  
No star

Until I should gain  
Her forgiveness once more  
And she leads me out of my cave  
Back to the place  
Where I first began  
Waiting for whispers

I sit enveloped in a sea of white  
I wring head and heart  
For a droplet of perfection  
A phrase turned just right  
A word newly farmed from the garden  
Ripe and glorious  
Ready for the picking  
Yet, I find my fields barren

Would the muse grace me with but a morsel  
That I might taste again  
The sweet essence that is salvation?  
Ah, but she is stingy with her bounty

While the fruits drip from her fingertips  
I dig with mine  
Through the waste and the muck  
Searching, sifting, savaging for scraps  
Like a peasant

But nothing comes  
And nothing comes  
I sit, listening to silence  
Staring into the abyss  
Waiting  
Waiting  
And nothing comes  
But nothing comes  
This insolent servant  
This saucy siren  
Who caters at will  
Who refuses direction  
Who does not come when called or summoned  
Confounds me to my depths  
Of why I keep her around  
Am I nothing more than her scribe?

Then the thunderbolt strikes  
An epiphany to be sure  
It is not she who belongs to me  
It is I who belong to her



~ A DAISY ~  
by David L. Norris

There was once a gentle  
man named Jeff,  
who had thoughts of  
how to invest..  
Thinking he could make  
some money in the end,

just North of "The City of the Wind".  
He thought "A rich fella, I could become,  
by turning my money in a year or three,  
Richer I will be!"  
Now this gentle man wasn't lazy,  
but his idea of life wasn't to plant a daisy.

His new home bout drove him crazy.  
With a nail and a board, using a paintbrush  
as a sword,  
A roof that leaked. A floor that creaked. A  
wall that leaned.  
In the beginning, he found it hard  
to even step into his modest abode.  
He even had to start by cleaning his  
commode.  
At times it proved to be quite a pane,  
With windows that weren't always in frame.

Kids at his door, suitcases in hand,

crying "Let us in!!, Let us in!!"  
His house, a motel to become.  
With promises that they would soon flee.  
He was told, They had no plans for children  
to bounce on  
his knee. "We will not tell, and we will be  
quiet as hell."

In the place of a workshop over there, came  
thoughts of  
a living room, and a kitchen and a bedroom  
over there.  
"This won't be so bad." He told his gal  
after all --- There could be three!!!,  
And then I would not be so free to pursue  
thee.

Years have passed, So has Two to Three,  
leaving Poor Jeff little time to think of  
"Me".  
As he putters around his home in his old  
age,  
among his neighbors stares and glares, he  
thinks to  
himself - - - "Why - We could use a daisy  
over there."

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## **WOK-Abouts: Clips, Quips, & Kudos**

### *Brag, boasts, and bravos -*

**Peg Connelly**: I will be having a book signing at Barnes and Nobles on November 17, from noon to 4pm.

**Susan K. Stewart** - Susan is "taking a stab at" NaNoWriMO, National Novel Writing Month  
<http://www.nanowrimo.org/>. She wonders if other WOK members are giving it a try  
([www.skstewart.com](http://www.skstewart.com)).

**Marilyn Meredith** will be at Russo's Book Store in the Marketplace on Saturday, November 10 from 1 to 5 with her latest Deputy Tempe Crabtree mystery, *Judgment Fire*. <http://fictionforyou.com>

### **Joe Tomasi - Jack London Award**

My thanks to my family and friends and to those who chose me to represent W.O.K. The Jack London Award is given for "Outstanding Service to the California Writers Club" and while I feel there are many in W.O.K. who could have received the award, I am deeply honored to be the 2007 recipient. Again, many thanks to all of you.

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## **WOK Members' Websites**

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

**Annis Cassells**, [www.connectionsandconversations.com](http://www.connectionsandconversations.com)

**Carol Black**, [www.publishedauthors.net/CarolBlack00](http://www.publishedauthors.net/CarolBlack00)

**Maggie Caldwell Smith**, [www.magpiepress.com](http://www.magpiepress.com)

**Robbie Byrne**, [www.robbybyrne.com](http://www.robbybyrne.com) is dedicated to my writing, and another website is dedicated to cultural music, [www.bagpiper-weddings.com](http://www.bagpiper-weddings.com)

**Peg Connelly**, [www.grannywrites4kids.com](http://www.grannywrites4kids.com)

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

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

**Sandy Moffett**, [www.sandymoffett.com](http://www.sandymoffett.com)

**Debra Blackmon**, [www.debrablackmon.com](http://www.debrablackmon.com)

**Susan K. Stewart**, [www.skstewart.com](http://www.skstewart.com)

**Vicki Jameson**, [www.thegolden10.com](http://www.thegolden10.com)

**California Writers Club**, [www.calwriters.org/](http://www.calwriters.org/)

**Writers of Kern**, [www.writersofkern.com](http://www.writersofkern.com)

## **Critique Groups**

**Children's/ Memoir/Non-fiction:** Peg Connelly, 399-0423, 4th Mondays, [mispegg@aol.com](mailto:mispegg@aol.com)

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

**Romance/Fiction Writing Group:** Carol Black & Bertie Warren, 832-9242 2nd Tuesday at 6 PM, 7105 School House Lane. [Nanab5@bak.rr.com](mailto:Nanab5@bak.rr.com) .

**Sci-Fi/Fantasy:** Joe Tomasi, 391-9124, 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 7 PM, (currently closed to new members) [jtomasi@bak.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto:Cinehunden@juno.com)

## **Conferences, Contests, and Other Things**

**MuseItUp Club:** [www.museitupclub.tripod.com](http://www.museitupclub.tripod.com)

**Apollo's Lyre** [www.apollos-lyre.com](http://www.apollos-lyre.com)

**Meet Lea:** <http://leaschizeditor.tripod.com>

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**The Muse Online Writers Conference:**

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

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**Writer's tools and resources**

[www.writersdigest.com](http://www.writersdigest.com)

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**A good source for market, contest listings, etc**

[www.writeradvice.com/markets.html](http://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!”

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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. Our sister branch, **The Ridge Writers**, based in Ridgecrest, serves the eastern half.

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