
	<h1>The Write Way</h1> <p>A publication of <i>The Writers of Kern</i>, a Branch of the <i>California Writers Club</i> October 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>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: October 20
Special Guest Speaker: Lisa Wuertz



Lisa Wuertz grew up in here in Bakersfield. She attended Ridgeview High School, and then went on to Cal State Bakersfield, majoring in Communications.

Writing has always been a big part of her life, but journalism didn't become a clear path until she did an internship in the newsroom of a local television station.

She landed a job at Mercado Nuevo writing for MÁS magazine in August 2006. A few months later she took on the editor role for

The Northwest Voice and recently was asked to manage The Southwest Voice as well.

Lisa writes: "I think there is some untapped potential in the community for average people to invoke change through voicing the stories that are important to them."

Announcing:

The Children's critique group will begin meeting again on Monday, October 8th at 6:30pm and will meet every second Monday from now on. We will also open this critique group to people wishing to write their personal memoirs. If you are interested in attending, call Peg Connelly, 399-0423 or e-mail, mispegg@aol.com for directions.

È The end-of-year holidays are upon us. Send me your favorite holiday anecdotes (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 4th of July, write about that. Please try to keep all essays to 1000 words or fewer.

15th, 2007.
Winners will be announced: January 8th, 2008 on The MuseItUp Club website (<http://museitupclub.tripod.com>) on January 8th, 2008.
Winners will be notified prior to this date via email.

FIRST PRIZE: \$100.00
SECOND PRIZE: \$50.00
THIRD PRIZE: \$25.00
Registration fee: \$2.00

THE MUSE-IT-UP ANNUAL WRITING CONTEST

Registration for contest ends **October 6th, 2007**

Deadline for contest submissions: November

For complete rules and guidelines, see:
<http://museitupclub.tripod.com/id46.html>

Members Write Contributions from fellow WOKers

President's Column



Carol Black
How Do I Write the Back Cover of My Novel?

In the beginning, perhaps some of you are, or were, as ill-informed as I was. Before I began dealing with publishers and agents, I had the mistaken idea that the publisher employed writers who wrote your back cover for you. Little did I know that the writer writes all those glowing reports about their own novel. So, how do I go about writing such a synopsis?

Writing a summary of your story is not easy. If you plan to have a publisher snap up your

novel, the synopsis must be well written. You've just put your heart and soul into creating believable characters and authentic plots that will keep your audience turning the pages. Now you must put extra effort into... written in your best style... creating a summary that will win over a publisher or agent.

Don't be bland. Don't make it sound like a book report. "The synopsis must reflect your best writing style," writes Robyn Conley in a *Writer's Digest* article, *Synopsis Secrets*. If your selling tool (the synopsis) is bland and businesslike, the editor/publisher/agent

might never move on to reading your sample chapters.

How do I keep from being bland? The solid story must have a believable character that is in conflict. We believe in characters when we feel and think with them. This same element must be apparent in the opening sentences of the summary. Think of the movie previews we sit through at the theater... they hit you with all the fast, exciting scenes and actually show you the entire movie in just a couple of minutes. This is what you need to do in your synopsis. Keep it to the main character and show the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the story. If you must include other characters use the words friend, uncle, brother, sheriff, etc. Including too many names will be needless clutter.

What about dialogue? If you feel you must use it, keep it short and in places where it will have the most impact.

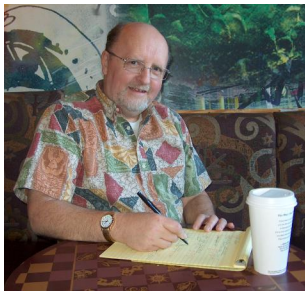
Shall I write in first or third person? Use whatever position you did when writing the novel. If you wrote it in first person, write the synopsis in first person. The advantage to first person is that the reader is immediately thrust into the main character's emotional and physical perspective. A disadvantage is that the reader can only see and feel from that character's point of view.

How long should it be? According to Robyn Conley, follow the preferences of the editor or agent you're querying. If they have no guidelines; double-space, use Courier or Times Roman font in size 12, and don't go over ten pages of text.

Writing a synopsis is not our favorite bit of writing, but it is a very important one. With these guidelines perhaps we can land a contract.

At the September Meeting

Terry Redman



President Carol Black led the meeting and asked for updates from the group. **Peg Connelly** and **Donnalee**

Huffman currently have books accepted by *PublishAmerica*. The following people are cashing checks from *PublishAmerica*: **Peg Connelly**, **Carol Black** and **Joe Tomasi**. See the next newsletter for any updates or call the chair for your group of interest.

Some matters of note: Dues now late, and a penalty fee is now attached for renewing WOK/CWC membership. The **Anthology**

is currently undergoing the edit process by the board. A time schedule will be announced in the near future. Twenty years ago **The Beale Library** opened and WOK did readings at the opening. In April we will be again doing readings as a part of the anniversary celebrations. **Lucinda Soria** will have more information later.

Have you told the grandkids about the time you were caught smoking or skinny-dipping by your parents? Do they know who your best friend was and how he/she turned out?

Peg Connelly was the featured speaker enlightening us on the topic of making a **memoir**. She talked about her own desire to

leave her children the memories of her life, in her own words. “Your life, your book.” She emphasized that any comfortable format will do but it will more meaningful in your own voice. Include graphics—old photos, papers the kids brought home from 2nd grade, birthday cards, favorite cartoons. She would point out the list is endless.

How to get started? What are 10-15 important events in your life? What do you

want remembered and how? One way to organize might be to break it into age period: life before high school, when we lived in Texas, during the war etc. When you say to yourself, ‘oh, the stories I could tell,’ stop and write them down. One of the nuggets of my family history is that my ancestors were horse thieves in Ireland—I do hope it’s true.

Marty’s Muse

Something to think about . . .
October 2007



Stalled.

Stuck in a writer’s byway.

I walked into one of my favorite coffee houses the other day, committing myself to an hour or

so of solitude and solitary writing. See, I had this little column to write up, and figured it was the perfect setting to stimulate my muse and get some work done. I found a place outside, sat down with my cup and notebook, took pencil in hand, and opened a case of procrastination.

I immediately became immersed in people-watching, noting the way they walked, dressed, smelled. I invented little histories for the strangers who flowed past, imagined how I could work them in as characters for my next story. I caught snatches of conversation, and thought how cleverly they would fit into the dialogue of a certain project. I free-associated scenes, blocked-out the staging, rearranged entrances and exits, and flirted—no, not with the barista—with

the danger of a missed deadline, albeit, a self-imposed one.

I’m a long-time practitioner of this particular form of stalling. I developed my world-class standing during my college days. I would go to the cafeteria or library or local—no, not pool hall. Now cut that out!—the local diner, fully intending to complete some crucial assignment, only to discover hours later the assignment still uncompleted. I even went so far as to burn the midnight oil fixing my friends’ term papers while totally ignoring my own. I also ignored that pesky little voice-in-the-back-of-my-head telling me I’d be sorry later. I never was as sorry about it as I should have been. I felt a great pride in helping my friends achieve classroom success, and I always managed to get my work in, sometimes on time.

So, I developed several exercises, methods, tricks and techniques to help awaken the muse and stimulate my writing.

* First, Relaxation. Sit back, close your eyes, try to clear your mind. Go to your happy place. Envision pleasant things, like grassy meadows and babbling brooks—whatever visions evoke that sense of pleasant euphoria in you.

* Next, Yogic Breathing. Again, with your eyes closed. Take a deep breath, inhaling to the count of 5 (Slowly. 1-2-3-4-5). Hold it to the count of 3. Then exhale to the count of 10. When you start to feel dizzy, you're there.

* Now, pick up your favorite pen or pencil—the one that fits your hand just right. Think of your character. Write down as many of that character's traits, good and bad, you can think of.

* Borrowing a technique from the acting world, "methodize" your character: absorb him; let him absorb

you. What music makes him happy? Hear that music in your mind, and feel how it makes him feel. Think of a scene. Does your character pace nervously? Does she worry and fret? Get up. Pace around. Worry. Fret. Feel how your character feels.

I have tried all these techniques, and many more. Some work well for me, some don't. Principally, what I have discovered is—yep, you guessed it—new forms of procrastination.

Happy writing!

Marty Stalled-in-the-Write-Lane Gorsching

THE WATCH

Gary Alexander
Used by permission

Clothes damp and moldy
cling
like a second skin;
two hours
before the dawn

Forms creep near;
Night-tricks
played on weary eyes

Night's
last mosquito
drones loud and long
his vampire song
while

dark forms lie about
like so many sleeping children

Sleep, like death, has come
to each, save one;
for he is The Watch,
the night savior
of deep-breathing men

Some sleep from fear,
some with the pain
but all sleep on trust,
for he is the watch

and he holds their lives
with his eyes and his ears,

in the dark

What's so hard about writing a novel? I can do it in two steps:

1. get a pencil

2. write

- Anonymous

WOK-Abouts: Clips, Quips, & Kudos

Brag, boasts, and bravos –

Susan K. Stewart – Susan will present “The Art & Science of Self-Publishing” in an online broadcast (real-time chat) as part of the **2007 “Muse Online Writers Conference”**. Real time chat Saturday, October 13, 9:00 am.

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

Judgment Fire, Marilyn Meredith's latest Deputy Tempe Crabtree mystery, has been receiving great reviews:

"What a powerful talent it takes to make a reader so much a part of what is happening in a work of fiction...." Cheryl Malandrinos The Book Connection

"One of the primary things to love about this series is that Tempe and her family seem real. They are people we aspire to be, good people in spite of the things life throws at them...." Sarah Brewley, WP Book Reviews

Marilyn Meredith, <http://fictionforyou.com> PO Box 526, Springville CA 93265

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-Wiley, 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

MuseItUp Club: www.museitupclub.tripod.com

Apollo's Lyre www.apollos-lyre.com

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

The Muse Online Writers Conference:

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

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!"

- 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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