
	<h1 style="text-align: center;"><i>The Write Way</i></h1> <p style="text-align: center;">A publication of <i>The Writers of Kern</i>, a Branch of the <i>California Writers Club</i> Oct 2008 © 2008, 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: Richard Meeks; Treasurer /Membership/CWC Representative: Sandy Moffett; Program Chair: (open); Publicity: Camille Gavin; Newsletter: Marty Gorsching</p>
	<p>Regular meetings are the 3rd Saturday of the month, 10:00 to noon at Wyndham Garden Hotel, 3001 Buck Owens Blvd, Bakersfield, CA</p>

!! Dues... by the time this newsletter comes out, any unpaid memberships will be dropped from the roster. For unpaid members, this will be the last newsletter you will receive and you will have to submit a new application with a new member check of \$65 instead of \$45. Sorry folks.

Special Events & Announcements

Speaker for October:



Dana Martin, editor of *The Northwest Voice*, will be the October speaker. Dana has had several short stories published in news magazines. She will give us her insight into submissions, which magazines are looking for articles, how to submit and if she has time will comment on submitting to the Northwest Voice. If you are published in any magazine or newspaper, you can use these as clips for your resume. There will also be a question and answer period, so bring your questions.

From **Dana Martin:** *The Northwest Voice* magazine is looking for submissions for its October 8th issue dedicated to senior citizens. I am specifically looking for

someone who will contribute a column about freebies or discounts available to senior citizens. I am also looking for 2 short (easy) recipes, keeping in mind the theme of senior citizens. Photos of sports (bowling leagues, golf, tennis, etc.) are also welcome, but please limit your photo submissions to people living in Northwest Bakersfield. Any additional articles written to this theme, along with anything listed above, can be submitted via the Web site at: www.northwestvoice.com. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday, September 30, at 9:00 p.m. Non-fiction only. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at dmartin@northwestvoice.com. Remember: All submissions count as clips!

Peg Connelly: I will have a Book Launch for my 5th children's book called *A Madman Hunts for Bigfoot*, at Barnes and Nobles on October 11th from noon to 4pm. It is a sequel to *If the Forest is Silent, Beware!*

Marilyn Meredith: I'm back from Crescent City and the most successful book launch I've ever had, this was for *Kindred Spirits*, the latest in my Deputy Tempe Crabtree series. Next up, I'm the keynote speaker for the Prose in the Park Writers' Conference in Taylorville IL.

Wilma Gore: I entered my short story "Cellmates" in a contest at Montana State University. The story was published and appeared in the 2007 anthology. I received an e-mail from one Barbara Cole of The Writer's Institute, Inc. saying that they would like to use "Cellmates" in an anthology they are publishing that will be a tool for teachers of creative writing at the college level. Also, in yesterday's mail came the word that my memoir, "Dancing On The Waters," was a runner-up in the recent PWP contest.

Non-Fiction Pitch Conference October 10-12, 2008

Last Chance to Sign Up

DATES: Friday through Sunday, October 10, 11, 12

PLACE: Ripley Grier Studios, 520 8th Avenue (btw 36th & 37th Streets), 16th Fl, New York.

New York Writers Workshop hosts a three-day Pitch Conference for writers of non-fiction. At this unique conference, participants meet with and pitch book proposals to three different editors from **major New York publishing houses**. For further information and sign up, please visit New York Writers Workshop website:

www.newyorkwritersworkshop.com

From Portia St. Claire:

HELEN SHANLEY'S BOOK "INNER COMPANY"

Helen Shanley who was active in Writer's of Kern and program chairperson for many years wanted her writing on imagery therapy, "Inner Company", available as an e-book. It is now available at www.helenshanley.blogspot.com/ and at

www.myspace.com/helenshanley.

In the foreward, Helen writes: "Image-making is a natural, innate function of the human mind. Its use in psychotherapy and education is on the increase following clinical, medical, and technological rediscoveries of its value. Many reasons could be advanced for the upsurge of interest in mental imagery..."

Centennial Edition CWC Anthology Needs Your Fiction, Essays, and Poetry! Deadline: October 31, 2008.

The California Writers Club, founded in 1909, is calling for submissions for its upcoming literary anthology. The anthology will help mark the club's centennial year. We are seeking fiction, literary nonfiction, and poetry written by our members. Please carefully read the submission guidelines if you are interested in submitting.

Submission Guidelines:

1. No more than 2000 words per fiction/nonfiction piece, 750 per poem.
2. Only electronic submissions accepted. Include your name, address, phone number, and CWC branch in the body of the email. Submit your work as a text or a Microsoft Word file to cwc_anthology@yahoo.com
3. Format your work in a professional manner, as you would when submitting to any agent, publisher, or contest:
 - a. Use white page background..
 - b. Use 10- or 12-point serif font (such as Times New Roman) for your copy.
 - c. Start your title page halfway down the page.
 - d. Include your name, address, phone number, and CWC branch at the top right of your title page.
 - e. Include last name, title (or abbreviated title), and page number in the header of every page except for the title page.
4. No more than 2 submissions in each category per author.
5. Topic of your choice.

Please note that we have a limited number of pages and a selection process is in place in case of too many submissions. Publication of submissions is NOT guaranteed. Put your best work forward – we're looking forward to reading it!

2008 DIY BOOK FESTIVAL SPECIAL FOCUS

LOS ANGELES _ The 2008 DIY Book Festival will have a special focus on unpublished stories, poetry and comics at its seventh annual program celebrating the success of independent authors and publishers.

More info at www.diyconvention.com Entries should be mailed to:

**JM Northern Media LLC
attn: DIY Book Festival
7095 Hollywood Boulevard
Suite 864
Hollywood, CA 90028-0893
Phone: 323-665-8080**

>>> Don't forget to save a space on your calendar for our annual Writers Workshop, slated for later this Fall. Details to come soon.

👍 Remember our new meeting address and time (see banner, above) – and don't forget, we now are required to charge a \$10.00 room rental fee at the door.

Anyone interested in the position of Webmaster for the California Writers' Club should contact Sandy Moffett at 661-205-1045 or sm@sandymoffett.com

MEMBERS WRITE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM FELLOW WORKERS

Presidents' Column Carol Black



Senior day

We went to "Senior Day" at the Kern County Fair this year. It's free to us who are over the hill, and rightly so. I would not want to pay for something that makes me that tired. There were loads of people. Many young parents with their small children. Did they think it would be easier to handle the little ones with a lot of old people around? Did they know that the carnival rides do not operate until after all the tired oldsters have gone home?

There were plenty of senior citizens. Kern County has loads of them in all shapes, sizes, and sophistication levels. Lots of them walking way too slow for us to follow, so we found ourselves weaving in and out between gossiping ladies and old men who lumbered from side to side as they walked. Wheelchairs! I have not seen so many in one place since last year's fair. Some operating their own "Little Rascal" scooters, some maneuvering their powerless chair by turning the wheels by hand. Some being pushed by a loved one... I saw one couple change places so the other could ride for a while! I saw a number of wheelchair riders who were pushed by what looked like their nurse, staring into space. It made me wonder if they knew they were at the fair at all. But, hey! We got in free, didn't we?

The art show is always good. I especially like to see what the school kids have entered. Then, there is the landscape competition and quilts by the dozens. The photography building is worth the free entry, even if that is all you do. Hundreds of wonderful

pictures of every conceivable subject. Enjoyable for sure. But, don't leave the fair until you go see the animals. We watched a young boy show his goat in the arena. It's fun to walk through the barn and watch the goats climb up on the fence surrounding their pen, gawking at everyone and seeming to wonder what is going on. Don't forget the swine barn. Pink pigs, brown pigs, white pigs, black pigs, gray pigs. Pink is definitely the minority color, so it makes me wonder why pink was chosen for Porky Pig. The sheep and cows complete the livestock. I wonder what happened to the rabbits and chickens they used to show.

Another senior day come and gone. I've attended two. If I ruled the fair, I would have some of the carnival rides running for those of us who are still young at heart and want to ride the Ferris wheel or the Merry-go-round.

Abandoned-By-The-Sea

Part 10

Joe Tomasi



I walked outside the theater and sat on the curb while Debbie spoke with Hemmings. It was deathly quiet in town so when I heard someone approaching I looked up. There came Edgar sweeping toward me, ski hat, mittens, and all. Just before he reached the theater, he crossed the street and continued sweeping the sidewalk. I was watching him when the shrill whistle at the lumber mill blew. I jumped up, looking around like a frightened rabbit. I then heard laughter—the owner of the Crab shack. As if it weren't bad enough that I was trapped by the theater, I had to endure the man's smirk. I took comfort in the hope that Karma would prevail.

After a couple of hours, we finally left Bandon and headed for Coos Bay and the only semblance of home we had – that third floor apartment. Just as we were pulling into the parking spot, our landlords, the Wongs, pulled up next to us.

I nodded and turned to go upstairs but was stopped when Mr. Wong asked, "You wouldn't happen to have a cat up there, would you? You know how we feel about animals."

I swallowed and replied, "Of course not."

We then hurried to the long flight of stairs that led to the apartment. No sooner had we closed the door than Debbie blurted out, "They know! What are we going to do?"

All I could say was, "Nothing."

We flopped down on the mattress and sat there, petting our cat and contemplating the events that had brought us to this spot. It was getting more difficult to recapture that pioneer spirit. After all, we had left a perfectly comfortable home, a single-story home, with no one to tell us what to do. Where had we gone wrong? My instinct was to blame Debbie, but the truth was, I had been the one to push the move to Oregon. I sighed, realizing that, like it or not, we'd be making this trip up those stairs many, many times to come. And yes, the apartment was cramped and sparsely decorated, but we vowed not to spend any money on unnecessary items. After all, we already owned everything we could possibly need, but where, exactly, our possessions were was another question. So, for the time being, the discussion over our belongings became a moot point, because we didn't even have a place to put them. We had to make do with our minimalist surroundings, and since we had few clothes, we had to wash more often.

The next morning we awoke to a perfect day. The sky was the bluest of blues, and there was not a cloud in sight. Once again we allowed ourselves to believe that the rain in Oregon was over-exaggerated. Maybe it wasn't so bad at all. For the next couple of days we stopped fretting over our misfortune and began to focus on the beauty of our surroundings and the slower pace – reasons why we'd decided to move to Oregon in the first place. Just when I was totally caught up in the euphoria, Debbie dropped the bomb.

“I promised Mr. Hemmings we'd come to the theater to learn the ropes,” she said.

I protested, arguing that we only agreed to “watch” the theater, not to “run” it. Of course, she reminded me that Hemmings was taking off on a vacation, but stated that his employees actually ran the theater—all we had to do was oversee. Well, that sounded simple enough, so I promised Debbie to “lighten up” and we headed back to Bandon—Debbie was excited but I was skeptical. Who knew what would happen?

We drove over the Coquille River Bridge and I noticed that it was high tide. I knew that it could only mean trouble for the theater, but obviously I was the only one concerned about water running into the theater, so I didn't even bring it up. We parked across the street from the theater, right in front of the Crab Shack. I glared at the owner, silently putting a curse on all his progeny, but he ignored me and walked back into the kitchen. It appeared that we were the only car on the street, which I felt was a good thing—it could only mean there wouldn't be a crowd at the theater. Of course, Debbie had to burst my bubble by reminding me that it was a little early—business would pick up later.

Hemmings had just replaced light bulbs around the ticket booth and was storing the ladder when we walked in. He immediately took Debbie to the ticket booth to explain the ticket-selling process, but he was pleased when Debbie told him she had sold tickets in a theater when she was a teen, so he left her in charge of tickets with the assurance that there was only one showing per evening. That didn't sound too bad, but what Hemmings failed to mention was the fact that the theater was the only entertainment in town. That's right, the ONLY entertainment, except, of course, when Bandon High School was playing a game. Of course, this was the summer, so we had the people of Bandon all to ourselves—definitely not a good thing.

Right off the bat, my wife had a job. I, on the other hand, just hung around the lobby, watching the concession girl, Betty. That seemed like a common enough name, but when I asked her what her last name was, I got a different impression. She laughed and said, "I'm 'Betty-from-the-jetty'—everyone knows that." I wanted to ask what a jetty was, but I felt it was safer to just smile at this flower child, complete with flowers in her braided hair, long Madras skirt and all. Compared to Hemmings, she was extremely pleasant, in fact, too giggly nice. It just wasn't normal. I was trying to figure out what was wrong with her when I caught scent of the sickeningly sweet scent of marijuana that clung to her clothes. That explained it all, but I hardly had time to think about it because the unique residents of Bandon-By-The-Sea began to trickle into the theater. As I watched the parade of hippies, fishermen and loggers pass before me, I began to wonder just how long we would survive this far from civilization.

Marty's Muse

Something to think about . . .

Sept 2008

On Vacation



Greetings from the Hermit's cave somewhere in the Great American Desert:

Do you stop writing when on vacation? Is that a good time to take a break from all the responsibilities of manuscripts and deadlines and due dates? I mean, it's a vacation. What part of that term implies carrying work along? Writing is work, right? Right.

On our current, latest trip into realms unknown and unexplored, I thought about doing that, leaving the writing behind. But I often find that a retreat into the wilderness is a good time to get back in touch with many of the things that stimulate my writing: wild nature, solitude, uncommon scenery, different people, wide vistas... So, despite the distractions of visiting with friends and family, site seeing, trading and bartering with indigenous populations, and the lure of bright city lights, I continue my writing routines... well, to a certain extent, anyway. When I cannot set aside the time to write, I feel I am neglecting an important commitment. That's when I use my "mental camera" to record moments, which, hopefully, I can recall and use later. However, I also carry a small, pocket notebook that I can jot notes down in. Brain fatigue often causes a loss of memory files.

Hope y'all are having a wonderful time. I know I am.

Happy writing!

Marty "Gone Fishing" Gorsching (Pictures to follow)

WOK Members' Websites

WOK members: Do you have a personal site you would like to list here? Send me the information, and I will post it.

Annis Cassells: www.connectionsandconversations.com

Carol Black: www.publishedauthors.net/CarolBlack00

Maggie Caldwell Smith: www.magpiepress.com

Peg Connelly: www.grannywrites4kids.com

Marilyn Meredith: <http://fictionforyou.com> <http://www.marilynmeredith.blogspot.com/>

Sandy Moffett: www.sandymoffett.com

Debra Blackmon: www.debrablackmon.com

Susan K. Stewart: www.skstewart.com

California Writers Club: www.calwriters.org/

Writers of Kern: www.writersofkern.com

Martin Gorsching: www.martinlgorsching.com

Mary Amelia: MaryAmelia.Com; Mary@AmeliaPublications.com

Critique Groups

Children's Fiction/ Memoir/Non-fiction: Peg Connelly, 399-0423, 4th Mondays, 6:30pm, mispegg@aol.com

Poetry: contact Margie Custer custer@ix.netcom.com, 397-1273, for more information

Fiction Writing Group (all fiction genres welcome): Carol Black & Bertie Warren, 832-9242
2nd Tuesday at 1:00 PM, 7105 School House Lane. 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

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

Central Coast Writers Branch 2009 Writing Contest for poetry and short stories.

Winners awards: \$500 and publication (print and on-line) in the Homestead Review (Hartnell College).

Entry Fees: \$15 per short story and \$5 per poem.

Submission period: August 15, 2008 through November 15, 2008.

Guidelines and Info: www.centralcoastwriters.org

THREE NEW MAGAZINE LISTINGS

WritersMarket.com (www.writersmarket.com) lists more than 6,000 opportunities to get paid for your writing efforts. Here are three new magazines recently added to the site.

[*Fido Friendly Magazine*](#) pays 10-20¢ per word for nonfiction features and short stories. This bimonthly magazine covers travel with your dog and prefers writers query before submitting. The editors say, "Our readers treat their pets as part of the family. Writing should reflect that."

[*Flying Adventures Magazine*](#) pays \$150-300 for nonfiction pieces of 500-1,500 words. This bimonthly magazine covers lifestyle travel for owners and passengers of private aircraft and prefers that writers query with published clips. The editors say, "Send clips that fit our content and style."

[*Mensbook Journal*](#) pays \$20-250 for nonfiction pieces of 1,000-2,500 words and also publishes fiction and poetry. This quarterly gay men's journal targets bright, inquisitive, discerning gay men with well-written prose, analysis, reviews, short fiction, and commentary. The editors say, "Just be a tight writer with a cogent, potent message."

2008 Four Way Books Intro Prize In Poetry

<http://www.fourwaybooks.com/contest>

TOM HOWARD/JOHN H. REID SHORT STORY CONTEST

Sixteenth year. August 15-March 31. Fourteen cash prizes totaling \$5,250. Top prize: \$2,000. Seeks short stories, essays and other works of prose, up to 5,000 words. Winning entries published online. Both published and unpublished work accepted. Fee per entry is \$12, payable to Winning Writers. Postmark deadline: March 31. Judges: J.H. Reid, D.C. Konrad. Submit online or by mail to Winning Writers, Attn: Tom Howard Short Story Contest, 351 Pleasant Street, PMB 222, Northampton, MA 01060. More information: <http://www.winningwriters.com>

The Muse Online Writers Conference:

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

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!"

Writer's Relief Inc

<http://www.writersrelief.com>

"Writer's Relief, Inc. is a highly recommended author's submission service. Established in 1994, Writer's Relief will help you target the best markets for your creative writing. Visit our Web site to receive our FREE Writers' Newsflash (today, via e-mail) which contains valuable leads, guidelines, and deadlines for writing in all genres."

THIRD ANNUAL FLASH PROSE CONTEST SPONSORED BY WRITER ADVICE

WriterAdvice, www.writeradvice.com, is searching for flash fiction, memoir, and creative non-fiction that grabs, surprises, and mesmerizes readers in fewer than 750 words. If you have a complete story with a strong theme, sharp images, a solid structure, and an unexpected discovery, please submit it to the WriterAdvice Flash Prose Contest

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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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