



Founded in 1909

# The INKSLINGER

Sail On



Founded in 1990

**HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC**  
**INSPIRING A COMMUNITY OF WRITERS**  
**DECEMBER 2023**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Mike Apodaca*

### THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

Life is filled with amazing moments. Last year, around Halloween, I let my beard grow out a little bit. I was playing Gandalf, from *Lord of the Rings*, and wanted the extra chin hair for the part. Well, the beard came in curly—a swirling nest on my chin. Looking it over, I thought, maybe I could pull off playing Santa.

At lunch after our November meeting, Lorelei Kay looked at me and asked if I would be Santa for the Christmas Salon. My Santa dreams were coming true. I agreed to do the gig under one condition—I got to borrow the suit for the entire Christmas season. She smiled and said, “It’s a deal.”



On December 2, my daughter booked me to play Santa for the kindergarteners at her school. I had five classes who came in star struck, whispering to each other, “There’s Santa!” They sat on the floor in front of me and I read them the amazing book *Press the Dot*. We laughed at the magic of that wonderful experience. Then the kids lined up and got their pictures taken with Santa. There was one boy who didn’t believe I was Santa and told the kids around him that I was a fraud. After the kids told me what was going on, I went to the little boy and asked him how you can tell if a Santa is real. He didn’t know. I told him, “You pull his beard. If the beard is real, the Santa is also.” He gave my curls a tug and his eyes went wide. He whispered in awe, “You are the real Santa!” I smiled back in affirmation. There’s something magical about Christmas, and I was thrilled to be a part of it for these little tykes.

One of the detriments of growing older is routine. Soon I will hang the same lights I have hung for the last five years on our front porch. We will drag out the Christmas tubs and set up our tree and decorations—some which I have had for more than thirty years. Familiarity breeds boredom.



In order to spice up our Christmas this year, I have a challenge for all of us. Find a beloved Christmas memory that you shared with someone special in your life, write it out as a short story, and send it to that person as a Christmas gift. There are great advantages to doing this. You will be practicing your writing. You will give a gift so unique that you are the only one who can give it. You will preserve a cherished memory that can be passed down in your family. The story of being Santa is one I am going to share with my daughter this Christmas. It will be a special gift that no one else would be able to give her. I wish you the best in finding yours.

Merry Christmas, everyone.



## FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

*Joan Rudder-Ward*



### DO YOU KNOW THE WAY TO ... BAGDAD?

The original intent of this article was to give ideas on how photographs can help you in your writing. There are numerous ways photos can help writers bring their stories to life. They can provide visual inspiration, historical accuracy, and give way to photo essays—valuable tools that can be very helpful when writing. However, I will cover that in a future article. This time I will talk about how researching a particular location has, in turn, given me inspiration for a variety of photo opportunities.

In my explorations of Route 66, one of my favorite places for inspiration is Bagdad, Bagdad, California, that is. Located in the middle of the Mojave Desert. A ghost “town” with not even the hint of a building anywhere.

How do you know when you've found it? Well, there's a single salt cedar tree that stands as a marker, a tombstone, an “X marks the spot”. A lone testament to a once-bustling community that was home to a few hundred people in its heyday.

Here's a few interesting tidbits about Bagdad, CA.

-In the late 1800s through the early 1900s, it was an important watering stop for the railroad. There were homes, hotels, stores, a school, and even a Harvey House restaurant. By the 1940s, population began to dwindle, and somewhere in the late 1960s the town gave up the ghost.

-It holds the record for the longest period of drought in the history of the country ... from July 1912 to November 1914, it had 767 consecutive days without precipitation.

-In the 1940s, people would come from all around the desert to the Bagdad Cafe, which was the only place for miles around that had a jukebox and dance floor.

-Mysteries are encased in the landscape ... is it merely folklore or is there some truth to the story that 50 Chinese railroad workers, who died during a cholera epidemic, are buried in an unmarked grave at the location? As I'm



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Salt Cedar Tree, Infrared light, May 2023, Bagdad, CA



Supermoon November 2016, Bagdad, CA

producing a documentary on the Chinese railroad workers who helped build the Transcontinental Railroad, this information is of particular interest to me.

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*A good novel tells us the truth about its hero; but a bad novel tells us the truth about its author.*

~G.K. Chesterton

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## THE TIES THAT BIND

*By Mike Apodaca*



8:00 at Corky's. Friday, not Thursday this week (because it's the first weekend of the month). So many wonderful conversations. Thanks to all who are coming to deepen our friendships and make new connections. This is also a hotbed for new ideas for the club. If you have time, come and share a cup of coffee or breakfast. You won't be sorry that you did.

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## THE OLD APPLE TREE AND ITS NEW RESIDENTS

The old apple tree had stood its ground for five decades. Only a few branches yielded fruit now while the others dried out and occasionally fell to the ground.

A pair of woodpeckers found a hollow in the mother trunk and began clearing it out to make a nest, while I watched from the patio. Time after time, the mama bird disappeared down into the trunk, snagged a piece of debris, and reappeared at the opening to drop it on the ground. Meanwhile, the male was searching for nest-building materials. The little home was soon complete.

Before long, four tiny new babies announced their arrival with tinkling chirps resonating from their sheltered bed inside the old tree.

Isn't nature fascinating?

NEWS FROM THE HIGH DESERT BRANCH OF THE CWC

*By Ann Miner*

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# THE MOST FAMOUS AUTHORS OF ALL TIME

By Mike Raff



## AGATHA CHRISTIE

Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller, aka Agatha Christie, was born on September 15, in 1890, Torquay, Devon, England, to an upper-middle-class family. She stated her childhood was “very happy,” and, as a youngster, tended to play alone with pets and imaginary friends. Her mother, Clara, believed her daughter shouldn’t learn to read until the age of eight. Thanks to Agatha’s sense of curiosity, however, she was reading by four years of age. Perhaps the greatest mystery writer ever, she received the majority of her education at the comfort of her home. She became an avid reader and wrote her first poem, “The Cow Slip” at age ten. Her father died from pneumonia and kidney disease when she was eleven years old.

At eighteen, while she was recovering from an illness, Agatha wrote her first short story, “The House of Beauty.” Most of her earlier writings included themes of madness, dreams, spiritualism, and paranormal. Due to an illness her mother had been suffering from, they started traveling, beginning with Egypt. Shortly later, Agatha began working on her first book, *Snow Upon the Desert*, set in Cairo.

Agatha attended numerous social events that were popular in England, activities such as country house parties, hunting, horseback riding, dances, and roller skating. At a party in October of 1912, she met Archibald “Archie” Christie, an officer in the Royal Artillery. They fell in love and three months later, he proposed marriage. They married on Christmas Eve in 1914, five months after World War I had started.

Shortly later, Archie was sent to France. Agatha participated in the war as well, joining the Voluntary Aid Detachment of the British Red Cross, working in various capacities, including nursing wounded soldiers. She was reunited with her husband when he was reassigned to London near the end of the war.

Agatha was an avid enthusiast of detective novels; two of her favorite authors were Wilkie Collins and Arthur Conan Doyle.

Back in 1916, she had written her first detective novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*. Her main character, Hercule Poirot, a former Belgian police officer, was based on Belgian refugees and soldiers she had treated during the war. She described Poirot as having “magnificent moustaches” and a head “the shape of an egg.” Initially, her manuscript was rejected. After considerable time, it was finally published in 1920 by The Bodley Head. She signed a five-book contract with them, but later felt she had been taken advantage of.

During this time, Agatha gave birth to her only child, Rosalind. Her second novel, *The Secret Adversary*, featured other detectives, but her third novel, *Murder on the Links*, commissioned by *The Sketch* magazine, brought back Poirot, and she featured him in several short stories as well.

Again, Agatha began traveling, joining an around-the-world promotional tour organized by the British Empire Exhibition. The tour included Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, Canada, and South Africa. In Waikiki, the authors were the first Brits to learn to surf standing up. “It was heaven,” stated Agatha. “Nothing like rushing through the water at what seems to you a speed of about two hundred miles an hour. It is one of the most perfect physical pleasures I have known.”



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When Agatha returned to England, her and Archie purchased a house in Sunningdale, Berkshire, and renamed it Styles after the mansion in Agatha's first detective novel.

In 1926, Agatha's mother died. The loss sent the 36-year-old into a state of depression. The press reported she had traveled to a village near Biarritz to recuperate from a nervous "breakdown," which they claimed was caused by working too hard. A few months later, her husband, Archie, fell in love with another woman and asked Agatha for a divorce. By December of that year, Archie announced he was going to spend a weekend with some friends, alone. Then their lives took a drastic turn. Similar to a scene from one of her novels—Agatha disappeared.

To be continued next month.



*You own everything that happened to you. Tell your stories. If people wanted you to write warmly about them, they should have behaved better.*

~ANNE LAMOTT



The California Writers Club, High Desert Branch, recently unveiled the award-winning writers for its 2023 anthology, *Conflict*. The winners of first, second, third, and fourth places for cash prizes were announced on Saturday, marking the first day the book became available for sale. In its tradition of putting the book on sale for Christmas gifts, *Conflict* was featured at the meeting for only \$10.

Avalynn Morse's entry, "We Are All Destined to Become Our Mothers," tied with Michael Raff's "The Surrounding Silence" for First Place honors. Raff is the author of nine published books.

Michael Raff, a local suspense writer, and Avalynn Morse, a member of the California Writers Club since she was eight years old, and now a junior at Coe College, tied for first place honors in competition with more than forty other experienced writers. Raff, a seasoned and prolific writer, is not new to winning awards for writing. Morse, age 20, is the youngest author to submit to the competition. She is studying science at Coe College with her eyes on becoming an

emergency room physician or doing oncology research.

Other prose division winners were Freddi Gold and John Paul Garner (tied for second place); Jenny Margotta-Ferrera (third place); Anita Holmes and Mike Apodaca (tied for fourth place.) First Place awardee in the poetry division was Lorelei Kay of Hesperia for "Blasphemy." Other winners included Rusty LaGrange and Loralie Kay (tied for second place), Anita Holmes (third place), John Garner and Mary Langer Thompson (fourth place.)

*Conflict* is the club's sixth anthology edited by member, Jenny Margotta. The book may be purchased on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and other booksellers.



# WRITERS ARE READERS

## BOOK REVIEWS

By Mary Langer Thompson



### ON EARTH WE'RE BRIEFLY GORGEOUS

By Ocean Vuong

Intrigued by the poetic title and the fact that this book was a *New York Times* Best Seller, *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* is both a compelling and difficult read. Written in the form of a letter from a twenty-something-year-old son ("Little Dog") to a single mother who cannot read, we find themes of race, identity, generational trauma, the American Dream, and post-war affects in this raw story with a strong emotional tone. Little Dog's mother is suffering from PTSD after fleeing her homeland, Vietnam, and physically and emotionally abuses him. Little Dog loves, fears and respects her, but life in poverty in Hartford, Connecticut, is unbelievably hard. Little Dog jumps around in time and memory of his grandparents, mother, and life after leaving home. Some readers may find this book too graphic or at times even too suggestive of sex and violence, but Ocean Vuong is a new and honest author telling a story in a mesmerizing voice.

As writers, we need to read widely. I challenge you to have a personal reading plan for 2024. Consider how you will choose books to read and perhaps how many. Will you read book reviews, take suggestions from friends who rave about certain books, try to balance fiction, nonfiction, memoir, spiritual, how-to, or even recipe books? Will you reread some books you remember you loved or books you always planned to read, even classics? Will you read outside your genre or stay within it? Will you let one book lead to another or carefully plan out the reading year? Will you browse bookstores or even your own bookshelf, use the library or borrow from friends, or order from Amazon? Will you finish all books you start or use your right to drop them if you don't like them? Will you try to match up books and movie versions? How and what will you read to inform your own writing? Will you read one book at a time or have several going at once?

Here are three of my initial, flexible reading goals for 2024:

1. Read or reread at least one classic. I admit I never finished *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville. Recently, however, I watched the film *In the Heart of the Sea* and learned the true story upon which *Moby Dick* is based. I have a renewed interest in the book and symbolism and plan to start again. I also know that there is increasing censorship from both the political right and left to throw out the classics in school curricula, including some of my favorites like *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Shakespeare's plays. Many teachers are convinced these books and the principles in them do not speak to our current times and students. I don't agree and have applied to the National Council Teachers of English to write some defenses of books. As Ray Bradbury said, "You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them."



2. Read a history book. I love to read about WWII, perhaps because my mother and father met in a war factory and my father was born in Dresden, Germany, a city bombed by the Allies when the grandmother and aunts I never met still lived there. A friend suggested the book *The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom that everyone she knows is talking about. Or perhaps I'll read a book on the Civil War or Bill Lopez will suggest one about JFK on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Apple Valley Library.

3. Read Alan Watt's *The 90-Day Memoir* in preparation for his HDCWC class and finish my own memoir.





### WHAT'S IN A NUMBER



On Tuesday, November 21, about eight of us met at Richard Zone's house for a laughter-filled two hours of presenting "Sorry, Wrong Number," a radio presentation first aired in 1943. A recurring line was the lead character trying to get the operator to connect her to MUrray Hill 4-0098. That led me to wondering how many of our younger members might be asking, "What kind of telephone number is that? And how am I supposed to dial it?"

MUrray Hill 4-0098 is an example of what is known as the Two Letter-Five Number (2L-5N) format. The two letters designated the central office where the number was assigned and the five numbers designated the actual number assigned to a particular telephone. The format was first introduced in the 1920s and was used until phased out by the 1960s with the completion of automatic dialing systems across the country. (In the 1940s, the 2L-5N format was expanded to a 4L-5N format in large urban areas like New York City, Chicago, and Los Angeles. When automatic dialing ability replaced human operators, the Letter-Number format was translated into all numbers.

But back to MUrray Hill 4-0098. "Murray Hill" obviously has more than two letters, so how would it be converted to all numbers? We all know there are three or four letters assigned to number buttons 2 through 9 on our current telephones. The first two letters of the first word (sometimes the only word) in a 2L-5N format were the key. So MUrray Hill 4-0098 would be read as MU4-0098 and converted to 689-0098. (FYI: MUrray Hill represented the East Side of Manhattan's telephone exchange.)

If you wanted to make a telephone call, you picked up the phone. A switchboard operator would greet you with, "Number, please." You then gave her the word or words and digits of the phone number you wanted. "Operator, connect me to Murray Hill 40098, please," or words to that effect.

Local calls required only one operator—easy—but long distance calls were an entirely different matter. They required multiple, specially trained long-distance operators working in several different offices, either within the state or across the nation. And international calls could be an all-day affair. My husband John's family had relatives living in rural Italy, high up on a mountain with no telephone. When his mother wanted to call her sister, she started early in the day because it was often six or eight hours before she could actually speak to her sister. The process started by telling the local operator she wanted to place a call to Italy. The local operator connected her to an international-trained "overseas" operator. That operator would connect to an operator in Italy who would then connect the call to the local-area operator in Italy. However, since John's aunt and uncle in Italy didn't have a phone, the call went to a store at the bottom of the mountain. The store owner would tell the operator he would return the call when John's aunt was in the store and would then a mule up the mountain to bring the aunt back down. Then the calling process was again implemented, this time in reverse. Finally, much later in the day, the phone would ring at John's apartment in New York City and the local operator would announce, "I have you call from Italy." Imagine!

Eventually, as the population grew and everyone had a telephone, the 7-digit system was no longer sufficient, so 3 more digits were added—the area code. (The first area code was introduced in 1951.) The new, 10-digit format is today known as the North American Dialing Plan and is used in both the United States and Canada.

For many years, it was not necessary to include the area code if the caller and callee were both in the same area code, and in small communities, one often only needed to dial the original five numbers from the 2L-5N format. (Alamosa, Colorado, still used the 5-number dialing format in 1967 when I moved there.)

Many people objected to losing their familiar telephone exchange names, however. The Anti-Digit Dialing League actively campaigned to restore the letter-number format, and in 1966, Stan Freberg wrote a song titled "They Took Away Our Murray Hills."

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They took away our Murray Hills  
They took away our  
Sycamores,  
They took away Tuxedo and  
State,  
They took away our Plaza,  
our Yukon, our Michigan,  
And left us with 47329768...

Clearly, telephone companies were not swayed by public opinion.

Today, clicking on the contact icon on a SmartPhone or using speed dial on a land line is certainly easier and quicker, but it's also a lot more impersonal. As a young child, I remember trying to call my best friend Florence, and rather than connecting the call, our operator would say something like, "Oh, they're not home, dearie. They left early today to go shopping in Fairmont."



## WORD OF THE MONTH

TELEPHONE: ([te-lə-fōn](#)): **Noun**

The word "telephone" was first used in 1835, and was a "system for conveying words over distance by musical notes." Devised in 1828 by French composer Jean-François Sudré, each tone played over several octaves represented a letter of the alphabet. From French téléphone (c. 1830): télé = "far" + phōnē = "sound, voice." Sudré's system never proved practical.

The electrical communication tool we know today was first described in modern form by Philip Reis in 1861; developed by Scottish-born inventor Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922) and so called by him from 1876.



**AVALYNN MORSE (LEFT) AND JUNE LANGER, THE YOUNGEST (AGE 20) AND ELDEST (AGE 100) WRITERS TO BE FEATURED IN THE 2023 HDCWC ANTHOLOGY, *CONFLICT*.**



# SORRY, WRONG NUMBER



Directed by Freddi Gold (upper right) and Mike Apodaca (lower left), a reader's theater presentation of *Sorry, Wrong Number*; featuring Jon Garner, (middle left) Richard Zone, (middle left) Lynn Puckett, (lower right) Loralie Matsuda, (upper right) Dwight Norris, (upper right) and Jenny Margotta, (lower upper left). Richard Spencer (upper right) was brilliant in his artistic representation of "the audience." Special effects were masterfully conjured by Mike Apodaca (lower left). The production was presented at Richard's home in a special edition of a Writers Salon on Tuesday, the 21st of November.

A good time was had by all.



## TIME TO UPDATE YOUR MRMS PROFILE

*By Mike Apodaca*

I was reading through the MRMS profiles this morning, especially looking over the genres represented in our club. It was most impressive. I have to admit, I was a little taken back when I read the one that said: Children's Romance. But then I saw the comma between the two words. What a difference punctuation makes!

Please take a moment and look at your information on the MRMS and make sure it is current and correct. Make sure your birthday is included. Update anything that has changed with you. And, if you have a minute, take the member survey.

Thanks for keeping our records current.



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Marilyn V. Ramirez December 9

Catherine Blevins December 16

Lorelei Kay December 18

Avalynn Morse December 19

Rita Wells December 19

Patrick Nee December 25



*“They who dream by day are cognizant of many things  
which escape those who dream only by night.”*

- EDGAR ALLAN POE



## APPLE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RETURN TO DANCE, SING FOR CHRISTMAS MEETING

By Bob Isbill

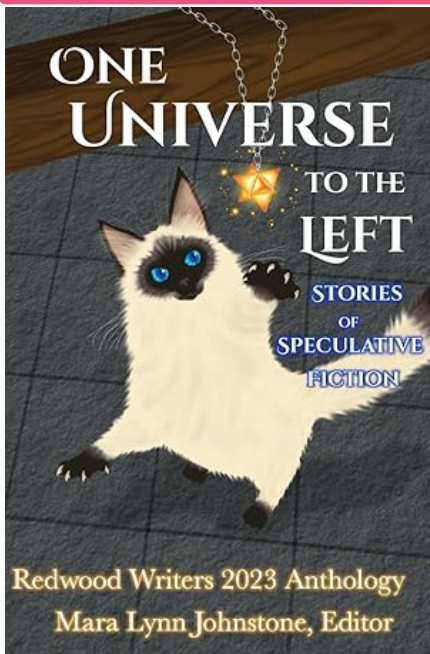
We will be pleased to present the Apple Valley High School Singers and Dancers on Saturday, December 10 at our Christmas meeting.

Last year, we were treated to this extraordinary Holiday entertainment from these young people. Very, very popular. They have agreed to return for this year's meeting so do not miss it.

More good things are in store for this meeting, so show up for the good times!



## MIKE RAFF IN REDWOOD WRITERS ANTHOLOGY



The Redwood Writers branch of the California Writers Club, has recently published a speculative fiction anthology called *One Universe to the Left*. It features a newly edited version of "Zander's Box" and an excerpt from "Magic Man," both written by our member Michael Raff. The anthology is available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).



## VETERANS HONORED AT CWC MEETING

*By Bob Isbill*



Lt. Col. Michael Moticia (left) and Arturo Garcia hold flag box of World War I Veteran E. Earl Isbill at HDCWC Veteran's Day meeting in Apple Valley. The club set aside time from presenting their new anthology, *Conflict*, to honor veterans for their service. Lt. Col. Moticia addressed the group of writers to emphasize the importance of remembering veterans on this special day.



*Authors are shy, unsociable  
creatures, atoning for their lack of  
social aptitude by inventing their own  
companions and conversations.*

~AGATHA CHRISTIE



# MARGOTTA AND MINER SCORE HITS WITH ON-TOPIC TALKS

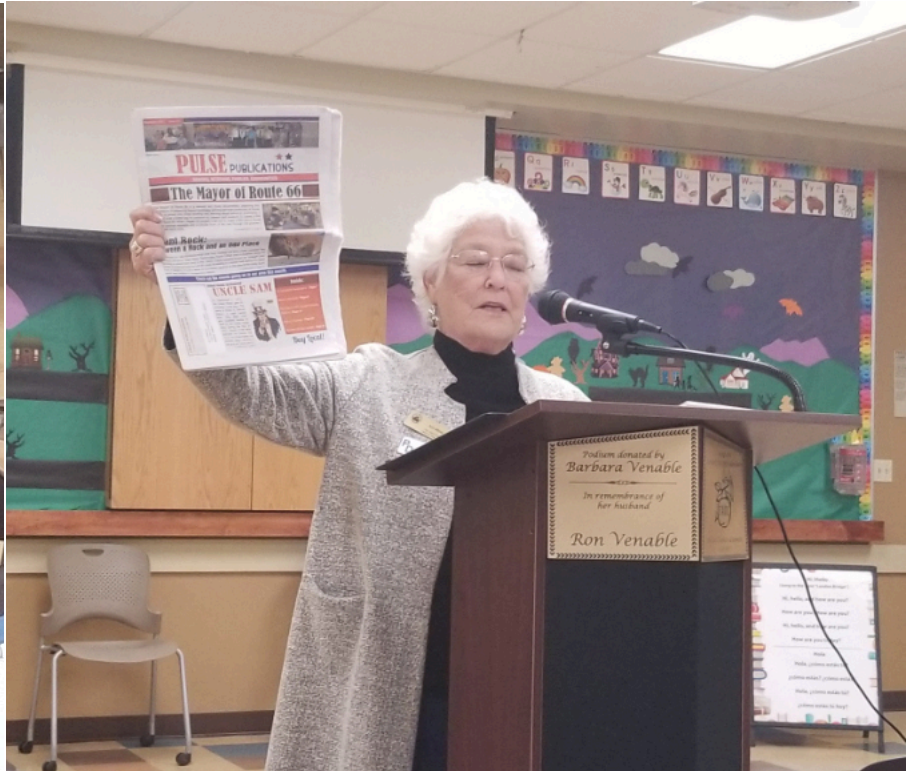
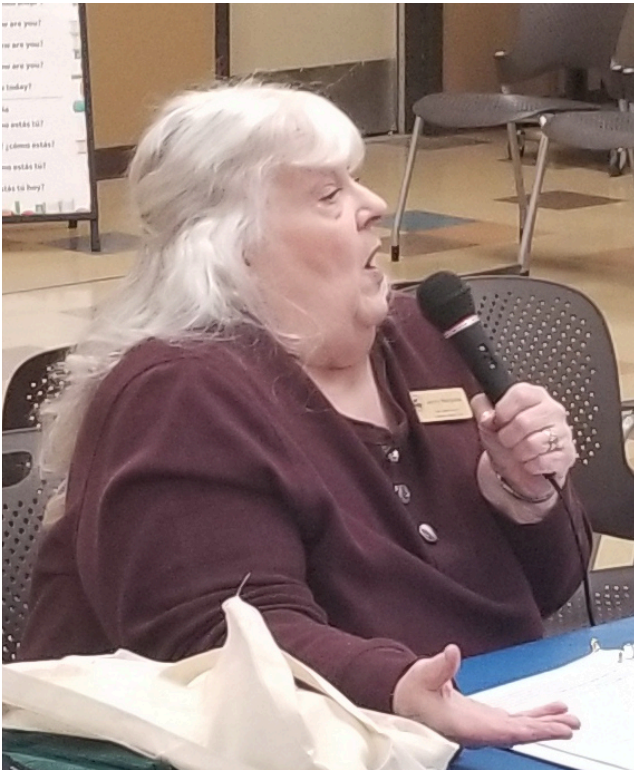
*By Bob Isbill*

Jenny Margotta discussing self-editing and Ann Miner speaking about Parkinson's disease both knocked it out of the park on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, at the Apple Valley Library.

The HDCWC On-Topic Speakers for You speakers bureau for writers with something to say meets monthly on the first Wednesday of each month from 5 to 7 pm at the Apple Valley Newton T. Bass Library to present talks and get helpful critiques and evaluations. The public is invited and welcome to attend at no cost.

HDCWC members, and especially those participating in the On-Topic Speakers program, are encouraged not only to support the speakers but to learn about a variety of topics. Openings for future speaking opportunities are available for January 3, 2024, and February 7, 2024. Talks are scheduled from 5:15 pm to 6:45pm.

Those wishing to schedule a speaking session should contact Bob Isbill at 760.221.6367 or email risbill@aol.com.



*"People think that I must be a very strange person. This is not correct. I have the heart of a small boy. It is in a glass jar on my desk."*

- STEPHEN KING

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# ARMISTICE DAY

*By Anita I. Holmes*

Scene from M\*A\*S\*H [Source: IMbd M\*A\*S\*H episode guide]

**Hawkeye:** **War isn't Hell. War is war. Hell is Hell. And of the two, war is a lot worse.**

Father Mulcahy: How do you figure that, Hawkeye?

Hawkeye: Easy, Father. Tell me, who goes to Hell?

Father Mulcahy: Sinners, I believe.

Hawkeye: Exactly. There are no innocent bystanders in Hell. War is chock full of them—little kids, cripples, old ladies. In fact, except for some of the brass, almost everybody involved is an innocent bystander.

**The Army's Mission** [Source: <https://www.army.mil/about/>]

To deploy, fight and win our nation's wars by providing ready, prompt and sustained land dominance by Army forces across the full spectrum of conflict as part of the joint force.



**Armistice Day** [Sources include: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veterans\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veterans_Day) and links]

The nations celebrated the war's end.  
Twenty million dead—half of them civilians  
at least as many wounded.  
Surely that was not celebratory.  
No, they celebrated heroism, gratitude for victory.  
Mostly they celebrated opportunity and new beginnings.

Seeing how they'd worked together in war,  
they set their hearts to waging peace.  
We committed to building new and just relations  
between countries and peoples,  
establishing political freedom in economic concert,  
high purposes our goal.

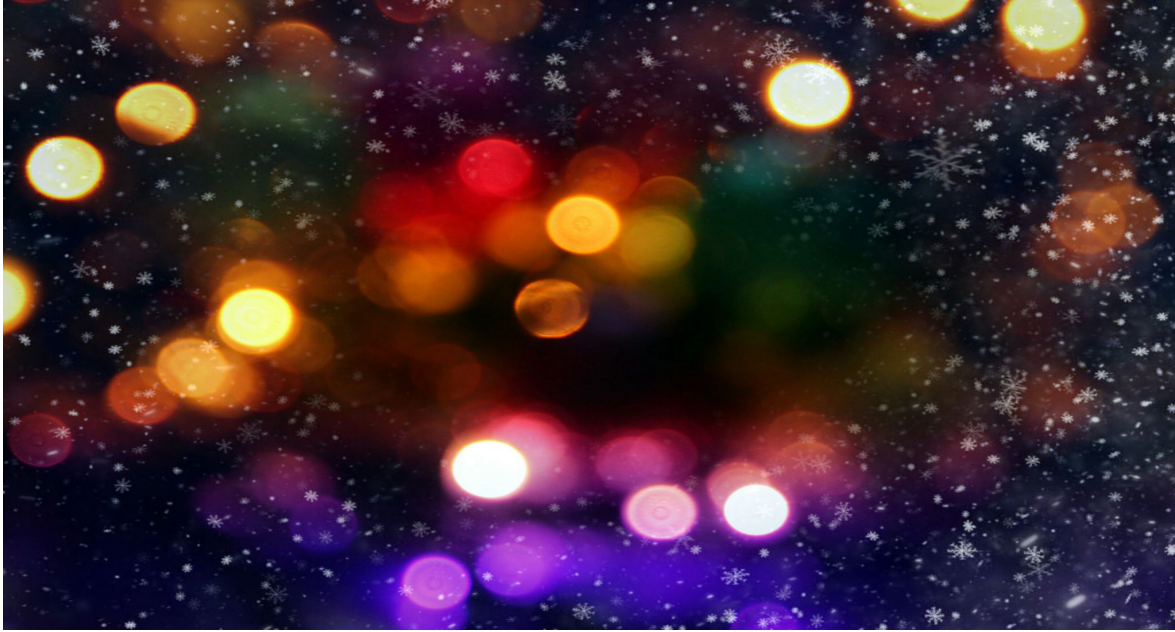
The eleventh hour of the eleventh day and month,  
Armistice was declared. Later, people paused to remember.  
But peace work is tough going in the trenches  
and the people faltered in their work.  
Nationalism and flag-waving, Hitler and fascism,  
the vision for peace and cooperation faded.

Came another war. Again, we the people worked together,  
once again nations committed as one to wage war.  
More than fifty million dead, over thirty-eight million civilians.  
The war ended, we celebrated, even elected a general to lead us.  
Legislation instructed us to honor veterans—all veterans—  
on this day, renamed Veterans Day.

Now we thank those for their service who trained to wage war,  
and we've lost our callings as nations committed to wage peace.  
Where and when do we honor the peacemakers?  
Where and when do we mourn the deaths of innocents and innocence?  
May we pause on this eleventh hour of the eleventh day and month –  
pause, remember, and recommit to ending the tragedies of war.



# SIXTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SALON!



**Tuesday, December 12, 5 – 7 p.m.  
First 12 to sign up - Pot Luck**

**Bring either a live reindeer,  
or a short piece of writing to share.  
There's always a choice!**

**Sign up here: [LoreleiKay7@gmail.com](mailto:LoreleiKay7@gmail.com)  
To be held at 17959 Juniper Street, Hesperia**

**A salon is a gathering of people under the roof of an inspiring host,  
held partly to amuse one another and partly to refine the taste and increase  
the knowledge of the participants through conversation.**

**SPECIAL EVENT FOR CLUB MEMBERS ONLY**

# SAN FRANCISCO WRITERS' CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

*By Bob Isbill*

The San Francisco Writers' Conference is again providing scholarships for CWC members to attend segments of the famed conference with free tickets. They are providing one member a ticket to either the Hollywood event or the Poetry program. All you need do is make your interest known to Central Board Representative Bob Isbill on or before Monday, December 18, 2023.

Note that all travel and hotel expenses are to be borne by the member and are not included in the scholarship. Only the passes to the individual programs are provided for free admission.

Details are as follows:

Check the one summit the recipient will be attending:

\_\_\_\_\_Hollywood Summit (Friday, February 16)

\_\_\_\_\_Poetry Summit (Saturday, February 17)

Details:

- ✓ **Seminars are day-long – expected to be 9-5. The scholarship does not include lunch. Recipients should either bring a bag lunch or avail themselves of many nearby lunch locations.**
- ✓ **Hotel parking is likely available; the SFWC website carries a map showing additional places to park. The hotel is also available by BART or ferry.**
- ✓ **Recipients wishing to secure a hotel room should check with the Hyatt directly. Lodging and travel**

**costs are not provided by this program.**



HIGH DESERT BRANCH OF THE  
CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS AND  
APPOINTED POSITIONS ARE CURRENT  
UNTIL THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR  
ENDING IN JULY 2023.

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**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

*By Michael Raff*

There are stars whose radiance is visible on Earth though they have long been extinct. There are people whose brilliance continues to light the world though they are no longer among the living. These lights are particularly bright when the night is dark. They light the way for humankind.

-Hannah Senesh, poet, playwright, and paratrooper

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  - Submit in Microsoft Word.
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- Call Richard if you would like to discuss an article or idea.  
909-222-8812



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