

The INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC
Inspiring a Community of Writers

Sail On

April 2019

You Asked For It Open Mic, Publishing, and Rap Session

We will hold an “open mic” meeting. Our featured guest speaker is Holly LaPat who is the author of six traditionally published romance novels under her pen name, Sierra Donovan.

Her books are "Love on the Air," "Meg's Confession," "No Christmas Like the Present," and three novels in her Evergreen Lane series. Her first two books were purchased by Montlake Romance; she sold her four Christmas novels to Kensington Publishing. An Amazon bestselling author, she is a winner of the Golden Quill for Sweet Traditional Romance, as well as a finalist for the Holt Medallion and the SnowGlobe Award.

Along with readings by member –writers, James (Grizzly) Elder will perform a song he wrote, “I Learned to Walk in My Daddy’s Boots.” Open Mic readers include Deborah Deetering, Barbra Badger, Holly LaPat, Diane Neil, and two readers from the PoemSmiths. The meeting will feature an open discussion about meeting challenges writers face.



Holly LaPat



Authors Share Spotlight in HDALF



High in the sky

Eudell’s splashy artwork catches the attention of drivers passing by our sponsored HDALF (High Desert Arts & Literary Festival) with AAUW.

Twenty of our authors will be selling their books at booths inside the Historic Apple Valley Inn from 10 am until about 4:30 pm.

This event draws fine art creators and talented crafters to display their wares to the public for free. Are you going?

More details on Page 3

High Desert Chapter
of
California Writers
Club
Board of Directors



*The following officers
and appointed positions are current to
the fiscal year of July 2019.*

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Dorothy C. Blakely
Memoir Project



Memoir Project Wins Educational Award, Selected as State Award Finalist

With the eager approval of the HDCWC Board, Bob Isbill and Mary Langer Thompson will be attending the honors award dinner with selected members who made the project reach significant recognition in the California school system



The High Desert Branch learned recently that its project of going into high schools to teach memoir writing has won the ACSA (Association of California School Administrators) Region 12's Board of Directors selection partnering with Victor Valley Unified High School District's University Preparatory High School as the recipient of our Partners in Educational Excellence Program Award for 2018-19.

An award will be presented to Project Director Dr. Mary Langer Thompson and founder Bob Isbill on April 15 of this year. The DCB Memoir Project's most

Thompson

recent anthology, *Footprints From Around The World*, edited by Mary Thompson and Jenny Margotta, contains student-written stories of "Memoir Stars" over 50 years of age in this intergenerational mission.

The effort has had the consistent support of the Central Board of the California Writers Club from its inception and is now a finalist in the statewide competition.

Out of more than 260 state finalists, only 25 individuals and one partnership program were chosen for state recognition throughout California, representing candidates from all 19 ACSA regions. Finalists were notified in late March of the results of the competition.



Isbill

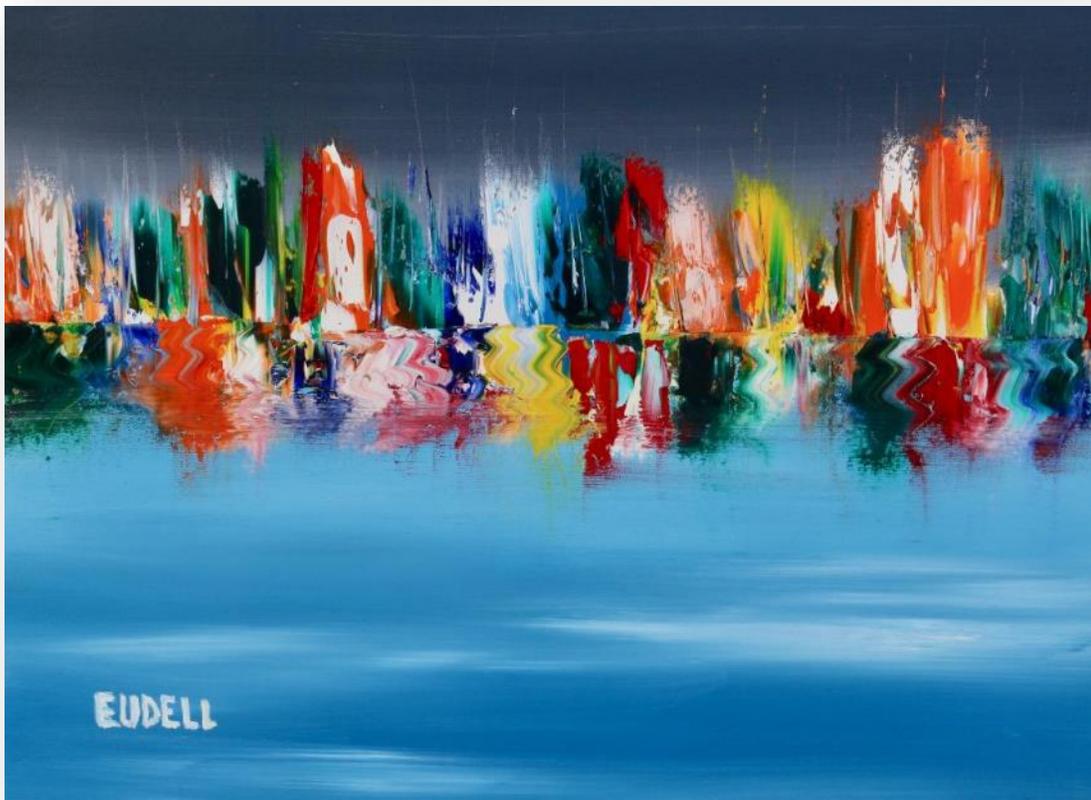




Former Firefighter Creates A Colorful New Life

What does a veteran firefighter/paramedic do after a rewarding 25-year career helping others? How about travel, create music, and spend sunny days fishing and golfing? That sounds about right, in theory, and that's what one local retiree planned until divine intervention led him to another career which has surpassed his greatest dreams.

After helping countless people as a firefighter/paramedic, High Desert resident Eudell Cunningham planned a leisurely retirement traveling the world and creating music. However, after reading a story about one woman's life-changing experience after being touched by a faith healer, his retirement plans



changed. Just as he had read about the woman who always wanted to play the piano and serve as a church choir director, whose hands were touched by a faith healer which almost instantly gave her the ability to play the piano and fulfilled her dreams, Cunningham made his request known.

“It happened one day when I was at home with my dog Jo-Jo,” Cunningham said. For some still unknown reason he decided to stretch out his hands and ask God to anoint them to paint. Soon thereafter, with no formal training, he started creating exceptional, beautiful, award winning paintings.

Although his favorite medium is oil paint, “because it keeps the vibrant colors,” which he loves, Cunningham said, he works with other mediums as well, including chalk, watercolors, and acrylics.

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“My favorite type of art is abstract,” Cunningham says, noting a comment by French author Andre Gide, who likens creating to divinity: Art is collaboration between God and the artist and the less the artist does the better.

What Cunningham enjoys most about creating art is the ‘wow’ factor when he shares his work with others who take note of his thoughtful brush strokes and intricate use of color. And just as he did in his former career, he is dedicated to helping others, but now helps them enjoy outstanding moments of beauty on canvas.

In 2017, Cunningham was the winner of the Trever Bennett Award for Artistic Excellence, during the High Desert Arts and Literary Festival (HDALF). The HDALF is presented by the American Association of University Women, Victor Valley Branch, and all proceeds benefit education and STEM programs for women and girls.

His winning piece, *Angels Kneeling*, is a rainbow of vibrant colors in gigantic wave patterns, circles, triangular peaks and other forms, and full of powerful movement. The HDALF was Cunningham’s first time entering an art show, which made winning especially rewarding and it spurred him on to create more exceptional art.

Angels Kneeling is now visible to thousands of daily commuters who can see it on local electronic billboards along I-15 in the High Desert as part of the public service announcement for this year’s HDALF which takes place 10 a.m.-4 p.m., April 13, at the Historic Apple Valley Inn, located at 20601 Highway 18, Apple Valley. The festival is free and open to the public, and will feature fine artists--including Cunningham--authors, and a children’s creative corner.

For more information about Cunningham and to view his artwork, go to www.artworkofgod.com.

For more information about the free High Desert Arts and Literary Festival, go to <https://victorvalley-ca.aauw.net/fund/art/>.



Shooting Star

by fumi-tome ohta

It’s the Academy Awards tomorrow night. It was so long ago, around 1981, when I started work at CalState Los Angeles in the admissions department. While I was there, I met and became friends with an African-American young man, Seabee. We were both working on our life’s path, chasing rainbows and trying to grab hold of a shooting star.

Seabee wanted to be a screenwriter. He had written several screenplays but one in particular was his star project. A few years later, before we went on our separate ways to another job or advanced schooling, he lamented that he didn’t know his mother and had been searching for her. Then, with a certain glint to his eyes, he said futuristically, that when his screenplay turns into a movie, he envisioned his mother at the Academy Awards walking the red carpet with him. As he spoke, I sensed he had this vision for a long time.

Before we stepped out to our new destinies, Seabee gave me his manually typed screenplay. It was stored in a sturdy cardboard box, similar to cardboard boxes that held unbound, formal thesis or doctoral papers ready for submission to the chair of the candidate’s academic committee. Actually, he didn’t give me his manuscript but asked me to hold it for him, I guess as a gesture that we would meet again. As he handed me his screenplay, he tried to find the words of what this box of papers meant to him. He didn’t have to tell me. I knew.

I was chasing my own shooting star. He spoke of this and that, then seemed to hold his thought momentarily as another thought came to mind. He wanted to take me to the Academy Awards. He wasn’t promising, just talking. After almost 40 years, I still have his screenplay in its original thesis/doctoral box. I think of Seabee and wonder how many of his screenplays made it to the big screen or onstage performances and how many pairs of shoes he broke-in as he walked the winding road of life.

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Because it was a beautiful evening, I couldn't help looking up to the glittering sky above. I extended my arms to the sky as if I had the ability to fly, but as I did, I felt something whiz by, brushing against my hand then, whizzing past my face. It came again but this time I caught it. It felt cool to the touch. There was a brilliancy much like a handful of diamonds and there were sparkles shooting out like handheld sparklers on the Fourth of July. When my eyes adjusted, I couldn't believe what was in my hand. It was a shooting star! As I looked to the wonder in my hands, a certain 40-year old box came to mind.

"Hey, Seabee, I have something to share with you!



GHOSTWRITING

Ever wonder what it could be like as a ghostwriter? How do you collect the research? Capturing the voice of the client? How long will it take to write and complete? What type of pay can you ask for?

Many of these questions can be asked during our scheduled meeting coming June 8th.

Managing Your Writing Career

by **Rusty LaGrange**



Our goal in High Desert branch is to elevate each writer to a level of accomplishment of which they can be proud. We want you to succeed as a published author if that is your wish.

When you practice among your peers in our "open mics" or in presentations here or elsewhere, we hope you have the skills to go out and be awesome.

Using the tools available, like PowerPoint, to enhance your outreach, can actually cripple your presentation if you intend to use it as a bulletin board to your viewers.

Staring back at a roomful of glazed eyes is not an upward career move. Who wants another "talking head" supported by large bullet lists?

Forget about text and instead, use photos, illustrations, and videos. Your visual display should *support* your speech, not supplant it. After all, what's the value of talking while others are reading? Making those letters taller in bright orange doesn't change the fact that your viewers are still reading. If you'd like to ramp up your performance then take an 18-minute journey with Erin McKean on TED.com.

She is an excellent communicator on a boring topic of word crafting and lexicology. Take a look at https://www.ted.com/talks/erin_mckean_redefines_the_dictionary#t-934789 to see how visual images can enhance a speech.

She broke the mold of bulleted points and used visual arts to make it a fun and fast ride.

Be aware that you can get good quality photos, inexpensively, from a variety of sites for very little money. And keep in mind that custom illustration is not as expensive as you might think.

Too many presenters simply do a data dump on their unlucky audience. Always remember that your presentation should be driving to a clear and concise conclusion, satisfying to your audience.

Once you've dazzled your viewers with a polished and interesting presentation, you can offer your professional-looking handouts so they have something to take home. Your viewers can then consider your wisdom at their leisure — and you can have your branding with contact info at the bottom of each page.

You may have heard the advice "to zig when everyone else zags." Then try your hand at emoting a colorful and informative stage presence — using no technology. Zip. Zilch. Nada. This not only makes you stand out from the crowd, it also takes away a lot of stress. You don't have to carry around a laptop loaded with slides, the preponderance of extension cords, or fear of power failures. Don't just talk, however, you must actually encourage audience participation with exercises, feedback, and old-fashion performance. What a concept!





Jenny Margotta

from an

EDITOR'S DESK

AFFECT or EFFECT?

As most of you probably can imagine, I love words. I love to learn new ones and I am perfectly capable of getting into 20-minute discussions on just how a word can or should be used. Such a conversation recently occurred with a friend concerning "affect" vs. "effect."

"I was always taught that affect is the verb, effect is a noun," my friend said.

And 90% of the time, that definition will serve you well. The basic difference—most of the time—between **affect** and **effect** is that **affect** is a **verb**, and **effect** is generally a **noun**. EX: *I was adversely affected by the ear-piercing volume of my son's music. "Turn it off," I screamed, and he pulled the plug. The effect was instantaneous.*

So far, so good: (was) affected = verb and effect = noun.

In the example, "**affected**" can be interpreted as "**impacted by**" or "**have an impact on.**" "**Effect**" in can be interpreted as "**result.**"

However, while "affect" is always used as a verb, "**effect**" can be used as both a noun or verb. When used as a verb it means "**to bring about.**" Look at the following sentence: "I effect change by the work I do." "Effect" here definitely can't be replaced with "result," but it can be replaced with "bring about."

The sentence, "I was affected when she effected change," can easily be rewritten as "I was impacted when she brought about change." Both "affect" and "effect" are verbs.

NOTE: "Affect" can also mean "make a difference" or "influence" as well as "touch the feelings of (someone); to move emotionally." The plural noun "effects" can mean "the lighting, sound, or scenery used in a play, movie, or broadcast (i.e. *sound effects*), as well as "personal belongings" (i.e. *personal effects*).



High Desert Arts & Literary Festival

April 13th
at Historic
Apple Valley Inn

- Provide scholarships for women at Victor Valley College
- Support the Celebrating Women in Math & Science STEM Conference for three hundred local 8th-grade girl students
- Send local 7th-grade girls to Tech Trek, a science and math camp at University of California, Irvine for one week



AAUW

TIME FOR A LAUGH



Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it.

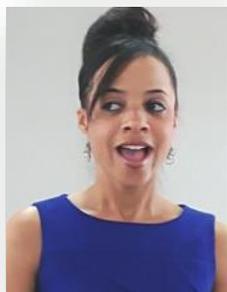
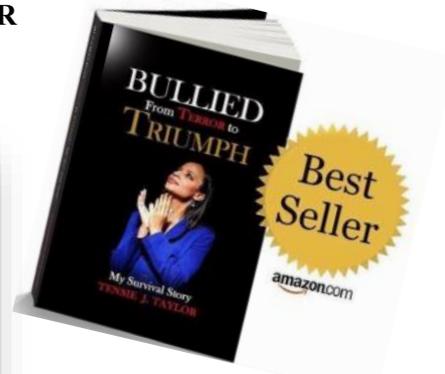
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Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

What You Missed

TENSIE J. TAYLOR

I hoped you enjoyed the message shared by our guest speaker in March, just as much as I did. Not only was her delivery full of information, but infused with passion for her subject of bullying. Tensie Taylor lived through tough



days in school starting with her first day of kindergarten. Her family instilled the strength to stay focused and believe in the powers of prayer and personal integrity. These are guidelines most children never know how to manage. She was lucky.

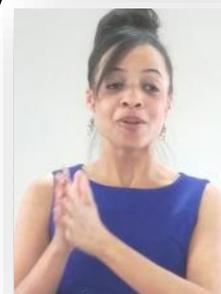
Her message is carried throughout her life to come full circle with her best selling book. From that springboard she has traveled to conferences around the world denouncing the trend in bullying that now produces early childhood suicides as young as 9-years old.

Maybe it was the strong influences of her parents coming from professional careers — her mother was a librarian, her father a Literature and English teacher. Maybe it was her good friends that held her accountable to a good life. The spread of bullying has reached all corners of the world. Her latest conference was held in Ireland.

As an inspiration, Tensie has “turned her scars into stars.” She met Oprah Winfrey, one of her idols at a conference, and now has a best seller.

Realizing her work against bullying has brought her more understanding, she said

“Hurt people hurt people.”



Bullies use their tools to defend from people getting close to them. Their lives of fear and abuse turns them into abusers in many cases. We can stop this cycle.

**Text and Photos
by Rusty LaGrange**



Events Ahead > Book Fairs & more

APRIL ACTIVITIES

SB COUNTY FAIR POETRY CONTEST

We recommend that you register as soon as possible prior to April 12th if you wish to submit an Adult Poetry entry for May's event. Go to SB County Fair to download their official entry form.

BOOK SIGNING

High Desert Arts & Literary Festival April 13
at the Historic Apple Valley Inn, Hwy 18
@ Dale Evans Dr. in Apple Valley, 10-4.

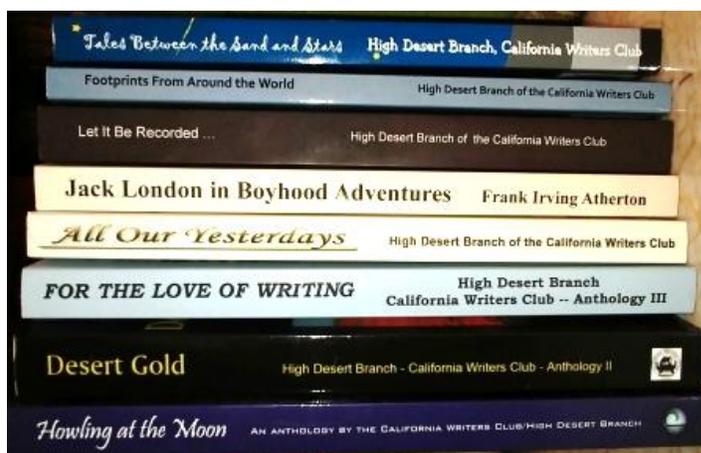
ANTHOLOGY SUBMISSIONS

Deadline for our HDCWC Anthology entries is April 15th. Contact Jenny for info.

SPEAKING TO SENIORS

Dwight Norris is booked as a speaker for the Senior Center in Barstow. Monday (today). Call their Center for last minute news.

Send in your upcoming events and book signings so we can share

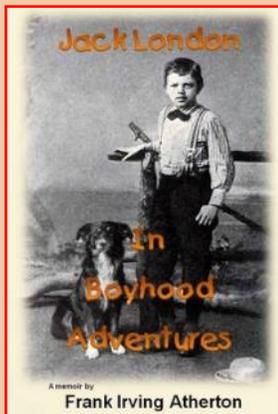


Order extra copies of our HDCWC anthologies for your bookshelf, your gifts, as a Senior Center donation. Titles can be found on Amazon.com. Pre-orders can be delivered at our regular meetings.

JACK LONDON IN BOYHOOD ADVENTURES

— A document found stashed away in a box of mementos, recounts the downhome early years of a famous California boy and his pal. They find life full of serious & frivolous days of summer in early Oakland.

First Printing now available for only \$13.35 at Amazon. \$13.08 at Barnes & Noble.



www.JackLondonInBoyhoodAdventures.com

OUR OWN YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Here's the link to the channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC28XLtEK5oBNq5qW2Zy1ssg>



Remember we now offer PayPal as a payment method for dues and purchases.

Member Services

Take advantage of your membership benefits

Free advertising & free posting of
your book titles, your latest project,
your free PR author's webpage
& other free & fantastic benefits!!

Because you belong to CWC High Desert Chapter.

Contact a Board Member,
our Webmaster Roberta Smith,
or review your Benefits Booklet
online: www.HDCWC.com

Do you provide a service that could benefit
other writers?

Send a JPEG file of your business card or ad to
Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com. We'll advertise it
free of charge!

Editor



Rusty LaGrange

*Editor of the
CWC's
The Bulletin*

Notes From the Editor

Somebody left the light switch on and it keeps waking me up too early each morning! Does it seem harder to adjust since the Daylight Saving Time hit? And then there's this on again, off again Spring Fling that can't make up its mind. This slow move to Spring happened about ten years ago before the drought hit. The best season of flowers and wild blooms in a long time. I love Joshua Trees.

This time of year we typically do Spring cleaning, but for writers, I'd say they jump back into their current projects with more gusto and set a goal then type their way to it. Share your latest book progress here. We all need Spring support.

Submitting to The Inkslinger is easy. Use Microsoft Word, single-spaced, 11-point Arial font, please. The email address for submissions is Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com. Articles and stories between 300 to 700 words are accepted. Photos, poetry, and drawings are always welcome. Please avoid sending items that are embedded in other media.

**May submissions are due April 23
June's are due May 23**