



# The INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC  
*Inspiring a Community of Writers*

*Sail On*

April 2020

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR HDBCWC PRESIDENT: TAKE TIME TO IMPROVE OUR SKILLS

There are times that are muddled in distraction, challenges and adversity. We don't know what the future holds. To help cope with unexpected challenges, Napoleon Hill, a writer from a century ago, said this, "With every adversity comes the seed of an equal or greater benefit."

We really don't know what will happen tomorrow. We have aspirations and we set our goals. But many events can derail our plans. The key to life seems to be to trust in a higher power and keep moving forward with a good attitude. We can't control everything, and that which we can't control, we shouldn't worry about. But we can keep moving toward the goal looking for the opportunity of greater benefit.

Sometimes, when adversity interferes with our plans, we can use temporary setbacks to our advantage. An athlete who never spent enough time studying videos to improve his game now has a stress fracture and is forced to sit. No one would have wished that upon the athlete, but now that it's happened, what should that athlete do? If he allows his disappointment to spiral into a bad attitude, that would not be good use of his down time. But if he

uses the unexpected found time to learn and watch the videos he never did before, this situation could be used to improve his skills.

As writers, one of the things we need to do is read quality books written by other writers. I guess that's our version of watching those videos. When writers stop reading, they stifle their creativity and shut off their knowledge of writing style and technique displayed by other writers. In this temporary down time we all have, we should pick up and read books that we couldn't find the time to read before. We should also research topics a little more thoroughly, go into greater depth in style and technique, read and peruse articles from quality magazines about writing, and just have fun reading something we never felt we had time for.

We could also connect with someone we've been out of touch with for some time. We can't connect with them at a large meeting or fly in to meet with them. But there are many ways we can connect with them—more benign ways like telephone, email, texting, or Zoom and Skype. One heart to another. And if you're wanting to reconnect

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## The Long Awaited Poetry Month is Here: **APRIL**

Okay. So my enthusiasm is a bit over the top, but that's because I was looking forward to our personal submissions to the SB Co. Fair Adult Poetry division. Since the Fair is on hold until this Fall (hopefully) you can enjoy our members' entries for this issue.

Inside are poems related to love, nature,



effects of war, a fantasy, and a few haiku.

I do hope you enjoy this cross section of our impressive poets. Many of us are members of PoemSmiths. We love the encouragement and the well-meant critique points that improve our craft. Let all the poets know how you feel about their insight.

High Desert branch  
of  
California Writers  
Club  
Board of Directors



*The following officers  
and appointed positions are current to  
the fiscal year of July 2020.*

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with an older person, few things would bring more joy to their heart than the old-fashioned snail-mail letter or greeting card with personal news inside. Use your time wisely and reach out to someone who means a lot to you. Focus not so much on self, but consider carefully the needs and desires of others.

**W**e'll get through this, and when we do we don't want to look back—once we're busy working again or whatever else it is we do—and say, "Wish I had done some of that reading when I couldn't work." The time is available now and we need to use it efficiently without regret.

**L**ive well, be safe, and make a difference, even if for only one person.

~~ *HDCWC President, Dwight Norris*

## ***A History of Pandemics: What We Know Can Hurt Us***

While we listen to the evening news and shudder about the coronavirus decimating scores of people here and around the world, it brings to mind that disease is with us everywhere through a very extensive timeline— from brutal Medieval bubonic plagues to national cholera events that wiped out thousands within American Indian tribes.

As writers, we should be aware but maybe more vigilant to read between the lines and search for more truths. Fear is not helpful. Information is.

As a longtime journalist, desktop publisher, writer and author, sensationalized news is irksome to me. I want news that keeps me aware and informed, but not cringing in a corner. I am one of those who will shelter at home for the duration of this viral pandemic due to health issues.

This virus is bad but comparing it to the history of pandemics, it's another wave of eradication that we've survived. Two things come to mind: 1) the death tolls are minimal yet sweeping fast; and 2) our modern lifestyles allow us to follow the virus hourly—making us more informed, (maybe overly informed) than 100 years ago.

***"Unordinary things come at ordinary times." ~ anon.***

As a passionate Old West history buff, I've learned when smallpox or cholera swept through a region, often times the western town

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Jenny Margotta

from an

EDITOR'S DESK

## What is Poetry?

I wanted to acknowledge April as National Poetry Month, but since poetry is not my forte, I did some research before I attempted to write about it. Where not specifically noted, by source is Wikipedia.

It is believed poetry began even before the written word. Phrasing words in a rhythmic style made them easier to memorize, and since verbal communication was the only way to pass history down before the written word, exact memorization and repetition was important.

Poetry dates back to prehistorical times with the creation of hunting poetry, as well as court poetry that recorded the history of the great empires along the Nile, Niger, and Volta rivers. The Pyramid Texts, found in Africa and written during the 25<sup>th</sup> century BC, are some of the earliest written poetry ever found. "The Tale of the Shipwrecked Sailor" is credited with being the oldest known speculative fiction poem. It is believed to have been written at some point between 1940 and 1640 BC and is attributed to the Egyptian scribe, Ameny, who called himself "the scribe with clever fingers."

Although there are conflicting stories as to who discovered it and where, the papyrus is believed to have been discovered in 1881 by the Russian Vladimir Semyonovich Golenishchev, one of the first Russian Egyptologists.

For those non-poets among us, speculative poetry focusses on mythological, science fictional, or fantastic themes and is also known as science fiction poetry or fantastic poetry. Unlike many other poetry genres, it is categorized by its subject matter rather than by the poetry's form. Suzette Haden Elgin, an American researcher in experimental linguistics and the founder of the Science Fiction Poetry Association, defined the genre as "about a reality that is in some way different from the existing reality."

The first known poem written in Old English is the 3,182 alliterative lines of the epic story of Beo-

wulf. The name of the author is not known and the poem takes its name from the main character. "Beowulf" is believed to have been written in either the 8<sup>th</sup> century or the 11<sup>th</sup> century CE.

That's a very brief history, but what exactly is poetry? The word "poetry" is derived from the Greek "poiesis"—"making"—and is "a form of literature that uses aesthetic and often rhythmic qualities of language . . . to evoke meanings . . . ." (bing.com)

Merriam-Webster defines "poetry" as: 1a: metrical writing (verse); 1b: the productions of a poet (poems); 2: writing that formulates a concentrated imaginative awareness of experience in language chosen and arranged to create a specific emotional response through meaning, sound, and rhythm; 3a: something likened to poetry, especially in beauty of expression; 3b: poetic quality or aspect the poetry of dance.

Not being a poet—I struggle to make ten words do when I think fifty words would be so much better—I found myself wondering just how many forms of poetry there were, so back to the internet I went. I found a great 2014 article written by Robert Lee Brewer, Senior Editor for Writers Digest. The headline of the article reads: "Check out this list of 100 poetic forms for poets that includes everything from abstract poetry and ae freislighe to villanelle and zappai—and so many more in between."

Mr. Brewer goes on to say, "*This post used to list 50 poetic forms for poets, but I've updated it with 100 poetic forms for poets. Because forms rock!*" (<https://www.writersdigest.com/whats-new/list-of-50-poetic-forms-for-poets>)

The list is fascinating. I recognized some of the types—such as Chant, Concrete (Shape) Poetry, Elegy, Epitaph, Haiku, Limerick, and Sonnet, but how many of you have heard of Catena Rondo, Cywydd Llosgyrnog (I dare anyone to pronounce that one), Glose (or Glosa), Huitain, Kimo, Ottava Rima, Qasida, Sestina, Skeltonic Verse, Tautogram, or Zappai?

Regardless of the style you prefer, I do know it takes definite talent to write poetry. Our club already has several very notable poets and many more quite talented ones. We're lucky to have them all. For those of us who don't write poetry, maybe we should pick one of the 100 in the Writers Digest list and try our hand.

You cannot succeed at something if you don't at least try.



## Treasure Island Kiss

by Lorelei Key

Flanked by pirates' ships,  
I rest my head against his chest.  
People laugh, jostle, and jockey  
for a better view from the wooden  
bridge—pushing us closer together.

Pirates fight on the decks, cannons blast,  
riggings shake, a cacophony of clamor  
and clatter rains down around us.

Our fingers entwine. His lips find mine,  
and Vegas drops away . . . evaporates  
into whiteness . . . melting into silent  
oblivion . . . only our kiss . . . his lips . . .  
and mine . . . exist . . .

Slowly . . .  
edges of reality creep back  
as our intoxicating  
moment spins down.

Colors reappear and raucous laughter rush  
back—pirates resume their deck fights,  
ships' cannons again send their blasts  
over the dark lagoon.  
The show blares on.

My glance catches a woman smiling at us,  
perhaps remembering a kiss  
of her own, on another day . . .  
on another  
Treasured Island of time.

## THE POLITICAL PAIR

By Joseph Sims

He, a Republican; she, a Dem,  
As far to the left as can be.  
He always voted a straight party ticket,  
And, obviously, so did she.

One night he decided to poison her--  
Or strangle her by the throat--  
That would teach her to brag to her friends  
"I always cancel his vote!"

But as he slipped up to the bedside,  
With a needle and some toxic brand,  
He tripped on the belt of his white terry robe,  
And jabbed himself in the hand.

From that point on the Democrats  
Began to pileup big wins,  
And he descended to Gehenna  
Thus paying for all of his sins.

### WORD OF THE MONTH:

CONTRAPUNTAL (kän-trə-'pən-t'l); adjective

1: polyphonic (many voices); 2: having two or more independent but harmonically related melodic parts sounding together.

In the poetic world, contrapuntal poems intertwine two (or more) separate poems into a single composition. (<https://dversepoets.com/2018/05/24/contrapuntal-poetry/>) Here's a sample.

*Let me break*

*free of these lace-frail  
lilac fingers disrobing*

*the black sky*

*from the windows of this  
room, I sit helpless, waiting,*

*silent—sister,*

*because you drew from me  
the coil of red twine: loneliness—*

*("Aubade Ending with the Death of a Mosquito" by Tarfia Faizullah)*



## Real Women Wear Fig Leaves

by Lorelei Kay

My mother always said she looked her best wearing deep blues, rich violets, and especially greens, which complemented her red hair.

Maybe that's why Eve, after ending her innocent naked frolicking, chose glossy green fig leaves to cover up—they best flattered her flaming locks.

The image of our First Mother as a redhead dances tantalizingly through my mind. And I smile, thinking of her and my mom's similarities.

For instance, my mom relished watching flowers bloom in her garden, and apples ripen red in our orchard. And wasn't at all intimidated by bugs, bullfrogs, or even snakes.

After she gave birth to my brother and me, although we never actually tried to kill each other—I admit we had our share of fun raising a bit of Cain.

Like Eve, my mom often challenged my dad's opinions with her truly logical persuasion, which sometimes ended with my dad's brow knit deep in consternation.

To start the whole begetting going, I think First Lady Eve must have known, as she strolled through the garden with eyes wide open, which colors to choose to make her look most desirable.

Just like my mom knew—who, as I may have mentioned previously, happened to be a redhead—and also looked sensational in deep, leafy, greens.



## THE CHANGING NATURE OF FOREVER

by Lorelei Kay

*Forever* used to mean the time my mom would be there to push me on the swing.

*That changed.*

Then, *forever* meant the time the man who said "I do," would stand beside me.

*That changed.*

Then, *forever* meant the time it would take for my three baby girls to grow into women.

*That also changed.*

Now, *forever* means the length of time it takes until my final social security check arrives.

*Some things never change . . .*



# CON/ TRAST

by Diane Neil

Years ago I lived up north  
and couldn't stand the rain.  
I was happy to relocate  
to this lovely, dry terrain.

Months go by without a drop  
of moisture in the air.  
All you see is desert --  
parched land everywhere.

Now the rain is lovely  
and a welcome sight.  
I revel in the thunder  
and lightning in the night.

Could it be we long  
for what we seldom see?  
Nature is perfection;  
I think the fault is me.



by fumi-tome ohta

My neighbor Christina is magic  
She must be  
she makes things disappear  
then makes them appear into something else  
Christina's a cow  
An All-American Hereford, she tells me  
Last week, Christina wanted Jambon'  
Jambon'?

Bonjour, madame,  
the waiter said  
We ate  
Jambon'  
in Paris  
French bread  
French butter  
deli ham  
Jambon' (ham sandwich)

Today,  
Christina found a honey bee  
staggering along a dirt road  
Oh, no!  
she lost her stinger,  
she's dying!  
She?  
Stinger?  
Dying?

Honey bees are only female. They gather nectar from flowers to make honey. If she or the honeycomb's in danger, she uses her stinger to protect. When she does, she will die.

Christina's hooves turned into hands  
she cupped the honey bee  
to the bosom of her heart  
with warmth and love  
but soon, with the whispered goodbye of  
her honey colored wings  
she was gone...

Christina craned over, bestowing a kiss ever so  
gentle...

"I will name you, Camille. Good  
bye, Camille.

Thank you."

That is Christina  
A very special friend.



# Veteran Clone

*by Mike Brewer*

Now Mic was not your bourgeoisie drinker.  
 He would hang out with all the shrinkers.  
 Before ever the thought of home,  
 he would traverse the night for a veteran clone;  
 Bar to tender—tender to bar.  
 Always moving so known stays afar.  
 Like and loved to the limits of delusion  
 with luck he will sleep  
 without war of illusion.  
 Hope springs fraternal  
 as we know war is eternal.

# Roots

*by Mike Brewer*

I went out to be with a tree  
 And met a friend with glee  
 The limbs of both  
 Shared their leaves  
 Both have roots eternally

# Fog of War

*by Mike Brewer*

Here I am again  
 Lost in the fog of war cloud,  
 Seeing its face of sod  
 Door opens to Spirit.

Men come to show stuff.  
 Women come to be stuff.  
 Children are the stuff.  
 Now comes the love stuff.

The Sun does not complain.  
 The Earth does not say, you owe me.  
 The Moon shines by itself;  
 you are all of them.

**Dragon**  
 dragon opens mouth  
 engulfing a fiery cloud  
 for refueling

**Impression**  
 garden bravely stands  
 on wobbly legs imploring  
 for sun's impression

**Signs**  
 neon sign spells hope  
 a woman flashes "hang loose"  
 their symbols weave hope

3 Haiku by Robert Keith Young

# Managing Your Writing Career

BY RUSTY LA GRANGE



My Example Poem of Skeltonic Form

**Dipodic What?**

**Dipodic Verse**

**Will be Terse.**

**Stress used just twice**

**to keep it nice,**

**short or long**

**a lilting song**

**or sounding gong**

**that won't go wrong**

**if you adhere**

**to the rule here,**

**Now is that clear**

**My dear?**

© Lawrencealot – 2013

I can't say that I study poetry forms to the nth degree, but I do get introduced to historic formats through PoemSmiths — our HD critique group. Our resident Poet Laureate of 2012, Mary Langer Thompson, loves to play with new themes and forms that I never was exposed to in school. She hosts the meetings and tempts us with healthy snacks, so I am guilty by association to at least try—both snacks and forms. My learning curve is a bit slower than most. I was a rebel and hated to force words into a structured format. I think that could be why most students fought their poetry classes.

I love poetry if I write it—but I have trouble understanding much of the esoteric forms and themes. And I never could remember what mythological deity was in charge of war, love, health, strength, spring, or even orgies, etc.

Simple forms of poetry can become more complex as you define it with your own words. A simple one- or two-word line running down a page looks interesting, but the words chosen are just as important as the storyline inside its structure.

The question of “skeleton” or Skelton (author's real last name) came up recently, and since this being our annual Poetry issue for April as “poetry month,” well, it seemed a natural theme to approach.

Style, sound, shape, rhythm, and rhyme all play important parts to poetry construction but sometimes you just want to write something without all the angst to the creation of it. Am I right?

<http://poetscollective.org/poetryforms/skeltonic-verse/> through the collective and

Pasted from <<http://www.poetrybase.info/forms/002/272.shtml>>

offered by: Charles L. Weatherford who frequently provides more detail and insight than most.

Another form that is often used in elementary classes is the 13-line reversal, a format that takes a topic as its title, then follows with 6 lines (the hook) then reverses order of lines. The simple style gives students a feeling of having created something readable, fast, insightful and all theirs.

Consider using your collection of poems to enhance your book list by designing them into a poetry “chap” book. Chap books are half-page booklets, in most cases.

Many published authors have a poetry collection under their belt. Why not you, too?



## OUR OWN YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Here's the link to the channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC28XLtEK5oBNq5gW2Zy1ssg>

Managed by Joan Rudder-Ward

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



# News You Can Use

## Video Assignment

Check out Mike Apodaca's video assignment to all of our HDCWC members. By now I'm sure you've considered and mulled it over. How do I write?

Are you a planner or "by the seat of your pants" carefree writer. There seems to be two schools of thought: planning, outlining, constructed characters, and a plan for each chapter; or, the other is a breezy style—typing up whatever the muse sends you, let characters take over and enjoy the ride, until it comes time to final drafts.

Those with cameras and mics on your laptop or desktop can record and send directly to Mike A. You can also use your smart phone with the video aimed at your favorite place to write or favorite things at your desk where you're the safest and ready to nurture the muse.

Either way—or a new way—have fun with it.

If you need more help or a sample or more details. Use the email Mike A. sent. If not, just ask him to resend it.

## Write What You Fear

First, you have been given another assignment by email. Dwight has asked us to write a fictional story about a virus. It can be horror, sci-fi, fantasy, or really any genre you like. Keep it short, under 2500 words. This contest is in-house so there's no entry fee at all. Your deadline is April 30<sup>th</sup>.

We'll have judges, and the winner receives a dinner for two at Mimi's Restaurant (after the virus restrictions are lifted), of course. The winner's complete story will be printed in *The Inklinger*, with permission.

## Virus Anthology?

HDCWC Board Says "Why Stop There?"

They are finalizing some details on another anthology using the same concept of fiction virus/pandemic-based idea. This time the contest is open to all SoCal CWC branches, including us, with a higher word count of 5,000, if you wish. A non-refundable fee will go with each entry. Some details are still to be determined.

Basically, you can turn in your earlier entry with a fee, write another one with a max of 5,000 words, or take the one you have and bump up the word count. Your choice.

I've probably said too much already. But there's more!

Three winners will receive a money award for their entry — and a 2nd money award to be shared in their region with their favorite charity working on the frontlines fighting the coronavirus.

The anthology will be edited by Jenny Margotta. We're hoping to have it released in November 2020 in time for holiday sales. More locked-in details later.

## World Book Night April 23rd

We just can't break the law and go out distributing books on World Book Nite —our annual homage to Cervantes and Shakespeare. But according to Mary Thompson, we will postpone it (how everything else seems to be managed) and look forward to your donations then.

## Share What You Know

This might be the Year of Sharing. More videos of How-To's on all sorts of topics, crafts, making your own coronavirus masks... well, everything under the sun can be found on the Internet and YouTube.com

So, Mike Apodaca's idea of sharing "how you write" is more appropriate than ever. (You should have received several emails about this) The daunting blank screen can be overcome by breaking the fear factor.

Anyone can zip over to [www.HDCWC.com](http://www.HDCWC.com) and check out the new videos going up everyday. Awesome. Encourage other members to share their methods of prepping to write, and what I call "nesting". What does it take to get going on your day-to-day writing routine? And this value-packed idea will be featured in *The Bulletin* in August as an "Idea Share" highlight.

You heard it here first!

Remember to send your videos of less than 10 minutes to Mike Apodaca: [MrDaca.ma@gmail.com](mailto:MrDaca.ma@gmail.com). Once reviewed and edited, they will be posted by Roberta Smith, our webmaster.



"Everything You Ever Wanted  
Is on the Other Side of Fear." — George Addair

*Continued from page 2*

would lose 10 to 25 percent of its population before anyone was able to call for help. Sometimes complete towns were wiped out.

Then there's evidence that unscrupulous government agents working for the Indian Bureaus, would taint beef and flour supplies and cause cholera and small pox outbreaks to clear out a tribal area. The news would be slow to get to the East coast, engineered purposefully by the agents that caused it.

I've pulled these facts together to give us a better perspective of this pandemic.

"Cholera, bubonic plague, smallpox, and influenza are some of the most brutal killers in human history. And outbreaks of these diseases across international borders, are properly defined as pandemic, especially smallpox, which throughout history, has killed between 300-500 million people in its 12,000 year existence." —MPH Online.com

"Beginning in December 2019, in the region of Wuhan, China, a new ("novel") coronavirus began appearing in human beings. COVID-19 is a shortened form of "coronavirus disease of 2019."

As health organizations study the outbreak, the world is waiting for answers.

This new virus spreads incredibly quickly between people, due to its newness – no one on earth has an immunity to COVID-19, because no one had COVID-19 until 2019. While it was initially seen to be an epidemic in China, the virus spread worldwide within months. The WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic in March, and by the end of that month, the world saw more than a half-million people infected and nearly 30,000 deaths. The infection rate in the US and other nations is still spiking.

As of Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 14,000 deaths have occurred nationwide.

"With the coronavirus pandemic, people all over the world have become more aware of the best practices during a pandemic, from careful hand-washing to social distancing. Countries across the world declared mandatory stay-at-home measures, closing schools, businesses, and public places. Dozens of companies and many more independent researchers began working on tests, treatments, and vaccines. The push for the human race to survive the pandemic became the primary concern in the world."

If the time frame of existing cases spike in April and begin a turndown in late May as being predicted, then this

could be one of the shortest duration and lesser death toll pandemics than others in our history.

The ability to spread the news through technology could be the biggest factor in stemming the growth of this fast-moving virus.

### **The Timeline for SARS and others:**

SARS was a relatively rare disease with first reports in February 2003; at the end of the epidemic in June 2003, the incidence was 8,422 cases with a case fatality rate (CFR) of 11%. The viral outbreak can be genetically traced to a colony of cave-dwelling horseshoe bats in China's Yunnan Province. (Wikipedia · Text under CC -BY-SA license)

Similarly, Legionnaires disease was discovered after an outbreak at a Philadelphia convention of the American Legion in 1976. It's a form of atypical pneumonia caused by any type of Legionella bacteria. Signs and symptoms include cough, shortness of breath, high fever, muscle pains, and headaches.

### **The Numbers:**

#### **HIV / AIDS from 1976**

Death Toll: 36 million

Cause: HIV

#### **Flu of 1968**

Death Toll: 1 million

Cause: Influenza H3N2

#### **Asian Flu of 1956-58**

Death Toll: 2 million

Cause: influenza

#### **Flu of 1918**

Death Toll: 20-50 million

Cause: Flu

#### **Flu Pandemic of 1889-90**

Death Toll: 1 million

Cause: Virus sub-type from H2N2

Dense urban growth increased the spread

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Cholera of 1852-60**

Death Toll: 1 million

Cause: Cholera

(<https://www.mphonline.org/worst-pandemics-in-history/>.  
And 16 news and health organizations as sourced material)

~~ **Rusty LaGrange, editor**



## Events Ahead > Book Fairs & more

### APR. — MAY ACTIVITIES

Apr. 11	HDCWC virtual meeting
Apr. 23	World Book Night—delayed
May 5	HDCWC virtual Board meeting
May 9	HDCWC virtual meeting

#### Virtual Gatherings:

#### Keep In Touch Without Leaving Home

Some of our critique groups are using conferencing software to connect with each other virtually in groups. Check out Zoom.com and Skype, or consider cellphone conferencing to stay in touch.

If you are managing a critique group or wishing to host a virtual salon, Anita Holmes has been giving basic training and guidelines to make the transition smoother.

Her email address is [PennedByAnita@outlook.com](mailto:PennedByAnita@outlook.com) and ask her for assistance.

#### CAN'T WIPE OFF THIS SLATE

Our annual nominations are open for HDCWC Board positions. If you wish to run for any of the positions you can contact our Nominations Chair Bob Isbill at [Risbill@aol.com](mailto:Risbill@aol.com).

Currently, Bob asked the board if they wish to hold their positions for another year, and they all agreed. Appointed positions will be made after the vote at our real or virtual meeting June 13, 2020.

As Dwight said during our virtual meeting using Zoom: "It's nice to have a cohesive group."



Stories that will stop your heart...but not your spirit.



OUR NEW  
MAILING ADDRESS

HDCWC  
17645 Fisher Street  
Victorville, CA 92395



Sharing ideas  
is Great.

Sharing a  
virus, not so  
much.

Please follow  
COVID-19  
directives to  
stay well.



Have You Purchased Yours Yet?

**On The Lighter Side: Our Newest Branch Anthology**



Available on Amazon and during select branch meetings

A total of forty-one works from twenty-two HDCWC authors are combined in this collection. Don't be surprised if one of the stories makes you laugh out loud, or if you find yourself inspired to write a story or poem of your own.



**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 during our regular meetings.**

**Editor**



**Rusty LaGrange**

*Editor of the CWC's The Bulletin*

next issue is mid-August

**Notes From the Editor**

Seclusion has its benefits to a writer—less interruptions, less travel to eat up precious writing time, and—just maybe, enough time to write your next book. Thinking back, many popular genre authors, like Steven King, for instance, often forced seclusion so he could commit to a deadline. Looking ahead, just think of the numbers of independent and freelance writers who will be flooding their markets once the coronavirus sheltering is lifted.

Next issue will be produced by Mike Apodaca. He's giving me a break. Thanx, Mike. Send your submissions for May issue to [MrDaca.ma@gmail.com](mailto:MrDaca.ma@gmail.com)

**Submitting to *The Inkslinger* is easy. Use Microsoft Word, single-spaced, 11-point Arial font, please. The email address for submissions is [MrDaca.ma@gmail.com](mailto:MrDaca.ma@gmail.com). Articles and stories between 300 to 700 words are accepted. Photos, poetry, and drawings are always welcome. Please avoid sending items that were embedded in other media. Call Mike Apodaca to discuss an article or idea, 760-985-7107.**

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

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