

The INKSLINGER

Speed Rounds: 6 tables, 6 moves

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC
Inspiring a Community of Writers

Sail On

August 2019

Presentation by Your Peers

YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD, NEVER TOO YOUNG



For your summertime pleasure, our next regular meeting will feature an inspirational collection of writers ranging in age from 11 to 96 with a positive message of encouragement for those who may believe they are either too young or too old to start writing.

Eleven-year old Amelia has nine published books in an ambitious 12-book series. Other featured panelists are our member authors Rebekah Koontz, June Langer, and Amy Burnett.

See Page 2 for more details about Amelia.



Mary Langer Thompson Receives Jack London Award from Central Board

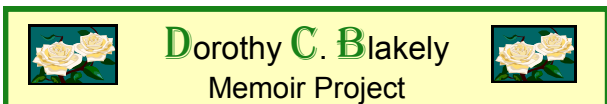
On alternate years, each branch is encouraged to recognize a deserving member who exemplifies the volunteer spirit and steps up when needed without any reservations. The Jack London service award is selected by the branch membership and recommended to the Central Board. The award is considered a lifetime achievement accolade for the recipient, and is not duplicated.

This year, Mary Langer Thompson was voted to receive the award. She was instrumental in several outreach projects, hosts the PoemSmiths, and managed the high school authors program, Dorothy C. Blakely Memoir Project for several years.

“Thank you, California Writers Club, High Desert Branch for choosing me to receive the Jack London Award for service to the club! The trip to Oakland with Dave and receiving this award is one of the highlights of my life.



Presenting to Mary, on right, is Joyce Krieg, past President.



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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Meet This Young Author With a Colorful Imagination

My name is Amelia. I am 11 years old, and the proud author of 9 books out of my 12-book series. Plus, one other book aside from my series.

Full of action and adventure, the Catrina series are meant for kids 9-12 years. But of course, anyone can read them. As my main character, Catrina travels the world to help other animals, she is also a sweet generous Norwegian Forest Kitten who lives in the Norwegian province of Svalbard. Far north of any trouble, she is the kitten! Catrina is my persona; basically, she's me just a kitten. She lives with her mom, Schasabei (Sh-a-sa-bee) and her little sister Misty who is three years younger than her. Catrina was born May 1, 2008 in Longyearbyen, Svalbard. Or the capital.

She enjoys maps, geography, and globes! Just like me, she loves looking through her World Atlas that had been passed down through her family from the Vikings more than 1000 years ago. Every time she looks at a new place she gets inspired more and more! She sometimes even gets to bring some friends along on her adventures!

But aside from my characters, what inspired me to write my books were these little paper books that I had written when I was 6 or 7. They were about a Snow Leopard Kingdom, in the Himalayas. This Kingdom was under rule by King Sverne, Queen Schasabei, Princess, Catrina, and Princess Misty. What I enjoy about writing books is that my imagination is endless, and Catrina can explore more places Across The World.



High Desert Partners with Barnes & Noble for Fundraising Book Fair

More photos became available to share from our May Book Fair coordination with the local Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Victorville. Authors displayed, signed, and sold their books on 2-hour shifts, generating enough overall in-store and online purchases to get over two hundred dollars in Barnes & Noble gift certificates for the club.

Authors enjoyed meeting and greeting the public, and having the opportunity to discuss their books with potential B&N customers while encouraging them to use HDCWC's code at time of purchase for any B&N purchases. By doing so, the HDCWC received credit for their sales and those sales were then shared with the branch in the fundraising event. This is another event that will be shared statewide for other branches to consider.



Hiding under the mask is Gemma with her mom, Mary DeSantis at their colorful booth during the book fair.



The Woman in Room 23 is the latest title from long time member and Treasurer, Jenny Margotta. Her other titles were also on display.



Mary Ruth Hughes always offers a well-designed table with her variety of children's book titles and history novels based on Native Indian themes.

Volunteers take turns at our branch booth with our impressive imprints available for sale.



New Board for Year 2019-20 Takes the Stage

Photos by Mary Mack



Many of our newly elected board members have returned for another term, while others have stepped in to take on a new role. (l-r)

Michael Raff is Membership; Linda Boruff is Member-at-Large; Joan Rudder-Ward is our new Secretary; Jenny Margotta is Treasurer; standing in back is Programs / Publicity Chair Bob Isbill; then Rusty LaGrange, newsletter editor; Vice President Lorelei Kay returns; and, Roberta Smith returns as Web Master.

After a two-year break, President Dwight Norris (with mic) has taken the helm.

As many of our support staff and volunteers say: "It's good to have a friendly well-oiled machine taking on the variety of projects and issues that come up."



What You Missed

Glen Hirshberg, when you first take a look at him, you wonder where this college kid came from. This is the guy that has 30+ years under his belt as a teacher and writer and author?

Yes, it's the same guy who came to our first Howl at the Moon writers' conference back in 2009. He was eager to return, and those who met him 10 years ago, were pleased to see him again. He has a natural teaching persona that sets people at ease, which seems rather ironic, considering his gift in the horror genre has produced award winning books.

“ I honestly never think about genre when I sit down to write. I've loved ghost and horror stories since before I could read, I think, because of the imagery, the way they pick and gnaw at primal emotions, the way they cross cultural and



Glen Hirshberg

Continued next page

temporal boundaries. But mostly it just seems that when I'm doing my best and most provocative work, horror is what I'm writing," said Hirshberg in a recent interview with Nightmare Magazine.

During our meeting, July 13th, he shared a few gems. His philosophy tends to be quiet and pragmatic: "Being open to what things are to be allows you to be deliberate. Story is only routine. It's how you turn it becomes intriguing ... breaking routine.

"That's an underestimated part of a writer's job: not just to imagine someone else's point-of-view, but to inhabit it. When I'm writing about someone far from me—culturally, chronologically, racially, whatever—I'm usually doing that because of someone or something I've encountered and explored already."

He admits to being a bit skeptical about online teaching: "You can't see their eyes. Workshops are real with real people you can see."

However, for sales, using audio books is becoming a faster selling trend. It's another avenue, he said.



Photos by Mary Mack
Story by Rusty LaGrange



AM I NOT SHE?

by Sara Metcalf Leach

Your presumptive pen
Is coming much too close
As it cuts deeply across my chest,
And through my words, my feelings
That I know to be
Sacred to my being.

Has not time proven to thee
That my place in eternity,
Though it must be shared,
Cannot be compared
To a bird or a wolf,
Be he man or beast?
I sing with the angels
And surf in the seas

As a mermaid,
If I choose to be.

Be careful how you help me,
For have I not overcome
Reticence, mediocrity,
Acquiescence and weakness
Compared to thee?
I am so strong
That my name shall never
Need to be
Excised in order for all to see
That I am already equal to thee.
My name is She.

I your partner will be
And as I climb into your heart

You shall cherish me forever
For I am She,
Who cherishes thee.
We shall not command nor demand.
No appearances must we take
No race shall prevail
No face needs to change
For love lives on, no matter,
She or He.

Who might thou be?
My name She.
Don't change me with your pen.



TIME

By Sara Metcalf Leach

Will you be here soon?
What is soon?
A beat of my heart.
Reach for my hand.
We will sail away together.
Where is away?
Right here.
Waiting takes an eternity.
Life slips away.
I see light in your eyes.
Let's build a nest.



Photo courtesy of Sara Leach & Pixabay

It's Easy to be a Life-long Learner and Writer

by *Mary Langer Thompson*

When I decided I needed to learn more about nutrition and to stop scoffing at words like “organic,” I was overwhelmed with advice about supplements, gluten, and the many not-to-be-named diets, many of which I had tried. At first, I thought I’d take a course at our local college, but was confused as to how to enroll, how to audit, or how to take just one class for my own information and enjoyment.

So, I Googled. Many colleges wanted to bestow B.A.’s and M.A.’s at the cost of \$30,000 or more. Some had residencies, which meant spending a summer or longer far away. Cornell had a certificate course for \$2,000.

Then I found Coursera. Coursera consists of single or multiple online courses in many subjects that a person can take for free through universities like Berkeley, Wesleyan University, and Stanford. I could study in the comfort of my own home, and not finish with student loans.

Scanning the many options available, I settled on “Stanford Introduction to Food and Health,” an online, five-lesson, once a week, course taught by Dr. Maya Adam, MD of Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Adam speaks on video with the text printed underneath. Because the course certificate cost only \$39.00, I decided to obtain that, too. To get the certificate, I would have to pass the quizzes by each of the week’s deadlines.

What did I learn? Basically, we should “eat good food. Not too much, mainly plants,” yet so much more. Dr. Adam also gives three and a half hours of cooking demonstrations on video after the course.

What do Coursera and EdX (which works the same way) have to do with writing? Because I put much of what I learned into practice, if I ever want to write about nutrition, I can cite this course for some credibility. There is also a link when you receive a Coursera certificate to add it to LinkedIn, in case you want to further your career. Or I can frame my certificate and hang it on my wall to make myself feel better when I get a writing rejection.

There are too many courses, some self-paced, and some with start and finish dates, to list here. Prices if you want the certificate vary, but are more than reasonable. Go to www.coursera.org and www.edx.org and peruse the offerings and dream. Will I take the “Ethics and Memory Course?” the “Mozart and Beethoven Course?”, the five-class “Creative Writing course?”, or the poetry course next?

I’ll let you know, and I’d love to hear of others’ experiences earning certificates or enjoying learning new skills and information.

Check this reference:

<https://www.coursera.org/account/accomplishments/certificate/C5VDN3LGRYRY>



Mary Langer Thompson





Jenny Margotta

from an

EDITOR'S DESK

GEOGRAPHIC-SPECIFIC WORDS & EXPRESSIONS

Novelists strive to make their characters as 3-dimensional as possible. We want people to become invested in our characters, their lives, their problems, their triumphs and their defeats. Physical descriptions help, but another great way is to make the characters regional. The protagonist in the novel I'm currently writing is an Italian from New York. (What else!) But I also have a man from North Carolina, a Pennsylvania Dutch kid, a golden-boy surfer dude, a transplanted Aussie, and an autocratic Bostonian professor.

One of the best ways to make your characters believable and add a colorful layer to their personalities is to use regional idioms and expressions. For instance, when I was growing up in West Virginia, our neighbor might say, "I'm going to the tea store. Can I bring you back a poke of anything?" The "tea store" was the local grocery store, the A & P (Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company), and a "poke" is a paper bag.

Below is a (limited) selection of regional expressions:

PRIDE OF PLACE: I'm not sure exactly where this one originated, but it is a common expression in West Virginia. I was surprised when several people questioned its meaning—having heard it all my life, to me it was obvious. It means displaying a treasured possession in a prominent place for all to see.

COKE: No, not that kind! If you visit my son in Dallas, he will politely ask you, "Want a coke?" If you say yes, he'll proceed to tell you, "I have 7-Up, Pepsi, Orange, and Dr. Pepper. Which one would you like?" Along that same line, I grew up asking for "pop," and when I moved west, it took me quite a while to remember to ask for a "soda." In the East, if you ask for a soda, you'll get the old-fashioned, "fizzy water, vanilla ice cream, and chocolate syrup" kind of soda.

I'LL KNOCK YOU UP IN THE MORNING: No, not that, either. It's an English expression meaning "I'll wake you up in the morning by knocking on your door." You may be more familiar with "I'll ring you up," another English phrase meaning "I'll call you on the phone."

Back in the States, if you're driving in Massachusetts, you might be told to "Bang a uey" ("uey" is pronounced "yoo-ee") It simply means, "Make a U-turn." Your passenger might have wanted you to turn around so they could get a "Hoodsie cup" at the convenience store you just passed. A "Hoodsie cup" is a paper cup filled with vanilla and chocolate ice cream and topped with whipped cream. It's been a favorite of kids—and adults—in the Northeast since it was first produced by the Hood dairy company in 1947. (One of my favorite treats as a kid was a moon pie and, yes, an RC cola.)

THAT DOG WON'T HUNT: It's a common idiom in the South, meaning, "I don't believe you" or "I'm not accepting your story/excuse."

I'M NOT WEARING IT: This Australian expression means you aren't going to accept the blame for something. On the other hand, Californian's might say, "I'm claimin' it," if they want to brag about something they did.

Most of us understand—and probably use—the expression, "Different strokes for different folks." The Japanese would say, "Ten men, ten colors." I also like the Japanese expression, "Pulling water to my own rice paddy." It's a way of saying you are doing or saying something for your own benefit.

WHEN A LOBSTER WHISTLES ON THE TOP OF A MOUNTAIN: I particularly like the imagery this Russian idiom brings to mind. Americans generally say, "When pigs fly," meaning, of course, "It's never going to happen."

During my busy editing days, I think I'm going to start saying, "My hands don't reach it." It's another Russian idiom meaning "I can't find the time."

Oops!!

Everyone makes mistakes—even editors. In my article about reflexive pronouns, printed in the May 2019 *Inklinger*, I used the following example:

Incorrect: Everything in the book was written by John and myself.

Correct: Everything in the book was written by John and I.

As many of your sharp eyes probably caught, *both* examples are incorrect. The **correct** example should have read:

Everything in the book was written by John and me.

"ME" is always used as an objective pronoun (here it's the object of the preposition "by"); "I" is always subjective.



Long Beach invites Us to Their Workshop

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1:30-5:00 pm \$35 limited seating

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A \$35 ticketed event with limited seating only
open to CWC members - register online at:

<https://winning-with-writing-workshop.eventbrite.com>

a password is required CWCLBwrites! (capitals, exclamation point)

Password is case sensitive. *Program subject to change.*

Specialists

Elaine Ash has worked with writers of all genres, helping them to shape manuscripts, acquire agents and land publishing deals. Elaine Ash EDITOR

<https://bestsellermetrics.com>

Laura Brennan's background covers television to web, fiction to news. She has taught pitching workshops at several MFA programs. Laura Brennan STORY PITCH

<http://laurabrennanwrites.com>

April M. Reign is an author and cover designer who uses photo manipulation to capture the essence of a work for the book cover. April M. Reign COVER DESIGN

<http://aprilmreign.com>

Wendy Thomas Russell founded Brown Paper Press, an indie publishing company in Long Beach. Previously she received awards as a reporter for the Long Beach Press-Telegram. Wendy Thomas Russell PUBLISHER

<http://brownpaperpress.com>

Eric "Kata" Schuyler is a book production expert with Wambtac Communications who specializes in format and layout industry standards. Eric "Kata" Schuyler— MANUSCRIPT FORMATTING, <http://wambtac.com>.

<https://winning-with-writing-workshop.eventbrite.com>

WORD OF THE MONTH

DIPLOMATE:

dip·lo·mate ['diplə,māt]

NOUN. U.S.

1. a person who holds a diploma, especially a doctor certified as a specialist by a board of examiners.



Courtesy of Jenny Margotta, editor

WHITE HOT NARRATIVE DRIVE

Here's an insight from Mary reporting on a writing webinar coached by John Truby this summer ...

By Mary DeSantis

Films written by former students of writing coach John Truby have grossed over \$15 billion at the box office to date. I joined a recent webinar in which Truby revealed secrets to his world-famous techniques for driving a story's narrative forward at the pace that propels movies to the Academy Awards and books to the New York Times Bestseller list.

According to Truby, effective story structure should include many different plot techniques, the most important of which are:

- 1) **Premise**
- 2) **Desire**
- 3) **Opponent**

DESIRE

Desire is what the hero wants in this particular story. It is the source and spine of the story and drives the narrative. Desire gives you the plotlines.

You must be clear about the endpoint of your story. Many writers have a problem setting up the hero's goal, but the solution is to give the hero only one goal for each standalone story or television episode, and only one overarching goal for each series (whether a book series or TV series).

An example Truby gave was *Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien, in which the overall goal of the trilogy was to return the ring to Mount Doom. This important goal drove the narrative of all three books in the series, and allowed for linked subplots to drive the main narrative of the individual stories.

To form a better narrative, you must increase the intensity of the hero's desire for the goal. The way to do this is by raising the stakes. Increase the loss he/she would suffer as a result of failing.

Genre affects how you tell your story more than any other element. According to Truby, genres tell you

the plot points that must be in your story. Each genre has a unique desire line that drives the plot. It is up to you as a writer to know these genre tropes for your story. Keep a laser focus on the desire line of your genre in order to write a more compelling story.

Of all character types in a story, the one that promotes narrative drive the most is the Trickster. The more deception used by both the hero and the opponent, the more powerful your narrative drive will be. Throw in a lot of plot twists!

PREMISE

The premise can also be called the logline, i.e. your story stated in one sentence. Work on pinpointing your story's premise, for without knowing your premise, your narrative drive will peter out. 'Going nowhere fast' is a comparable analogy for a writer who doesn't drive toward a story goal.

The most popular premise type in books and movies today is High Contrast. This can be described as a story with a big plot flip or internal plot contrast that surprises the reader. A good technique is to match unlikely opposites in the hero, for example in the TV series "Breaking Bad" where the most unlikely of characters turns his skill at chemistry into a career as a drug lord in order to raise money for a good cause.

It is vital that the hero of your story should overcome extreme odds to accomplish a specific and difficult goal.

Don't wait for the full plot to get going in order to set up your narrative drive. It is imperative to start the engine right away. Throw your hero into the action in the first page.

OPPONENT

A very dangerous misconception that many writers labor under is the ideal that the opponent is just the bad guy. Don't think of the opponent as the villain. Create an intelligent, complex, full-spectrum character to confront and block the hero. A worthy opponent will create more conflict, which forces the hero to do bigger and better things to overcome the obstacles in his/her path.

Continued next page

Continued from page 9

The true opponent is any person who wants to prevent the hero from reaching his goal. The hero and his opponent are fighting over the same thing but from different perspectives.

Your story should have one main opponent who attacks the hero relentlessly and who adjusts his attacks to what the hero tries to do. He is obsessed with preventing the main character from succeeding. The more crafty and deceptive and dangerous you make this antagonist, the better.

A successful technique to use is to add other opponents for the hero to fight. More opponents make for a more complex story. Complex plot and narrative drive will put a writer over the top.

STORY WORLD

The two biggest threats to narrative drive are:

- 1) Plot failure and
- 2) Story World

World building is one of the three most important elements in popular story-telling worldwide. The other two are high premise and complex plot. It is vital to create a detailed story world, an environment that the reader loves. Do not attempt to build your story world at the beginning of the story as this will kill the narrative drive. That is because story world is 360° and narrative drive is linear.

Hang the story world on the hero's desire line. Slowly feed it to the reader throughout the hero's journey/progress. Describe it a little at a time.

This has just been a taste of the techniques John Truby can teach you as a writer. If you want to learn all the other techniques necessary to creating an effect narrative drive as well as all the obstacles to avoid, if you need to know the various tropes of the many different genres, and how to use Point of View to generate more plot, contact www.truby.com/story. Truby has much to offer writers who want to create stories that people want to read. You can buy his book *The Anatomy of Story* or sign up for his many online courses.

August 13, 2019 is the last day to sign up for Truby's first ever Story Apprentice Program, a twelve-month online teaching course for novelists and

screenwriters. The cost is only \$597, and a six-month payment plan is available. For this amazing price, Truby will provide twelve intensive classes each lasting from 2-2.5 hours long, plus subsequent live session which last anywhere from 90 minutes to three hours long. The live sessions continue for six more months, or as long as it takes for individual writers to complete the assignments and finish their story.

I highly recommend this course to my fellow writers at the HDCWC. Sign up now to reserve a spot before the deadline expires! www.truby.com/story



CELEBRATE AUGUST

Is it customary for you or your family to celebrate more than birthdays and holidays? Seems like we have an occasion for every day of the year—and then some.

A few of the National Days in August:

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| AUGUST 15 | RELAXATION DAY |
| AUGUST 21 | POET'S DAY SENIOR CITIZENS DAY |
| AUGUST 24 | NATIONAL PEACH PIE DAY WAFFLE DAY |
| AUGUST 27 | JUST BECAUSE DAY |



DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER: 60 YEARS AND COUNTING

The Story Continues ... By Sheryl Lynne Thomas-Perkins

Thanks a million times to fellow HDCWC members, authors EmmaLisa Hill and Martha Dickerson, for helping to make the Gala 60th anniversary celebration a memorable event. These HDCWC stars helped usher in more than 100 guests to the party for Barbara and Hosie Thomas Sr., (my parents) on July 13, at the Courtyard by Marriott in Hesperia. (See Memoir Corner, Page 11, July 2019, *The Inklinger*.)

The celebrants wowed the crowd when they performed a unique line dance that brought guests to their feet. They danced to The Gap Band's "Outstanding" which was selected since former Gap Band lead singer Charlie Wilson is one of their favorite musicians.

Hill said she enjoyed being with so many kind people as she managed guests sign-in. Since Barbara loves puzzles, guests signed puzzle pieces instead of the customary book. Once assembled, the puzzle will be heart-shaped.

"This is unbelievable," Barbara said during the celebration. "I started to cry as soon as I walked in the room and saw how beautiful it was. Then I saw everyone looking at us and smiling." Hosie said that he enjoyed spending time with friends and family, some whom he hadn't seen in years.

Best-selling author and Associate Director of the University of Southern California Black Alumni Association Tensie Taylor, our recent HDCWC presenter, moderated the celebration and entertained guests by playing the piano.

Another highlight was award-winning artist Karen Winters who entertained guests throughout the day as she painted the party scene, capturing its essence, which she will finish in her studio in coming weeks.

Additional highlights included Diamond Awards presented to several guests who gave tributes and said the Thomases have favorably impacted their lives with their acts of kindness; a performance

by Jimmy Fisher and Contagious Praise; and children, young adult guests, and proclamations sent from elected officials, including those from former U. S. President Jimmy Carter, SB County 1st District Spvr. Robert Lovingood, State Senators Diane Feinstein and Kamala Harris, Victorville Mayor Gloria Garcia, and Assemblyman Jay Obernolte.



Barbara and Hosie Thomas brought guests to their feet when they performed a unique line dance to The Gap Band's "Outstanding." (Photo courtesy of Morgan Glasper Photography)



The couple prepare to cut their elegant three-tier custom diamond anniversary cake, from Sweet Art Bakery in Upland. (Photo courtesy of Morgan Glasper Photography)

Events Ahead > Book Fairs & more

AUG & SEPT ACTIVITIES

| | |
|----------|--|
| Aug. 6 | HDCWC Board meeting |
| Aug. 10 | HDCWC regular meeting |
| Sept. 10 | HDCWC Board meeting |
| Sept. 14 | HDCWC regular meeting |
| Sept. 30 | Last day to submit dues at sustaining member rate |

GET YOUR FAIRS IN ORDER

Plan for Book Fair — Oct. 12

Early indications for another book fair in mid-October will include a Poetry Reading Room among other features. Davida Siwisa James is organizing the event.

Sign-up now while spaces are filling. Booths will be available for rent in the Book Fair sections. Go to www.VicArtsEd.org for details.

OUR OWN YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Here's the link to the channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC28XLtEK5oBNq5gW2Zy1ssg>

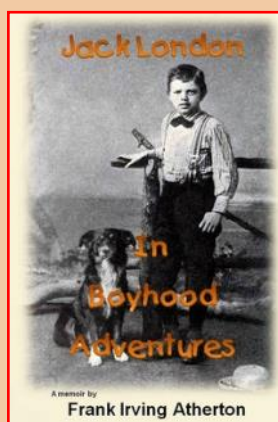
By Sending in your upcoming events & book signings early, we can share in your joy



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



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

Member Services

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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

next issue is mid-August

Notes From the Editor

Small town America has jumped onboard the "local history book" bandwagon to promote their pride and legacy. Check your area Chamber of Commerce for their books. My little town of Lucerne Valley did the same, but we quickly outgrew the strict format of Arcadia Press and formed our own committee to write and produce — Lucerne Valley: A Wild West Town of Character(s). I was asked to write a section of the book as well as final line editing for the final proof. If you have the skills, ask your local book committee if you can help. Extra exposure and training is great for credibility.

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 were embedded in other media. Call me to discuss an article or idea, 760-646-2661.

**September's submissions are due Aug. 23
October's submissions are due Sept. 23**