



The INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC
Inspiring a Community of Writers

Sail On

Feb. 2020

Writing the irresistible and perfect query letter

KRUSEMARK TO SHARE QUERY LETTER SKILLS

LeeAnne Krusemark is an adjunct online Professor of Publishing for Harvard and more than 1,000 other facilities worldwide, and is a nationwide speaker on the topic.

She is also a former journalist, editor, and managing editor of newspapers, as well as an author of countless magazine articles and several books, some of which can be found on Amazon.

LeeAnne has also started representing other writers as an editor and agent. This is her return trip to speak to our branch.

In addition, she has owned a successful award-winning public relations business for more than 20 years and is a Chamber of Commerce past president. The inspiration LeeAnne gives to others has even been compared in writing to Oprah!



LeeAnne Krusemark



African-American Month Tribute Set This Feb. 6th

As previously announced, we will hold our second Black History Month African-American Read-In on Thursday, February 6th from 5 to 7 pm at the Hesperia Library. Join us for this tribute to the contributions to literature by and about people of that ethnicity. Many speakers, music, and refreshments. Mary Langer Thompson is the coordinator of this event.



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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hdcwcpresidentdnorris@gmail.com

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Submittorious Award Goes to Jenny; You Can Receive It By Volunteering



If you volunteer to write articles or develop a column that runs regularly in *The Inkslinger*, you too can be recognized with a Submittorious Award.

This winner, Jenny Margotta, has consistently offered her editing skills in written articles and then in a column.

She wins \$50 cash. Congratulations, Jenny!

To be considered for this annual award, just contact me, (editor) to discuss your ideas. I always enjoy a creative change and help with content in *The Inkslinger*.

Wish to join my minions of staff members, call me.
760.646.2661

~~ Rusty LaGrange

OUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS

We have a new address for any branch business. Clip this ad to your virtual fridge.

Jenny Margotta has graciously let us use her address. This will help expedite the time in sending and mostly receiving mail.

**HDCWC
17645 Fisher Street
Victorville, CA 92395**



Jenny Margotta

from an

EDITOR'S DESK

Homonyms ... hmmm

Begging Your Spell Checker for Help Won't Work Because Sound-Alikes Can't Be Computed ... Yet

According to the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, homonyms refer to three distinct classes of words. They may be words with identical pronunciations but different spellings and meanings, such as *or*, *oar*, and *ore*. They may be identical in pronunciation and spelling but differ in meaning, such as *quail* (the bird) and *quail* (to cringe). Finally, they may be words that are spelled alike but are different in pronunciation and meaning, such as the *bow* of a ship and *bow* that shoots arrows. The first and second types are sometimes called *homophones*, and the second and third types are sometimes called *homographs*—which makes naming the second type a bit confusing. Some language scholars prefer to limit *homonym* to the third type. Whatever you call them, however, they can certainly trip up a writer. And it's something an automatic spell checker isn't going to flag.

Let's see how well you know your homonyms. The last two examples aren't homonyms, but I've included them because writers frequently confuse them.

LED; LEAD: The guide _____ the group into the _____ mine.

ALTER; ALTAR: The _____ was already covered in flowers; I would have to _____ my idea of adding my own arrangement.

WAVER; WAIVER: _____ in hand, Michael told me to give up the fight, but I did not _____.

BEAR; BARE: I refused to allow my dog to _____ her puppies on the _____ floor.

COMPLEMENT; COMPLIMENT: Thank you for the _____, but I did not intend for my purse to _____ my shoes.

LIGHTNING; LIGHTENING: The _____ of the sky was caused by the almost continuous _____.

SITE; SIGHT: The _____ of the future _____ for the house left me speechless.

HORDES; HOARDS: He still _____ everything he can, despite the _____ of people in greater need.

RUE; ROUX: You will _____ trying to make a good _____ without real butter.

ISLE; AISLE: As I walked down the _____, I could see numerous paintings of the _____ of Hawaii on the walls.

continued next page

CAPITAL; CAPITOL: We toured the _____ building while we were in our nation's _____.

WEATHER; WHETHER: It's questionable _____ or not the _____ will be good enough for the picnic.

FARTHER; FURTHER: I will not argue with your any _____ if you agree not to go any _____ on this highway.



As the days get longer,
your deadline for Lit Rev isn't.
You have only 25 days.

See cal-writers.org
for details.

What? You want it easy?

- 1) led, lead
- 2) altar, alter
- 3) waiver, waver
- 4) bear, bare
- 5) compliment, complement
- 6) lightning, lightning
- 7) sight, site
- 8) hoards, hordes
- 9) rue, roux
- 10) aisle, isle
- 11) capitol, capital
- 12) whether, weather
- 13) further, farther
- 14) immigrated, emigrated

ANSWER KEY:

WORD OF THE MONTH

BLUNGE: ['blʌŋj]

TRANSITIVE VERB

1: to amalgamate and blend (something, such as clay to form slip): beat up or mix in water

Origin of blunge: 1820–30; blend of blend and plunge

EX: *You must know how to properly blunge the milk and pancake mix if you want perfect pancakes.*

Definition courtesy of www.merriam-webster.com)

Critique Groups Revamped & Expanded

Michael Raff and Linda Boruff are now our new critique co-chairs for 2020. They'll be checking with members for feedback.

Our March general meeting will be (so far) an interactive look at critiquing methods, topics, and how to manage a new group.

Plenty of room for new groups to explore Memoir, Children's, Poetry, Non-Fiction, and Young Authors ages 10-18.

Only members in good standing may participate in a critique group, usually hosted in a member's home.



OUR OWN YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Here's the link to the channel:

[https:// www.youtube.com/channel/UC28XLtEK5oBNq5gW2Zy1ssg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC28XLtEK5oBNq5gW2Zy1ssg)

Managed by Joan Rudder-Ward

Managing Your Writing Career

BY RUSTY LAGRANGE



Since many of our memories are interwoven with the books we read, several blogs, podcasts, and even *The New York Times* have reminded us that what we read inevitably influences a deeper meaning in how we write.

I wish I read more books growing up, and I've even created a book list of my own classics I should have read by now. Finding time to read is a luxury. And finding the personal craft in your writing is another necessity. Our voices weave in and out of our life lessons, shapes our best attitudes to finishing our writing, and polishes the professionalism found between the book covers we create.

Just the thought of skimming through some past pages of famous books -- well, not necessarily famous -- but having once been intriguing to us as we defined our writing styles, is an excellent way to ground your new year and find your focus in 2020.

My early memories begin with a cranky old bear who didn't like anybody in his forest:
Mr. Bear Squash-You-All-Flat was a bully and learned a lesson. It was published in 1959.

A Fox Jumped Up One Winter's Night – A Little Golden Book special edition by Nina Barabaresi. Published 1985 by Golden Book, Western Pub. Co. is a survival story for a whimsical Fox family. It's from a folklore tale brought forward with music.

When I read ***The Helen Keller Story*** in paperback, thoughts of being blind and deaf was shocking to me. How could any child learn anything? Her story altered my way of thinking. So I learned the Sign Language Alphabet, and once my young sister wanted to learn it too; I felt accomplished. That summer vacation we silently jabbered for miles in the rear of our family station wagon until our mom finally questioned us. We giggled for miles.

Stop-Time is a true oddly twisted memoir of a rural teacher dealing with old myth and rude superstition. The author is Frank Conroy— published in 1967, it also recounts Conroy's childhood and adolescence placed inside two narrow contemporary frames of New York and Florida.

Catch-22, a timeless novel of crazy military life in a MASH unit and the springboard to the beloved TV show M.A.S.H. starring Alan Alda. American author Joseph Heller began writing it in 1953 and coined the phrase and title as a loop of circumstances that never can find a finish or any satisfaction.

My first movie review in high school I got free tickets as the Journalism student editor for ***Little Big Man***. I wrote the article with students eager to see the new film, but I was so enamored by the storyline that I completely forgot to print the movie title.

A Canticle for Liebowitz — written by Walter M. Miller Jr. was one of those weird titles I found on my high school's library shelf that I was compelled to read. Science fiction was just a leisure read for me, but the more I found weird and curious titles,

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CELEBRATE FEBRUARY

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 February:

NATIONAL WESTERN MONARCH DAY

NATIONAL EXPECT SUCCESS MONTH

NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH

NATIONAL BIRD FEEDING MONTH

SPUNKY OLD BROADS MONTH

AND HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

Continued from page 5

the more I had to read them. Published in 1959, it's a very highly regarded work of post-apocalyptic fiction presented in three "acts", each roughly 600 years apart. The first act is set about 600 years post nuclear holocaust. Someone found a grocery list in the ashes and it became ancient unknown text that became coveted hieroglyphics. Robert Heinlein's **Glory Road** and Andre Norton's **Cat's Eye** were my favorite sci-fi authors' titles then.

I was prompted by high school English teachers to read a few books that were required. John Steinbeck was good but I went for the more obscure titles, **To A God Unknown**. I still remember it because after having a book panel discussion and sharing its meaning to me, it had truly a profound effect.

The Desert Smells Like Rain – native American stories by Gary Paul Nabhan, provide insights into natural history and folklore of the desert.

The River That Runs Up Hill – Mojave River geological studies with a travelogue interest to it. I eventually conned my parents to go to the Mojave for vacation. It worked. I'm a "desert rat" since 1975. And my love of the High Desert expanded into leading 4x4 travelers on the historic Mojave Trade Route for 12 years and defining another love of Lucerne Valley's history. I joined the museum in 1986, the board in 2001, and becoming its president soon after.

Take a moment and write down your top 10 choices that had the most affect on you and your writing. Send it to me at Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com and we can compare lives in future issues.



Sharing ideas is Great.
Sharing Germs, not so much.
Please stay home if you're not well.

News You Can Use

Literary Review Deadline Ends Feb 29

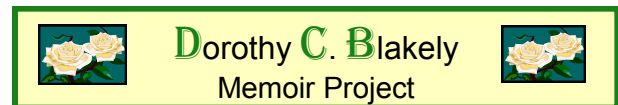
Just a reminder that the window for submitting to the 2020 Literary Review is now open, and the deadline is February 29th!

Authors of published works consist ONLY of California Writers Club members. This is a peer-reviewed journal with high standards. Only a selected few will make it in.

Consider submitting to this prestigious publication NOW. Remember to follow the guidelines carefully and read the FAQ's.

Details and guidelines may be found online at <https://calwriters.org/publications/> This year's issue promises to be different. Fred Dodsworth has 40 yrs in publishing and editing.

He's aiming for a late October printing, too.



Enthusiasm in the Board meeting resulted from a brainstorming session about promoting and marketing a DCB Handbook. With Mary Langer Thompson heading the project, she is gathering the necessary details for any school teacher or English admin to replicate our successes over the years.

Teachers love tools that can lighten their academic load for their students while having a step-by-step guide to a successful publishing result at the end of the school year. More on that later.

Plans are in the works for the next DCB project at a new High Desert school.



Managing Upgrades for Central Board tools

With some new faces on the Central Board, plan to see some changes. Vice President Roger Lubeck is looking into upgrades for the MRMS state membership software, some management tools to keep the state membership in touch, and more.



Events Ahead > Book Fairs & more

FEB. — MAR. ACTIVITIES

Feb. 4	HDCWC Board meeting
Feb. 6	Black History Read-In 5-7 pm at Hesperia Library. Music and refreshments.
Feb. 8	HDCWC regular meeting
Feb. 29	Lit Rev. Deadline
Mar. 8	International Women's Day
Mar. 10	HDCWC Board meeting
Mar. 14	HDCWC regular meeting

2020 SBC Fair Hours

Day	Date	Fair Opens At
Saturday	May 23rd	Noon
Sunday	May 24th	Noon
Monday	May 25th	Noon
Tuesday	May 26th	Closed
Wednesday	May 27th	Closed
Thursday	May 28th	4:00pm
Friday	May 29th	4:00pm
Saturday	May 30th	Noon
Sunday	May 31st	Noon



Something New for Indie Book Sales:

OUR OWN FLASH SALE

Consider a rented **Flash Sale Store** for our books for **2-days** only in a busy storefront where people walk and shop.

Join our committee with Michael Raff to investigate our options. HDCWC Board has approved to make the next step.

- ◆ Where?
- ◆ How much?
- ◆ Rental agreement?

We set the rules. We set the price based on the square footage. Sell your titles your way. You pay for a table. Are you in?

Call Rusty LaGrange: (760)646-2661 leave msg.



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.

Member Services

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!

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

**YOUR
FREE AD
HERE**

Editor



Rusty LaGrange

*Editor of the
CWC's
The Bulletin*

next issue is mid-March

Notes From the Editor

I think my thermometer is stuck on 39 degrees. No matter what the daytime is, the night cools down to 39. I enjoyed the bit of snow we had but now it's time for some Spring.

Got poems? Our push for more poetry and submissions to SB County Fair is approaching fast. Check out their website. And The CWC Literary Review deadline is shorter this year: February 29th. Polish your best work!

Submitting to *The Inklinger* 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.

Submit Mar. 2020 items by Feb. 23, 2020
Submit April 2020 items by Mar. 23, 2020