

The INKSLINGER

Speed Rounds: 6 tables, 6 moves

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC
Inspiring a Community of Writers

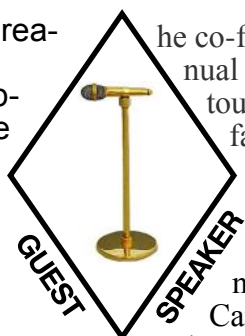
Sail On

July 2019

Everything You Wanted to Know About Writing From Someone Who Has Been There, Done That

What would you want to know from a Creative Writing teacher of 26 years who is an award-winning author with nine books published? What would you ask him about the craft that you would most like to know?

Three-time International Horror Guild Award Winner Glen Hirshberg's novels include *The Snowman's Children*, *The Book of Bunk*, *Motherless Child*, *Good Girls*, and *Nothing to Devour*. Hirshberg is also the author of four widely praised story collections: *The Two Sams* (a *Publishers' Weekly* Best Book of 2003), *American Morons*, *The Janus Tree*, and *The Ones Who Are Waving*. Hirshberg is a five-time World Fantasy Award finalist, and in 2008, he won the Shirley Jackson Award for the novelette, "The Janus Tree." With Peter Atkins and Dennis Etchison,



he co-founded the Rolling Darkness Revue, an annual reading/live music/performance event that tours the West Coast of the United States every fall and has also made international appearances.

Glen has also taught creative writing for more than two decades, inaugurating a signature program for high school students at Campbell Hall in Studio City, and helping to launch the MFA program at Cal State San Bernardino, where he served as a Fiction Professor. At CSUSB, he founded the CREW project, through which he trains some of his top students every year and then sends them out into the surrounding community to run intensive, months-long creative writing workshops each spring at schools that offer few creative outlets. He has since brought that program back to Campbell Hall, where it continues to thrive in partnership with the celebrated L.A.'s Best after-school programs.

After growing up in Detroit and San Diego, Glen attended college at Columbia University, where he won the Bennett Cerf Prize for Fiction. He earned his MFA and MA at the University of Montana, where he was a Fiction Fellow and Bertha Morton Scholar.

From 1995-2002, he was a regular contributor to *L.A. Weekly*, and his criticism and essays have appeared in numerous magazines and alternative newspapers across the U.S.

He is the singer, songwriter, and keyboardist with Momzer, whose second album, *The Light at Someone Else's Table*, was released the Fall of 2015. He lives in the Los Angeles area with his family and cats.



Glen Hirshberg



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.*

President

Dwight Norris
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Vice President

Lorelei Kay
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Secretary

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Jenny Margotta
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Newsletter Editor

Rusty LaGrange
Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com

Webmaster

Roberta Smith
hdcwc_web@aol.com

Election Results for Year 2019-20

The slate of officers running for the July 2019-20 year were presented by Election Committee Chair Bob Isbill during the previous meeting held June 8th. Having announced open nominees from the floor, and hearing none, the slate of officers was accepted as a "white ballot vote."

During the new Board meeting, held July 5, President Norris appointed a Member-At-Large and all non-voting chair positions that include Membership, Newsletter Editor, and Programs/Publicity. Names are reflected in the side bar at left.

President — Dwight Norris
Vice President — Lorelei Kay
Secretary — Joan Rudder-Ward
Treasurer — Jenny Margotta



Are You the Next KDP Storyteller Contest Winner?

The UK Kindle Storyteller Award is open for entries from 1st May until 31st August 2019! The hunt is on for the next great English storytelling talent.

The winner of the 2019 contest will receive a \$28,309.00 cash prize, a marketing campaign to support their winning title, and the opportunity to have their book translated.

The long summer days are the perfect time to take up your pen (or keyboard)! With over two months until the entry deadline, you still have plenty of time to craft your submission. If, like Mark Dawson, (last year's winner) you've been meaning to publish your book, now's the perfect opportunity.

Visit the Kindle Storyteller page for more information about the contest, the full Terms and Conditions, and instructions on how to enter. <https://www.amazon.co.uk/b?ie=UTF8&node=12061299031>

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.

Although still early, volunteers are needed to help and booths will be available for rent in the Book Fair sections. Go to www.VicArtsEd.org for details.

Horror Genre's Biggest SoCal Event

The business partnership of Michael Raff and Roberta Smith — Nevermore Enterprises — will be on the road again and heading down to some place with some books...

Oh, yeah. It's only Long Beach Convention Center with the biggest crowd of Horror fans and movie buffs in Southern California!!!!

Roberta shared some of their photos from last year's event on their first trip to the mega confab.



Elvira the TV vampire and movie hostess is there for her fans.



Horrifying makeup artistry is always a big draw. Roberta is to the right. Her gory friend is alright. Makeup process below.



Michael Raff haunts his booth with a full array of horror titles and Roberta's dark fantasy and ghostly subjects.

Continued next page



Long Beach Convention Center, Aug. 3 & 4. You can get a 20% discount off your General Admission ticket by using code: NEVERMORE

*Photos provided by Nevermore Enterprises
Story by Rusty LaGrange*

MidSummerScream Event Discounts



Last year's participant.



For what it's worth

"Some moments in memoirs serve as touchstones, reminding us that although we are individuals with unique experiences, we are also connected by the joys and sorrows of our shared human experience."

- Deborah Tobola

Let's Get to Know ...

Suzanne Holbrook Brumbaugh
(pen name – Suzanne de Board)

Suzanne has Gone to the Fair

While you know her as a children's book author with over 23 titles to her name, or as a creator of fine air covers and book illustrations, Suzanne is constantly busy with her projects. And, among many aspects of her creativity is entering numerous items in the San Bernardino County Fair.

Following is our Q & A session:

Q: Many of us know that you're an accomplished children's author. Not many know of your ribbon wins. What different contests did you enter for this year's County Fair?

A: Baked goods, Photography, Poetry

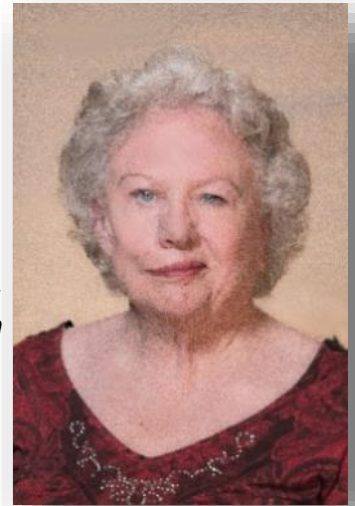
Q: Can you list all the ribbons you took home this year? Which were Best of Show?

A: Poetry: I entered two poems and received blue ribbons on both. I also received the Best of Show on my poem "Fair or Unfair." Photography: I won a blue ribbon, for my picture

'Route 66,' a red for 'close-up' and a Judges Choice for my 'Butterfly Orchid.' Baked goods: Blues for my Angel Food and Pound Cakes, seconds and thirds on most of the following – Onion Cheese bread and rolls, French bread, Divinity, Fudge, Cookies – Molasses, Chewy Chocolate Oatmeal Bars, Chocolate Chip, and Oatmeal/Apple/Raisin.

Q: Best of Show for Angel Food Cake? That can be a tough category. Why did you choose to enter?

A: Unfortunately, I just missed the Best of Show by one point. But I was told I was definitely in the running. Whether I won or lost, I knew my family would love the cake, so I added it to my entries. Most of the entries I chose were mostly for my family. The Fair was a fun outlet.



Q: Share some of the other food and cooking or baking categories that you were most happy with. **Suzanne de Board**

A: 1. I was happy with everything, although I could have done better on the candy, but it was quite humid that day, and candy doesn't always set up correctly when it is humid.

2. I love making breads, but my oven went on the fritz, so I am happy that the breads turned out as well as they did.

Q: Many of us didn't know you wrote poetry. What topics do you enjoy? Were you surprised to win Best of Show in Adult Poetry too?



A: I was shocked, but extremely happy, to win the Best of Show. There are so many accomplished

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Gone to the Fair



poets in our group, and others who have not yet discovered the opportunities available in the HDCWC. I have always loved poetry and loved experimenting with various genres. It was my job, growing up, to write a birthday poem for every birthday party honoree. So much fun. In my Anthology, Pen Pearls, I have

31 poems, and 30 short stories.

Q: Of all of your many talents, which one is your “go-to” that fulfills your muse the most?

A: It depends on my mood at the time. I love writing, of course, but I also love art and photography, crafts – such as knitting, crocheting, tatting, latch hook, sewing and other needlecraft. I also love cooking and baking delicious things (hopefully – tee hee) for my family.

Suzanne is working on another title ready for publishing, “The Little Fish,” and is in the creation phase of a book near and dear to toddlers everywhere – “Priscilla’s Worm,” “Priscilla’s Worm”

also contains various word puzzles for older kids, and/or teachers/parents. “The Little Fish” has recently come out on Amazon, and has many original paintings throughout – (many different sea creatures.)

She can be reached at suzanne_holbrook@yahoo.com.



Photos provided by Suzanne
Story by Rusty LaGrange



UNDERCURRENT

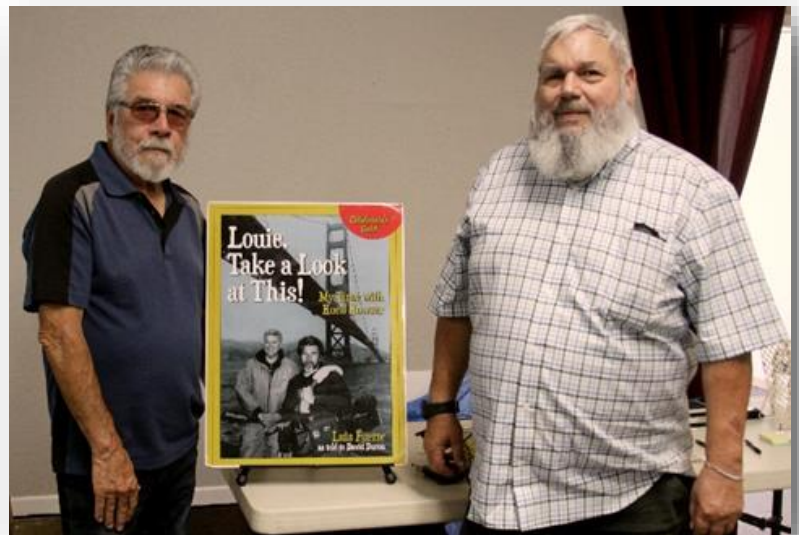


Luis Fuerte, loyal cameraman, told stories about the effervescent TV Host as they travelled California.

We have so many diverse interests that flow through our branch membership that it is common to find friends showing up in other venues. For instance, the PoemSmiths cancelled their meeting to race off to the Mohave Historical Society's special presentation. They invited Luis Fuerte to return.

Who is Luis? He says he's the most famous guy you never saw on Huell Howser's California travel video programs. As Huell's videographer, cameraman, editor, and driver, he spent 12 years on the road and wrote a book about it.

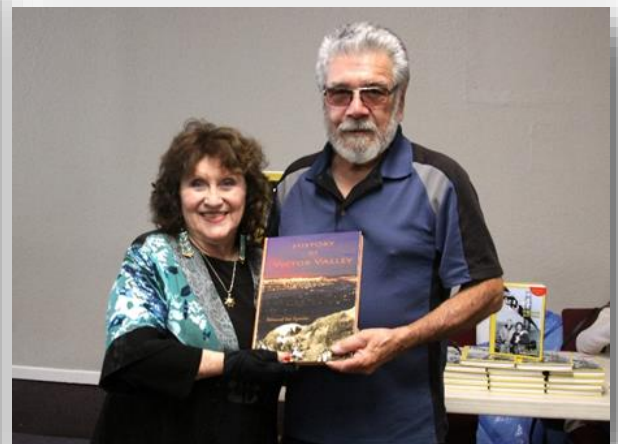
I'll bet there were at least 12 HDCWC members enjoying the program. The place was packed.



Luis (left) poses with his new book —Luis, Take a Look at This!— and Society President



Approximately 225 folks from clubs and the general public flocked to fill the Redeemer Church near Central Road, Apple Valley, on Thursday evening, June 27. This photo doesn't quite show the standing room only.



Mary Ruth Hughes asked for a photo op and gave him a History of Victor Valley book.

*Photos provided by Mary DeSantis
Story by Rusty LaGrange*



A Chance Encounter

by Fumi-tome Ohta

I was sitting in the waiting area of the Honda dealership while my car was being serviced. There was no television in the waiting area so my eyes traveled from one linoleum floor tile to another then, for added excitement, I watched one customer car after another drive up to the service line. I thought it an interesting morning until a customer carrying a little kitty carrier appeared. She sat across from me and there my eyes found another interesting moment in life.

I couldn't help but to scrunch my eyes to see what kind of kitty sat in the shadows of that plastic box. I was so engrossed in discerning a kitty from within that I didn't notice a green parrot had appeared and was standing ever so distinguished atop the carrier.

The waiting room came alive with the knowledge of another being among us. We learned that his name was J.J. It was visually and audibly evident that J.J. was a quiet and gentle soul. He did not squawk or gawk or carry on much like parrots in pet shops. J.J. had a regal bearing...a mature, self-confident persona.

In the Japanese language, we have a made-up word, 'dekitoru.' Dekitoru loosely translated means "finished, done, complete." J.J. did not talk about himself; he did not have gold rings on each finger nor an accordion wallet opening up to an overabundance of platinum credit cards or 2X3 photos of himself. J.J. stood there casually looking about to the ambience of the room. It was clear that J.J. had the characteristics of 'dekitoru'.

During our time together, I do not remember if J.J. whistled or talked, but I do remember him exercising his mouth and tongue akin to smokers making circle-Os with clouds of smoke from their cigarette, or he twisting and pumping his neck up and down and stretching his wings open / close to get the kinks out. I noticed that J.J. liked to study humans.

Each time a service technician walked by, J.J. stood very still listening to the timing and cadence of the technician's footsteps. When his owner

stepped away for a second, J.J. became concerned for her. He was her protector. Where was she going? Why did she leave? He was visibly distraught as he mouthed a silent cry, walked circles upon his kitty carrier, craned his neck this way and that trying to listen for her discerning footsteps.

When she returned, he was relieved, happy and returned to being J.J., her personal attendant-in-waiting. I was taken with his loyalty and devotion to her, yet I wondered, did he ever harbor a thought that maybe she would consider wearing a GPS on her person whenever she took those mysterious leaves throughout the day at home or at the office so he could easily track her with his cell phone?



J.J. was such a well-mannered bird. I liked him more and more as the minutes ticked by. I began to think of him as a boyfriend. I would cook for him: "What would you like to eat, honey, roasted sunflower seeds?" J.J. liked to shred the edges of paper much like a typewriter moving from left to right on its carriage; J.J. preferred cardboard, or the current income tax return. I wanted to pet his head or to have him come onto my finger. "Oh no, you can't!" his owner said aloud. "He'll bite!"

He bites? My boy friend bites? Oh dear J.J., we're not getting off to a good start if you're going to bite me. I love you, J.J. With that being said, J.J. came over, tilted his head and saw that I was reviewing something in my hand. For what transpired next, I think J.J. must be in art design or an engineer because he systematically shredded the entire circumference of my service order with his beak. I concluded, not only was J.J. 'dekitoru', he was forthright as well!

Photo provided by the author



News You Can Use

Barnes & Noble Book Fair:

We earned B&N gift cards in the amount of \$201.94. We earned \$14.08 in sales from two "Footprints" anthology sale. Proceeds will go to Hesperia's Adult Education program at Hesperia Library. More details to come.



Ivan Summers Loses Battle with Cancer

Ivan Summers, one of the branch's far-flung members, passed away in his home in Corona del Mar on June 21st, after a 5+ year battle against cancer. Ivan was the author of *McKenzie's Time*, a young adult adventure novel set in Mexico, as well as numerous articles and short stories. He was 87. In his long life he was a yachtsman, a cross-country motorcyclist, an amateur historian, and a lover all of all things in the desert. He will be missed.

Bulletin Summer Sale "Cover Story" Ad

Send in your new book cover as a display advertisement in *The Bulletin* for August

Only \$60 (save \$30)
go to www.calwriters.org/publications

Speakers Bureau Continues with Mary Thompson



Roberta (above) spoke at the Senior Center in Barstow about her research and rewrite of her great-grandfather's Civil War soldier diary.

Although you have missed the date for Mary Langer Thompson (below) to share her book titles and writing process at Barstow Senior Center Monday morning, you can see how the Speakers Bureau is shaping up members to face the public in an outreach program. Bob Isbill has incorporated a program where authors can hone their speaking skills while learning how to sell their products to a prime market.

Jenny Margotta, Luanne Hunt, and Dwight Norris have also spoken at the center.



MEET THE AUTHOR

MONDAY, JULY 8, 2019

10 AM

Barstow Senior Center

555 Melissa Ave.

Barstow, CA 92311

760-256-5023

poems in water



mary langer thompson

Mary Langer Thompson is a contributor to two poetry writing texts, *The Working Poet* (Autumn Press, 2009) and *Women and Poetry: Writing, Revising, Publishing and Teaching* (McFarland, 2012), and was the 2012 Senior Poet Laureate of California. A retired school principal and secondary English teacher, Langer Thompson received her Ed.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles. Her award-winning poetry collection, *Poems in Water* was published in 2014 by Green Fuse Poetic Arts of Loveland, Colorado. Forthcoming is *It's a School Night*, a finalist for the Inlandia Institute's Hillary Gravendyk Prize.

JUST A SHRUG in July

by Rusty LaGrange

I purchased this little bolero shrug
to match my sundress. A future wedding day
hasn't been planned but I know my daughter
will love it on me.

It waits in the closet.

I teased her one day. Her daughter is now
eight,

old enough to be the ring bearer; now
she has two more.

They can be the flower girls.

I shrug: the raising of my shoulders to signify
that my plans for her don't really matter much.

If I donate it, any shrug hanging on a bag lady,
as she moves down greasy streets,
doesn't change her future.

But I can't bear to give it up.

That wedding day shrug stays in the closet
as hope, as a promise, as a symbol of
generational changes, as a memento
of my expectations -- not hers.

The fiancé gave her a ring five years ago.
They're buying a house,
and I heard there's a bun in the oven.
So, I just shove it way back ... in the rear ...
of my closet ... and shrug.



OH, BEAUTIFUL BOY*

by Sara Metcalf Leach

You return to my heart
as from the start.

Now no comfort for thee
can ever be.

I rise every day
with no need to pray
for here you are in my arms.

Rest sweetly, my love,
as I watch over thee.

Your pain I share
and thus, can bear
this moment
that God gave us.

Through the thin veil of time
We shall always be entwined.

**Dedicated to the aged mother of a terminally ill
Vietnam veteran who had come home to care for her.*



DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER: 60 YEARS AND COUNTING

By Sheryl Lynne Thomas-Perkins

One of the greatest surprises of his life occurred two years before Hosie L. Thomas Sr. married his lady love Barbara. In 1957 he was hanging out with his best friend Larry who decided to stop by the home of the woman he was dating. Hosie didn't mind, since he didn't have plans for the night. However, his life changed forever as a result of that ride along.

I love telling this story of how my beloved parents met more than 60 years ago, because although their introduction wasn't planned; it worked out exceptionally. As my mother tells it, after that first meeting, my father came by to visit her every day for a week!



After seeing self-proclaimed "Beautiful Barbara," who was the younger sister of Larry's girlfriend, "he was smitten," Barbara said of her 62-year mate. Hosie admits that from that moment he was never the same. Their courtship began almost instantly and two years after they met, they were married.

July 11, 2019 was their Diamond Anniversary; and two days later loved ones will join them to celebrate this milestone.

They lived in Los Angeles most of their lives before moving to Victorville where they reside.

Hosie and Barbara Thomas then.

They are fun-loving and try to maintain "Date Night," on Fridays, but find it challenging to go out every week. However, they have a lot of fun staying home playing Scrabble, cards and dominoes. They also have a shared love of nearly all sports, which they watch together on television, often setting their clocks to awaken them in the wee hours of the morning to follow golf and tennis tournaments.

Their relationship is a wonderful testament to the power of love and their faith, and they have received countless accolades from national and local officials acknowledging their accomplishment.



Hosie and Barbara Thomas now.

They have taught me what true love is and how it looks.



Events Ahead > Book Fairs & more

JUNE & JULY ACTIVITIES

**Dues are Being collected
July Thru Sept 30**



Recurring members in good standing pay \$45

New members pay \$65

Students pay \$25

If you miss your regular payment, you will be charged a "new" member price after Oct. 1st.

AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED DURING CWC STATE MEETING IN OAKLAND

JACK LONDON Awards will be presented during CWC Board's summer meeting July 21. See web-site for details. CWC Board Elections also held during this time.

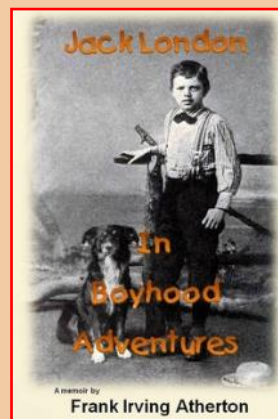
OUR OWN YOUTUBE CHANNEL

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

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



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.



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

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

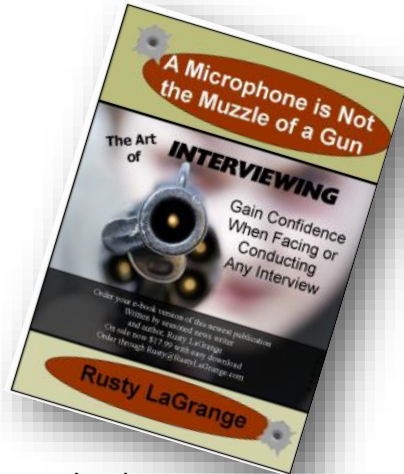
Member Services

Hot off the Press

A MICROPHONE IS NOT THE MUZZLE OF A GUN



- Chapters created just for the Indie Author
- The Skills of Body Language
- Your Best Tabletop Look for More Sales



Be the first to own my new book:

A Microphone is Not the Muzzle of a Gun. I've collected many of the tips and tricks of interviewing, comparing interviewing styles, gaining confidence when using a mic, how authors must now face the public for better sales, and more.

NOW ON AMAZON.COM JUST \$17.95

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

next issue is mid-August

Notes From the Editor

You have heard me saying that my interviewing book is coming ... for several years. Well, now it's actually out and available at Amazon.com — A Microphone is Not the Muzzle of a Gun. Just saying that it's out is a big rush, both scary and satisfying. As we always hear, "now the hard part begins." I'm no different. I'm anticipating the soft covers to arrive in a few days. I'm developing a new portal for any local indie author who wishes to get more exposure in the High Desert. Go to AFlairForBooks.com and if you wish to be on the Indie Bookshelf just let me know.

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.

**August's submissions are due July 23
September's submissions are due Aug. 23**