



The INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC
Inspiring a Community of Writers

Sail On

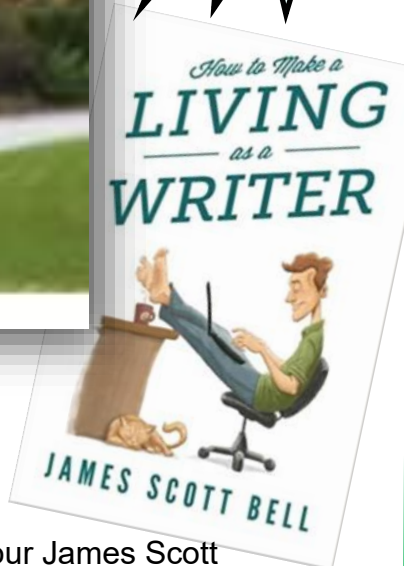
March 2021

How to Make a Living as a Writer

Bell Returns April 10th



James Scott Bell



How to pre-register for this free Zoom Room event we're hosting

If you'd like to join in on our James Scott Bell special for our regular meeting on April 10th, you will need to pre-register. Members must register for this one because we are opening our Zoom Room to outside branch members, too!

The link furnished will be to register, not the link to attend. That comes later. So prior to the meeting, all the registered people will be sent a link to attend by Mike Apodaca. Seating is limited to the first 100.

Continued next page

"Cinderella never asked for a prince. She asked for a night off and a dress." –Kiera Cass

Act II

Coming March 23rd at 6 pm Zoom Room

Featuring Character-driven Story Insights with Jenny & Michael

Our special hosts for the evening will be Jenny Margotta and Michael Raff, who head up the anthology committee.

Jenny and Mike will explain to us their vision for the next anthology and will answer our questions.

Take advantage of this date, March 23rd at 6:00 pm. This Act II workshop will help our members get stories ready to submit to our latest anthology focusing on character-driven stories.

Meeting ID: 857 6483 0187

Passcode: 077388

If you are joining us by phone, call **669.900.6833**

**Zoom Room Saturday
10th at 10:00 am**

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

hdcwcpresidentdnorris@gmail.com

Vice President

Mike Apodaca

MrDaca.ma@gmail.com

Secretary

Joan Rudder-Ward

imaker@msn.com

Treasurer

Jenny Margotta

Jennymargotta@mail.com

Member-at-Large

Linda Boruff

lindajeannerboruff@msm.com

Programs /Publicity Chair

Bob Isbill

Risbill@aol.com

Membership

Michael Raff

mprseven@aol.com

Newsletter Editor

Rusty LaGrange

Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com

Newsletter Proofreader

Jenny Margotta

Jennymargotta@mail.com

Salon Coordinator

Lorelei Kay

LoreleiKay7@gmail.com

Webmaster

Roberta Smith

hdcwc_web@aol.com

Continued from page 1

To register, go to this website and answer 3 questions.
(Control+click mouse on address)

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeIH2y0LBxtZk82vm90pyRwuoCH5NXv6PUAKbEOVUbnUpeG3g/viewform?usp=sf_link

How to Make a Living as a Writer

For centuries very few writers have been able to support themselves from the quill or the keyboard. Not anymore. With the rise of eBooks and indie publishing, there are now more opportunities than ever for writers to generate income from their work. And there is still a traditional publishing industry that needs new talent to keep growing.

In this workshop James Scott Bell will break down the 8 essential practices you need to master if you want to write for profit and increase your chances of making a living wage. As Bell puts it, "It's the best time on Earth to be a writer."

This speaking event for our regular meeting, April 10, is free. Bell offers workshops in many topics and was our keynote speaker that a writers conference we hosted several years ago.

JAMES SCOTT BELL is a winner of the International Thriller Writers Award and the author of the #1 bestseller for writers, *Plot & Structure* (Writer's Digest Books). He has taught writing at Pepperdine University and at numerous writers conferences in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand. He appeared as an expert commentator on *Good Morning America*, CBS radio, and in *Newsweek* magazine during the O. J. Simpson murder trial. His book on search and seizure law is the leading authority in its field and is used extensively by lawyers and judges throughout California every day.

His thrillers include *Romeo's Rules*, *Romeo's Way*, and *Romeo's Hammer* (the Mike Romeo thriller series); *Try Dying*, *Try Darkness*, and *Try Fear* (the Ty Buchanan legal thriller series); and stand-alones including *Your Son Is Alive* and *Final Witness* (which won the first Christy Award for Suspense). He served as the fiction columnist for *Writer's Digest* magazine and has written several popular writing books, including *Just Write*, *Conflict & Suspense*, and *The Art of War for Writers* (all from Writer's Digest Books). He's also published *How to Write Dazzling Dialogue*, *Write Your Novel From the Middle*, *Super Structure*, and *How to Make a Living as a Writer*.



What You Missed ...

Our special guest was Bernadette Luckett

Spending an hour with Bernadette Luckett, Bay Area writer, TV and film producer, was more like spending 10 minutes. Her bubbly personality filled us with a variety of achievable goals in a virtual blink of the eye.

She took her first steps as a child writing short stories that appeared in her local newspaper, the *Oakland Tribune*. After graduating from San Francisco State with a degree in biology, she explained that the sudden exposure to a comedy club was so exhilarating for her that she quickly segued from science to standup comedy — performing at venues all over the U.S.

“Not everyone will like what you love, but someone eventually will.”

She noted that humor comes in so many forms that it will take some time to get your timing and subjects that work for your set of jokes. She said she expected to bomb a few nights, but support from other comedy writers helped immensely. She gained a following.

It was actually her comedy experience that helped her snag a job writing on TV sitcoms. She’s been a writer/producer for several sitcoms including: *Living Single*; *Girlfriends*; *Sister, Sister*; *The Tracy Morgan Show*; and *Buddies*, starring Dave Chappelle.

“Humor saves us when things go bad.”

While not letting barriers stop her curiosity or her forward progress, she moved from one project to another, gaining insights and expertise in humor that heals. Bernadette appeared in and co-produced the award-winning documentary *Comedy Warriors: Healing Through Humor*. In the film, she helped coach severely injured Iraq and Afghanistan veterans to learn to do standup comedy. Her three years as co-director of *Comedy Warriors* locked her into a new phase as producer.

Even with a bit of awkward silence from our Zoom screens—muting does disrupt the comedy flow—she was able to go with the flow and received a round of ovation from our 30+ viewers.

Three Voices that Make You:

HEAD: It’s those intellectual aspects of your brain; how you organize your thoughts; details like using vocabulary.

SPEAKING: How you sound and talk to others; a creative aspect like a blog, journaling, news reporting, and, of course, writing.

DEEP: That emotional depth that tells the truth through your heart; links to emotion that draws in others to your truth; pain, humor, life lessons learned.



BERNADETTE LUCKETT



Zoom Room News



“Continue.” She said, “I bought a pillow with this poem on it as Dave’s gift to me for Christmas.” Dave is Mary’s husband, who became an angel just before the holidays.

Henrietta Williams read a poem titled “Ain’t I a Woman?”

Michael Brewer played a little Marvin Gaye, “Tell me What’s Gone On,” for our listening pleasure. It really got us in the groove.

Lorelei Kay read a beautiful poem.

We had a surprise poet make an appearance the last ten minutes of the meeting. Tresa Simmons, the author of a book of poetry *Finally Naked. An Almost 60 Year Journey To Self Acceptance*. I read the poem “Acceptance” from the book before I knew she was going to make an appearance.

So many great readings were shared. Had I known I was going to write a review, I would have taken better notes.

Below is a list of all the very special presenters. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your participation and offerings. The selections were all very special.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. EmmaLisa Hill | 9. Jenny Margotta |
| 2. Roberta Smith | 10. Ann Miner |
| 3. Lorelei Kay | 11. Barbara Badger |
| 4. Mary Thompson | 12. Henrietta Williams |
| 5. Michael Brewer | 13. Freddie Gold |
| 6. Allen Reid | 14. Joe Pawlak (Peg) |
| 7. Amelia Hansen | 15. Dwight Norris |
| 8. Brittany Majors | |



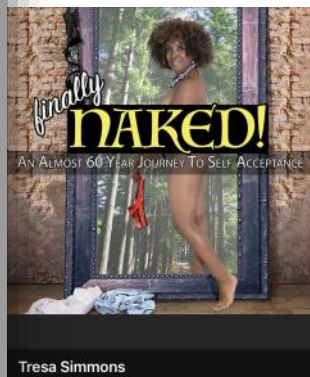
EmmaLisa Hill Hosted Our Reading Event

Emma Hill, moderator for the Black History readings, arranged for a special surprise: Tresa Simmons, author of *Finally Naked* joined us for our online Zoom meeting on February 13.

WOW ... WOW ... WOW

This is all I seem to be able to get out of my mouth about that day’s meeting. In honor of Black History month, many of us shared writings from black authors. This was a very meaningful meeting and it felt like a true celebration. For some reason many of us chose to read poems. Including me.

Mary Langer Thompson shared a poem by Maya Angelou titled



Tresa Simmons, author of *Finally Naked*

APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

Help celebrate this annual occasion by submitting two or three poems that you created.

Any line length is okay; short poems are a better fit for the newsletter. Any style is okay. No political or religious themes. If you PREVIOUSLY won an award or contest from it then let us know.

Submit your entries to:

Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com in MSWord format. Place “HDCWC Poetry Month” in the Subject Line.

DEADLINE: before MARCH 30th

2021 *Lit Review* Submission Deadline Extended

The High Desert Branch recently held a Zoom meeting consisting of Q&A on the *Lit Review* submissions featuring Managing Editor Elisabeth Tuck. She and President Donna McCrohan Rosenthal informed our group that there has been a serious lack of submissions from our CWC members for the 2021 edition of the *Literary Review*.

They also stated that the deadline for submissions of March 15 has been extended until April 15.

Elisabeth, at our Zoom meeting of February 23, announced that the deadline of March 15 for submissions to the 2021 *Literary Review* has been extended to April 15, giving CWC members a full extra month to send in their work.

HDCWC Vice President Mike Apodaca had arranged for the meeting to get interested HDCWC members an opportunity to get clarity on any questions they may have on submitting to the prestigious annual magazine.

Even if you are too busy to address this submission issue, you may still be able to submit. Those of you who have work that has been published in previous anthologies, or even in a book of your own, could submit that product as long as it complies with the guidelines of 2,500 words or less.

Please know that members do not necessarily have to write something new. As long as it fits the word requirement of 2,500 or less. For instance, they could send in something that has been in one of their branch anthologies. Previously published poetry may be submitted as well.

I am writing to tell you that our branch got a lot out of meeting with Elisabeth, and she was very informative and helpful. She is willing to attend other meetings with other branches, and I would recommend it.

For more details, visit www.calwriters.org and carefully read the *Lit Review* guidelines.

~~ Thanks, Bob Isbill, CWC Advertising & Promotions, 760.221.6367



SUBMITTORIOUS AWARD FOR 2020

Some of you may not have any idea what this is. Let me assure you winning the Submittorious is my way of thanking the most awesome person who sent copious amounts of content and bailed be out of last minute deadlines with an extra article to fill my *Inkslinger* page while on deadline.

Well, you get the idea. Without stuff to post in *The Inkslinger*, you just don't have much to read.

The award this past year is designated to a duo: Bob Isbill and Jenny Margotta.

Since I make the rules as I go along—and I must make my minions happy—both will receive a \$50 dollar prize to be used without restriction. Some past winners used it for their annual dues; others went out and bought ice cream. Congratulations!

Now, as I step down from editor position, I will occasionally offer an article to the new editor or staff ... depending on what the board decides. And I will keep writing my column: "Managing Your Writing Career by Rusty LaGrange."

Hopefully, I will someday accept the Submittorious Award for excellent and consistent submissions to *The Inkslinger*. That seems fair.





Jenny Margotta

from an

EDITOR'S DESK

HOW MANY WORDS DO YOU USE?

Chinese philosopher Confucius is often credited with originating the phrase, "A picture is worth a thousand words." However, it is, in fact, an American expression, generally attributed to one of two people. Tess Flanders is said to have originated it in the early 1900s when she was "discussing strategies in publishing, editing and news reporting." (www.grammarist.com). However, advertising executive Fred R. Barnard is said to have made the term popular in the 1920s when "referring to book jackets, and how the graphic on the front of a book could be the very thing that entices people to purchase it." (www.outdoor-biz.com)

While I will not argue the importance of pictures, I'd rather employ words. And since I dearly love great descriptive passages, a thousand words is not a challenge. The challenge comes not in the number of words themselves but in knowing the definitions and how to correctly use them. Enter the dictionary.

Samuel Johnson published the first dictionary on April 15, 1755. The book weighed 20 pounds, had 2,300 pages, and contained 42,773 words with "uniquely scholarly definitions." (www.wikipedia.com) It sold for the then-exorbitant cost of four pounds, ten shillings. At the time, that was equivalent to what a skilled tradesman earned in forty-five days, or about \$2,800 today. In comparison, you can purchase a new, hardcover copy of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, 3rd edition, for about \$60 on Amazon.

The English language is, of course, constantly evolving. Merriam-Webster added 520 new words and/or word phrases to their online dictionary in January of this year and 650 in both 2019 and 2020. These included entries such as makerspace, coworking, crowdfunding, decarceration, sapiosexual, hygge, entheogen, and Second Gentleman.

Words also get deleted. Oxford University Press cut 200 words from their 12th edition. Collins cut some 2,000 words from their 2008 edition, "... to make way for newer words more familiar to

modern English speakers." (www.todayfoundout.com) While most of us never used words such as aerodrome, alienism, bever, brabble, charabanc, delicate, frigorific, younker, frutescent, hodad, nephoscope, snollygoster, or stylopodium, Merriam Webster also cut tattletale gray and Oxford editors cut cassette player.

Today, *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* contains 470,000 entries, and the *Oxford English Dictionary* contains about 600,000 entries. Most lexicographers estimate there are probably twice that number of words in the English language since most mainstream dictionaries do not include regional dialect words or slang, less common "text-speak" abbreviations, and many contractions. The website Wordnik.com attempts to track/count every word ever appearing in the English language—regardless of dialect or obscurity. The site currently has almost 7,000,000 (that's million!) unique entries.

So, depending on your reference source, English-language writers have anywhere from 470,000 to 7,000,000 words in their creative arsenal. But how many words, on average, actually get used? In 2011, *Science* magazine published a paper called, "[Quantitative Analysis of Culture Using Millions of Digitized Books](#)," which analyzed the language used in 5,195,769 books. (That's only about 4% of all the books ever published.) When comparing those words to both the *OED* and *Merriam-Wester's Unabridged Dictionary*, they found that 63% of the words in those dictionaries were seldom used. (www.todayfoundout.com)

Using Webster's count of 470,000 entries, that still leaves you with 220,900 words. But a 2016 study by UPI.com stated, "... most U.S. adults have a vocabulary of [approximately] 42,000 words." The site, wordcounter.io.blog, goes on to state that, "After careful analysis of tests taken by one million respondents . . . the results showed that U.S. native English speakers would have acquired a vocabulary of 42,000 words at age 20 and about 48,000 words by age 60."

In terms of actual word usage, [The Reading Teachers Book of Lists](#) claims:

25 words are used in 33% of everyday writing

100 words are used in 50% of adult and student writing

1,000 words are used in 89% of everyday writing

Given those statistics, I'm going to challenge myself to increase my writing vocabulary.



OPEN CALL FOR JACK LONDON AWARD NOMINEES

In the California Writers Club, statewide, in odd-numbered years, an award can be given to a member who has demonstrated outstanding volunteer service to the club. It can be awarded only once in a lifetime. This award is not for writing accomplishments but strictly for volunteer work done for the club.

It is time for members to make nominations for those who would be worthy of receiving this award. A Jack London award does not have to be given every odd-numbered year, but if a worthy candidate is present, it is proper and fitting to honor them.

CWC hosts a luncheon and presentation of the Jack London Award plaque in July of each odd-numbered year. This year it is likely that such a gathering will not be possible due to COVID-19, but our board has decided that our membership should nominate a deserving candidate this year because the work is being done now and possibly has been for a long time.

As president of the High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club, I ask that you send your nominations to me at hdcwcpresidentdnorris@gmail.com. This is a very special honor for members of our club family, and it is time to begin collecting nominations.

I appreciate your participation.

Sincerely,

Dwight Norris

President, HDCWC

WORD OF THE MONTH:

Zeugma (noun). The rhetorical device of using a word in more than one of its senses at the same time.

EX: She stole his heart and his wallet: "stole" is being used in the metaphorical sense when referring to "heart" and in the literal sense when referring to "wallet."

Something Special, Something Nice

January 10, 2021

by fumi-tome ohta

Something special and something nice happened today. My dog Farley was in the car waiting for me as I ran into Ralph's Market for a few items. I put my bag of groceries into the car and was walking to put the shopping cart in one of those shopping cart stalls as another woman was doing the same thing ahead of me. We both put our shopping carts in the double stall, she on the left and me on the right.

As we were walking back to our cars, I noticed she had a purple orchid in a ceramic vase in her hand. It was the daintiest orchid I had ever seen.

"That's a very pretty orchid!" I exclaimed.

She smiled, looked at her orchid, then within a hummingbird's sigh, she raised her orchid to me and said, "Here, I want you to have it,"

I was taken aback. "Oh no, I can't, you just bought it," I said as she continued to hold the orchid out to me. We jostled back and forth with she extending her invitation, and I too surprised to accept. She was very insistent and so I thanked her over and over again as I accepted her beautiful orchid.

I couldn't accept an orchid without reciprocating in some way. I looked at my bags for groceries. And there I saw it, Piccolo (little) Pizza from Trader Joe's. Perfect! She's parked right next to me. I ran over to the driver's side and tapped on her window.

"I have two pizzas. I got it at Trader Joe's. It's a personal size. I want you to have it," I said as I held out the pizza to her. "Happy New Year!" I said as I extended the pizza to her.

"I love pizzas!" she said excitedly as she reached through her window and accepted my gift of friendship.

"Thank you and Happy New Year," I said again.

"Happy New Year," she said.

What a special day for both of us. A chance meeting, so pure and softly spirited between two strangers, a moment in time more precious than gold. Something special and something nice from a very gracious lady.





Mike Apodaca
from the
Vice President

So, Do You Dress to Impress on Zoom?

A friend told me on the phone something I'd never heard before. He said, "I want to look like you." Seriously, no one has ever wanted to look like me.

He explained that he wanted to look on Zoom the way I looked. We talked for a while and I got a better understanding. So here are some ways we can all look *better* on Zoom.

Camera: A big factor in our appearance on Zoom is the camera we're using. If you're using the internal camera on your computer and are unhappy with how you look, you may want to invest in an external camera. Most are plug-and-play and are not very expensive (I got mine for under twenty dollars).

Focus: During your Zoom meeting, take a look at your image on the screen. Are you in focus? If you have an external camera, you may be able to focus your image by turning the camera lens element (the circle around the camera).

Background: Many of us don't pay enough attention to the background when doing Zoom. Whatever is behind us is what people see. It sends a message. I've seen some backgrounds that look messy or disheveled. It doesn't reflect well. Try to keep your background simple. Try putting items that speak of you. For instance, I often Zoom from my back room where I have guitars and a bookshelf hanging on a white wall. This tells the

people that I love music and literature. Think about what you want people to understand about you. I have a friend who makes 3-D animated movies of spaceships. He'll often run one of his videos behind him. You can use the green screen option with Zoom; just be aware that wearing green will make your image break up. Also, unless you have a powerful computer, green screen might not work well or at all.

Appearance: Okay, now I'm going to meddle. Bernadette Luckett was our guest speaker. I told Bob Isbill that she looked like she was dressed for a photo shoot, like we were looking at a live image of her headshot. This is what we should all strive for. This means that we might have to put on a nice shirt and comb our hair and beards. When I was a teacher, I read a book that said that teachers should always wear ties. I thought it was ridiculous, but I decided to try it. That day I ran into an angry parent. The whole time he was trying to berate me, he kept calling me sir. It was the tie. I wore one every day thereafter. We need to dress for the impression we want to leave with people. Maybe it shouldn't matter, but it does.

Lighting: Be aware of having enough light in your room when Zooming. Cameras can't always pick up an image when the lighting is bad. On the other hand, don't put the camera in front of a glaring window and create a silhouette of yourself. Test your image. There are computer lights you can buy specifically made to improve your image on Zoom.

Posture: Sounds silly, but what your mom said is true. Sit up straight. Remember, everyone you can see can also see you.



GRANNY'S COUCH

By Diane Neil

When I was seven to eleven
Granny's couch was utter heaven.
During summer we got to stay
for a week, weekend, or a day.

Granny couldn't keep us all
for her flat was very small.
The couch was lumpy and bumpy
but, oh, so cozy and comfy.

Granny would tuck the blanket in
and pull the covers up to my chin.
Granny's lot was poor and spare
but her cupboard was never bare.

She made quince jelly and apricot jam
and potato soup with scraps of ham.
She grew flowers behind her house,
hollyhocks, daisies, and a rose.
And fruit — apples and pears and
grapes in rows.

Granny's spirit was happy and bright.
What a treat to spend the night!
Granny told the most magical tales
of soaring storks and diving whales.

Sometimes I wake in my spacious bed
and long for Granny's couch instead.



Outgoing Letter from the Editor

RUSTY STEPS DOWN AFTER 10 YEARS

Last year I was considering the phase of stepping down as Editor-in-Chief of *The Inkslinger*. However, the pandemic got in the way. Was the timing right?

I had long conversations with Bob Isbill about how much the news is important for keeping the members together during COVID, so I did stretch my last year to cover *The Inkslinger*. However, now is the time.

I do wish I had someone with enough time and expertise to take over. For now, our board members are figuring out how to share the duties in order to keep the newsletter moving forward.

Keep sending in stuff for the next editor, and you'll see some of my expertise showing up in my regular article: "Managing Your Writing Career." I'm not leaving; just retiring from the publishing aspects.

I have three books and a poetry chapbook waiting for me.

This breakaway also means I can spend more attention on the Lucerne Valley Museum ... my other passion. My daughter, Chelsea, is on the board as president this term, and we have a lot to do.

These last two months have been filled with software corruption, computer crash, virus issues, and even email failures. The "Perfect Storm" as they say. So much so that my blood pressure began to rise, and my eyesight was jeopardized. I don't want to go blind early, so I set my foot down.

My diabetes is under better control now. And I had an eye treatment last week, so I'm confident my eyes will support me for many years to come. I even lost 12 pounds during the pandemic stretch of 2020.

I love the writers club, its people, and intellectual friendships, even on the board [grin], and plan to continue in the Zoom Rooms or in person once we have the all-clear sign.

As a consultant in desktop publishing, I can always be around. So my last issue will be for April and the theme is National Poetry Month. You have until March 30th to send an awesome poem to Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com, and if you don't hear that I received your poems, then please call me.

Keep your keyboards chattering,

Rusty



Joseph Sims, Remembered

ADDITIONAL NOTES PROVIDED BY RELATIVES

Story comprised from several members and family

On January 1st we lost one of our members, Joseph Sims, to COVID-19 complications.

Joseph was beloved by nearly everyone he crossed paths with and was quick to make new friends wherever he went.

He was well known for his good-natured sense of humor and his outgoing and earnest personality.

As a self-described Beatnik in the 1950s, Joseph wrote poetry and fiction throughout his life, and his writing was published in various literary magazines and journals. He enjoyed the writers club and was excited to get involved in the craft once again.

"I had just spent an interesting hour talking with him in December about his poetry and having to move out of Barstow Veterans Home and being transferred to San Diego," said Rusty LaGrange. "He said he felt much healthier in the dry climate and the nice folks at the Barstow Veterans Home were his friends. Due to renovations, he was petitioning to return to Barstow and sharing more poetry. Our Poemsmiths group were eager to see more of his works," she said.

Sad to hear that his health went downhill so quickly, followed by a short time with COVID.

Others reached out to his family for more info.

Joseph Sims passed away from COVID-19 complications on January 1, 2021, in Chula Vista, CA. He is survived by his four sons, Alex, Max, Julio, and Marco; his five daughters-in-law, Diana, Chris, Carole, Karen, and Rukiye; his five grandchildren, Moira, Liam, Zelia, Gabriel, and Marko Adem; and is predeceased by his beloved wife of 60 years, Dinea Ribeiro Sims.



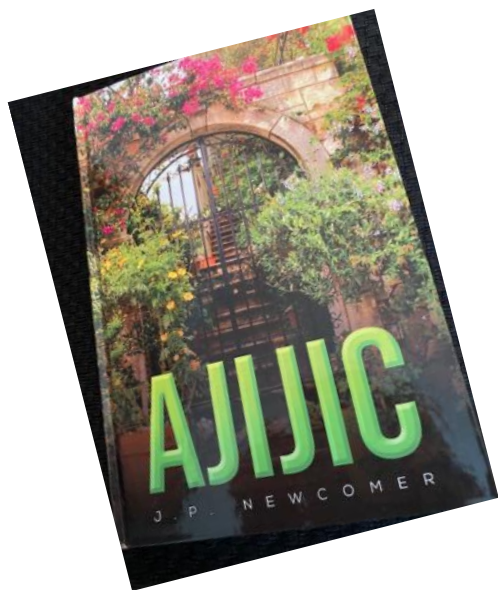
Joseph attended Indiana State University at Terre Haute, IN, graduating with a B.A. in Philosophy. He worked for United Press International as a foreign correspondent and, subsequently, left journalism for public relations, working for Pan American Airways, Federal Home Loan Bank Board, US Savings League, Federal Reserve, Chicago Mercantile Exchange, and Public Securities Association.

He had a deep love and affinity for foreign cultures, becoming a Portuguese- and Spanish-speaker. Joseph and his wife, Dinea, were devoted Catholics and in their later years became

Benedictine oblates together in the Prince of Peace Abbey. Joseph was a lifelong Chicago Bears fan, loved cultivating orchids, and thoroughly enjoyed a glass or two of Portuguese Vinho Verde wine. He will be sorely missed by his surviving family and his many friends. May we all aspire to live life so gracefully and gratefully. This quotation is excerpted from Joseph Sims' email signature of many years: "When I die, I hope I am bound for heaven. I was a Beatnik in Paris, IL in the summer of '57."



Author Accolades



Here's a peek inside:

Katherine's infertility and failed marriage lead her to Mexico in search of a child. She becomes entangled with Carlos, an unscrupulous and inept black-market baby broker, and forms a close relationship with James and Brent, the gay couple who live next door.

When James' seventeen-year-old daughter, Stephanie, who is only a few years younger than her father's lover, arrives for a visit, things get complicated. Stephanie resents Brent and blames him for the divorce of her parents. When her open hostility toward Brent threatens to alienate her father, however, she settles upon a different strategy: seduction.

This is a novel that explores family bonds, triangular relationships, LGBTQ issues and improbable outcomes.

A new novel by Jeanne Newcomer

J.P. Newcomer is a writer of poetry and fiction whose work has appeared in numerous literary magazines. Her additional publications include *Poems of My Father*, a compilation of her father's poetry, and *Interface*, a science-fiction novel, both of which are available on Amazon. She is a licensed clinical social worker with a private practice in supervision and psychotherapy. Originally from Boston, she currently resides in Southern California and is a lover of art, music, friends, family, and adventure. She has lived and traveled extensively in Mexico and encourages her readers to visit the town of Ajijic.





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

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 Branch.

Contact a board member or review your Benefits Booklet online: www.HDCWC.com

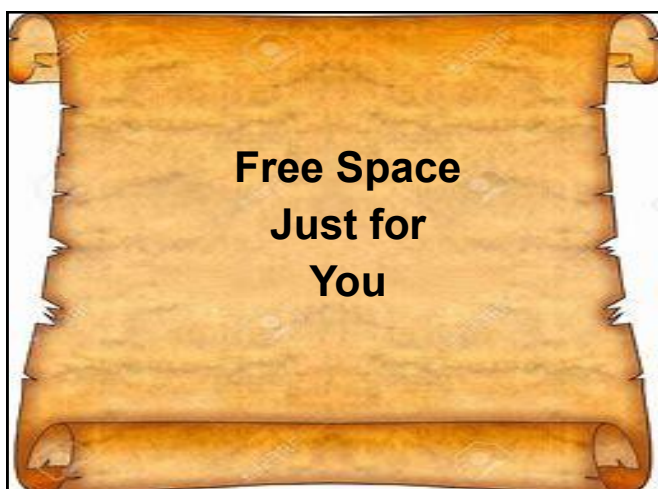
**Do you provide a service that could benefit other writers?
Send a JPEG file of your business card or ad to Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com. We'll advertise it free of charge!**

Events Ahead >

MARCH & APRIL ACTIVITIES

March 13 HDCWC regular meeting
Mid-March Spring Bulletin issue
March 23 ACT II at 6 pm
(virtual meetings are in ZOOM format & dates may change)

April 6 Board Meeting
April 10 HDCWC regular



BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

Mar 7 Diane Neil
Mar 14 Joan Rudder-Ward
Mar 19 Rebekah Koontz
Mar 24 Linda Cooper

If you would like to join the rest of our members enjoying a little recognition for another year shared with writing friends, be sure to update your birthday date. We use our local branch's MRMS database.

Go to www.hdcwc.com then from the menu go to "Links for Club Members" and click on MRMS. If you don't remember your sign-in name, ask for help from Bob Isbill, Jenny Margotta, or Michael Raff.
~ ~ the editor

What's That Number?

Branches are considering if our MRMS roster is used regularly. Please vote to keep it. Stay connected with your exclusive access to MRMS—our roster of members. That's how I found the birthdays listed. Ask for help to gain easy access anytime. Let's not lose it.

WE HAVE A YOUTUBE CHANNEL
Here's the link to the channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC28XLtEK5oBNq5gW2Zy1ssg>

Managed by Joan Rudder-Ward

Member Services

Seen in New Yorker ad:
*I used to call people,
then I got into emailing,
then texting, and now I
just ignore everyone.*

ANGIE HORN

Blog Design & Blog Writing for Authors

Text: (760) 596-8334

Email: angelahornblog@gmail.com



References:

Mary Langer Thompson: (@Mary Langer Thomp, Twitter)

Elizabeth Pye: (epye.com)

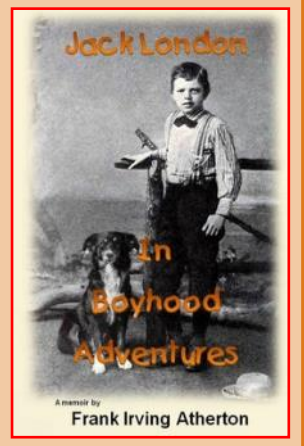
Marilyn King: <http://www.marilynking.net>



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.

Now at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. **\$14.99**

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=Jack+London+in+Boyhood+Adventures&i=stripbooks&ref=nb_sb_noss_2



Notes From the Editor



Rusty LaGrange

*Editor of the
CWC's
The Bulletin*

Hey, everyone. I need some "me" time and it's time to pull the plug. So I want every one of you to think of a short story, a joke, a poem, and even an article of an interesting topic related to the craft we all love. Send it in.

Your offering will help our next editor or committee hit the ground running for May's issue with a pantry full of content. Thanx. My last issue is April.

April's issue is in celebration of Poetry Month. Show me whacha ya got.

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 200 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 April items by Mar. 30 ; Submit May items by April 23.