

# The INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC  
*Inspiring a Community of Writers*

*Sail On*

**Nov. 2019**

## LUBLIN TRAINS GUERRILLAS

### But Wait! You Need to Market the Heck Out of It with Kindness?

We have an unusual and provocative program planned with a topic we've never presented before. Jill Lublin, internationally acclaimed speaker and best-selling author, will talk about *"The Profit of Kindness."*

*"The Profit of Kindness,"* is a practical guide that teaches you how to connect with others using the global asset known as kindness. A basic adjustment in attitude and approach can substantially improve virtually every facet of your personal and business life. Each chapter provides specific examples for improving skills such as communication, building integrity, influencing others, and more.

Join us on Saturday, November 9th. We think this will be an outstanding meeting that will contribute to your personal development, and be a lot of fun for us all!



*Jill Lublin, a world travelled keynote speaker and lively interactive sessions command attention.*

### Adorable Mia at Our Open Mic



*Mia Ramirez, 10 years old, first time ever at Open Mic*

First, there's the craft of writing your poem or short story.

Then comes the second phase of sharing your creation with the public. In whatever medium you choose, standing in front of the mic is the scariest...



In December, The Grinch will be take center stage for the general meeting. Afterward, we will enjoy a tasty Christmas luncheon at the Lone Wolf Colony in Apple Valley. The cost is \$10 per person. We need to know who wishes to go. Sign up sheet will be available.



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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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## THE INKSLINGER GOES DARK FOR DECEMBER

Thank for all of the great articles, poems & short stories. Our publication will go on hiatus for a month and return again in January 2020.

If you wish to submit any holiday news or creative poems or stories please send them to me at Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com by December 27th.

In January I will be announcing the annual "Submittorious Award" — to one member who has consistently submitted quality work and made my job much easier as editor. I don't have a staff like many other branch's newsletters do, so I rely on you to bring me your best.

Under Board approval, the "Submittorious Award" is a \$50 check given as a thank you. Each recipient can win only one time.

*Enjoy Your Holiday Time~~ the editor.*

## OUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS

**We have a new address for any branch business. Be sure to write it down or post it in your cell-phone.**

**Jenny Margotta has graciously let our branch save a lot of money and complications in delivery by letting us use her address. This will help expedite the time in sending and mostly receiving mail.**

**HDCWC**

**17645 Fisher Street  
Victorville, CA 92395**



# What You Missed



**Our Day in the Sun  
High Desert Book  
Festival  
Oct. 12 in Hesperia**



*Their morning and afternoon authors' booths. Too many to list. Davida James in upper corner created and managed the event.*



*Two of the Selected  
Author Speakers*



*Continued from Page 1*

## Powerful Theater Artist to Share Grinch-ness During Meeting

Too old for the draft during World War II, then 38-year-old Theodore Seuss Geisel, joined the famous filmmaker Frank Capra's Signal Corps that made movies supporting the war effort. There, Geisel was not only introduced to the art of animation, but he also befriended animator Chuck Jones (creator of Bugs Bunny and Wile E. Coyote). Jones would eventually persuade Geisel to adapt the Grinch's tale into an animated movie, with Jones personally helming the project. Geisel placed high priority on the voicing for the animated film, especially for the Grinch. He agreed to the sinister purr of Boris Karloff, famous for his roles in monster films such as Frankenstein's monster in the 1931 film. Karloff voiced the Grinch and the cartoon's narration. The animated film also features other famous vocals. Its popular tune "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch," was sung by Thurl Ravenscroft, whose deep and booming bass also served as the voice of Frosted Flakes' Tony the Tiger for over 50 years.





**Jenny Margotta**

from an

**EDITOR'S DESK**

## We Turn Acronyms Into English

The English language is named after the Angles, one of three Germanic tribes—along with the Jutes and the Saxons—who invaded Great Britain during the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD. Early English, what we now call Old English, neither sounded nor looked like what we recognize today as English. Nevertheless, about half of the most commonly used Modern English words are rooted in Old English.” (<https://www.englishclub.com/history-of-english/>)

But what about the other half? As one of the world’s relatively new languages, we’ve borrowed heavily from older ones. What American kid doesn’t know about spaghetti and pizza? And most of us are also probably familiar with panini and risotto. I very early learned the musical terms crescendo and adagio. All these words have been taken directly from Italian.

How about nom de plume, exposé, carte blanche, and cordon bleu? Those are French. We use German words such as doppelganger, kindergarten, poltergeist, and gesundheit. And it’s practically impossible, especially here in California, to get through a day without using one of hundreds of words adopted from Spanish. Words such as taco, burrito, and chorizo, or arroyo and mesa, are so commonplace it’s easy to forget they’re really Spanish.

But there’s another source for English words that we may not be aware of. Words such as scuba, laser, and care packages. We might argue that these are all “words,” but they are actually acronyms. They have so invaded our everyday speech that we no longer recognize them as anything but actual words. “Acronym” is a fairly recent word, by the way, dating from the 1940s. Acronyms are spoken as a single word, the letters of which have been taken from the initial letters of other words.

### Following are some of my favorites:

1. SCUBA: **S**elf-**C**ontained **U**nderwater **B**reathing **A**pparatus.
2. BASE jumping: **B**uilding, **A**ntenna, **S**pan, or **E**arth jumping
3. CARE package: **C**ooperative for **A**ssistance and **R**elief **E**verywhere (a humanitarian group founded in the aftermath of WW II) package
4. GIF: **G**raphics **I**nterchange **F**ormat
5. HUMVEE: This one’s actually our attempt at pronouncing a string of letters that by themselves do not make a sensible word. **H**igh-**M**obility **M**ulti-**P**urpose **W**heeled **V**ehicle (HMMWV)
6. RADAR: **R**adio **D**etection and **R**anging
7. SONAR: **S**ound **N**avigation and **R**anging
8. LASER: **L**ight **A**mplification by **S**timulated **E**mission of **R**adiation
9. TASER: **T**homas **S**wift’s **E**lectric **R**ifle
10. SIM card: **S**ubscriber **I**dentification **M**odule card
11. ZIP code: **Z**one **I**mprovement **P**lan code
12. SNAFU: **S**ituation **N**ormal, **A**ll **F**ouled **U**p
13. FUBAR: **F**ouled **U**p **B**eyond **A**ll **R**epair
14. NATO: **N**orth **A**tlantic **T**reaty **O**rganization
15. CAPTCHA (that pesky “I am not a robot” step many websites make you go through) **C**ompletely **A**utomated **P**ublic **T**uring **T**est to tell **C**omputers and **H**umans **A**part. (*The TURING is in honor of Alan Turing, the English genius who broke the Enigma code in WW II. In 1950 he developed a method of testing a machine’s ability to exhibit intelligent behavior equivalent to or indistinguishable from that of a human. The test, naturally, became known as the Turing Test.*) *It’s also great Jeopardy trivia.*

Sources: <http://mentalfloss.com/article/61329/25-words-are-actually-acronyms> and *FUBAR: Soldier Slang of World War II.*



## WORD OF THE MONTH

**syzygy** [ˈsɪz-i-jē] noun, plural syz-y-gies.

### astronomy

1. a conjunction or opposition, especially of the moon with the sun. “The planets were aligned in syzygy.”
2. a pair of connected or corresponding things. “Animus and anima represent a supreme pair of opposites, the syzygy.”

*Courtesy of Jenny Margotta, editor*



## A TRIBUTE:

# TONI MORRISON

By Mary Langer Thompson

She was the first African-American woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature (1983). She also won the Pulitzer Prize and was given The Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama in 2012. She was the author of eleven novels, a poet, a book editor with Random House, professor of writing at both Yale and Princeton, and activist. Her work explored black identity in America. Toni Morrison died August 5, 2019 at the age of 88.

Born Chloe Wolford in Lorain, Ohio in 1931, as a child she listened to her family's language: "There was street language, sermon language, and people directly quoted the Bible to you." She changed her name in college (Howard University) when people did not seem to know how to pronounce it and where she for the first time experienced "a hierarchy of color within the African American community." Her nickname "Toni" is linked to when she became Catholic at age 12 and chose the name Anthony after St. Anthony of Padua. She later regretted changing her name.

She went on to earn her Master's at Cornell. She was married for seven years to architect Harold Morrison. They had two sons and she co-authored children's books with her younger son, Slade Morrison, who predeceased her.

In *The Bluest Eye*, her first book, published in 1970, Pecola Breedlove is an eleven-year-old African-American girl who believes she is ugly and longs for lighter skin and blue eyes. In 1999, the novel was banned from Baker High School's Language Arts department for "controversial issues" and for being sexually explicit. In fact, three of her works appear in a tally of the 100 most banned American books. She was not afraid to confront the violence brought on by slavery and racism.

In defending Morrison's works, Stuart Egan, a North Carolina high school teacher, says, "Great literature teaches us about ourselves, especially the parts of ourselves that we do not want to acknowledge, but that control how we perceive others and how we treat others." He reminds us that the Bible is one of the most challenged books as well.

*Beloved* is considered Morrison's masterpiece with real-life inspiration, Margaret Garner, who escaped slavery and tried to kill herself and her children rather than be captured and returned to the plantation. The book received the Pulitzer Prize for



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NOBEL PRIZE  
&  
PULITZER PRIZE  
RECIPIENT

Fiction in 1988. Oprah Winfrey produced and starred in the movie.

According to the *New York Times*, she did not want to be called a "poetic writer." In 1981, she said, "I wanted to restore the language that black people spoke to its original power." The power of language was a recurring theme in her work.

In an appreciation essay by Tayari Jones in the August 19, 2019 issue of *Time Magazine*, Jones says of Morrison that she used "breathtaking prose and a clear moral vision in pursuit of a more humane and just world." Jones goes on to say, "My favorite song in the Baptist hymnal is 'May the Work I've Done Speak for Me.' As we remember Toni Morrison, I believe this should be engraved upon her tombstone."

I like to imagine that if she had ever come to the High Desert to speak to our group of writers, these are the two quotes she would leave with us:

"If there is a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, you must be the one to write it."

And this: "We die. That may be the meaning of life. But we do language. That may be the measure of our lives."

It's easy to see why Morrison was a loved person and author. May she rest in peace and she and her work be long remembered.



Wikipedia contributors, "Toni Morrison," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Toni\\_Morrison&oldid=924482570](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Toni_Morrison&oldid=924482570) (accessed 11/04/ 2019).

# Managing Your Writing Career

BY RUSTY LA GRANGE



Here's a second glimpse at an article written by Daphne Gray Grant about the phenomenal trend in writing, based on accountability through mass peer pressure. Is it a method you embrace each year, or avoid like the plague.

November is harvest and bounty, and also the start of **NaNoWriMo**, an annual event encouraging people to write a 50,000-word novel in just 30 days.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with NaNoWriMo, it stands for National Novel Writing Month and is pronounced Nano-Rhymo. It was started 20 years ago by writer Chris Baty and 20 friends in the San Francisco Bay Area. Now, however, it's a much Bigger Deal, involving several hundred thousand writers around the world.

In 2017, more than 306,000 writers participated in the silly, life-changing, improbable (choose whichever adjective you like) event, which sees participants producing a 50,000-word novel in a single month. In case you're incredibly bad at arithmetic, I can tell you that the job requires writing 1,667 words each day. Some moderately celebrated authors even developed their books following this program, including Sara Gruen (*Water for Elephants*), Erin Morgenstern (*The Night Circus*), and Rainbow Rowell (*Fangirl*).

**Here are some points you should consider:**

**PRO:** This program will surely help you develop the writing habit. Many people write between 10,000 and 30,000 words towards some goal. Typically, they work on it for three to five hours at a time and then put it away for a couple of weeks or months. But here's the problem: writing a novel is a marathon, not a sprint. If you aspire to write a book (and, by the way, publishers regard a typical length more like 80,000 words), you need to develop the habit of writing *daily*.

**CON:** This program may cause you to burn out. *When I work with writers, I always require them to take off two days each week. The purpose? To give them a chance for rest and recovery. Just as muscle-building requires a break between sessions of exercise, so does writing. Many NaNoWriMo manuscripts end up abandoned in bottom drawers because the writer is too sick of their text by the time November 30th rolls around.*

**Doubt Monster.** Many writers cripple themselves with doubts about their writing. Was that last sentence good enough? Did they use the right word? Is anyone else going to read what they are working? This program will teach you to turn off your internal editor. If you think too hard about any of these questions, you will never be able to squeeze out the next word, never mind the 50,000 words required for NaNoWriMo or the 80,000 words needed for most publishers.

The relentlessness of the do-it-all-in-a-month deadline, however, will force you to put those considerations aside and focus only on your word-count. For many writers, this is precisely the medicine they need.

**PRO:** If you succeed, this program will give you a manuscript that you can edit. The hard work of writing is not so much the writing — it's the editing. If you can force yourself to squeeze out a rough draft in the 30 days of November, then you'll have a body of work you can turn into much better shape with judicious editing in December and beyond.

**CON:** If you don't do adequate thinking and planning beforehand, the manuscript you have may be utterly unworkable. NaNoWriMo does *not* permit you to begin with a novel that's already underway. Instead, consider yourself someone with a first draft. With this, you are in an excellent *starting* point for a writer, but not remotely near a finishing one.

**Here's what I recommend:**

If the idea of NaNoWriMo excites and inspires you, then go for it! Sign up. But if it sounds too daunting and terrifying, plan your own NaNoWriMo using more realistic terms.

Identify only five days a week you are going to write or edit.

- Commit to a reasonable word count goal (perhaps 250 words) or editing time (30 minutes) you will do each of those five days.
- Ensure the goal is easy enough so that you will be able to accomplish it, come hell or high water, every day.
- But, *before* you start writing, spend sufficient time planning. It's okay to start without an

*Continued next page*

## A Sad Farewell

# When a Waffle Iron Becomes a Cathedral

by Diane Neil

We read an article in the *Daily Press* recently about a 'Breakfast Vigil' that was to be held from 8 to 10 on Sunday morning at the old Waffle Iron Cafe on the corner of Bear Valley and Central Roads. It was to honor the old building, which is slated for demolition. Miranda Buckley, a young college student, organized the memorial service as a 'tongue-in-cheek satirical event' that protests how the history and identity of the High Desert is slowly being erased by new development.

We live a few miles north of that location and had taken our bottles and cans to the recycling center that was the building's most recent incarnation. The recycling center had been quite busy, and we were surprised to learn that the owner had received an eviction notice, along with the market next door and a barber shop nearby. The condemned buildings are to be torn down and replaced with a full-service gas station and convenience store.

Miranda Buckley suggested that the new establishment incorporate the Waffle Iron building as a way to 'respect history while building the future.' She remembers eating waffles with pecans there as a child. Although the cafe was closed twenty years ago, she and many others said the breakfasts served at the Waffle Iron were the best they'd ever eaten — anywhere.

Miranda's vigil was to include a "21-egg salute," where visitors would fire off raw eggs into a nearby field and throw cups of maple syrup to salute the building's demise. She would also hand out kazoos to the first twenty-five to attend. At the end of the event, everyone would hum 'Taps' on the kazoos.

We are relative newcomers to the area — we've only been here twenty years — but we wanted to get in on the celebration, to which Miranda had invited members of the sheriff's department, the Apple Valley Town Council and the Apple Valley Fire Protection District. Although we are in our eighties, in my much younger years I had protested nuclear testing in Nevada and even got arrested. Protest is in my DNA — I HAD to be there!

We envisioned a traffic jam of protesters, so we left home at seven and drove to the location. Ours was the ONLY car.

*Continued page 8*

*continued from page 6*

outline but at the very least have a detailed biography of each primary character.

- Break the habit of editing while you write so that you can produce your words relatively quickly each day.
- When you have to take a break, for holidays, illness or other reasons, reduce your goal when you resume writing/editing, so you have the chance to regain your conditioning.

Many of us like to imagine that the hardest part of writing a book is, well, the writing. But, in fact, the way, way, way harder job is the thinking and planning beforehand. And the editing, after.

*This is an updated version of a post that first appeared on Daphne's blog on Oct. 17, 2017.*



**Good Luck with your next book.**

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**Skype:** [publicationcoach](#)



## News You Can Use

- ◆ A gift exchange is planned for the Holiday lunch. Bring a gift then exchange for a gift.
- ◆ Be sure to sign up for lunch during Nov. meeting for our Dec. event.
- ◆ Our Board has approved a sponsor check of \$150 toward the SB Co. Fair Poetry Contest.
- ◆ All electronic copies of The Inkslinger are now safely archived in our secure server.
- ◆ Steve Marin has offered to be Historian with digital keepsakes, news, articles, etc. He will not be cutting and pasting into albums. However, we could digitally save them by photo capture. Many pieces are turning yellow.
- ◆ Dwight and Ann Miner sold a total of 13 books at the Barstow Craft Fair.
- ◆ 67 books sold during the HD Book Festival.





Continued from page 7

"Are you sure this is the right date?" Hubby asked. I had brought the newspaper with me.

"Yep, it's today."

"Maybe it got called off," Hubby said.

"Well, let's wait," I said.

Which we did until a big black truck pulled in and a young couple emerged and began hauling out tables, chairs, signs, posters, bottles of orange juice and maple syrup, colored marking pens, and a package of 25 kazoo. Other cars and trucks pulled in and people started milling around and talking. At one point, a coffee truck drove in, and someone brought donuts, and some amazing, friendly dogs begged to be petted. Everyone seemed to know one another.

After Miranda had hung the last poster, I got out of our car and went to introduce myself and to claim my kazoo. As I gave Miranda my name, the lovely young woman warmly grasped my hand and led me to one of the chairs. I sat there watching and listening to the people as they signed the posters and reminisced about their memories of the Waffle Iron and how they judge all other breakfasts by the crisp bacon, waffles, and fluffy omelets served there. No other restaurant comes close, they all agreed.

The door to the building was unlocked, and everyone was invited to have a look inside. I went in and looked around. Even though the building had been gutted, people spoke in low, respectful tones as if we were in an ancient cathedral.

We kept waiting for the officials to show up, and maybe a newspaper reporter and photographer. But the only pictures taken were selfies people took of one another. We waited, and waited and WAITED until Miranda called and learned that no one could make it. So, we all went back to our cars.

Not an egg was thrown, not a speech was made, and as I made my way back to our car with my yellow kazoo, I passed a sad trio humming 'Taps' on theirs.

*(illustration courtesy of ringcat.com)*



## Songs of Crows

by Barbra Badger

Raspy, incessant meaning unknown  
Call and response

Perhaps...

"Here I am, time to go."  
A thousand, a million,  
"C'mon you old crow."

Whirligigs and swirligigs,  
Downdrafts and uplifts,  
Spin, Drift  
Spin, Drift

Crows, ravens  
At play  
Raspy, incessant  
Calling  
"It's fall today!"



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



## Not an Empty-Nest Tale

by Diane Neil

The animal kingdom is filled with wonderful examples of mother love. With their inferior brains and no formal education, obstetricians, Lamaze classes, doctors, nurses, or mothering lessons, they far outstrip most human mothers in caring for their young.

I refer to the many desert animals I am privileged to observe on a daily basis, specifically the birds that inhabit our modest acreage. I am most acquainted with the clever clown ravens. Once a baby raven just learning to fly dropped into our yard. Its mother squawked and naggd and scolded until it managed to fly up to the



fence and drop to the other side. What a walloping the poor thing got as the mother mercilessly continued its flying lessons as if

the survival of the species depended on its learning to fly with the flock. (And it does.)

Recently my husband was cleaning our gutters from two year's worth of debris. He found a little bird nest with three pale blue empty eggs the size of tiny jelly beans. Something had prevented the mother from returning to her nesting duties. I hate to think that she met her doom as a food source for a larger bird. But I can't imagine what else would have kept her from hatching the eggs.

I keep the nest where I can see it every day. It is one of my prized possessions, sharing shelf space with other nests, cocoons, beautiful shells, and sea-sculpted rocks. Although that mother bird was unable to bring forth her chicks, I honor her effort to try.



## CELEBRATE NOVEMBER

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 November:

NOVEMBER 1	NATIONAL AUTHOR'S DAY
NOVEMBER 10	SESAME STREET DAY
NOVEMBER 11	VETERANS DAY
NOVEMBER 15	CLEAN OUT YOUR FRIDGE DAY
NOVEMBER 17	HOMEMADE BREAD DAY
NOVEMBER 21	GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT DAY
NOVEMBER 28	THANKSGIVING
NOVEMBER 29	BLACK FRIDAY

## TIME FOR A LAUGH



"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."

~~ Albert Einstein

## Events Ahead > Book Fairs & more

### MID-NOV. — DEC. ACTIVITIES

Nov. 12	HDCWC Board meeting
Nov. 16	HDCWC regular meeting
Dec. 10	HDCWC Board meeting
Dec. 14	Scrooge & Holiday Feast

(dates may change)

*The Inkslinger* goes dark for December.

Watch your email for latest e-blasts from Bob Isbill or President Dwight Norris about up-coming events in December.

#### 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

### Jack London is celebrating a birthday in January.

*Jan 12, 1876 - Nov 22, 1916 (age 40)*

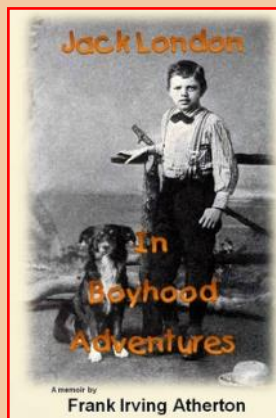
Watch for upcoming news about how we may celebrate the day.



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.

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

## Editor



Rusty LaGrange

*Editor of the CWC's The Bulletin*

next issue is mid-March

## Notes From the Editor

*I've been hearing that if you are an author with a KDP account, you should order your own books early so you won't be disappointed. The printing time schedule for KDP will get longer as more orders come in for all other authors. Now's the time to print up a few extras.*

*Another news item: Black Friday and Internet Mondays will be jammed with shoppers, too. So plan ahead or shop in the late hours online to avoid the rush and, after all that, not get the colors and sizes you really want. See you in January!!*

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](mailto: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.

**December issue is dark.  
Submit Jan. 2020 items by Dec. 22, 2019**