



The INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC
Inspiring a Community of Writers

Sail On

Oct. 2020

The Changing Environment Online

Focus From Blog to Newsletter

Bill Belew Returns

It's been a few years since super blogger Bill Belew stopped by to give us insights on blogging, using a blog to connect with more readers, and how the blog platform gets exposure.

Now he returns as our guest speaker with the latest changes and how the internet has redirected many strategies away from blogging.

Join him this Saturday, Oct 10 at 10 am during our regular branch meeting via our Zoom Room.



Bill will dive into the **practical steps** of getting eyeballs on your books, **building a subscriber base** that is **engaged** with a **newsletter** that is **about you, your brand, and your books.**



Bill served as a communications and intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy. Following that experience, he served as a tent-making missionary in Japan for nearly 20 years. In his 3rd career, he lived in Silicon Valley, where he paid his sizable mortgage as a professional blogger, garnering more than 150 million views. No kidding. He was eventually dragged into serving companies wanting to build their online brands after too many inquiries as to, "How did you do that?" Bill has taught content marketing from SF to NYC to Bangkok to Singapore to Shanghai and back for multinational companies as well as aspiring authors. He holds an MFA in Creative Nonfiction.



Zoom Room Special Event Follow-up

If you missed our Special Event in the Zoom Room, Sept. 26th, with first-time guest presenter, Sarai Phegley, then head on over to Page 4 for a quick look.



**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

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Vice President

Mike Apodaca
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Secretary

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ELECT BOARD OFFICERS SATURDAY

Our next general meeting, this Saturday, is our annual election day for our Board of Directors. This will be conducted on October 10, 2020.

This has allowed the membership to train in using Zoom Rooms to make the transition easier.

The current slate of officers have agreed to run for their same positions:

- President, Dwight Norris;**
- Vice President, Mike Apodaca;**
- Secretary, Joan Rudder-Ward;**
- Treasurer, Jenny Margotta**

The slate is not closed! Please feel free to add your name to the ballot by contacting Richard Zone at: retiredzone@gmail.com. (Please do not nominate others unless specifically asked to do so by them)



BIRTHDAYS IN NOV & DEC

No birthdays of record in October

- NOV. 10 **Ann Miner**
- DEC. 8 **Carol Warren**
- DEC. 9 **Marilyn Ramirez**
- DEC. 25 **Patrick Nee**
- DEC. 31 **Sara Leach**



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 in our 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, then check your Benefits Handbook or ask for help from Bob Isbill, Risbill@aol.com. ~~ the editor

We have 71 members as of the September 30th.

Vigil

by fumi-tome ohta

When I returned home, I did not park in the general area of open parking

where I always park. So, when I came through the door, I called for my dog

Farley. It was unusual for him not to come running to greet me at the door. I

think Farley's hearing is failing.

I went in search of him and found him sitting on his favorite seat by the window overlooking the parking area, looking, and searching for me. I stopped in the doorway of my bedroom to admire Farley's devotion as he sat looking out to the cars before him, looking for me to come home.

Farley is like a husband. He sees me off at the door when I leave, then

runs to sit at the window where I wave goodbye to him. He remains at the

window until I come home. When I return home, he has a scowl across his face,

tapping at this watch at me. He feels we've been apart too long in a 24-hour,

1,440-minute time span. I love Farley and he loves me.



A friend said: "LOL, no kidding, only much more loving than a husband. So, who needs one?"

During those rare times

his shoulders feel sooo good

sometimes...

during those rare times...

those rare times

Sometimes...

FROM THE **Heart**

By Diane Neil



WHY I QUIT BARBERING — a "Horror" story

My wife and I met in barber college. I became a barber, and she went on to work in a hair salon. There was a movement a few years ago to have beauticians become family counselors because depressed or suicidal women tend to confide in their hairdressers. My wife is a good listener and didn't mind. She was even able to steer a couple of women to seek professional help.

Well, that's not my cup of tea! I like being a barber. Most guys come in for a haircut and if they talk at all, it's just about sports. I've worked at the same shop for ten years, and all of us are a pretty tight group and we have a good bunch of regular customers.

There was one guy, though, who drove us all crazy. No one wanted to cut his hair because he was so fussy. He wanted another quarter inch off one side or the other, and he'd insist on scissors, no clippers, and trimming his neck with a straight razor. I swear, whenever I got stuck with him, I wanted to slit my throat!

I was telling my wife about this jerk, and she said it sounded like the same guy who was stalking one of her customers. The poor lady was afraid to go anywhere alone in case she ran into him.

Well, about a month ago this guy comes in and ends up in my chair. He's yammering on about some dame who wouldn't give him a second date and then he sees her smooching with some guy with scruffy hair. I swear, that did it! When he leaned forward and stuck out his chin for me to shave his neck, I lost it. I jerked back as hard as I could and cut his jugular vein. Blood spurted all over the place; his yammering stopped mid-gurgle. The other barbers and their customers cheered.

We had to close the shop for the day. Somebody called 911, but of course by the time an ambulance came the guy was already dead.

The police came and questioned all the barbers. They backed up my story about how the guy jerked forward when I was shaving his neck. So they ruled it an accident. One older cop even put his hand on my shoulder and said I should take a few days off to recover from the trauma.

So I stayed home for a week, but when I went back to work, there were reporters all over the place. The news had just come out that the guy I killed was the Stubbins Stalker. He'd been menacing women for years and there was a big reward for his capture. So I got the reward and my picture in the papers, and I was even on the TV news.

I still work at the same barber shop, but I don't cut hair anymore. I man the appointment desk, sweep up, wash towels, and fetch stuff for the other barbers.

But I'll never touch another straight razor.

And You Don't Look a Day Over 29 !!

HDCWC 30-Year Anniversary

Compiled by Dwight Norris, photos from the archives

October 3rd marks the 30th anniversary of the High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club. This is a pretty big deal. It's not easy to establish a group from scratch and sustain it with a common cause that has the cohesiveness to endure for thirty years.

When you conduct some research on the club from the 1990s, you cannot help but connect with the name Ruth Theodus. I made it my business to speak with as many as I could find who actually knew her. There weren't that many, but those who were around in those days spoke of her as enthusiastic and tenacious. If she wanted you to speak, or teach, or organize something, she would make you feel like you were the right person for the job. She knew you could do it.

She is said to have been quite the hostess, gifted in hospitality and in bringing people together. She was also a great leader. If she thought it was good to bring people together down at NBC Studios, anywhere from seven to fifteen of our people would show up. She was good at getting publicity and stirring up activity. She was actually a chaperone for an old TV show called "The Dating Game." Some of you will remember. When a guest selected a date sight-unseen, they couldn't just cut the couple loose to the night life on the streets of Hollywood. They needed some supervision. Ruth was one of those.

And when that little theater on 8th Street in Victorville was about to close, I understand it was Ruth who led the way in raising about \$100,000 to keep the doors open. I'm told there is a room bearing her name in that building to honor her efforts. Maybe some time in the future, with our ties to that structure, we could have a writing contest to produce a stage play honoring our writers and that historic little building. Literary culture at its finest!

A decade ago, in 2010, it was apparent to some that the HDCWC was on its last legs. Bets were being taken to foretell the timing of the club's demise. It was then that new leaders stepped forth and refused to let the club fail. A team of four clasped hands and held on tight. I am proud to name the four heroes. They are Carol Warren, Naomi Ward, Ann Fowler, and Bob Isbill.

The team rolled up their sleeves and got to work. That year, at the Lone Wolf Colony in Apple Valley, the club held its first conference called Howling at the Moon. Alton Gansky, Mike Foley, Glenn Hirschberg, and Emmy Award-winner John Moffett were the speakers. The club had no money. I was in attendance and could not sense any financial distress. The conference was successful and the club never looked back.

Over the following decade we took assessment of our membership and found many talented and wonderful people willing to work together. Good projects were offered in fulfillment of our mission statement. One was the Dorothy C. Blakeley Memoir Project where high school students were taught how to interview and write memoirs of senior citizens, some-

Continued on page 8



Our "Wise Women" surround Dwight Norris: June Langer on the left is one of the few still enjoying her writing activities over age 95.



Authors commanded a wall of shelves at Apple Valley Library. Bob Isbill and Carol Warren approve.

NEWS YOU CAN USE



Copies Still Available

Our Anthology Produced in 2019 is still available for purchase at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



Learning Our Law with Levine



At our last meeting we sat in our Zoom Room with Paul S. Levine, who is a literary attorney. He helps fill in the gaps for authors who need to know more about our rights. When actually knowing them can help us avoid pitfalls.

Each time Levine appears we find that the laws have adjusted to the media world we are in. He told us to attach "other media" to any print and book rights, movies, and all digital uses, before we sign, since that's what is moving faster than our tablets can keep up.

He is willing to answer questions about copyright law and social media influences. Email is Paul@PaulSLevine.com.



ACT 2 Presents little miss Amelia Hansen, now age 12, wishing to present in our Zoom Room—"Avoiding Scams During a Pandemic." Join us Tuesday Oct. 27 at 6:00pm.

Summer "Blitz" Winners Chosen

Something like a contest HAD to keep us busy during sheltering this summer. Our secretary, Joan Rudder-Ward, designed a writing contest for members to a variety of prompts. Entries submitted earned award points.

Awards included writers' books, supplies, and money. Did you enter?

Joan will announce the top winners on Saturday.



Mondo Style: Simple Q & A Poem; Enter *Mondo in the Condo*

A newly found poem format was recently shared with The Poemsmiths. And what usually whets our appetite, with more than just a sudden interest, soon morphs into a contest then a possible anthology.

Take a question and, in 19 syllables, offer it to someone who, in turn, will respond with a 19-syllable answer.

Here's a good example:

If the goal of life
is always unfailing love,
why is my heart so fickle?

You know your own heart—
perhaps you love yourself too
much,
... maybe not enough.

by (Q) Bob Isbill and (A) June Langer

Send your best entries to LoreleiKay7@gmail.com
or here to Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com

We're striving for an end-of-the-year deadline.

More Mondo selections will be in November issue.

A few more on Page 9.

~~ editor



Mike Apodaca

**from the
Vice President**

We *Can* Get Along!

I can still hear Rodney King’s voice in my head, even after all these years, saying, “Can’t we all just get along?” It’s a question that’s made even more pertinent in our current highly charged political and social climate. I see people unfriending each other on social media, unwilling to talk with family, and separating themselves tribally in this very divisive time. But I don’t see that at HDCWC.

Our wonderful writing club has people from all different perspectives, experiences, and backgrounds. Sometimes, I think the only thing we really have in common is our love for writing. And yet, I have only felt positive support from all members of our club. Everyone I’ve met and talked with has treated me with great respect and genuine camaraderie. I’ve never felt any friction whatsoever.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “As far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men (meaning men and women).” He wrote this in a very charged context. As a member of the new faith, the Way, he received opposition from the Jews, the pagans, the polytheists, the philosophers, and even some in the young Christian church. And yet, Paul did everything he could to be on good terms with everyone.

Here are some of the things we can do to keep our relationships positive and healthy:

1. Understand that everyone’s doing the best they know how to make their lives work. We really don’t know what others are going through or how they are handling the struggles of life. Give them the benefit of the doubt. Have empathy and really try to understand where others are coming from.
2. Understand that we all have our rough edges. Being married for 37 years has taught me that

I have rough edges that I’m completely unaware of. If I don’t see my many faults, it could be that others don’t see theirs either.

3. Refuse to accept blindly the labels that are put on people. I’ve found labels are most often used as a way to dismiss others. To label is to reduce someone, to minimize them to something we don’t have to take seriously—“They’re just a (fill in the blank).” I’ve never met anyone who can be confined to a label. We’re all far more complicated than that. We all have many facets to our personalities and our lives. To reduce any of us to a label is to miss the biggest part of who we are.
4. Refuse to look at anyone as the enemy. Abraham Lincoln’s idea was that the best way to destroy an enemy is to make him a friend. When we treat others as enemies, we cut them out of our lives, separating ourselves, making our circle of friends and family smaller and smaller. Some these days seem to be reducing their entire circle to people who think like themselves. How boring is that! When we embrace others, regardless of their positions, we’re able to learn from

“I like to listen. I have learned a great deal from listening carefully. Most people never listen.”

- Ernest Hemingway

them, to talk about our differences without defensiveness or the need to convert them. We gain understanding.

5. Having a wide range of acquaintances makes us much better writers. We learn from all the different types of people we know, especially people who are not like us. It makes it more possible for us to write with a ring of authenticity. Most great writers based their characters on people they knew (don’t we all do that?). The more people you know, the greater your writing resources.



Open Call for Poems in New Anthology

Women's Suffrage Month Brought Interest to Women of the Bible; Your Entry Will Help Expand Insight and Format

Dear Poet,

The Poemsmiths critique group of High Desert California Writer's Club is putting together an anthology of poems: *From Silence to Speech: Women of the Bible Speak Out*.

There are about 250 named women in the Bible. Poems can be about a woman or from the voice of the woman (Persona poems). We ask that each be no more than one page in length and that you put the text of what is considered the traditional Bible, Old or New Testament, any version, under the title in case someone wants to read more about your subject. We also ask that your poem to be based on facts in the Bible or be plausible if you're writing about a woman's feelings.

For example, Job's wife was exasperated with Job ("Curse God and die!") so she might have had more negative thoughts.

Your poem can be serious, funny, light, or dark, written in the first, second, or third person. It can be any style—free verse or traditional (haiku, sonnet, abecedarian, ekphrastic—lots of Bible women are portrayed in art—villanelle, even erasure or prose poem).

We already have about 20 poems written by The Poemsmiths. We have more than one on Miriam, which is okay because they are very different.

So, find a woman who intrigues you or fascinates you and write us a poem!

INSTRUCTIONS:

Send 3-5 poems only in Times New Roman 12 point. (Previously published okay)

Title of Poem, "by" and your name, text reference (Ex: Genesis 18:9-15)

Send by attachment (Microsoft Word Doc) to: mh_thompson@hotmail.com

Judges will be Poemsmiths. (There is no pay or compensation for your poem, just our gratitude.)

Submission deadline: November 1

Although you can write on any woman (or group of women), we need poems on the following women (don't forget unnamed women):

- ◆ Bathsheba
- ◆ Abigail

- ◆ Delilah (and also the mother of Samson)
- ◆ Deborah, the judge
- ◆ Mary (Jesus' mother and John's mother)
- ◆ Naomi (and the daughter-in-law who did not follow her)
- ◆ Esther
- ◆ Zipporah (wife of Moses)
- ◆ Hannah (mother of Samuel)
- ◆ Lydia, Apphia, Aquila, Prisca, Phoebe, (women who prophesized & taught for Paul)
- ◆ Tabitha (Dorcas)
- ◆ Lot's wife and Lot's daughters

Poemsmith Linda Boruff suggests this website: womeninthebible.net as a resource tool.

We look forward to seeing your work.

The Poemsmiths



Mondo Style Poem Form

Grabs More Attention

New Mondo poem entries are showing quite a bit of interest—to those who have a question and wish a poetic answer.

Find samples of this style on Page 9.

More coming in November issue.

Mondo in the Condo is a stylish Haiku form of poetry. All HDCWC members are invited to respond.

Pose a question in Mondo form and Receive a quirky or sensitive response from a creative mind

times their relatives. In another outreach, workshops were given at the Federal Correctional Facility in Adelanto so inmates could better learn how to write their stories—and they all had stories. This resulted in a complete absence of disciplinary action for those inmates participating in the program for a two-year period.



No meeting is complete without our infamous Cow Bell.

We participated as a sponsor in the High Desert Arts and Literary Festival. We led a group of our writers to the *L.A. Times* Festival of Books in Los Angeles. We discovered a manuscript about Jack London as a boy, written by Frank Irving Atherton, Diane Neil's grandfather, who was Jack London's best friend as a boy. With help from a publishing committee of our



One of our workshops held at Lewis Center Academy in 2010

members, we were able to publish this manuscript as a book titled *Jack London in Boyhood Adventures*. Most of this had never before been seen by the public.

For the first time in our history, we are excited to report that we have a youth group ranging in age from fourteen down to ten. While the numbers are in flux, this group is loaded with talent, intelligence, and enthusiasm. Be watching for good things from these young people.



We miss those holiday spreads created by Rita Wells, Anita Holmes, Sally Ortiz and other volunteers.

We also have been able to function as a partner with the Scholastic Arts & Writing Awards program where we help in promoting this project among high schools in the area and judge submissions coming to us from the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. Students compete for recognition, awards, and scholarships. Much of this work has been very rewarding and gratifying as we get to see the skills of our young writers. In addition, it provides a reliable and generous fundraiser for the club.

It will soon be time to recruit jurors for judging these submissions. This is not critiquing, which we are familiar with, but simply scoring, which tends to move faster. I will submit task de-



Supporting writing and reading projects: Mike Apodaca's New Books for Newborns; World Book Night; Spring Book Fairs & Nevermore Enterprises Horror Book Fairs.

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scriptions and qualifications to our membership, and you should be thinking of whether you would like to participate this year. Most of our members who participate as a judge find the task rewarding. We will need 15-20 judges this year, and the period of judging will be from December 18, 2020, through January 11, 2021. This is done at your convenience at your home computer on your own schedule. More criteria will follow.

There is no question that managing the club and keeping us all connected has been more challenging with COVID-19, but I believe we are making progress and will soon be past the shut-down period. We had planned to launch our new face-to-face meetings and celebrate our 30th club anniversary with a lovely patio/outdoor dinner at the Isbills on October 3rd, but it is apparent that we were not given the go-ahead for that yet. We don't want to say this dinner has been cancelled, but let us just say it has been postponed. We will get there, and when we do, we want you to play a strong part in our activities of training and outreach. Don't give up on us. We are still growing, and the best is yet to come. Next year, I hope to be able to share with you how our little branch may be able to exert a national influence!

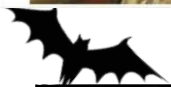


Waiting for the perfect man...



HORROR

IS A
WAY
OF
LIFE



Stories to stop your heart — but not your spirit.

MORE MONDO POEMS...

*If a cat rubs his face
on your foot
does he love you, or have fleas?*

*Your smell triggers memories:
his first love left him
for a scraggly old Tom cat.*

—Dwight Norris and Jerry Lentz



*Is true happiness
a walk through a field of flowers
in the noonday sun?*

*If it makes you smile,
and you feel released from stress,
then your happiness is true.*

—Trudy Shoemaker and Angie Horn



*Small hummingbirds dive
into throats of sweet flowers.
Where's our nectar of life?*

*Their little butts squirm.
The Venus flytrap holds tight.
Life is rife with treachery.*

—Lorelei Kay and Jerry Lentz



*Why when I get up
from my chair my cat jumps there
and I stand and let her stay?*

*Because cats often
will have the last word
in spite of all efforts.*

—J D Rudder and Mary Langer Thompson



By decree of the Governor and State Legislature,
the third week of October is perennially designated as

California Writers Week

Celebrate the writers of California!

Jack London Eugene O'Neill Sam Shepard Alan Ginsberg F. Scott Fitzgerald Carolyn See Tom Wolfe Sue Grafton Dr. Leo Buscaglia
Raymond Chandler Dean Koontz Beverly Cleary John Steinbeck Robert Louis Stevenson Armistead Maupin Henry Miller Theodor "Dr.
Seuss" Geisel T. Jefferson Parker Robert Frost Elizabeth George Norman Mailer Julia Child Baba Ram Dass Mark Twain Jack Kerouac
D.J. Waldie Danielle Steele Gertrude Stein Ambrose Bierce Alice Walker Jessamyn West T.C. Boyle Ray Bradbury Joseph Wambaugh
Marianne Williamson Richard Henry Dana Allen Drury Isadora Duncan Lawrence Ferlinghetti Lisa See Gertrude Atherton Joan Didion
Ken Kesey Joe Eszterhas Annie Lamott Robert A. Heinlen Richard Vaughn Gary Zukav Dr. David Viscott Richard Boyle Raymond
Carver Clive Cussler Jack Canfield Richard Ford Wallace Stegner Yusef Komunyakaa Whitney Otto Alice Sebold Carlos
Castaneda Suzanne Forster Jane Fatcher Ina Coolbrith Catherine Coulter Mary Austin Amy Tan Thomas Harris Tobias
Wolff Phil Arnot George Sterling Yolanda Nava Thomas Pynchon Raymond Barrio Upton Sinclair Alyson Noel
John Gray Jennifer Ann Kogler Herbert Gold Martin Cruz Smith John Blumenthal Michael Chabon Helen Hunt
Jackson Jessica Barksdale Inelan Dashiell Hammett Barbara Seranella Susan Vreeland Mike Blake William
Saroyan Molly Dick James Dalessandro Michael DiLeo Robyn Schneider Delilah Beasley Herb Caen
Devid Meltzer Anna Deavere Smith Jim Dreaver Richard Alan Bunch Molly Giles Rhys Bowen
Andrea Siegel Barnaby Conrad Ashley Wolff S.I. Hayakwa Peter S. Beagle Jonathan
Kellerman Alan Rifkin Gayle Brandeis Susan Kelly-DeWitt Oscar Zeta Acosta Adali
Isaacs Menken Joaquin Miller Dan Millman Terry Black Jack Hicks April Halpri
Wayland J.S. Holliday Anh Do John Muir Michael Scott Moore
Carolyn Follett Carl Reiner Victoria Silva Audrey Wood
Don Miguel Ruiz Rebecca Solnit Isabel Allende M.F.K.
Fisher Firoozeh Dumas Lisa Alpine Steve Martin
Khaled Hosseini Edward Humes Faye Kellerman
Susan Ito Pico Iyer Freeman House D.P. Lyle
Eric Shapiro Bonnie Domrose Stone Sharleen
Cooper Cohen Victoria Zackheim
Kathleen Sharp Joe Quirk Ross
Macdonald Lynette Brasfield
Gail Tsukiyama Jo Anne Van Tillburg
Bret Harte K.C. Cole June Dutton
Alexandra Haslam Elizabeth McKenzie
Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni Deanne Stillman
Jessica Mitford Ray Berry Pat Morrison
Rupert Hughes Hughes Thom Gunn
Susan Straight Rayn Roberts
Randy Shilts Peter Richardson
Veronique de Turenne Ursula K. LeGuin Tony Lazzarini Peter Lefcourt Raymond Strait Percival Everett
Yone Noguchi Wylene Dunbar Vladimir Lange Tony Johnston Malcom Margolin M.L. Malcolm
Michael McClure Ruthanne Lum McCunn Lucille Lang Day Oakley Hall
Nik C. Colyer Robyn McGee Kelly Lange Tamim Ansary Nancy Huebotter
Mark Coggins Kathi Kamen Goldmark John Gregory Dunne Alan Epstein
Thomas Steinbeck
Theodora Kroeber Alan Clements devorah major Joie Davidow
John Lescroart Linda Palmer Robert Haas Louis B. Jones Sylvia Boorstein
Susan Dunlap Robert de Heer Leora Krygier John Grissim John Gilmore Keith Bailey Robinson Jeffers Molly Fish Kathryn J. Abajian
John Forbes William O'Daly Shirley Ann Parker Maxing Hong Kingston Wardlaw Lee John Collins Penny Warner
Taylor Smith Ruben Martinez Peg Bracken Joe Gores Jean Harfenist Lee Lofland Paul Erdman Ona Russell Shesshu Foster
Molly Katzen Mikel Dunham Laurel House Jean Ardell Judy Reeves Melba Beals Robert A. Davies Rick Wartzman Marybeth Bond
Judith Greber Dora E.H. Crow Ann Bastian Jack Hirschman Edwin Markham Donald DeNevi Ishmael Reed David Masumoto Andrew
Sean Greer Floyd Salas Jimmy Hopper Tillie Olsen Stewart Emery Michael Parenti Jeremiah Abrams Jean Simonda Bolen Fanny
Osbourne Daniel Handler Frank Chin Julie Williams Lacey Fosburgh Kevin Starr Julie Wallace Francisco Garces Evan Connell
Daniel A. Olivas Anthony Marais Marc Allen Louise Steinman Mary Mackey Louise Clappe Anthony Arnold Al Young Ernest
Callenbach Richard Rodrigues Erik Erikson Aimee Liu Reyna Grande Stewart Brand Regina Louise Helen Benedict Dana Gioia
Elliot Feldman Jaime de Angulo Hector Tobar Gina Berrault Ellen Sussman Curt Gentry Eric Stone Elizabeth Stromme Maria Espinosa....
and the list goes on



Founded 1909

Watch for special events sponsored by:

California Writers Club

The nation's oldest professional writers organization

www.calwriters.org

Photo: Dave Cypert

Finding the “Friend” in You

With 15 members attending our Zoom Room, Sarai Phegley had us laughing and genuinely stress free as we watched her bubbly presentation about journaling on Saturday, September 26.

Writing in a diary is the standard way a writer can dig deep emotionally with their most intimate thoughts. You risk having your “mom” find your writing. But with journaling, you take the thoughts and expand on them well beyond the basics.

“It develops self-awareness, allowing your mind’s eye to open up, explore in your adventure,” she said.



Sarai Phegley

ing Down the Bones by Natalie Goldberg.

Sarai noted that sitting with ourselves allows the outer shell to break away. It becomes a stream of consciousness in discovery.

“Once we filter as adults and block our inner feelings, we lose the sense of wonder as children.”

“Be careful the company you keep, including yourself,” she said with a giggle. She also recommended *Writing*

Her website is www.CrossHatchPublishing.com.



So What Do You Call our Second Zoom

Event in the Same Month? **Act 2**, of course

Creative people, we writers.

Since the creation of Zoom Rooms allow for more flexibility to host more guests and offer special events more than once a month, well, we needed a name.

A second event within the same month will be **Act 2**. This will be followed by **Act 3**, and even **Act 4**, if our room gets packed with salons, workshops, etc.

Well, you get it.

Look for calendar events, Page 13 in this issue.

~~ editor

ZOOM ROOM NEWS



Plenty of action continues in Zoom Rooms across the state as well as within our branch. We’re also seeing more “cross pollination” with members visiting with others in neighboring branches. Our social needs are stronger than ever, so watch for email announcements of guest speakers arriving in a Zoom Room near you! Most events are free, some require pre-registration. Check it out.



Heading to the Printer

Our Latest Anthology: *Survival*

Three independent judges selected the three top winners, and all the branches were informed last week.

Our own Michael Raff took third place.

Preordering is going on now with delivery expected in mid-November. Net proceeds from the sale of the anthologies will be donated to charities/branches of the winners’ choices.

Mary DeSantis created our awesome cover.

Anyone else’s car getting three weeks to the gallon at the moment?



Jenny Margotta

from an

EDITOR'S DESK

TRUE OR FALSE?

Misuse of words and phrases drives me nuts. And it seems like people are increasingly using words and phrases incorrectly and definitions have become distorted. For instance, when someone says, "our forces were decimated," they most commonly mean our forces were almost completely wiped out. But "decimate" means "reduced by one tenth." (From the Latin *decem*, meaning "ten.") So "our forces were decimated" really means they were reduced to 90% of their original strength.

Here's a simple true or false test for fellow wordsmiths. See if you get them all right.

PHASE	TRUE	FALSE
I could care less		
A complete 360		
Irregardless		
For all intensive purposes		
You've got another thing coming		
On tender hooks		
First come, first serve		
Curiosity killed the cat		
Wet your appetite		

Would it surprise you to learn that the answer to every one of these is FALSE?

I COULD CARE LESS. The correct phrase is "I couldn't care less." It means it is not possible for you to care less about something than you already do. "I could care less," actually means that it *is possible* for you to care about something to a lesser degree than you currently care.

A COMPLETE 360. Sounds good, right? But the correct phrase is "A complete 180," meaning that, after consideration, your opinion about something is now completely opposite from your original opinion. If you do "a complete 360," you're saying you've gone in a full circle, so your opinion remains exactly the same.

IRREGARDLESS. No! The correct word is "regardless." People are trying to say they are dismissing someone's opinion, as in, "No matter what my boss thinks, ..." However, "regard" means "to pay attention to." The suffix "less" means "without." The prefix "ir" reverses the meaning of a word. "Regardless" then means "without paying attention to," so "irregardless" means "paying attention to." You are now saying, "Taking into account what my boss thinks, ..."

FOR ALL INTENSIVE PURPOSES. Again, it sounds good, but it's wrong. "Intensive" means "concentrated" or "very thorough." The phrase is actually, "for all intents and purposes." It was originally found in sixteenth-century English law: "to all intents, constructions, and purposes," and now means that someone can handle something. "For all intents and purposes, she looked as if she could do the job."

YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER THING COMING. The correct phrase is "You've got another think coming," the idea being that you need to rethink something. "If you think people don't need to know history, you need to think again because history is important."

ON TENDER HOOKS. Well, maybe . . . If you take "tender" to mean something like "soft," which could translate to "thin" or "precarious," then you could be trying to say you are on precarious ground. However, the correct expression is

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“on tenterhooks,” which means to be in a state of tension, uneasiness, or anxiety. The expression is a reference to hooks used to stretch woolen cloth.

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE. If this is correct, I’ll try to never be the first to arrive at a party because then I’d have to serve everyone else who comes. The phrase is actually “**First come, first served,**” which means he who arrives first gets paid attention to first.

WET YOUR APPETITE. Exactly how does one throw liquid on one’s appetite? The phrase is actually “**whet your appetite,**” meaning something that incites, as in giving us a little bit of something to gain/hold our attention or interest. To “whet” means to “sharpen” or “hone” (using a whetstone), so with this phrase we are saying something sharpens—or increases—our interest.

CURIOSITY KILLED THE CAT. This is a trick question, but it is both true (right) and false (wrong.) Taken as is it, it means the cat is now dead because it was (unwisely) curious about something. And that’s how it is generally used. But the original quote was “**Curiosity killed the cat, but satisfaction brought it back.**” Correctly using the entire quote reverses the meaning: by satisfying his curiosity, the cat remains alive.



WORD OF THE MONTH:

ETHNOCENTRIC: eth-nō-’sen-trik: (adjective): characterized by or based on the attitude that one’s own group is superior.

The Greek word *ethnos* means “nation” or “people.” So *ethnocentricity* is a lack of respect for other ways of life. An ethnocentric person feels that his own nation or group is the cultural center of the world. *Ethnocentric* describes the kind of person who behaves badly when traveling in foreign countries, often called an “Ugly American” (from a book and movie of the same name).



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Nov. & Dec. Activities

Nov. 8	HDCWC board meeting
Nov. 12	HDCWC regular meeting
Dec. 6	HDCWC board meeting
Dec. 10	HDCWC regular meeting

(virtual meetings are in ZOOM format & dates may change)

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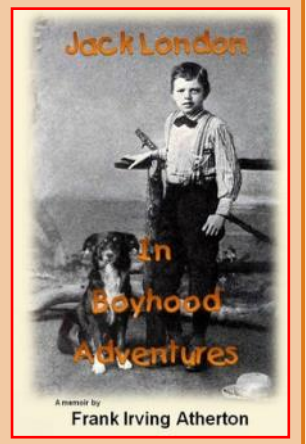
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Editor



Rusty LaGrange

Editor of the CWC's The Bulletin

next issue is mid-November

Notes From the Editor

Some parts of the country are getting snow, some getting hot flashes after a sizzling summer. I'm done now. I want to wear my sweaters this year. Even if I have to sit on the patio and rock in my new sweaters. I want Winter!

I remember days in Landers and Pioneertown where I was ranting about the snow covering my wood pile. I stood in five inches of snow and shoveled the white stuff off my two steps. Boy, I had it hard. And now, I'm begging for any cool changes. Maybe it's because I haven't been out much ... COVID, you know. Maybe I'm stir crazy.

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 Nov. items by Oct. 23. No December issue. January 2021 submit on 23rd.

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