

The INKSLINGER

Speed Rounds: 6 tables, 6 moves

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC
Inspiring a Community of Writers

Sail On

Sept. 2019

Getting Inside Your Mind

WHERE BLOGGING TAKES YOU

ARE YOU A SUPER-HERO ?

Our guest speaker, S. Kay Murphy, is returning for another visit about crafting and productivity. She journals through her blog and speaks on travel adventures and different experiences. Her latest is about Steinbeck.

S. Kay Murphy is the author of four books and has been a freelance writer and journalist for over forty years. She holds a Master's degree in Literature, and has published both traditionally and independently.

Kay also sat in as a judge for several contests that our branch sponsored for anthologies.

She blogs at: www.skaymurphy.blogspot.com, and can be found on Instagram and Twitter with the handle @kayzpen.

“ I'll be speaking about how to use the super-hero of your sub-conscious to be more productive in your writing.

”

"I shall take my dog, and that is another reassurance that I am neither dangerous nor insane." --John Steinbeck



S. Kay Murphy and friend



It's Open Mic Time for October 12th HDCWC Regular Meeting

Gather your best short-short story or a favorite poem and get ready for Open Mic. We schedule this special event whenever our meeting has a scheduling conflict with other events. This time the High Desert Book Festival in Hesperia is drawing away many of our members who wish to sell their books in one of the largest venues around.

After the Open Mic, please come and visit the festival in Hesperia's civic center park. It runs until 4 pm. Plenty of time to peruse the booths, attend the poetry tent, and more.

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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**Mind Games / Psychology
Bring Gold's Interests Into
Her Newest Thriller**



Freddi Gold & pup

About the Author:

Following a long career in the field of psychology as both psychotherapist and college instructor, Freddi Gold delights in establishing herself as a novelist. A former television host, Gold holds a doctorate in Human Behavior and a degree in Clinical Psychology. Her background teaching intercultural and family communication lends itself to a deeper understanding of her characters. An alternative direction, in metaphysics and possibilities borne out of her curiosity about life, Gold explores the lure of the unknown.

When she was a little girl, Freddi wanted to be a doctor but only nurse's kits existed in the toy industry. For a while being a telephone operator appealed to her and by the time she was in eighth grade she was sure she wanted to be a Special Agent with the FBI. She majored in Speech and Drama at Arizona State, taught junior high, then high school, then continuing edu-

cation when a chance lecture she attended featured a discussion on hypnosis and electronic voice phenomena (EVPs).

Fascinated, she pursued both hypnosis and the vast field of metaphysics.

Attending a meeting of the California Writers Club, encouraged her to consider writing which resulted in a non-fiction book that explored marriages, relationships, the evolution of women in that context and infidelity. Curious about fiction, she jumped into writing a trilogy, the *Dimension Norraena* series. This thriller, romantic suspense, science-fictional combination of genres continues to intrigue her resulting in her newest achievement, *Name of the Game*.



Name of the Game reflects the games people play to achieve their goals and the twists and turns of events that thwart their efforts.

A young woman, sensitive and intuitive, teams up with CIA operatives to handle a matter of national security imperiled by other worldly interference. In the mix, adventure, romance, intrigue and mystery draw the reader into their web.



What You Missed

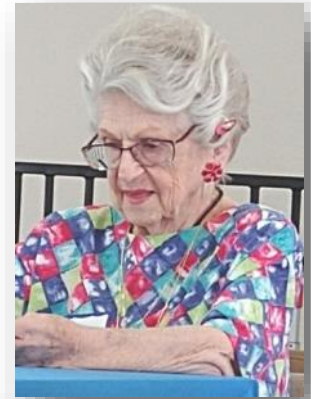
Story & photos by Rusty LaGrange

YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD, NEVER TOO YOUNG



Eleven-year old Amelia, with nine published books in an ambitious 12-book series, was one of four panelists we met during our authors panel event. Rebekah Koontz, June Langer, and Amy Burnett joined the wide array of ages represented ... 11 to 96 with a positive message of encouragement for those who may believe they are either too young or too old to start writing.

Katrina Siverts, published of Mojave River Valley News Group, found so much in common with our young author, Amelia, that they eagerly shared travel stories and writing goals.



Words of Wisdom: All the panelists agreed on one defining moment in their writing experience. "I say it's "write's stop", says Amy, referring to a block, "and I just go back at it. I never want to stop." Rebekah said: "If I stop it's usually too much focus on one character. So I work away from it for awhile." And young Amelia said: "If I get stuck I find I have to do more research to find a better landmark to write about." And when asked where inspiration comes from: "Two a.m. ideas wake me," said Amy. "Bathroom stall," Rebekah laughed. "I'm inspired by movies other than the globe," noted Amelia. June Langer stated flatly, "Out of the clear blue sky." Our MC Dwight Norris called them all "delightful ladies."



Pictured left: President Dwight Norris, Amelia Hanson, Rebekah Koontz, Amy Burnett, and June Langer. Above: Rebekah, and top right going down: June Langer, Amy Burnett, Amelia Hanson and her parents.



CHOCOLATE, BLUEBERRIES & COFFEE DRAWS FOODIE AUTHORS TO SALON

Salons hosted by members in their homes, give a different perspective to a shared interest, growing friendships, and an expansion of ideas. At the Food Salon hosted by Mary Langer Thompson, August 29, —“Chocolate, Blueberries, Coffee: Super Foods, Super Writing—we nibbled on a variety of finger foods while sharing our aspect of food topics in our blogging, cookbooks, chapters in our books—and basically anywhere food took center stage.

Mary’s newest quest for tasty and nutritious food stems from her need to keep her husband, Dave, bouncing back after a recent health scare. As she wrote about it earlier this summer, she attained a health certificate focused on nutrition from an online college course.

Most of us had less lofty goals, but our interests in foods help shape how we write. Jenny Margotta shared her recipes from her cookbook she co-edited with her late husband, John. They had opposite tastes in some cases, and their differences are shared in opposite pages of their cookbook.

I use food stories related to the Old West in my website. I mix old recipes with how the food was used, stored, and recipes developed. There were no published cookbooks until the 1910s so most favorites were handed down through family and friends. I also shared the chuck wagon history used in the first cattle drives.

Even in the novels that Mary Ruth Hughes and Tess deGroot shared, certain passages within their stories placed their characters around a table either discussing the meals or using the dinner table as a meeting place.

We then let our imaginations fly thinking of all the food-oriented scenes Hollywood has incorporated in features, TV series, cartoons, documentaries, and iconic films — who could forget “Lady and the Tramp’s” spaghetti plate scene; “A Christmas Carol”; Dickens’ “Oliver Twist” begging for some more. And, of course, the strained smiles of relatives surviving another Thanksgiving feast. If you wish to have a copy of Mary’s resource list on foods, just contact her at mh_thompson@hotmail.com to receive an electronic list.

SUMMER CRITIQUE GROUPS CONTINUE

PoemSmiths continue their regular twice a month meetings held at Mary’s home. If you’d like to join them or learn how to start your own critique group, you can contact Mary or Lorelei for details. Critique groups, scheduled monthly or more, and salons, announced when suggested, can only be attended by current HDCWC members. No guests are allowed at private venues.



Food Salon (l to r) Lorelei Kay, Mary Ruth Hughes, Rusty LaGrange, Mary Langer Thompson (our hostess), Susan Hannah, and Jenny Margotta. Not pictured: Ann Miner & Tess deGroot.



PoemSmiths also meet outside of club activities: Bob Young, Anita Holmes, Mary Langer Thompson (hostess), Lorelei Kay (Linda Beruff, Rusty missing this time)

Local authors, Michael Raff and Roberta L. Smith, also known as Nevermore Enterprises, have made some inroads with places like Starbucks Coffee shops. Not long ago it was nearly impossible to find new venues where people congregated.

This past June, they held a book signing event at the one on Main Street in Hesperia. It seems that the franchise does allow regional support to such an idea as a book signing campaign. If you hear of one let's go out and support them and enjoy a cup of the famous Starbucks while you are there!

Raff completed his sixth and latest book, *Stalkers*, in March of this year. It's unique in that it's entirely based on a nightmare he had about being attacked by four unknown cloaked figures that turn out to be Satanists.

Raff has been writing since he was thirteen-years-old. He grew up in Chicago and moved to California in 1968. In 1983, he wrote his first horror story, *The Door*, and with the exception of *Special*, his memoir about his romance with a Mormon girl, he's been focused on writing horror. He is a member of the Horror Writers Association, an international organization.

Smith is the author of the Mickey McCoy Paranormal Mystery series. Her young adult paranormal romance titled *Simone's Ghosts* took first place in the Hollywood Book Festival contest beating all entries in all genres. She is also the author of a non-paranormal murder mystery romance titled *Bouquet of Lies*.

In April, she published her first children's book about a little ghost that loves to take care of the family he lives with.



Raff and Smith cofounded Nevermore Enterprises, a partnership to promote their books and events such as the Horror Book Festivals in the High Desert. Raff and Smith brought Sara Karloff, (daughter of Boris), and the actress Julie Adams, (star of *Creature from the Black Lagoon*) to the High Desert for their events. On August 3 & 4, as reported earlier, they sold and autographed their books at the Mid-Summer Scream Festival at the Long Beach Convention Center.

Both Raff and Smith are long-time members of the High Desert Branch CWC. Raff's and Smith's books are available at Amazon.com

Keep in mind that other activities throughout the month can be found at our online community. Stay informed by joining Meetup.com. It's free and it's fun!





GET YOUR FAIRS IN ORDER

Be there for best sales where your readers are craving to buy new titles from new authors!!

CALL FOR DESERT POETRY

Do you have specific poems written about the desert that you'd like to read during the book festival?

Get on the list. Contact Mary DeSantis:

maryminutemail@hotmail.com

High Desert Book Festival Oct 12th will include a Children's Pavilion, and Poetry Reading Room among other features. Sign-up now while spaces are filling. Booths will be available for rent in the Book Festival sections. Go to ww.VicArtsEd.org for details.

As shared in *The Bulletin* a few weeks ago, Mary Langer Thompson (lower left) is the recent recipient of the Jack London given on behalf of service to the branch and the statewide club. Pictured with her are the "all stars" of past HDCWC winners: (top row) Roberta Smith, Jenny Margotta, Robert Isbill, (center) Dwight Norris, and Carol Warren. (Not pictured is George Gracyk who passed away last year.)

(photo credit: Rusty LaGrange)

WORD OF THE MONTH

DIVAGATE: di·va·gate [' (dī'və-gāt')]

VERB; literary

1. to stray or digress

"The hikers divagated from their set course only once."

synonyms include: careen, curve, deviate, diverge, sheer, skew, swerve, swing, weave, wheel



Courtesy of Jenny Margotta, editor


Call for Exhibitors!


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2019 High Desert BOOK FESTIVAL

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Jenny Margotta

from an

EDITOR'S DESK

Capitalize on CAPITALIZATION

I recently edited a book in which the author capitalized everything—and I do mean *Everything!* When I asked him why, he said, “I like the way it looks.” I laughed but then had to tell him it doesn’t really work that way; you can’t just capitalize something because it looks nice. Okay, maybe in poetry ... but definitely not in prose. That author is not the first I’ve worked with who excessively capitalizes, so I thought an article on the subject would be appropriate. I can’t cover every rule, but here a few of the more “tricky” ones:

1: Chose the correctly capitalized sentence:

- A. Jim Hunter, Dean of Schools for the City of Los Angeles, first served as the dean of admissions at the City of Denver’s prestigious Denver University.
- B. Jim Hunter, Dean of Schools for the City of Los Angeles, first served as the dean of admissions at the city of Denver’s prestigious Denver University.
- C. Jim Hunter, dean of schools for the city of Los Angeles, first served as the Dean of Admissions at the City of Denver’s prestigious Denver University.

ANSWER IS B: “Dean of Schools for the City of Los Angeles” is an official title; “the dean of admissions” is not. Only when such a position is used as an official title is it capitalized. HINT: In most cases, when such identification is preceded by “the” or “a” and is not followed by a name, the identification is not capitalized. For example: General Douglas MacArthur was a famous general in World War II.

Also, officially, it is “the City of Los Angeles, but “City” is not part of the official name for the city of Denver.

2: Chose the correctly capitalized sentence:

- A. John only drinks Scotch, never French Champagne, but he loves French fries.

- B. John only drinks Scotch, never French champagne, but he loves French Fries.
- C. John only drinks scotch, never French Champagne, but he loves french fries.

ANSWER IS C: “scotch” is a generic term for alcohol distilled in Scotland. *Most* sources—but not *all* sources—will tell you that “french fries” simply refers to one way to serve potatoes, so “french” is no longer being used in the national sense. (Word’s spell-check stills indicates it’s “French fries.”) “French” is, however, being used in the national sense in “French Champagne.” And if the Champagne comes from France, it’s capitalized because Champagne is a region in France; if the champagne originates in California—which does not have a geographic region named Champagne—it’s just champagne.

3. Choose the correct capitalization:

- A. Ronald Henderson received his bachelor’s in music after first earning a master’s of fine arts. Later, he earned an associate degree in business.
- B. Ronald Henderson received his Bachelor’s in Music after first earning a Master of Fine Arts. Later, he earned an Associate Degree in Business.
- C. Ronald Henderson received his bachelor’s in music after first earning a Master of Fine Arts. Later, he earned an associate degree in business.

ANSWER IS C ... sometimes. It depends on what style you are following. Most fiction generally follows the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS), while many non-fiction works follow the Associated Press (AP) style. Using CMOS, “master of fine arts” in Examples B and C would not be capitalized because it does not directly precede a name (*The dean introduced Master of Fine Arts Susan Miller and later introduced Stephen Jones, who also earned a master of fine arts.*) However, using the AP style, a specific degree such as “Master of Fine Arts” is always capitalized, regardless of its location in the sentence. Neither style capitalizes the possessive use of “master’s,” “bachelor’s, or “associate’s” or when “degree” is used because they are not part of official titles of degrees. (She holds a Master of Fine Arts, a bachelor’s in music, and an associate (or associate’s) degree in business.)



Memoir Corner

A Legacy on The Mother Road ~~ by Rusty LaGrange



Elmer Long (all photos by the author)

This news is a bit old, since Elmer Long passed away June 22, but it's noteworthy for our local visitors, authors, history buffs and bloggers. Years ago, early February in 2014, our members of High Desert Blogging, who often met to promote our own books and blogs, decided to have a field trip in Oro Grande.

We Love Route 66.

A bunch of new shops in Oro Grande were popping up after years of appearing like a ghost town on National Trails Highway. It was very encouraging to see new hope. We wanted to share the energy with free blogging about these merchants on old Route 66. Several establishments were antique stores, food shops, candy store, including the Cross-Eyed Cow Pizza, and others.

Our bloggers also went for lunch at Mollie Brown's Kountry Kitchen farther down Route 66. It was near there that we spotted Elmer Long's Bottle Tree Ranch. Sometimes open. Sometimes closed. Always fascinating. People from all over the world had heard of it. Travelers from biker gangs, car clubs reliving The Mother Road experience, family vacationers, photographic clubs, and those who stumbled upon it, all remember the attraction.

I had been there before but this time Elmer came out to greet us. He was happy to show us around and allowed photos to be taken. His love of sharing stories was obvious. He was proud of his accomplishment, even though he said he didn't plan to having it become what it had.



Elmer Long Spoke to Bloggers on Their Field Trip in 2014

His eyes twinkled through his brushy eyebrows and his smile peeked through his wiry gray beard. You could easily tell he loved what he did.

Bloggers Love Taking Photos.

After our tour, he told some stories about his dad finding cool stuff to collect. His passion turned into Elmer's passion as well. So when new visitors come along and gawk at his site, we can smile and say we got to talk to The Man... Elmer Long... the eccentric creator of the beloved Bottle Tree Ranch on Route 66 in California, who unfortunately died too young at age 72, after a bout with lung cancer.



Route 66 Bottle Tree Ranch

The ranch will continue as a roadside attraction for Route 66. It's history is solid, its future unknown.

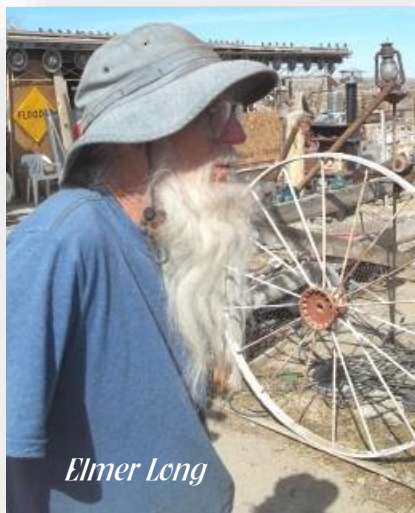


Roads Not Taken

by Diane Neil

How many years have my husband and I lived in the High Desert? Over twenty. In all that time there was a delightful treasure of eye candy twenty-five miles from our house on a road we'd never before taken. It was quite by accident that we took the National Trails Highway on a recent Sunday, looking for a restaurant we thought we'd been to before.

We did find a restaurant, Molly Brown's, but it wasn't the one we were looking for, and we arrived fifteen minutes after it had closed. (It's only open for breakfast and lunch.) The road north didn't look too promising, so we turned around, and lo and behold! Across the road was a fairyland of brilliant color sparkling in the sunlight like a cathedral window. Bottles of every shape and size were artfully displayed on huge metal poles that were spaced about eight feet apart and topped with unique objects like angels on Christmas trees. We stopped and gawked.



Elmer Long

Although the place was closed, other cars were also stopping and people were hopping out and taking pictures. A handwritten sign announced the recent death of Elmer Long, the man who had created the sparkling wonderland called "Bottle Tree Ranch," not to be confused with "Bottle Trees," the remnants of which

used to be seen from HWY 15 near the Bear Valley Road exit.

We learned that Elmer's father had collected the bottles for many years and had taken his little son on

bottle-hunting expeditions all over the High Desert. Elmer had had a life-long fascination with the beautiful antique bottles, which were stored for years on the property, along with other found objects like scrap metal poles, telephone pole insulators, a surfboard, a toaster, truck springs, a Radio Flyer Wagon, an alto Saxophone, wagon wheels, and a 1922 Smith and Wesson pistol.

When the elder Long died and Elmer retired and found himself with time on his hands, he began creating his "Bottle Tree Ranch." Visitors came from all over, many bringing signs and other objects, all of which he incorporated into the facility.

And to think that we just discovered this treasure on a road we'd never taken—only twenty-five miles from our house.



CELEBRATE SEPTEMBER

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 September:

SEPTEMBER 9 National Teddy Bear Day

SEPTEMBER 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance

SEPTEMBER 15 National Double Cheeseburger Day

SEPTEMBER 19 Talk Like a Pirate Day

SEPTEMBER 24 National Punctuation Day

"My own experience is that once a story has been written, one has to cross out the beginning and the end. It is there that we authors do most of our lying."

- Anton Chekhov

Events Ahead > Book Fairs & more

AUG & SEPT ACTIVITIES

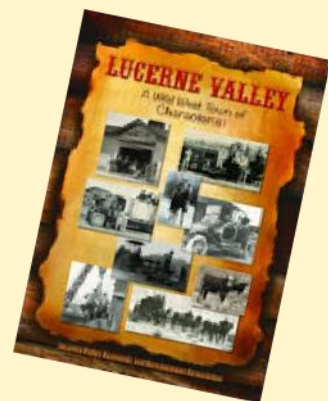
Sept. 10	HDCWC Board meeting
Sept. 14	HDCWC regular meeting
Sept. 30	Last day to submit dues at sustaining member rate
Oct. 8	HDCWC Board meeting
Oct. 12	HDCWC regular meeting
Oct. 12	High Desert Book Fair

Tap Into History Books for Realistic Details

Grab local memories and family histories to aid in your own writing when creating a realistic memoir or your own family history. Lucerne Valley's history is now available on Amazon. Chapters filled with early pioneer life, farming, mining, fighting Indians, and much more since the early 1920s.

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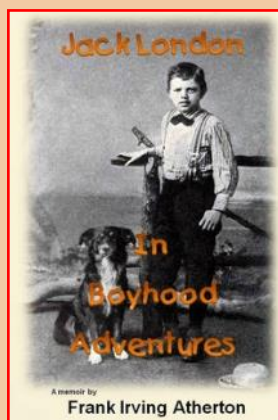
Here's the link to the channel:
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By Sending in your upcoming events & book signings early, we can share in your joy



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.

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Editor



Rusty LaGrange

Editor of the CWC's The Bulletin

next issue is mid-November

Notes From the Editor

Small town America has jumped onboard the "local history book" bandwagon to promote their pride and legacy. Check your area Chamber of Commerce for their books. My little town of Lucerne Valley did the same, but we quickly outgrew the strict format of Arcadia Press and formed our own committee to write and produce — Lucerne Valley: A Wild West Town of Character(s). I was asked to write a section of the book as well as final line editing for the final proof. If you have the skills, ask your local book committee if you can help. Extra exposure and training is great for credibility.

Submitting to *The Inkslinger* is easy. Use Microsoft Word, single-spaced, 11-point Arial font, please. The email address for submissions is Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com. Articles and stories between 300 to 700 words are accepted. Photos, poetry, and drawings are always welcome. Please avoid sending items that were embedded in other media. Call me to discuss an article or idea, 760-646-2661.

**October's submissions are due Sept. 23
November's submissions are due Oct. 23**