



The INKSLINGER

Sail On



HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC
Inspiring a Community of Writers

JANUARY 2023



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dwight Norris

A NEW BEGINNING

This is the first of the new year, a new segment of time to fill with our creativity and imagination or waste into the stagnation of idleness. It is all in our hands. January 1 is the very first day of the new year. Three hundred sixty-five days follow to fill the new year, 2023. Exhilarating and incredible, is it not? What will you do with the new year?

Being writers we are likely to think in terms of time and practice and product. What ideas have crossed your mind? Can you see how you could use your scheduled writing time more efficiently and effectively? And especially more consistently, perhaps? There is nothing like following your writing schedule faithfully for three days and then skipping the fourth. Reduces your productivity by twenty-five percent, if I'm not mistaken. Of course, writers have to work and then rest, work and then rejuvenate, work and then refill their coffers of knowledge and inspiration. But discipline is important for writers also.

What will you write? Would you try writing something new in this time of new beginnings? Have you never written a poem? Is it too awkward, transparent, or feminine? Try it out. It is said that King Kong wrote poetry on the spire at the top of the Empire State Building, waiting for the fighter planes to show up. What have you got to lose? There is only strength to gain. Only experience to help in the next writing endeavor.

What will you write about? Will you stay safe and continue to hide in your cave? Or will you come out and reveal innermost fears? Will you share your personal aspirations and goals or will you hide your face in nearby shadows? Will you work to improve your writing skills or stay about the same, never venturing out? Improvement can be seen only in the face of risk. If you are unwilling to take any, you are settling for about the same level of writing performance, year after year. Even if you share your experiment with only one person, maybe you will have a positive experience. It could be the beginning of baby steps leading to big changes. You never know. Your willingness to try and be adventurous could be a big step in your writing career.

The first of a new year is a time for experimentation and "playing" with your tools. You may discover something that you could employ right away and the results could be significant. Fear not, but step out in faith.

SEDUCING THE STUDIO READER

By Bob Isbill

HDCWC TO PRESENT ROBERT FLAXMAN'S "SEDUCING THE STUDIO READER" ON ACT II ZOOM, JANUARY 24, 2023

Robert Flaxman, referred to as the Rolls Royce of script analysts, will be featured in his video presentation of his amazing seminar, "Seducing the Studio Reader" on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 via zoom. The video presentation is a remarkable revelation on script writing, from the details on page one to its conclusion.

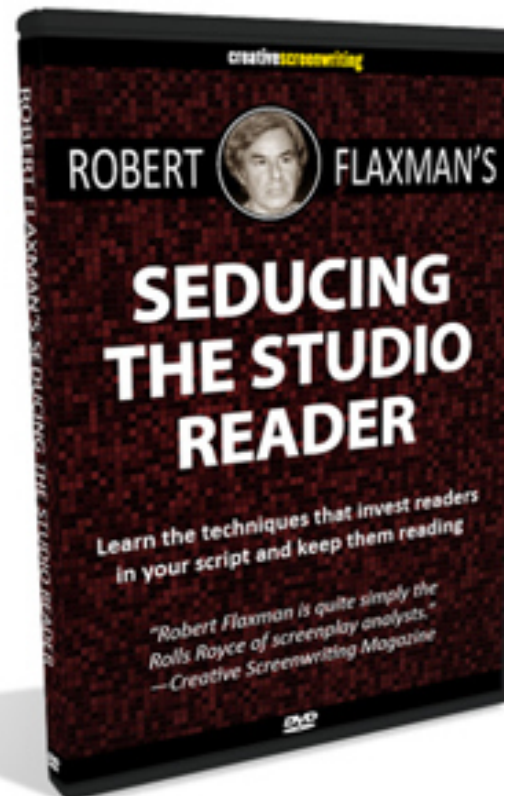
Anyone preparing to submit a script for any purpose is urged to join us and view this seminar.

Time: 6pm

Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2023

All HDCWC members will be sent the invitation and link to the meeting, and all CWC presidents will receive the link for distribution to their members.

The meeting is presented a no charge by the HDCWC.





FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

By Mike Apodaca

PUTTING ON SKIN: WRITING CHARACTERS

When I was younger, I majored in Theater Arts. In junior high and high school I had the lead in many plays. At one point the Russian sister city of our town awarded our cast with pins for a performance we did for them. Then, in college, I directed a drama troupe that traveled through California and Arizona. I continued this interest while teaching elementary school students, directing dozens of plays and making many movies.

This Christmas season, I played Santa. I was invited to Topaz Elementary School, in Hesperia, and wore the wonderful outfit that Lorelei Kay loaned me. For that morning, I was Santa, completely in character. This was very different from when I dressed as Santa for our club meeting. There, I was myself in a Santa suit—I even wore my club badge. Big difference.

Putting on the skin of a character takes a reach of imagination. You must force your own identity aside and think like the person you're portraying. I had the opportunity to play the devil in the play *Celebration* when I was in high school. When I got into character, my voice changed, my mannerisms transformed, and I became Old Scratch himself. My girlfriend at the time wouldn't ride in the car with me before the play because my character terrified her.

This is what it takes to write believable fictional characters. The writer is the supreme thespian, putting on the skin of many characters, thinking as them, speaking as them, and reacting as them in all the situations they're present with in the novel.

I'm just finishing reading Anita I. Holme's new novel, *In Their Wildest Dreams*. It is a cozy mystery with many clever surprises. The strength of the writing, however, is the way Anita immerses herself in the characters. Doing this allows us, as readers, to do the same. When we engage with the writing, we also put on the skin of the characters, think what they think and feeling what they feel. This is why, when I read Helen Hunt Jackson's wonderful book, *Ramona*, I sobbed uncontrollably. I felt her pain in the depth of my being.

There are times in critique groups when someone will make a suggestion for a character and I'll say, "No, they would never do that." It's not because I know about the character. It is because I have become the character and know how that character thinks.

When we write, we use our imaginations to their fullest. We transport ourselves to unknown lands, into made-up situations, and fanciful intrigue. But, mostly, we put on the skin of our characters. When we become them, it invites our readers to do likewise.

That's when the magic happens.

SO YOU WROTE A BOOK. NOW WHAT?

By John Paul Garner



I asked myself that question every time I self-published. I had no answer. So, last spring, on a whim, I registered with the LA Writer's Conference and paid \$29.00 for ten minutes in which to pitch my books to an agent. The conference was scheduled for September 10th. I paid to meet with three different agents, so roughly \$90.00.

It was the best money I have ever spent since I dared to start writing books.

Because ten minutes seemed like a long time, I researched on YouTube how to write and conduct an elevator pitch. I learned that the first 10-15 seconds of a pitch are the most critical. If you don't have their attention in that time, you won't later as well. I had a problem though. I was pitching two books. So, I busted butt writing and rewriting a synopsis of both books so that my entire pitch would be under one minute. As it turned out, my pitch lasted a little under two.

The Conference was conducted on Zoom and I was allowed to select from a list of agents to whom I would pitch my books. I chose two who specialized in romances and one in memoirs. On the day of the meeting, I was emailed a schedule when I'd meet with each agent and instructions on how link up with them. It was when I attempted to link with each that I think I got lucky and the Universe or Providence intervened because I had technical difficulties. They couldn't see or hear me. But I was able to chat with them and each sent me their email address so I could submit my pitch to them and—much to my delight—ten sample pages.

I did, which was followed by the hard part: waiting for a reply. The pitch I developed for both books is italicized below:

My first book—That Comeback Season—is a love story about an ordinary man who rises above adversity and does an extraordinary thing.

The story occurs during a five-month period. The main character is a retired veteran who overcomes a series of devastating losses, to include his wife leaving him for another man during his cancer's deadliest year. It is through running that he discovers his faith, through coaching his will to survive, and through the widow he meets, his love of life.

His love interest is a retired real estate agent who is drawn to him because he is so different from the men she has met at a dating website. She admires his don't-give-up approach to hardship. But because he's only been separated from his wife for two months, she distrusts that he is over her so quickly so she pushes him away while pulling him in. In spite of his disease, she refuses to abandon him and he refuses to withdraw.

Opposing him is a fearsome bully for whom physical toughness is a man's most essential characteristic. Their differences erupt in a head-on collision of wills and a bloody confrontation at season's end. This uniquely-formatted story is about persistence and how, because of it, the main character saves his life by discovering his passion for life.

The genre is romance and the word count is undetermined because the book is unfinished. I can complete an outline in a week and the book by December.

My second book—Rebellion—is about the small town in California that Hollywood loves to pick on. It's the true story about how freedom of speech and Facebook were used to oppose and expose the corrupt and self-serving mayor of Barstow, California. The main character is a malignant narcissist who tried to be a king—if not a dictator—and might have

(Continued on page 5)

succeeded had it not been for the power of free speech and how it undermined him and his plans to rule over this High Desert community of roughly 25,000 people.

The genre is narrative non-fiction. The book is currently 223 pages long, has 86,340 words, and uses photographs and documentation to support the narrative. Structured in vignettes, Rebellion covers a two-year period in which the mayor's actions were routinely scrutinized and reported on a Facebook page called Barstow Citizens. The book is finished except for the results of a reported FBI investigation into the mayor's involvement in Barstow's largest drug bust and the city's separate third-party investigation into his many abuses of power, which will be released on Monday, September 12th.

One agent didn't reply, another passed on the project, and the third sent me the following email:

Hi John--

I'm sorry that technical difficulties hampered our conversation but thanks for the follow up with your projects.

I'm happy to advise about the two projects you are working on. I think that the romance seems interesting and a twist on the current trends. Setting it in the sports world could set it apart from the other projects in the romance genre. I'd just caution you to not let it get too dark or sad.

And the non-fiction project also looks interesting. But unless this is your job or something you can build a platform on, non-fiction will be very difficult. You might consider fictionalizing the story. Fiction with a social consciousness backdrop is very in demand right now, so that would fit the bill.

When you are ready, please feel free to submit to me via my query manager site. I ask everyone who would like to submit to please go through that. That way nothing falls through the cracks.

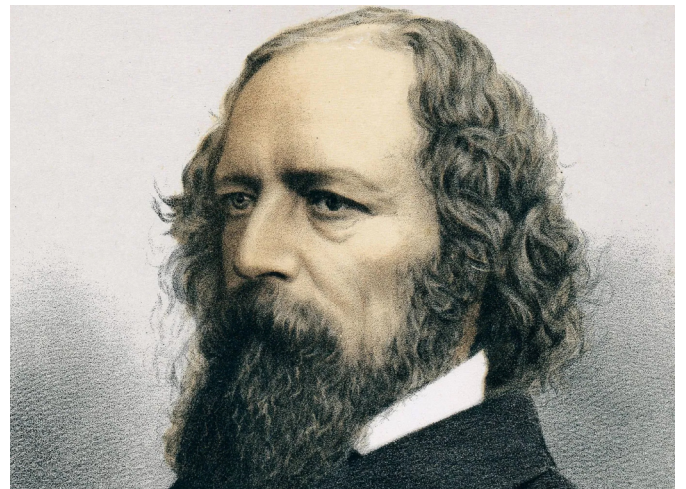
Many thanks,

Jill

Because of that reply, I'm busting butt again but I'm working on the romance which I now want to celebrate life after 50. There will be no clash of the Titans and no bloody confrontation. I have no idea what will come of this venture but I'm jacked by the fact that I got my foot in the door because I took a chance. In sharing this story with you, I'm suggesting that you should take a chance too.

*"Hope Smiles from the threshold of
the year to come, Whispering 'it will
be happier'..."*

— Alfred Tennyson



WRITERS ARE READERS

BOOK REVIEWS by Mary Langer Thompson



75 MASTERPIECES EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW

Sometimes a genre categorization or a title can limit our reading. At a recent C.S. Lewis conference I met the author of *75 Masterpieces Every Christian Should Know: The Fascinating Stories Behind Great Works of Art, Literature, Music, and Film*. After author Terry Glaspey signed my copy, he told me he did not want the title the publisher, Moody Publishers, gave his book because he was afraid those other than of the Christian faith would not pick it up. As I read and learned about the art masterpieces Glaspey discussed, I also wanted to change the title so that others might glean the information I was learning.

I read one of the 75 Masterpieces per day. That allowed me to think about the entry and art all day and do more research or find a CD, such as one by Johnny Cash, and play his songs in the car while thinking about his epiphany experience in a cave. John Coltrane, Bob Dylan, but also classical music and modern art are all included.

Glaspey covers a great deal of territory, beginning with paintings in the Roman Catacombs where art literally went underground, and taking us up through the film *The Tree of Life* in 2011. In 300, Christianity was not an acceptable religion and Christians were persecuted, so they communicated with simple paintings of biblical scenes and symbols, decorating the tombs of loved ones in a maze of catacombs. I was privileged to see *The Book of Kells*, an illuminated copy of the Latin translation of the four gospels, at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, many years ago. What I didn't know was that a group of monks created this masterpiece on an island off the western coast of Scotland. When Vikings attacked in 806, many monks were killed. The rest escaped to Ireland, where they established a monastery at Kells and brought the book with them.

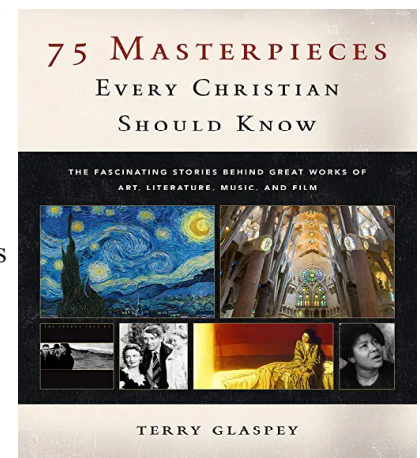
Have you ever heard the Gregorian chant, "the song of the angels"? Modern medical experts say this ancient form of singing has an "interiorizing effect." Listening can lower blood pressure, reduce anxiety and depression, and even ease chronic pain. Learn about gothic cathedrals, including Chartres Cathedral outside Paris and La Sagrada Familia Cathedral and modern architect Antoni Gaudi. Find out why the work of Hildegard of Bingen, a medieval nun who died in 1179, was rediscovered and translated in the late 1970s as the environmental movement came into full flower. Discover some designs and designers in stained glass, including Tiffany, Matisse, and Chagall.

Writers like Dante and his *The Divine Comedy*, along with Dostoyevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* are also included. Did you know Martin Luther wrote hymns like "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"? Poets like John Donne, George Herbert (who never published a single poem during his lifetime), Emily Dickinson, Gerard Manley Hopkins, T.S. Eliot and William Blake are not forgotten. John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress* is second in sales only to the Bible. Phrases like "the slough of despond," "vanity fair," "muckraker," and "worldly wise" all originated between its covers. Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and George MacDonald's *Fairy Tales* get their own chapter.

Music by Bach (*St. Matthew Passion*), Handel's *Messiah*, Mendelssohn's *Symphony No. 5, The Reformation*, can all be listened to after learning facts about their composition. Did you know that *Quartet for the End of Time*, 1941, was performed for the first time in a Nazi prisoner-of-war camp in Germany? Bob Dylan is seen as "a moralist in the tradition of the biblical prophets." His album *Infidels* and other albums are scrutinized through the lens of morality and Dylan is seen as "the Picasso of modern music." U2's *The Joshua Tree*, one of "the best rock albums of all time," shows "spiritual longing and struggle."

The film *Rome, Open City* was filmed as WWII was winding down. Rosellini tells the stories of some of the members of the resistance who fought against the Germans. And although It's a *Wonderful Life* by Frank Capra has been labeled "Capra Corn," his movies show "that the power of goodness can overcome evil and transform human nature." Films like *The Passion of Joan of Arc* are analyzed. The number 75 masterpiece is the film *The Tree of Life* by Terrence Malick, a film released in 2011 and described as more akin to poetry than prose. The film opens with a quotation from the book of Job and is described as a film about redemption.

As Debbie Rubio and I plan lessons for the Art and Ink MatterS program (AIMS), we will be looking at many of the artists in this book for lessons and ideas. It's a wonderful resource for program planning and personal knowledge of the arts. Five Stars.





Jenny Margotta

From an Editor's Desk

THE PASSING OF TIME

If you were anything like me as a kid, you started thinking about Christmas sometime in August or September. You poured through the Sears, Roebuck and Montgomery Wards “wish books” and started making your Christmas list, which grew longer as the days and weeks seemed to move with agonizing slowness. Finally . . . Thanksgiving came. Only a month more to go! But oh, how that month seemed to drag on and on and on. You began to worry the Christmas would never come.

Over the years, however, the seemingly endless span of time grew shorter and shorter and shorter—at least in your mind. Now, I often hear myself say, “Not only do my months and years run together, my decades are starting to blur,” and I wonder, where does all that time go?

Turns out it isn't just the impatience of a child or the busy life of an adult that seems to affect the passage of time. According to Adrian Bejan, a mechanical engineering professor at Duke University, physics can explain why time passes more quickly as you grow older.

Bejan states that “mind” time and “clock” time are two totally different things. Clock time is fixed; it measures a precise set of seconds, minutes, and hours and never varies. “Mind” time, however, is not fixed. It is based on the visual stimuli the mind receives. When we are young, our minds are capable of processing these visual images very quickly. As we age, however, this rate decreases as our vision changes and the pathways in our brains that transmit the visual images degrade. It is this change in the processing of images that creates the sense that time is speeding up.

Bejan explains something called saccadic eye movements, which occur a few times a second. Your brain processes the visual information sent by your eyes between these “sacaddes.” The younger you are, the shorter the period between these sacaddes. So, as a child—experiencing lots of new stimuli—time actually seems to be passing more slowly. The older you get, the longer the time between these sacaddes, making it seem as if time is passing more rapidly. Supposedly, fatigue can also adversely affect your “mental” time. When your brain is tired, it cannot work as effectively, so it is less able to simultaneously see and process visual images, again making it seem as if time is moving more rapidly.

I don't begin to understand all of it. Science has definitely never been one of my strong suits, but it's interesting to know that there's a reason my decades are running together and that today, December 26, it seems as if Thanksgiving was just last week, and the triple-digit heat wave we had last summer was just about a month ago. At this rate, I better start my Christmas shopping for next year tomorrow!

Happy New Year to everyone, whether it moves slowly and pleasantly or is over in a flash. Be well, be happy, and enjoy life.

(If your interested, you can read the entire article about Professor Bejan at https://getpocket.com/explore/item/physics-explains-why-time-passes-faster-as-you-age?utm_source=pocket-newtab)

WORD OF THE MONTH

SONDER [noun]: the realization that each random passerby is living a life as vivid and complex as your own—populated with their own ambitions, friends, routines, worries, and inherited craziness—an epic story that continues invisibly around you like an anthill sprawling deep underground, with elaborate passageways to thousands of other lives that you'll never know existed, in which you might appear only once, as an extra sipping coffee in the background, as a blur of traffic passing on the highway, as a lighted window at dusk. (<https://thethoughtcatalog.com>)

Coined in 2012 by John Koenig, whose project, *The Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows*, aims to come up with new words for emotions that currently lack words. Inspired by the German word SONDER meaning “special” and the French word SONDER meaning “to probe.” (<https://www.yourdictionary.com/sonder>)

A CHRISTMAS SALON

By Freddi Gold



A jolly good time was had by all at the Christmas/Holiday salon held at Lorelei's fantasy gold and purple festooned home. Pastries and sugar-plum delicacies with a Sangria toast to accompany added to the happy event.

Highlights included readings from the guests, some holiday-oriented and others of memories. Even a poem created solely by current technology offered added color to the evening.

With a wink and a nod, Santa Claus was dropped by his reindeer at the front door and joined us for pictures and fun. He gave bright, sequined gifts to only the really, really good girls and boys—Ho Ho Ho.



(L to R, clockwise) Mary Thompson, Mary Ruth Hughes, Jenny Margotta, Richard Spencer Bob Young Roberta Smith, Tina Newell, Freddi gold, Linda Borruf (sp)?, Lorelei Matsuda, Debbie Rubio And Mike Apodaca as Kris Kringle

WARMTH OF THE MORNING SUN

By fumi-tome ohta



Yesterday morning I was overcome with the breathtaking golden glow of the morning sun as it was rising in the Eastern horizon. As I looked out my window, I did not know that another being was listening to my oohs and ahs and lamenting not being able to see and feel and appreciate what I was seeing.

This morning, the sun was vibrant but not as intense as yesterday but still, it was a marvelous morning sun full of vibrancy with an innate feeling deep within of an unseen promise of happiness, wonder, and something deep within that cannot be seen or touched yet comes with an exploding feeling of Love with a capital 'L'.

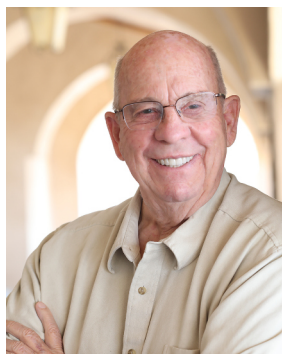
As I was taking the vase of flowers to the sink to slip off the tips of the stems and to give it fresh water, I heard a voice speaking to me in my mind. "Cairn, what does it feel like to feel the warmth of the morning sun?" The voice within startled me. I paused a moment; eyebrows went up then came together in the center of my forehead. Then, I heard the voice again, "Cairn, what does it feel like to feel the warmth of the morning sun?" I dismissed the voice within and continued readying the vase of chrysanthemums and rose to sit on the pedestal of my bedroom again.

Yesterday, I was meandering the garden, I was drawn to a particular rose just beginning to open its petals to life then, what else? I bought it home with me and now, here I am admiring the flowers, particularly the rose. I'm usually a 'set in my ways' kind of person but for some reason, I placed the vase on the ledge of my patio instead of taking it straight to my bedroom, then I purposely turned the rose to face fully into the warm morning sun. What's the matter with me? Why was I insistent on facing the rose directly to the sun instead of just placing the vase any which way as I usually do? I step back to admire both the beautiful purple spider chrysanthemum and the soft pink rose but again my eyes return to the rose. I lean toward the rose. "I'll let you enjoy the morning sun until the sun goes around the building." As I was walking away, I thought I heard a voice say, "Thank you, Cairn, umm, I love the warmth of the morning sun. Thank you for taking us into the warmth of the sun, je t'aime, mi amor."



THE FUTURE OF NEWS REPORTING

By Bob Isbill, CWC Vice President /Director of Publicity and Public Relations



Beginning the New Year of 2023, the HDCWC is proud to present longtime High Desert resident and *Daily Press* reporter, Rene De La Cruz. Self-described as News Reporter, Pastor, Podcaster, Videographer, American, Dodgers/Packers/StarWars/Tacos Fan, Rene is uniquely qualified to speak on the Future of Journalism and News Reporting.

The presentation begins at 10 am at the Community Church at Jess Ranch, 11537 Apple Valley

Road in Apple Valley. The public is invited and welcome to attend at no charge.

The California Writers Club is a century-old nonprofit organization with 2,000 members statewide. The club is dedicated to assisting writers at all levels of the craft to write, publish, and market their work. The High Desert Branch meets monthly on the second Saturday and welcomes writers of every genre and every stage of development of the craft of writing.

For more information, visit www.hdcwc.com or call 760.221.6367.



SALONS PUT ON HOLD

By Lorelei Kay

Although the Christmas Salon had been on hold for three years because of COVID, apparently, I should have postponed it another year. COVID is still a real threat, and unfortunately, it was an uninvited, unwanted guest at the Christmas Salon.

Three or four people—that we know of—contracted COVID during the festivities, including Santa. COVID has no Christmas spirit!

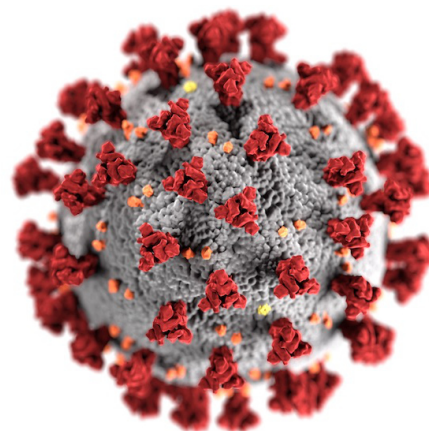
I left for Vegas to visit my daughter and family two days afterwards, not knowing I had been infected. My son-in-law now has Covid. I took my brother Christmas shopping, and now he is hospitalized with Covid. The virus spreads so quickly and before we even know we have it, and many times the first symptoms are so slight we might think it's just a cold.

So dear friends, although there have been plans for two salons in January, we're putting a temporary hold on any salons. This is a matter of caution and attempting to keep all of our members safe.

The Grinch this Christmas is named COVID!

Happy New Year and good health to all,

Lorelei Kay



MORNING, NEIGHBOR

By Ann Miner

“Mornin’, neighbor.” The little boy across the street called to me and waved. “It’s a bootiful mornin’ to be outside!”

Indeed, it is. I stand at my kitchen window in awe of the life in my backyard. Scrub Jays come to snatch a peanut and spread their lovely blue wings as they glide to safety under the greasewood to rescue the morsel inside the shell.

A small flock of red-winged blackbirds huddles around the hanging feeder, munching on black-oiled sunflower seeds. We are pleased to see them when they stop by every few weeks.

A white-crowned sparrow bathes in the birdbath while beside him, cousin house finch, sporting his red head, sips the cool water.

And, yay! The little goldfinches are back! Where have they been? Time to add Nijer to their breakfast fare.

MoUrning doves chortle and coo as they forage under the seed bins. They’re regulars...sort of old friends.

And, ah yes, a male Annas hummingbird hovers in the sun just long enough to show off his iridescent red throat before sipping at the sweet nectar waiting for him.

The dessert for the morning is the cottontails, having a standoff, then a game of tag, jumping up and down and over each other. We laugh!

It’s all in the timing of looking out the window at the right moments. And all in the span of about 15 minutes.

Made even more special to share the delight with my daughter.



HDCWC JANUARY 2023 BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 6 RUSTY LAGRANGE

JANUARY 8 ANGIE HORN

JANUARY 9 ANITA HOLMES

JANUARY 18 ROBERT YOUNG

JANUARY 22 TOM FOLEY

JANUARY 22 DWIGHT NORRIS

GOOD NEWS FROM A DISTANT LAND

December 1, 2022

Dear Apple Valley Friends,

An early Christmas greeting to you in the high desert. I hope you all had a good Thanksgiving. Mine was unusual. I spent the day at my daughter Elaine's and her husband Jim's with their son Evan and his wife Rhonda, and good friends Abaan and Ahmad. No one cares for Turkey, so instead we had a wonderful collaborative pescatarian meal - mostly Indian food. We ate Masala salmon, biryani rice, dal, curried eggplant, roasted Brussels sprouts, raita, cranberry ginger relish, mango chutney, and fruit salad. There was plenty of tasty food and good company.

I'm doing well here at Heritage Estates, and my vision has improved. I'm still getting treatments for macular degeneration and will have to take meds forever, but I'm so happy I can see as well as I do. I was able to read the California Writers Club Literary Review that recently arrived. Congratulations to Mary Thompson for her delightful poem and Mike Apodaca for his thoughtful story. Also, kudos to Anita Holmes and Lorelei Kay for their hard work. This issue of the Literary Review is the best one ever, and I am inspired to write something for the next one.

I am delighted to be in this area so close to my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Betty is six, Timmy is three, and Teddy just turned one. They are darling.

Early next year I will be moving to the independent side of this facility, and my address will change slightly, but for now the current one is good.

Lots of Love,
Diane

If you would like to contact Diane Neil
she may be reached at:

**850 E. Stanley Blvd., nApt. 90
Livermore, CA 94550**





BORIS PASTERNAK

I had no idea when I read *Doctor Zhivago* just how important a novel it was, and how much of a risk it was to publish it.

Boris Pasternak, poet, novelist, and musician, was born in Moscow on February 10, 1890. His father was the well-known painter Leonid Pasternak, and his mother was a pianist.

Pasternak attended the Moscow Conservatory to study music. Novelist Leo Tolstoy was a close family friend. "My father illustrated his books, went to see him, revered him, and the whole house was imbued with his spirit." In 1910, when Tolstoy was murdered by the government, Leonid Pasternak was informed by telegram.

Pasternak fell in love with Ida Wissotzkaya, a girl from a family of tea merchants. They met during the summer of 1912 when Boris' father painted her portrait. When Pasternak proposed, her family convinced her to refuse.

After studying and writing abroad, Boris returned to Russia and joined the futurist group Centrifuge. It was in their journal that some of his poems were first printed. Pasternak's first two poetry books were published shortly thereafter. His early material cloaks his passion for philosophy. Its structure included alliterations, rhythmic combinations, and hidden allusions. He then wrote *Rupture* (1921), which was praised as unbridled inspiration.

A failed love affair inspired his poetry book *My Sister, Life*. When it was published, it revolutionized Russian poetry, and made him a celebrity.

During World War I, Pasternak taught music and worked in a chemical factory. When the Soviet Revolution started, he remained in Moscow. Like his protagonist, Yuri Zhivago, he was impressed by the spirit of the Bolsheviks, but soon doubted their claims, style, and qualifications. His work reflected this and before long, his life in Russia grew precarious.

Pasternak felt his style couldn't be understood by the less educated, so he rewrote his earlier pieces. He also wrote autobiographical prose and interpreted other writers material.

In 1922, he married Evgeniya Lurye, a student at the Art Institute. The following year their son was born.

By 1932, he'd reshaped his style and published his new collection of poems, *The Second Birth*.

Pasternak fell in love with Zinaida Neuhaus, the wife of a Russian pianist. They were both granted divorces and married two years later.

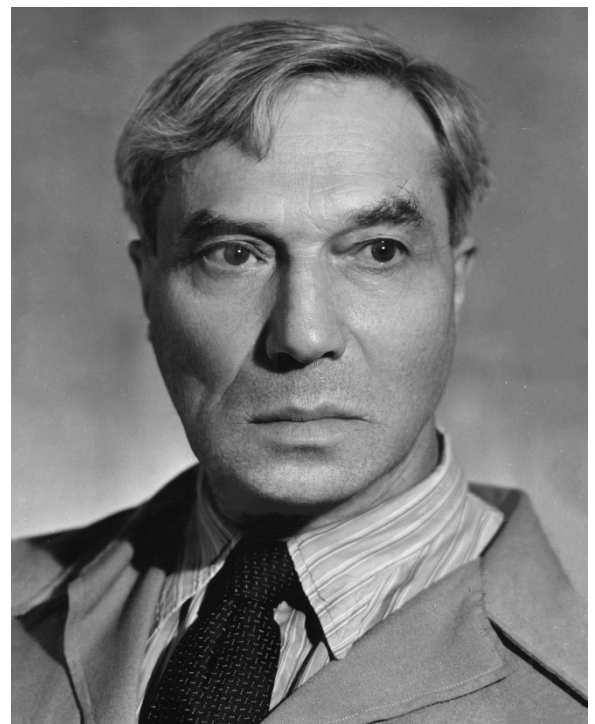
On May, 14, 1934, his friend and fellow writer, Osip Mandelstam, was arrested and Pasternak begged for his release. Soon after, he received a phone call from "Comrade Stalin," who rudely demanded: "Tell me, what they're saying in your literary circles about the arrest of Mandelstam?" Pasternak denied any such discussion or that there were any Russian literary circles left.

During the 1937 show trials, the Soviets insisted that all literary members should add their names to supporting the death penalty. Pasternak refused to sign, even after being threatened. Later, he appealed to the unpredictable Stalin, placing his own life in danger. Pasternak was certain he would be arrested, but instead Stalin is said to have crossed his name off an execution list.

Some of Pasternak's closest friends were targeted in the "Great Purge." He described his friends' executions and suicides as the greatest heartbreaks of his life.

During World War II, when the Luftwaffe bombed Moscow, Pasternak served as a fire warden. He visited soldiers at the most dangerous locations, the front lines.

At the end of the war, people hoped Stalin's purges would stop. But thousands of innocents were incarcerated, or executed, while ethnic



(Continued on page 14)

BORIS PASTERNAK

(Continued from page 13)

groups were deported to Siberia. Pasternak said, "If, in a bad dream, we had seen all the horrors in store for us after the war."

In October 1946, Pasternak met Olga Ivinskaya and gave her volumes of his poetry and literary translations. Although Pasternak never left his wife, he had an affair with Olga that lasted the remainder of his life

In 1949, the KGB arrested Olga. Her apartment was ransacked and all items connected with Pasternak were confiscated. She was imprisoned but refused to incriminate him. At the time, she was pregnant with his child and suffered a miscarriage during her ten-year sentence. Pasternak wrote, "She was put in jail on my account . . ." After her release, they continued their relationship.

Pasternak's personal life, along with his experiences with communism, inspired his ultimate masterpiece. *Doctor Zhivago* a love story and a depiction of life in Soviet Russia, was completed in 1955. He submitted it to *Novy Mir*, which turned it down because of its "rejection of socialist realism."

In 1956, the Italian Communist Party sent a journalist to the Soviet Union. Learning of *Doctor Zhivago*, he offered to submit it to Feltrinelli's company for publication. Pasternak was aware he was taking a risk, but believed that publication by a communist affiliation could force the Soviet Union to publish his novel.

In 1957, Feltrinelli announced that *Doctor Zhivago* would be published. The Soviet government forced Pasternak to cable them to retract the manuscript, but he mailed secret letters asking Feltrinelli to ignore the telegrams.

Doctor Zhivago became an immediate sensation throughout the world.

To be continued next month.



"Time has no divisions to mark its passage, there is never a thunder-storm or blare of trumpets to announce the beginning of a new month or year. Even when a new century begins it is only we mortals who ring bells and fire off pistols."

—Thomas Mann



**HIGH DESERT BRANCH OF THE
CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS AND
APPOINTED POSITIONS ARE CURRENT
UNTIL THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR
ENDING IN JULY 2023.

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

lindaboruff471@gmail.com

PROGRAMS/PUBLICITY

Bob Isbill

risbill@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP

Michel Raff

mprseven@aol.com

SALON COORDINATOR

Loralie Kay

LoreleiKay7@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Richard Zone

retiredzone@gmail.com

WEBMASTER

Roberta Smith

hdcwc_web@aol.com

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

By Michael Raff

You have to hold your audience in writing to the very end—much more than in talking, when people have to be polite and listen to you.

-Brenda Ueland, writer.

MEMBERS ONLY

Take advantage of your membership benefits

- Free advertising and free posting of your book titles and latest project,
 - Free PR author's webpage
 - To find out more, contact a board member or Roberta Smith, our webmaster.
- You can also review your Benefits Booklet online at: www.HDCWC.com

HDWC'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Catch the latest happenings at:
youtube.com/@HDCWC

FREE ADVERTISING

Do you provide a service that could benefit other writers?

Send a JPEG file of your business card or ad to
retiredzone@gmail.com

We'll advertise it free of charge!

SUBMITTING TO THE INKSLINGER

- We seek articles and stories of between **200 to 500** words.
- Poetry submissions are welcome as are photos and illustrations accompanying submissions.
- Please avoid sending items that are embedded in other media (like Word files). Simply attach items to email.
- Submit in Microsoft Word.
- Send submissions to Richard Zone:
retiredzone@gmail.com.

Call Richard if you would like to discuss an article or idea

909-222-8812

