



The INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC
Inspiring a Community of Writers

Sail On

July 2021



Club Meetings for July

Saturday July 10th 10:00 AM

Tuesday July 20th 6:00 PM

Gregory Cumming, Ph.D

The Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA), as it existed originally, endured for a brief 192 days. It formed in the months leading up to November 1973 in Oakland, California. In concentrating their activities around the Berkeley area, the SLA had hoped to recapture the excitement and passion of the protest movements of the 1960s.

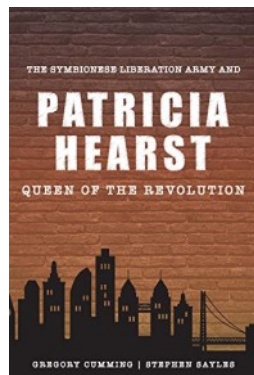
Patricia Hearst's actions suggest she became a willing participant in the SLA after her kidnapping. Her transformation into Tania, the urban guerilla, left the country in shock. Unlike any group before or after, the SLA had unlimited access to the media. The world watched in horror and amazement as the SLA continued to wreak havoc and outmaneuver the FBI time and time again.

Gregory Cumming, Ph.D is the resource archivist and staff historian at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum and author of *The Symbionese Liberation Army and Patricia Hearst, Queen of the Revolution*.

Dr. Cumming will talk about the challenges and opportunities of writing a historical account of a famous person.

Dr. Gregory Cumming obtained his B.A. (1986) in history at the University of LaVerne and M.A. (1988) and PhD (2010) in history at the University of California, Riverside.

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Mike Apodaca How to Get Paid

I recently talked with one of our members doing a book sale. They communicated that they had some trouble making change and that they missed out on sales because people didn't have the cash.

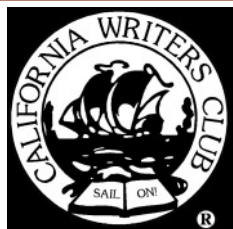
I asked if they had the means to take debit cards or credit cards. They did not. I explained that with a small device, which is very inexpensive, you can set yourself up to receive money from customers in multiple ways.

This made me realize that, as our board is always trying to support the needs of our club, we need to have a meeting where we discuss receiving money through money transfer.

Who is this meeting for? Firstly, anyone who wishes to sell their books in person (which should be all who have published). Secondly, this meeting is for those who've already started using these technologies and may be able to share from their personal experiences. So, finally, this meeting is for everyone. Please put it on your calendar. We've been stymied for some time. Let's go out and sell our books with all the tools available to us.



High Desert branch
of
California Writers
Club
Board of Directors



*The following officers
and appointed positions are current to
the fiscal year of July 2021.*

President

Dwight Norris
hdcwcpresidentdnorris@gmail.com

Vice President

Mike Apodaca
MrDaca.ma@gmail.com

Secretary

Joan Rudder-Ward
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Treasurer

Jenny Margotta
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Bob Isbill
Risbill@aol.com

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Webmaster

Roberta Smith
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In 1989, Dr. Cumming joined the staff of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley as an archivist. In 2003, Dr. Cumming moved to the Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace in Yorba Linda, CA, as the director of archives programs. In 2006, he re-joined the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) as the Supervisory Archivist of the new federal Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum and is currently serving as the library's staff historian. Dr. Cumming also serves as a senior adjunct professor at the University of LaVerne where, since 2005, he has taught upper division courses on the Civil War and Reconstruction, California History, The Sixties, American Involvement in Vietnam, The Reagan Years and lower division survey courses on U.S. history, colonial to present and world civilizations.

Dr. Cumming is currently researching President Ronald Reagan and his speechwriters for what he anticipates will be a book and several articles. The premise of the book will be the conservative roots of many of President Reagan's speechwriters and their impact upon the administration and the nation.

Stemming from his dissertation, Dr. Cumming co-authored a history of the Symbionese Liberation Army and the fall of the New Left. The title of the book is *Queen of the Revolution: Patricia Hearst and the Symbionese Liberation Army*. Dr. Cumming also published two articles pertaining to his upcoming book: *The Symbionese Liberation Army: Coming Together, 1973* (History Compass, June 2011) and *A Terrorist Cell's Final Days* (Prologue, Spring 2012).

Gregory Cumming is a native of San Jose, CA. He and his wife, Lupe, and children Taylor and Jake, reside in Yorba Linda, CA.

For what it's worth
Writing is immersive

Our Address

HDCWC
17645 Fisher Street
Victorville, CA 92395



Dwight Norris
from the
President

August 14th

First face-to-face HDCWC meeting since January, 2020

Wow! That sounds like a long time ago! I remember we were just starting to hear about the pandemic and had lots of questions—who was the most vulnerable, what precautions had to be taken, and how would it affect our lives. We really had no idea!

We had to wear masks. Initially, we had no idea how long we would have to do this. I think we were told at the beginning two to three weeks to flatten the curve. Then we'd be okay. Well, not exactly. More than a year and a half later we would finally be able to take off our masks. And now, if you go into a store, customers can go in without restrictions, but employees in many establishments still have to wear a mask.

In early 2020, I heard of a bank manager who approached a masked customer she knew and said to him, "You know Bob, if you came in here looking like this a year ago, I would have called the police on you. Now, if you *didn't* come in here wearing a mask, I'd have to call security." Times change.

Before our February meeting, our vice president Mike Apodaca, was preparing to sanitize the recreation hall at the church where we meet. He was going to wipe down every table, all the chairs, spray the air with some type of disinfectant aerosol, and put special germ-fighting soap in the restrooms. When I heard all the precautions Mike was going to take just to keep us safe, I thought, "You know what? Maybe we should just cancel the meeting!"

That's what we ended up doing. I sent a mass email to our membership on the Friday before the meeting so people would know not to come. But we knew that everyone would not check their emails before the meeting and that we would have some visitors show up. So instead of all that spray and wiping things down, Mike and I were out there in the parking lot between 9:00 and 10:00 telling people

that the meeting had been cancelled. We had no way to know we could not assemble together again for over a year and a half. It would have been hard to believe, but that's the way it worked out.

As a club we are like a big family. We are a family of writers, a supportive writing community that shares a common bond and passion. Each of us freely celebrates the victory of the other. I look at our coming meeting on August 14th as a long-overdue family reunion.

We have missed each other. For that reason, at our August meeting we are not having an outside speaker to teach us some aspect of the craft of writing. Instead, we want to revel in the joy of coming together again.

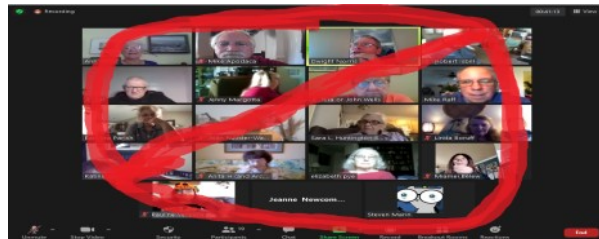
That's what families do at reunions. They celebrate coming together again with food and music. I'm thinking maybe we could find some help for Rita and have some really special food items. Wasn't there a cake out there in somebody's freezer? Oh wait, you're right. Maybe we could buy a new one. And with a little luck, we might be able to have some special music on hand. This family is full of surprises!

We need to catch up with one another. What have you been writing? What projects have you been working on? Would you like to get into a critique group? To make this reunion as complete as possible, we want everyone who is part of this family to be present, no matter what it takes.

We also want guests, so bring a friend. Let them also revel in the joy of literary creativity and self-expression. Let them meet some new friends. And could you believe that we, through all that we've been through, actually have a larger writing family? Yes, we do! And some who have joined are already accomplished writers.

Also, we want to make this the kind of meeting where nobody feels like a stranger. So if you look across the room and see a face that is new to you, please go to that person and introduce yourself. Greet them, and ask them what their interests or accomplishments are in writing.

This meeting will stand out as a fun and festive event in the history of the HDCWC. I can't wait to see everyone!





Mike Apodaca

from the
Vice President

Writing Fast!

This morning I came to the computer to write a scene for the book I'm working on. Nearly two hours later I'd written over a thousand words. In this time I also made myself breakfast and watched my niece's graduation online. How could I write so fast today when I was forcing myself to spit out word after word yesterday? Why was today so much more fun and satisfying? What's going on here?

Let me be clear; I'm not talking about the careful writing, editing, and polishing involved in a final draft. These endproducts need to be as perfect as we can make them. I'm referring to the initial quick writing we all do to get our ideas on the page—the *first write* from off the top of the head.

In comparing the difference between the two days, I came up with some rules I'm going to follow.

Rule 1: Know the conflict of the scene and have a lot of it. Boring scenes are very hard to write because throughout we are telling ourselves, make it better while the other half of our brain is whining, *I'm trying!* Scenes brimming with conflict tend to write themselves.

Rule 2: Be a head hopper. Although your scene will be written from the perspective of one important character, know the agendas of every person on site. Also, make the agendas nuanced. Simplistic scenes where one character is totally right and everyone else is totally wrong are boring. Create a scene where the reader can identify with the feelings and motivations of the antagonist. It makes for a much more interesting read.

Rule 3: Don't seek resolution, seek explosion. Readers don't want everything tied up in a bow—at least not initially. They want conflict to lead to bigger conflict. Readers want to get to the end saying, "How will this all come together?" Putting your reader on the edge of their seats is what makes them turn pages and look forward to your next story.

Rule 4: Use a lot of dialogue. Readers enjoy hearing your characters talk, yell, complain, gossip, etc. Great richness can be found in well-done dialogue. You can communicate your character by the words they use and their speech patterns. You can express their mood by what they say and the intensity with which they say it. Lastly, when done well, your reader stops reading all together and actually hears your characters going at it. I know I'm not the only one who has voices in my head while I read.

Rule 5: Keep your descriptions simple—at first. You can always go back and create graphic visualizations of your settings and breathtaking descriptions of your characters—their dress, mannerisms, etc. But save all that for the second write. When doing your first write, just get words on the page. Now, if a clever phrase, metaphor, or simile comes to mind while you're writing, put it in, by all means. But don't look for your first writing to be your best writing.

Rule 6: Feel as you write. We need to write from our guts as well as our minds. Readers come to our work, most often, for an emotional experience. I cherish the books that I've finished with tears streaming down my cheeks. Writing should be an emotional roller coaster. If you haven't laughed while writing a scene that's supposed to be funny, you were probably writing from your head, not your heart. If you don't have tears in your eyes when something terrible happens to someone in your story, then your reader probably won't care either. When we find ourselves wishing a book wouldn't end, it's because of what we have felt while reading.

Scenes brimming with conflict tend to write themselves.

When James Scott Bell presented to our club, he told us he writes 6,000 words a week. I've been trying to match him, with less than stellar results—two weeks out of nine. But now I see how I can get more words on the page in much less time and in a way that's far more enjoyable. I need to put these six rules to bear and think more about the scene before I write. I'm pretty excited. Time to look at the next scene and let it ruminate so I'm ready to write fast tomorrow.

PS Since writing this piece, I've met my goal every week. Yay!





Jenny Margotta

from an

EDITOR'S DESK

SOAPBOX {noun} \ 'sōp-,bāks

1. an improvised platform used by a self-appointed, spontaneous, or informal orator, broadly: some-thing that provides an outlet for delivering opinions



I will admit I can be somewhat obsessive about the correct use of the English language. I see red when I'm told, "What's the problem? You understood what I meant, right?"

Yes, in most cases I understood. But just because the meaning was clear, doesn't mean it was correct.

There are three glaring errors in language that I hear more and more often, and they drive me nuts! It seems like every night I find myself correcting actors on screen. Not that they ever listen to me, but I keep trying.

I versus me

"I" is always subjective; "me" is always objective. That is, "I" does something, "me" is the recipient. Everyone seems to get the subjective usage correct: "I went to the store, I have many books, I love cheesecake." But for some reason, the objective "me" is a problem. I can't tell you how many times a week I hear something like, "David took Jane and I to dinner." No!

I don't think anyone would say "David took I to dinner." Just because Jane is included doesn't change the grammar.

One of the excuses I've been given for this misuse is that people think saying "I" makes them sound more intelligent. Nope! Wrong is wrong, no matter how you dress it up. It's easy to figure out: Just take "Jane" out of the mix and the correct use—me—in my example becomes perfectly clear.

Bring versus Take

I may be even more irritated by this misuse than the "I" and "me" issue. And again, the rule is simple. "Bring" and "take" are directional. "Bring" is for movement *towards* the speaker. "Take" is for any other direction. Think: "bring it *to* me" and "take it *away*."

For example, A party invitation might include the request to "Bring a covered dish." The movement will be *towards the speaker* (when you drive *to* the host's house) when you take (*away* from your house) the cake with you.

Another example, maybe even more simple than the first one is, you might ask your spouse, "Please, take out the trash." You wouldn't say, "Frank, bring the trash to the street." Not unless you were already standing on the street!

Have went/had went

I cringe when I hear this one. There is absolutely no reason other than simply not caring to ever use "have went" or "had went" in any sentence. When fully conjugating the verb "to go," there are 12 Indicative forms, 4 conditional forms, and 3 subjective forms: "went" appears on only 2 of them: simple past tense and past subjunctive, and the two are identical: I went, he went, you went, we went. That's it.

So now I'm going to take my soapbox back to the garage and bring a bottle of Pepsi back in with me. Then I need to call Wendy to tell her that I went to her house yesterday. but no one was home. I'm calling today to let her know that Diana wants to take Wendy and me to lunch on Wednesday, and the only thing we need to bring is our appetites.

Image credit: Pixaby.com

WORD OF THE MONTH

Divagate (di·va·gate) [ˈdīvəˌgāt] VERB literary: 1. stray or digress

"Yeats divagated into Virgil's territory only once."

synonyms: swerve, career, skew, swing, sheer, weave, wheel

The Most Famous Authors of All Time

BY
Michael Raff



Fyodor Dostoevsky

Fyodor Dostoevsky (1821-1881) was born in Moscow, Russia. He worked as an engineer but additionally translated books which most likely led him into becoming a novelist. He was also a philosopher, short story writer, essayist, journalist, and edited several magazines. In all he wrote 12 novels, 4 novellas, 16 short stories and other works. His most acclaimed novels are: *Crime and Punishment*, *The Idiot*, *Demons*, and *The Brothers Karamazov*. His writings explored human psychology in the troubled political, social and spiritual atmosphere of 19th century Russia. He was influenced by Shakespeare, Dickens, Hugo, Poe and other writers. His first published book, *Poor Folk*, was perhaps Russia's earliest social novel.

Dostoevsky was arrested in 1849 for belonging to a literary group that discussed banned books that were critical of Tsarist Russia. The judges for his trial included the Tsar himself. He was found guilty and sentenced to be executed by a firing squad. Just before it was carried out, however, his sentence was commuted, and Dostoevsky was sent to a Siberian prison camp for four years plus military service in exile for six years. He was labeled "One of the most dangerous convicts" and his hands and feet were shackled much of the time.

Dostoevsky's political beliefs concerned social change and to have Russia become Christian. (He was an Orthodox Christian). He suffered from seizures and became addicted to gambling, which impoverished him and his family, and at times he begged for money. Although he suffered greatly during his brief 59 years, he's perhaps the most successful and well-known Russian author.

In high school, I read *Crime and Punishment*, no easy task for a teenager to tackle a 546-page Russian novel featuring numerous characters with hard-to-pronounce names, and a psychological plot. But looking back on it, the novel mesmerized me. The protagonist, Raskolnikov, kills a shady old pawn

broker for money and her half-sister, who just happened to walk in during the murder. He ends up not stealing much and proceeds to suffer disastrous moral and psychological consequences. The plot has so many dark and gut-wrenching moments, it would captivate the most avid horror fan. What Dostoevsky accomplished was he took a decent but desperate man, who loves his mother and siblings and is involved with a supportive woman who has been forced into prostitution, and ravages him with unbearable mental anguish. It turns out that Raskolnikov turns himself in after someone else has confessed to his crimes. Because of that, he only serves eight years of penal servitude. What I learned from *Crime and Punishment* was that Raskolnikov suffered more from guilt than imprisonment. Patricia Bauer, a distinguished professor of psychology, described *Crime and Punishment* as a "masterpiece . . . and one of the finest studies of the psychopathology of guilt."

Dostoevsky's other masterpiece, *The Brothers Karamazov*, at nearly 800 pages, is a philosophical novel that delves into questions of God, free will and morality and confronts the subject of patricide.

Soon after finishing his novel *The Brothers Karamazov*, Dostoevsky died at the age of 59 from a series of pulmonary hemorrhages.

Fascinating facts about Dostoevsky:

His books have been translated into 170 languages.

His novel *The Idiot* is based on what he believed to be his last moments while awaiting execution.

Both *Crime and Punishment* and *The Brothers Karamazov* have been made into movies.

Until next time, keep reading and writing!



MAGGIE DOWNS
SHARED WITH US . . .
ABOUT WRITING MEMOIRS



When I come to listen and learn from a speaker at a club meeting, I am looking for two things: 1) A special take-away, something I can use right away in my writing, and 2) To hear the voice of an expert, someone who has lived what they are presenting and can speak to the topic out of the wisdom that comes from being in the trenches.

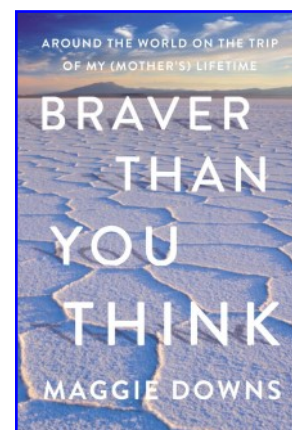
This is what I received from Maggie Downs when she presented to our club on June 12. It was a most satisfying experience.

Ms. Downs' presentation focused on the structures that we use to provide the unseen shape to our writing. I thought of it in terms of a skeleton. I collect animal skulls. Skulls can tell you a lot about how an animal lives. It is the invisible underlying structure. In the same way, Maggie Downs explained to us how she struggled for nine years to finally come to terms with the structure of her book, *Braver Than You Think*. Once she discovered the underlying shape of the book—a stegosaurus—she was able to write the book with comfort and confidence. The stegosaurus approach creates mini-climaxes which build to the final climax and resolution.

Why is structure such a big deal for the writer? As Ms. Downs explained, structure does three things for the reader: 1) It gives direction. The structure shows the reader where the story is going. 2) It aids in the presentation of content. Once you have your structure figured out, the scenes in your story fall

into place, following your main plotline. 3) It provides momentum. The structure can propel the reader, building anticipation. The structure helps the reader feel comfortable in the story, building trust that the author knows where the story is headed and can get the reader there in a way that is enjoyable.

In regard to memoir there are three considerations. We need to consider the time-line. What period of time does the piece cover? Are you writing about a life-time or a particular incident or day in the life of the protagonist? Another consideration is the setting. Where does the story take place? Are there multiple settings? How does each setting affect the story? Finally, we need to consider how many story-lines we will include. Will we write a linear memoir, tracing our subject chronologically? Or will we place two story lines side by side, as Jenny Margotta-Ferrara does in her excellent book, *The Woman in Room 23*? Ms. Downs called this a "Braided Approach," where two separate threads are woven throughout the story and come together in the end.



Ms. Downs also shared how to get started. She suggested we create a table of contents for our work or write bullet points. She explained how she wrote her book using 3x5 cards. This gave her the ability to examine her individual scenes for their physical movement and emotional relevance. Using this approach she originally threw out many of the planned scenes in her book. These holes then had to be filled with better scenes.

This was a clear presentation from an author who practices what she preaches.

If you missed this very professional presentation, you can find it on our YouTube channel. It is well worth watching.

You can follow Maggie Downs

On Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/maggiedowns>

On Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/downsanddirty>

On Instagram at: <https://www.instagram.com/maggielink/>

Maggie Downs is a much sought-after speaker and we were very fortunate to have her come and share with us on our Saturday Zoom meeting.

Mike Apodaca





Act 2

Are We Ready?

Being a writer is not what it used to be. In the good old days an author would write a book, get an agent, and then (hopefully) sign up with a publisher and see their work in print. The publisher would give an advance and do a promotional campaign. Authors simply wrote.

Although some authors still choose this route, it's becoming a less likely way for those wishing to publish their works and gain readers.

On June 22nd, our own Bob Isbill shared with us the realities of being an author in today's world. He explained what it takes to promote our books—and really, ourselves, through speaking engagements.

Bob Isbill is responsible for securing speakers for our HDCWC meetings. We're always amazed at the authors he gets to come and share with us. Bob's vision is that we would also become authors who will be asked to speak at various venues, especially to promote our books.

In his presentation, Bob shared with us the importance of putting together a promotion package. The package should contain several headshots, a one-page promotion, a short

What Do We Need to Give Our Producer?

- A headshot
- A brief bio
- Talk topics
- An introduction
- Cell phone number

explanation of your book(s), and a press release. The point is for us to make things as easy for the producer (our contact person) as possible. When they have everything in hand, they can easily promote our speaking engagement.

Bob didn't get into the nuts and bolts of our presentations. He referred our members to the excellent presentation given by Roger Lubeck on how to give a presentation.

Those of us who work with Bob are often impressed with his visionary perspective. Before you can fully assimilate an idea he gave you, he'll add another one.

Bob sees a day when we have a cadre of writer/speakers who can share various aspects of writing—especially related to their own writing. These speakers will one day become the core for writing conferences and seminars put on by our club. They will also be tapped to teach in our future DCB Memoir projects.

It's helpful in today's writing world if an author can also do appearances in order to promote their ideas. Every writer can have two or three presentations they are ready to give at a moment's notice. We never know when opportunity will come knocking.

Thanks, Bob!



Five Things You Need to do a Presentation

By Bob Isbill

Here is a summary of our discussion following the presentation on Act 2 on Tuesday, July 22nd. It can be found on our website at: <https://www.hdcwc.com/presentation-preparation.html>. The following information is provided for those of you who are interested in our program exclusive to the High Desert Branch of the CWC.

The Insight for Writers Presentation Program is simply:

1. A speakers' bureau
2. A program where writers can sell their books
3. A critique group for presenters
4. A source of personal development through collaboration
5. A coordinated effort of publicizing our writers
6. A source of speakers for community organizations
7. A HDCWC resource for teachers of the craft
8. A place to incentivize writers to promote their work

The IFWPP is a place where writers can improve, perfect and present their talks to others who will constructively critique their presentations and offer suggestions on how to perfect the talk.

Participants may request suggestions on topics they could offer, and others can help draw out those topics through discussion and brainstorming.

The HDCWC will hopefully seek out gigs for our writers to do presentations in desirable venues where presentations are optimized through vetting the venue.

Participants are encouraged to become the very best "go to" person on a particular segment of the craft of writing.

Speakers learn by teaching. Participants may be asked to teach a segment of the craft of writing in a classroom environment.

Vetted speakers will be promoted to other branches of the CWC to give talks and have opportunities to sell their books.

Speakers who are engaged through the IFWPP will be promoted through press releases and other advertising as the HDCWC can accommodate.

Some goals:

Develop and promote a speaker's bureau.

Develop a 10- or 12-week writing workshop for the public.

Develop a pool of teachers for DCB memoir projects and other educational events.

Do we have the capacity? I believe we do.

Do we have the interest? The Author's Interest Survey indicates we do have the interest. Now it is time for a more personal response by sending your expression of interest in hearing more to Bob Isbill via email at risbill@aol.com.

Simply put in the heading of your email "I am interested" and in the body of your email the following:
Your name.

By doing so, you will be put on a list of those interested in hearing more and possibly participating in an in-person meeting. You may also be sent further surveys to get a better understanding of our writers' needs and interests.



Suggestions From Success Publish Your Poetry

Thanks to Lorelei Kay for these helpful suggestions



Dancing Poetry Contest

<http://dancingpoetry.com/dpfpoetrycontestrules.html>

A yearly contest – Lorelei won third prize last year. Submit yearly by mail. Open January thru April 15

AEI Contest Chair, Judy Cheung
704 Brigham Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Poets & Patrons, Inc.

<https://www.poetsandpatrons.net/sonnet-contest>

Lorelei won in the Formal Verse Division as well as the Social Conscience Division of the 64th Annual Chicagoland Poetry Contest. Check for rotating contests. Poetry submissions: July 15-August 30

The 2021 Helen Schaible International Sonnet Contest

Deadline: July 15, 2021

Contest Categories & Rules

Categories: #1 Traditional Sonnet – Shakespearean or Petrarchan
#2 Modern Sonnet

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FAIR

When the fair opens back up, you can submit poetry there. Lorelei won Best of Show, First Place, and Judges Choice.

San Gabriel Valley Poetry Festival

<https://2021sgvpf.blogspot.com/2021/04/entrant-5.html>

Entrees must be in by the beginning of April

Lorelei took first prize 2021

Don Kingfisher Campbell – Spectrum

Don has rotating contests announced on Facebook. He publishes liberally.

Add him as a friend and follow.



More publishing opportunities: Hope Clark: hope@fundsforwriters.com

Haiku Universe: info@haikuniverse.com At least two of our members have published here



Say, “Cheese!”



TIME TO GET THAT PROFESSIONAL HEAD SHOT

For those of you who attended the Act II meeting of June 22, you know that the HDCWC is in the process of coordinating a **professional photo shoot** for its members. The details are as follows: Through an arrangement we have made with branch secretary and professional photographer/videographer Joan Rudder Ward, we are able to offer an extraordinary value for two professional headshots for only \$30. Joan will provide 2 jpeg files of softly retouched photos. Each photo will have one 5x7 300 dpi format and an emailable publicity jpeg file for your portfolio. That is not a typo. The cost for each photo is \$15 when combined in this deal!



This remarkable value would ordinarily cost \$150. This is only one more example of getting your money's worth out of being a member of the HDCWC!

We must make this for members only until July 25th or until we get fifty (50) paid commitments. After July 25th, we will open it up to member's spouses until a total of fifty is reached.

Unfortunately, PayPal will not be available for this amazing offer. Personal checks or money orders made out to **The Image Maker** can be mailed to Jenny Margotta at our branch address:

**HDCWC
17645 Fisher St.
Victorville, CA 92395**

The importance of obtaining good headshots for your publicity package cannot be overemphasized.

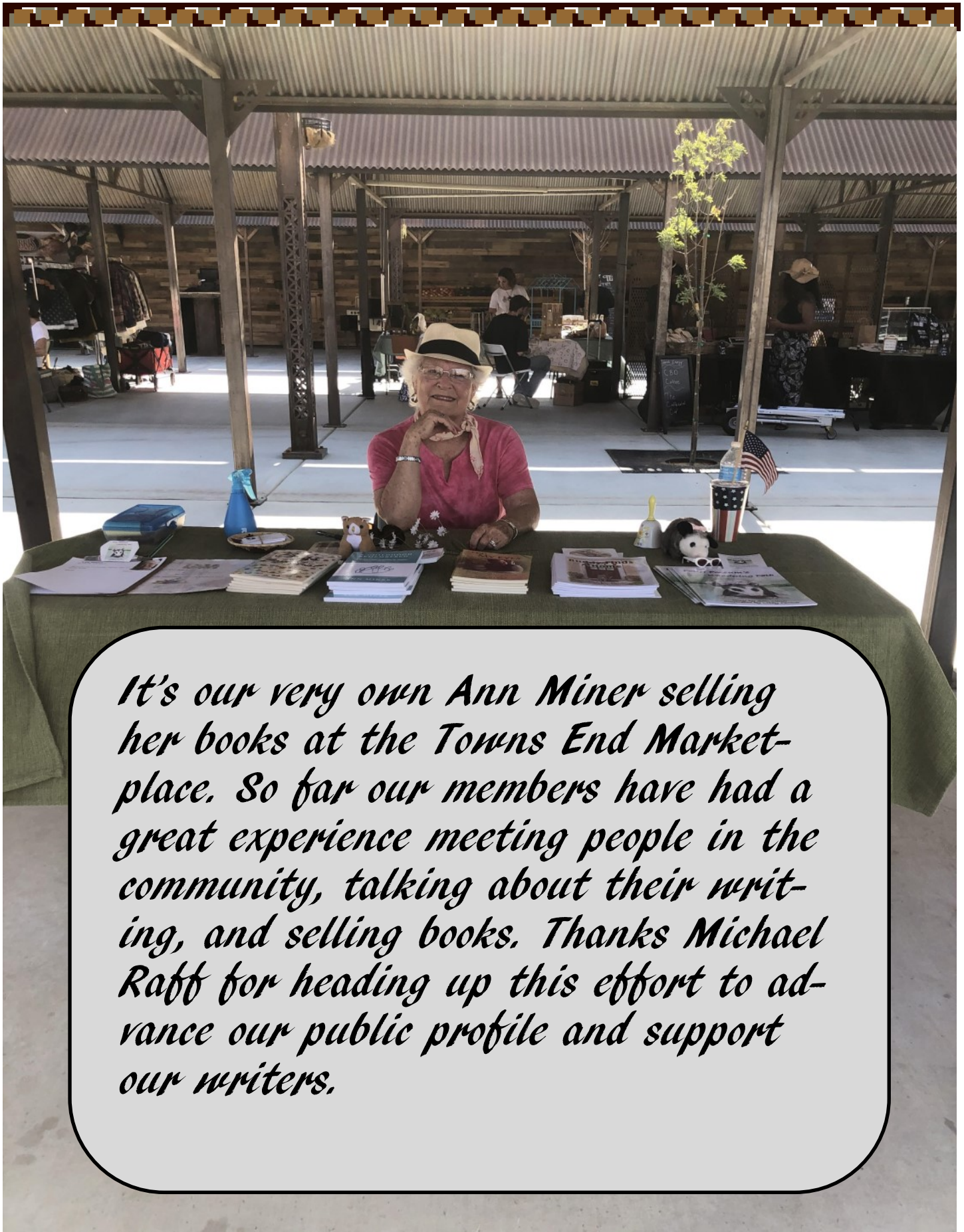
To participate, you must be a member in good standing with dues current.

The place will be Sunset Hills Memorial Park as we did in 2017. Date and time will be available shortly, so be sure and watch your email to get that information.

This amazing opportunity is first come, first served. This offer will probably not be repeated within the next twelve months, if ever. We will also be taking a group photo of our published authors on that day, so be sure to attend. Another photo of our members present will be taken at that time also.

Those interested and with a firm commitment to send a check upon acceptance of this offer may notify us by emailing hdcwc@aol.com. Put your name and the word Photo in the subject line.

Because of this impossibly good deal, there will be no refunds if appointment is cancelled by the member or in case of no-shows on the date of photography.



It's our very own Ann Miner selling her books at the Towns End Marketplace. So far our members have had a great experience meeting people in the community, talking about their writing, and selling books. Thanks Michael Rabb for heading up this effort to advance our public profile and support our writers.

IMPATIENT PATIENCE

A Fairy Tale by Diane Neil

Once upon a time there was a devoted, long-married couple who had everything money could buy but who longed for something money could not buy -- a child.

When, in her forties, the woman discovered she was with child, her happiness was unbounded. She set about preparing a nursery stocked with toys and Teddy bears and sturdy furniture. When the child was born--a beautiful daughter--she named her Patience, after some lovely singing sisters named Patience and Prudence.

Patience had golden curls and sky blue eyes. She was so pretty that the fairies noticed her and decided to give her adventures in Fairyland each night. So Patience would wake up each morning and remember the fun she'd had all night.

She flew with the fairies through beautiful fields of colorful flowers, and they flew to the tops of gigantic trees and they rode on the backs of magical geese to reach the stars. Patience would tell her parents about her adventures and they told her she was dreaming.

The fairies cautioned Patience that she must obey one rule. She must wait until she was fully awake before she jumped out of bed, or she could lose her feet in the transition back to being a human child. They repeated this rule to her every night.

Patience was a spoiled little girl whose parents gave her everything she wanted. But she was a naughty child. She broke her toys and tossed them about and demanded that her parents buy her more, which they always did. She grew sassy and talked back to them and stuck out her tongue.

When she turned seven, her parents planned to have a big birthday party for her and invite all her friends and give her a pony. On the morning of her birthday, she awoke so excited about the pony that she ignored the fairies' rule and jumped out of bed before she was fully awake. To her horror, she discovered that one of her feet had disappeared and she was jumping around on one foot and one that ended at the ankle.

Now convinced that the Fairyland tales were not dreams, her parents took her to a doctor who constructed a shoe for her that contained a special device so she could walk normally. Sadly, that was the last time Patience visited Fairyland, and she learned the hard way that she must obey rules.

THE LEADER

By Sara Metcalf Leach
May 25, 2021



Sleep well my friend
For you, in the morn
Are the one whose gifts
Ring the bell at dawn
So that others will rise
To plant the corn
And build the cities
Where their children will be born

Your powerful voice
Leads the march into the day
Your courage prevails
Over fears along the way
Your strength protects
All that we hold dear
Your loving care
Spreads peace everywhere

Whatever would we do
were it not for you?

Image credit: Pixaby.com

A WRITER'S LIFE

RUSTY LAGRANGE



A PROFESSIONAL EYE

As you're flipping through your favorite magazine, what is it that takes your attention away from the text to the photos? Is it the colors, the subject itself, or a specific arrangement that captures your attention?



Gaining the attention of your visitors is paramount to how you gain interest in a buyer and prime them for the sale. It just takes seconds.

Example: your website should have basic elements like "Intro Headline" that draws you in to gather more information: the arrangement of photos of yourself, a larger photo of one specific service you offer, or the most recent book you've just posted are anchors on your page for the viewer.

The viewer's eye movement across and around the page has been studied for decades. Page designers believe that if they can keep you on one page for 10 to 20 seconds, then they have a higher percentage of getting a sale.

As an author with a career of selling your books to the public, you'll find that marketing strategies are surrounding you. Why not take some for your own?

Studies have shown that eyes move in a basic pattern when scanning a website, a magazine, a booth display, newspaper, anything where color and form are being used. So your first glance is the upper right quadrant, followed by a sweep down and toward the lower right quadrant, followed by a brief pause near the bottom, then continuing around to the upper left, then toward the upper right, and back to the top.

This works for your creative book displays in an active public venue, too.

This loop is the first scan and your "first impression" where you snag a shopper, a reader, a visitor. Your larger color photo does well anchored in the upper right. And the secondary smaller photo or graphic does well at the lower left. We all tend to go counterclockwise. It could be related to training our brain to read analog clock faces as well.

Text should be closely attached to each photo because the viewer can get confused about what the photo is or stands for. Place captions or statements with each photo that triggers a connection there. You anchor their wandering eyes quickly to the photo. Once they are satisfied, off they go to the next section of the page.

And for each photo there is an independent first impression that should snag the viewer to the elements inside each photo.

If it's a static "talking heads" photo, be sure to ID both of them. If it's a busy layout with flowers and colors and people, then a general description works. If it's a group shot, then be sure to get names of each person in their places, starting with the "front row"—this is where you often need an assistant to keep your notes.

Again, even the group shot should be balanced with like shapes and a mix of colors so your subjects don't merge or blend together. Exclude sports teams—they're all alike...

Our professional eye to detail will separate us from the garish, blinking, strobe-light effects often added to poorly laidout web pages with lower readability. Every display, as you're shopping, walking a book fair, buying groceries, will begin to infiltrate your vision senses.

It's our goal to greet an inquisitive visitor to our websites, just as we can with printed page or a booth display. We want to guide our prospects in, not drag them, kicking and screaming.



Photos credit: Pixaby.com

From the Book, *A Chat About Parkinson's - Practical Tips for Patients and Caregivers*
By Ann Miner

Funnel-Necked-Beaker-People

My daughter and I were wandering through the boutique shelves of a local store one night when I saw a lovely, tall-fluted glass vase. It reminded me to tell her the story of funnel-necked-beaker people in Denmark centuries ago.

Archeologists tend to name the ancient inhabitants of a region by the prevalent artifacts they uncover while digging. In this case, on a dig in the 1950s, there was an abundance of beakers made with funnel necks for gathering and dispersing water. Therefore, these Danish natives were named the “funnel-necked beaker people.”

I cannot help but see strange people walking around with funnel necks, however such creatures might appear.

Poor things.



Standing at my window – still, entranced - I observe the life in my back yard. Varieties of sage bloom purple; Rose of Sharon waits to greet the summer; grease-wood bows with the wind, heavy in its yellow blanket, while the industrious, solid black, carpenter bees – buzzing like cousin Bumble - take their bounty back to the nest they carved in the wood fence next door. All the while, in glorious luxury, the critters - cottontails, lizards, squirrels – emerge from secure underground habitats to bask in the sun, having waited out the winter. It's the perfect time to luxuriate in the warm rays, with intermittent spurts of hunting, as if the feasts were made to order.

This is free, priceless entertainment for the observer. One can get lost in the beauty and sounds of the earth, the natural life of creation. This is something we can do often. It's those stress-free, three-minute vacations that renew our spirits, and replenish our energy.

By Ann Miner

Poetry

THE HELPER

by Sara Metcalf Leach
June 2, 2021

It is all he has
It is his good deed
To oversee another life
And put his own at ease

A man who roars
Doesn't want us to know
How much he cares
For a kindred soul

The stories he tells
Fool us not in the least
His gruff demeanor
Veils a gentle beast

We need not reveal
What Providence already
knows



Photos credit: Pixaby.com

Leafless Eve

Lorelei Kay

Standing tall on the hillside,
I lift my dark limbs
through a bright wind-whipped sky.

No more life-giving juice
runs under my bark.
No feathered nests on my breasts.

From the first breaking dawn
I've borne leaves, cones, and fruits
that breezes rocked gently to sleep.

Bereft of my green leafy crown,
stripped of former beauty,
my years giving shade are past.

In my flexible and naïve youth,
my supple arms branched
out and touched all four winds.

I no longer bend to every whim,
but stand sturdy, defiant and strong
against history's blustering tales.

Remember me not
for elegant grace, cooling shade,
or the peaches I bore,

but revere rugged strength,
and the knowledge I've gleaned
on my gardenless mountain crest.

Corn Flakes and Peanut Butter

By Gary C Layton

It's hard to imagine that you can be a legend in your own mind but I was capable of completing the task. A legend is defined as "a notable person whose deeds or exploits are much talked about in his own time." I believe that to be me!

My wife passed a few years back and as with all of us she had a few quirks. One of her quirks was peanut butter. She would never say why but maybe her and her family were poor and possibly lived on peanut butter causing her to associate it with being deprived.

I love peanut butter but she would never let me have it. Possibly she felt she was being a bad wife if she fed me peanut butter. She loved Chinese food but it would always make me sick so we would go to Panda Express to get her takeout. She would come unglued if I suggested getting me a peanut butter sandwich. It was so bad that the only way I could get my peanut butter fix was to go to a restaurant alone and order a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

The family was all sitting around one day after my wife's passing and I casually mentioned that now I can start eating peanut butter. I was talking, on the phone, with my youngest daughter one day and she told me of a conversation with her big brother. He mentioned his concern over my health because of my desire to eat peanut butter instead of a balanced diet. My daughter's simple response? "I don't know, Dad seems pretty healthy to me." I was really surprised that he thought all I was eating was peanut butter!

I was on Facebook one morning and I decided I was going to have some fun with this. I posted the story about my son's concern with my living on peanut butter. I posted that I was going to change it up today by having a jelly sandwich with some peanut butter on it. I said, I panicked when I opened the jar and found there was only a spoonful of peanut butter left in the jar. The panic quickly subsided though when I remembered that I had ten more jars of peanut butter in the pantry. My Facebook friends got quite a laugh out of the post.

I decided that I didn't want to waste time cooking breakfast so I did research on cereals. I found that most of them were loaded with sugar and salt. I found a Hospitality brand that had corn flakes with very little salt or sugar. They come in a bulk 35-ounce bag and were ideal for my use. The problem is they are only found in WinCo Stores and some stores only have one or two bags, if that. I make it a habit if I find a WinCo store to load up with as many bags as they have. I found a WinCo in Idaho Falls and I loaded up my RV with all the bags they had in hopes that they will last me until I find the next WinCo farther down the road.

My daughter's boyfriend was with me at the WinCo and saw me loading up my shopping basket with the corn flakes. He voiced concerns when we got back to my daughter's house about me living on cereal. This information spread among the family like a wildfire. Now my diet is cornflakes and peanut butter and the family is concerned about my crazy diet.

I decided to have fun with it and did a lot of teasing about cornflakes and peanut butter and was teased back. The family started having a lot of fun with it as well. I was at a great granddaughter's soccer game in Rancho Cucamonga and it was getting late as the game was ending. My granddaughter asked me if I wanted to come over for dinner and I asked what was for dinner? My granddaughter responded back with, "cornflakes and peanut butter." I responded back with a thumbs up a smile and said, "I'll be there."

I have always had a full pantry that holds at least a couple of months food so when the lockdown started, I was in great shape. My family members were getting concerned about me and not wanting me to go to the store started offering to do my shopping for me. I kept telling everyone I was fine with plenty of food on hand. I doubt they were believing me thinking I just didn't want to bother them. I took a picture of my pantry and posted it on Facebook to ease their concerns. I must have had 50 people ask me where is the peanut butter? I said, look at the third shelf down and look at the red jar lids, that's the peanut butter.



Boy, all this talk is getting me hungry. I think I am going to stop this story now and go get me some cornflakes and peanut butter!

Photos credit: Pixaby.com



A Zip-a Dee-Doo-Dah Kind of Day

by
fumi-tome ohta



Yesterday was a miserably hot day. Today is predicted to be the same. I'm not looking forward to it. I got my grouchy face on to fit the day. My dog Farley and I are out for our morning walk. A few feet from my apartment I felt a huge shadow loom over us with sounds of chittering birds overhead. I looked up and saw a huge hawk being chased by tiny finch sparrows. The hawk was being dive-bombed and nipped and pecked mercilessly by tiny beaks to, 'Get Out-ta here!', and the hawk did so with as much aplomb as possible. Then, adding insult to injury, a daredevil sparrow mustered one last lingering feeling of anger from within to come from below to give

the hawk one last added thrust to the hawk's tail feathers. When the sparrow hit, the hawk was so ill prepared and surprised. He shot straight up, losing his bearing and concentration for a split second. In that split second, the sparrow was victorious and the hawk feeling not as gallant as he first appeared on the scene, flew off without notice.

Soon, Farley and I continued on our walk until he spotted an animal in the bushes. Farley stood very still as he held his ground. Soon, something moved. Farley followed it with his eyes. It was a squirrel. Now both Farley and I were standing our ground as the squirrel did something I had never thought possible. The squirrel scurried up the side of the building without any effort, up, up, up toward a 2nd-story balcony. Then, just before he reached the balcony, he stopped in mid climb, flicked his tail rapidly a few times as if in thought, then turned and ran back down the building from whence he came into the bushes below. What an awesome sight! The squirrel reminded me of Spiderman climbing the side of a wall. Noticing we were spellbound; Farley and I closed our dropped jaws then continued on with our walk. We walked quite a distance within our complex then, as our usual route, we meandered toward our huge four-level water fountain with water spewing from several decorative lions' mouths. Farley jumped onto the cement bench and there we spent a few minutes of contemplative Zen time to people-watch but no people walked by. Soon Farley's eyes drooped closed as the sound of the water fountain lulled him to sleep. As Farley slept, my eyes took joy in the roses and Lily of the Nile blossoms, waving palm leaves above and a passing plane overhead. Then my eyes returned to the water fountain. What? What's that! My eyes fell upon a very pretty yellow bird sitting atop the apex of the fountain. Was it an oriole? He was taking sips of water and letting splashes of water wash the top of his head. It was a cute and endearing sight to see a bird standing in gurgling water, enjoying himself without care of time or responsibilities. My grouchiness disappeared and I felt like a song I heard a long time ago by Uncle Remus (James Baskett):

Zip-a dee-doo-dah
Zip-a-dee-ay
My, oh, my, what a wonderful day...



It was, and it is, a wonderful day!

Photos credit: Pixaby.com

Some of Our Writers

Judith Pfeffer

A new online magazine highlighting literature on food topics launched recently. It is called, *Sage Soup*.

Our own Judith Pfeffer has published a short story/recipe in the publication called, "Karol and Karolina: A Historical Fantasy and Recipe."

Her story can be found with the following link:

<https://sagesoup.wixsite.com/litmag/karol-and-karolina-pfeffer>



Artist: Hannah Lang , used with permission

Quote of the Month By Michael Raff

"The business of the poet and the novelist is to show the sorriness underlying the grandest things and the grandeur underlying the sorriest things." Thomas Hardy, novelist and poet.

Tim O'Neal

One of our newest members, Tim recently had an excellent short story titled "The Reamer Killings" accepted by Dragon Soul Press for their *Murder and Mayhem* Anthology. It will release on July 30. Here is the URL for ordering:

<http://books2read.com/DSPMurderMayhem>



Your Name Here

If you've recently had a book, short story, poem or essay published, please send the information of the publication, including a web address and a picture with permission to use to Mike Apodaca, at mrdaca.ma@gmail.com so our club can celebrate your success.

Events Ahead > Book Fairs & more

JULY — AUGUST ACTIVITIES

July 10 10:00 HDCWC meeting
July 11 9:00-2:00 Towns End Booth
July 7 8:00 Accountability Meeting
July 7 5:00-9:00 Towns End Booth
July 8 3:30 Poemsmiths meeting.
July 14 8:00 Accountability Meeting
July 14 5:00-9:00 Towns End Booth
July 18 9:00-2:00 Towns End Booth
July 20 6:00 Act II meeting
July 21 8:00 Accountability Meeting
July 21 5:00-9:00 Towns End Booth
July 22 3:30 Poemsmiths meeting.
July 28 5:00-9:00 Towns End Booth
August 4 8:00 Accountability Meeting
August 5 3:30 Poemsmiths meeting.
August 11 8:00 Accountability Meeting
August 14 10:00 HDCWC meeting.
August 18 8:00 Accountability Meeting
August 19 3:30 Poemsmiths meeting
August 24 Act II meeting.

If you have a special group meeting regularly and would like to open it up to the membership, please contact Mike Apodaca to have your group included in the calendar.
mrdaca.ma@gmail.com

HDCWC Book Sale Booth

HDCWC is conducting a book sale at Town's End in Apple Valley on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights.

This opportunity is only for authors who feel comfortable occupying a booth (outdoors) and doing book signings with the public.

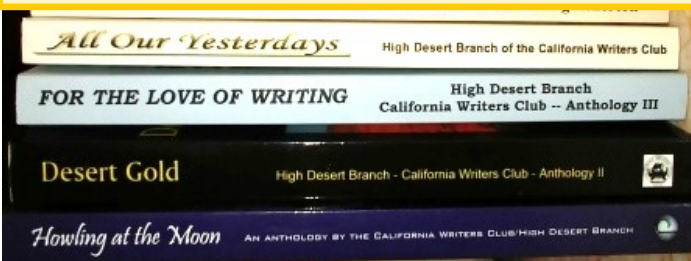
Contact Michael Raff for one of the few available spots (mpseven@aol.com)

TIME TO RENEW

Remember, it's time to renew your membership. Go to www.hdcwc.com and renew now!

Adults: \$45, Students: \$10 before 9/30/2021. Use PayPal or send check to

HDCWC
17645 Fisher St.
Victorville, CA 92395



Order extra copies of our HDCWC anthologies for your bookshelf, your gifts, as a Senior Center donation.

Titles can be found on Amazon.com

Pre-orders can be delivered at our regular meetings.

"Writers Accountability"

Zoom call each Wednesday morning at 8:00 am

Discussions

Looking for weekly accountability to . . .

Write your book

Ideas on publicity

Website book page with links

Amazon Author Page

Join us on Wednesday mornings at 8 am

Zoom meeting ID: 985 7081 6164

Password: 216757

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HDCWC MEMBERS BORN IN JULY

July 3 Mike Brewer; July 23 Monica Kuhlmann; July 24 Madeline Gornell; July 29 Mary Langer Thompson, 29

Famous July Birthdays: William Strunk, 1; Franz Kafka, Dave Barry, 3; Nathaniel Hawthorne, 4; David McCollough, 7; Barbara Cartland and Dean Koontz, 9; Marcel Proust, 10; E.B. White, 11; Henry David Thoreau, 12; Irving Stone, 14; Clive Cussler, 15; Roald Amundsen, 16; William Makepeace Thackeray, 18; Ernest Hemingway, 21; S.E. Hinton, 22; Aldous Huxley, George Bernard Shaw and Carl Jung, 26; Beatrix Potter and Alexander Dumas, 28; Emily Bronte, 30; J.K. Rowling, 31

Are You a Poemsmith?

You may be. Poets are the craftsmen of words. They love all words, from their syllabification, their beat and rhythm, to their origins and definitions. Poemsmiths love the hunt for just the right word to convey the feeling they desire.

We have a wonderful group of poemsmiths that meet every other week on Thursdays at 3:30 on Zoom. Mary Thompson, who leads the group along with some other powerful writers, graciously sent me the following information:

1. *We meet every other Thursday at 3:30, currently on Zoom. We bring one poem (must be unpublished! We expect drafts) only per session, any form or type (haiku, free verse, sonnet, rhyming). We send no later than midnight the night before, but no pre-reading (unless you want to) required. At the session, each poet reads his/her poem aloud. Then we take about 5 minutes for everyone to re-read silently and make notes on the paper (or screen if possible, to put on it). Then we go around, and each makes first positive comments (what are the strengths?) and suggestions for improving. The poet takes the poem and takes the suggestions, or not.*
2. *If you are thinking of joining, we hope you like to read a lot of poetry (not just your own), and have goals of submitting and publishing and learning a lot from the group itself. We strive to be always kind but honest in our reactions. Poetry is probably the most personal genre there is, and therefore we realize a poet makes themselves vulnerable to the reader. We all started writing poetry as amateurs; we've all grown in knowledge and understanding of what makes a poem better, stronger, and more powerful.*
3. *We'll be judging our anthology submissions in early July and hope for an October publication of our first anthology, *From Silence to Speech: Women of the Bible Speak Out*. We are keeping our fingers crossed that a California Humanities Quick Grant for \$1500 for the publication of the anthology will come through for us in August. Jenny Margotta would distribute the funds.*

Poemsmiths meet July 8 and 22, August 5 and 19

Those who would like to visit the Poemsmiths and sit in on a meeting, please contact Mary Thompson at:

mh_thompson@hotmail.com

She'll give you the Zoom login information and answer any questions you might have.

MEMBER SERVICES



Dorothy C. Blakely
Memoir Project



The DCB Memoir Project is alive and well. A committee is meeting to determine how the project proceeds.

Take advantage of your membership benefits

Free advertising & **free** posting of
your book titles, your latest project,
your **free** PR author's webpage
& other **free** & fantastic benefits!!

***Because* you belong to
CWC High Desert Chapter.**

Contact a board member, our Webmaster,
Roberta Smith,
or review your Benefits Booklet
online: www.HDCWC.com

OUR OWN YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Here's the link to the channel:
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UC28XLtEK5oBNq5gW2Zy1ssg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC28XLtEK5oBNq5gW2Zy1ssg)

Managed by Joan Rudder-Ward

**Do you provide a service that could benefit
other writers?**

**Send a JPEG file of your business card or ad to
mrdaqa.ma@gmail.com
We'll advertise it free of charge!**

Temporary Editor



Mike Apodaca

Notes From the Editor

Some have questioned my use of the term "temporary" with regards to my editorship of this fine publication.

I'm currently evaluating our vision of how the newsletter is produced and looking for ways to work smarter, making the job far less daunting and time consuming.

I've produced templates for some of our regular contributors. This will save time in layout.

Also, thankfully, many members use *The Inkslinger* to showcase their writing. This really helps!

I believe my replacement is out there. Maybe it's you!

Submitting to *The Inkslinger* is easy. Use Microsoft Word, single-spaced, 11-point Arial font, please. The email address for submissions is Mrdaqa.ma@gmail.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, 760-985-7107.

Submit August items by July. 23
Submit September items by August. 23