



# The INKSLINGER

Sail On



HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC  
*Inspiring a Community of Writers*

**MAY 2023**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Dwight Norris*

### FIRST TIME IN CUSTODY



Remember when Zody's was one of the early department stores? Seems like they sold everything—even kitchen sinks. In high school I was an aquarium enthusiast. I had been studying biology and was enthralled with tropical fish. With these kinds of fish you could demonstrate and observe the reproductive genius of nature right there in a fish tank.

Pretty exciting! Got my first aquarium at the age of ten. As I continued studying fish, I realized there were two distinct categories—egg-layers and live-bearers. Just as you would think, egg-layers laid eggs in the aquarium to have their babies. Sometimes they'd bury the eggs in loose gravel, sometimes in the spaces between larger rocks, sometimes under the leaves of larger plants. The basic idea was to conceal them from the hungry jaws of the males.

“You mean the males would eat their own babies?” I asked my mom.

“Well, eggs,” mom advised. “Not babies, at least not yet.”

“But the eggs will become babies after they hatch?”

“You got it, sweetie!”

“What about the other kind?”

Mom was guiding me through a reading project—two separate textbooks by two biology experts had written a couple of books that were way over my head. I think it was my interest and the pictures they showed that pushed me forward. Get this—one book was written by William Vorderwinkler and the other by Herbert Axelrod.

How could I remember their names after more than sixty-five years, you ask?

I don't know, but the other day I ran into a man and his wife at MacDonaldis. Judging that the man and I were approximately the same age, when I saw the size of the burger, I asked him, “Do you remember the price of this burger when we first saw it?”



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“Fifteen cents!” He cried without hesitation!

“You are correct!” I shouted with the animation of a prize fighter. There was something gratifying about stumbling across someone who had experienced the same happenings I did but from a different place and whom I had never met before.

But, back to Zody’s

My friend Tristan just walked through the front doors of Zody’s to help me find a keeper. That means to find a live-bearer who is about to explode. I’d had good luck in recent months. The best purchase I’d made was a single female swordtail who the next day blessed me with about fifty babies. For sixty-nine cents! Are you kidding me? You can’t beat that! Less than a penny per fish!

Well, this day no bargains were found. We searched all the fish tanks but nothing extraordinary was found. Since it was getting cool out, Tristan and I wore our windbreakers to fend off the December chill. As I stepped out into the open air, plain-clothes police rushed over and strong-armed us to the ground. They escorted us back through the store to the offices in the rear. The store was dead silent. Our packed pockets were thoroughly searched and emptied.

“A few moments ago, this didn’t look too good,” the head man said. “God, it stinks!”

“Yeah, you know, Christmas break,” I said. “They make you take all your stuff home.” 



*“If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot.”*

*~ Stephen King*

## FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

*Mike Apodaca*



### **WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THE HDCWC THAT YOU MAY NOT HAVE THOUGHT OF**

I know we all want to see our branch of the CWC grow stronger and stronger. Here are a couple of simple things you can do to help make this happen.

#### **SHOW UP TO MEETINGS**

Please understand, our branch doesn't gain anything from higher numbers at our meetings. We aren't in competition with other branches nor do we turn in attendance to the central board. And I'm not suggesting that you simply show up, sit away from others, and keep to yourself. I'm hoping that you will come ready to make a connection. We have some wonderful members who come right up to people they don't know in the club and introduce themselves and strike up a conversation. This is invaluable. Connecting with others will help you find people who write in your genre. You might even find people who you might join with for a critique group. You might even find a special partner you can start a company with to promote your writing, like Michael Raff and Roberta Smith did with Nevermore Enterprises. If it is not possible to attend in person, we often provide Zoom as an option.

Our meetings are wonderful. I always learn something, and the snacks are out of this world. (Thank you, Rita and her team!) But, most important, I network, and you can too.

#### **READ**

Our branch has often reminded our members of the importance of being readers. Gabriella Pereira taught us that Reading was one of the pillars of a true professional writer. But have you considered reading the books of the club members around you? I've read books by Dwight Norris, Jenny Margotta, Micheal Raff, Anita Holmes, Ann Miner, Mary DeSantis, and Lorelei Kay (I just this morning finished reading her, *From Mormon to Mermaid*, and I can't recommend it too highly). I've also read our anthologies cover to cover, enjoying the clever short stories that come from our members. Along with this, I'm working with Richard Zone and Freddi Gold in our critique group, reading and editing their novels.

Reading books from our members has many benefits. It increases the sales of our members. It also helps us get to know each other better. You can't help but get a real sense of Tom Foley the man (and is he a character!) when you read his memoirs. The guy has lived an amazing life. If you want to push beyond a superficial understanding of people in our branch, then read what they've written. It also will show you the caliber of writers we have in our club and the innovative ways they've played with structure, storytelling, and all the elements that make for quality writing. Finally, you'll learn something. Seeing the world through someone else's eyes is always a learning experience. I've learned so much about appreciating those who are elderly and infirmed by the masterful job Jenny Margotta did in showing us her mother's life in *The Woman in Room 23*. I learned to appreciate what goes on in a mental hospital from Michael Raff and his story "Donny Sharp." And, of course, I learned what it was like to be a woman growing up in the world of Mormonism from Lorelei Kay. In short, the members of this club are giving me an education in writing and in life.

There are many other ways you can help strengthen our club—like saying yes when called upon to help with projects and events (thankfully, most everyone in our club does say yes). With small efforts from everyone, we will continue to strengthen the HDCWC and continue to thrive as writers, as people, and as friends. 🚤

## GRADUATION AND THE “V” FORMATION

*By fumi-tome ohta*



It's 6:30 in the morning and I'm on my way to work. In the distance, I see 2 teams of birds flying towards me. At first, they look like scattered birds but it turns out they were migrating ducks. These teams were 2 separate groups soon to turn into one. It was not unusual to see small flocks of ducks meet then turn into one. I have seen such wondrous scenes before but these two groups were much larger in size.

When they met, they flew about in readiness to form one migratory 'V' formation. There was confusion forming their traditional lineage. True, they were larger than the usual sized groups and I'm wondering if they were having dispute with some kind of hierarchy in the sky. I continued watching them as they tried repeatedly to form their 'V' formation.

When they finally got into left and right formations, two thin parallel lines appeared, looking like chopsticks, not looking like their proud and traditional 'V' formation. They seemed to instinctively know that something was amiss. Next, they scattered about, flying erratically like puzzle pieces being mixed on a tabletop. In the scatter, the leader got lost in the chaos. Then from chopsticks to puzzle pieces they formed a bulbous pointed oval. The oval began to spread out and a pivot point appeared then the left and right wings appeared that turned into a perfect 'V' formation.

Mesmerized and feeling very proud of these ducks, I watched the group pass before me. I caught sight of the pivot point...the leader. In this brief moment I visualized the leader's eyes scan the areas above and below him (or her) to any dangers in the sky then eyeing to the left then to the right keeping a visual vigil of his fellow migrants.

I continued watching the formation pass in review from an erratic and chaotic mess to one of a perfect union. What I saw in the sky was akin to life's road in life. The 'V' formation reminded me of graduation.

Dear Graduate, the challenges of tomorrow call you. Do you hear them?

Good luck and congratulations!



### MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 5 James Elder

May 19 Naomi ward

## FINE TUNING OUR WRITING

*By Freddi Gold*



What I love most about writing is feeling the passion to write. I love finding my favorite corner of the living room couch to curl up on, legal pad and a pen at the ready. Although I spent years teaching communication online and considered myself tech savvy, I seldom, if ever, resorted to checking online for writing aids of any kind. It just never occurred to me to do so. Although I'm an octogenarian, I have a Gmail address and a Zoom account, demonstrating I'm in tune with the times, so why would I need to look up any writing stuff online?

Little by little, someone in a critique group, club members at a meeting, a speaker or a friend would mention a tool they use and I began to check them out. Here are a few that I have found valuable, and if you're like me, new or just curious, you might want to consider:

**Grammarly:** This a great writing assistant that can tag and correct errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. You'll never know how many commas you use in the wrong place. *Free and Premium costs.*

**Hemingway Editor:** This app highlights lengthy, complex sentences, or if your sentence is dense, complicated, meandering, or splitting logic. It points out shorter words, adverbs that weaken and provides words with force instead. Want active voice instead of passive, need formatting help? Try this tool. *\$20*

**Microsoft Editor:** *Spelling and Grammar Checker works with Edge; Word has Review and Chrome has an editor extension.*

**Scrivener:** I heard of this early on, but never bothered to check it out. It's a word-processing programmer and outliner designed for authors. It helps you organize documents, notes and metadata for easy access and reference and even offers templates for screenplays, fiction and non-fiction manuscripts. *Scrivener has different prices for different systems and bundles.*


**Milanote:** Easy to use creative writing app. Helps organize your ideas, research, outline and characters. *The basic app is Free.* If you're a "pantcer" and have no idea where your story is going or how it ends when you start, this is a tool to help you put your myriad of thoughts into some kind of organized fashion.

**Daily Page:** For help with writers' block or just to get going, this app emails you a writing prompt every morning to get out of bed and start writing or typing. You then have the whole day to get it done. It holds you accountable and helps you to build routine and structure. *\$4.00 a month to start.*

Of course, there are many others, and if you are already adept at using them, new tools are hitting the market continually. One that I researched is the **Amazon Kindle Scribe.** *It's not for the faint of heart price-wise. \$339.* It's basically an excellent reader, with a stylus. Bigger, more powerful, user-friendly, read in any light, great battery life, it's not waterproof. The stylus lets you both write and draw. You can create sticky notes but not scribble directly into the text. It provides a terrific writing experience; the tablet surface feels like paper, not slick.

And for excitement, there is **Jasper AI.** You've heard about Artificial Intelligence actually writing your ideas in a finalized, concrete fashion? Or just setting it up for you to work with? This tool is a generative platform that creates high quality content tailored for your endeavor. It offers inspiration, infinite ideas, fine tunes voice and tone. It devours the internet to create for you but does not plagiarize. It can work in languages other than English and provides custom art. Good for blogs and newsletters. *\$40 a month.*

**Word Tune's basic package is free** and offers a knock-down version of similar writing help to JasperAI. There are different plans which include rewrites, summarizing, casual and formal tones, shortening and expanding text to fit your format.

There are great tools out there to help us improve as we continue to write, and most are worth the time it takes to see if there is something you might like or need. I'm using a few already. 

## ADD SOME COLOR TO YOUR BOOK

*By John Paul Garner*



Storyboarding beat me up. I mean it kicked my butt. I found it to be tedious and complex because of the sheer number of Post-its required to define my project. Plus, it took too much time away from the project itself just to prepare the Post-its then integrate them into the breakdown of the story I had created on two dry-erase boards. The thing looked impressive but it was, for my purpose, a real pain to maintain.


So, I reverted to outlining but, I quickly discovered that even that posed problems. I'd write a synopsis of a vignette and incorporate into the outline by date, but once I backed off and looked at the outline as a whole, I could not readily identify when, for example, I had foreshadowed something or when I was being redundant. It wasn't helping me write the story as much as it was confusing me, which admittedly isn't hard to do.



Enter Richard Zone.




We were talking about story formatting here recently over cups of McDonald's coffee when he related his understanding of how James Patterson structures a story into "scenes" because he wants his books to be made into movies. As soon as he said "scenes," it came to me instantly that I was incorrectly formatting my book into vignettes, instead of traditional chapters. I should be structuring it into "scenes." This revelation coincidentally dovetailed into my studies of prominent and popular TV shows and how they compress their stories into 40-45 minutes.



Because of the type of story I was hoping to tell, constructing it into scenes made perfect sense. But how to easily identify key features in it and to gauge the story's flow did not come to me until I added color to it. Because my story is basically character driven, I decided to assign a specific color to key characters about whom a scene is developed. I assigned yellow to the protagonist, green to the antagonist, pink to the love interest, and other colors to key subordinate characters.



I was surprised if not simply amazed, by the result. By highlighting the chronology of the "scenes" in colors, I could easily see where the story was going, where it might be weak or redundant, or where I needed more of a particular color. I could do this because I was using scenes instead of chapters.



I also discovered the power of harvest gold. Under each synopsis, I added a ribbon of harvest gold in which I inserted a bullet statement about that scene's key feature. For example, under the Prologue, I said that racing trains was key to the protagonist's efforts to stay motivated, or I might foreshadow something that needed to be picked up later. Because of the bullet statements, I could quickly track the story's flow. Color-coding, I found, more readily served my needs. In offering up the idea to you, I do not suggest that you should abandon storyboarding or outlining. Either method of assembling your book might serve your purposes effectively. I merely suggest that color-coding might be another way for you to more easily accomplish the same goal. 

G races a train prior to his last scan of the cancer's second year. He wants Death to wa because Jennie has helped him discover there's more to life than football.   
KEY FEATURE: G races trains to motivate him in his fight with cancer.   
10:35 p.m. | Wednesday | 12.26.201

THE-BREAK-UP   
G leaves his head coach's party early because he hadn't fit in. The Viking pressed him abou why he had been fired from Silver Springs. He drives to Ned Beaman's house on B-Hill an observes his wife kissing him. G then drives away because he doesn't fit in here either.   
KEY FEATURE: G is different.   
5:56 p.m. | Saturday | 06.30.201

Madison leaves G. The kiss was a moment of weakness. G receives her departure witho any rancor because it was inevitable and he had left emotionally years before when Devy his granddaughter, did. He stays up all night then goes for a run at the Marine base.   
KEY FEATURE: G starts running.   
7:35 p.m. | Saturday | 06.30.201

After the run, G goes to the Walmart to be distracted but meets Tex who declares th Madison leaving him is the best fucking thing that ever happened to him and then he ren G the house next door to him, but G can't move in until September 1st.   
KEY FEATURE: G receives a second chance.   
8:45 a.m. | Sunday | 07.01.201

G remembers he lived in Barstow in 1964. He searches for the house on Forane Stre where he and his mother lived but can't find it. He then visits his new home on Mou Vernon and imagines how he will decorate it.   
KEY FEATURE: The Mount Vernon house represents a new beginning.   
9:20 a.m. | Sunday | 07.01.201

# APRIL CLUB MEETING RECAP

By Mike Apodaca



## POETRI REDEFINES POETRY AND REVEALS HIS SOUL

I've been trying to understand why our time with the poet Poetri was so amazing. He stood and sat, holding a microphone, reading his poetry and answering questions. Yes, that's what happened. But that is not what was *happening*. Poetri is a rare soul who has the audacity to wear his faith on his sleeve. He makes no apologies for his deep faith and gives God the glory for all he does.

He does this because, rooted in his foundation of faith, he is able to be fearless and transparent. He is able to bear his soul, the good and the bad, to share his fears and his boldness; in short, he is able to be real. This realness is rare in an age caught up with personas, brands, and false fronts.

Every poem Poetri read to us what about him. But not in a prideful, "look at me" way. Even his poem "I am Marvelous" was a rare declaration of acknowledgement that God does not make junk. He embraced the good things, the powerful things about himself, taking heart in them, rather than hide in a cloak of false humility.

Poetri has seen both the heights and the depths in life. He has entertained millions, toured the world twice, performed for celebrities and a president, and seen his image on TV screens around the world. And yet he has also suffered physically, as has his wife. He has known both sides. And yet he has managed to retain a sense of himself and the important things in his life—his God, his wife (the Nigerian princess) and his two beautiful and fun-loving teenage daughters.

Poetri gave us all a new definition of poetry. Dwight Norris said it best. At our meeting, he said he kept wondering when the poetry would start. Poetry was redefined at our meeting. Instead of a craft of flowery words and rigorous constructions, poetry became a raging current used to express the deepest feelings of the heart.

Why was our meeting so amazing this month? Because when Poetri opened his soul to us through his poetry, I was able to see deeper into my own soul. I was set free to acknowledge my love for *my* wife and *my* kids. I was given permission to see the beauty in life, the joy that is always available to those who will embrace it.

Poetri has given us permission to post his presentation on our YouTube channel. Watch for it. Check him out on Instagram (@poetrithepoet), Twitter (<https://twitter.com/DefPoetPoetri>), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/PoetriSmith>), and his YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/Poetrithepoet>)

by Mary Langer Thompson



## NATALIE AND THE NAZI SOLDIERS

by Annette Gendler

Illustrations by Ste Johnson


April was full of celebrations and commemorations. It was Poetry Month, Poem in Your Pocket Day, World Book Day, and Yom Ha Shoah “Holocaust Remembrance Day”, April 18. Writers are still writing about The Holocaust, but there are few young children’s books about it, so I was surprised when I saw Gendler’s book for and

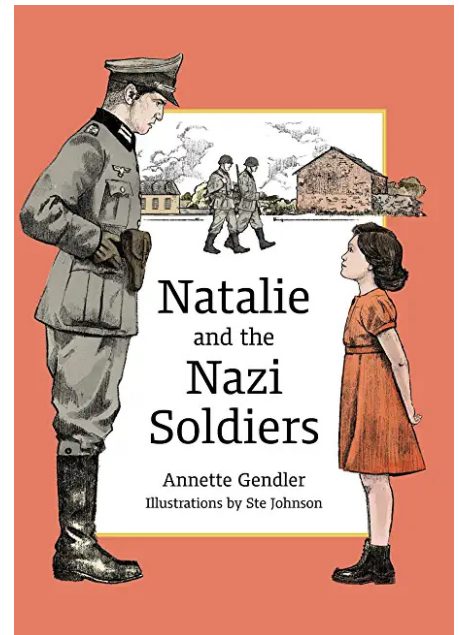
about children during this time. Based on a true story, the book is in memory of the author’s mother-in-law, Natalie Gendler, and “In honor of the many unsung heroes who risked their lives ‘to help Jews during the Holocaust,’” particularly those in the French region of Sarthe.

Natalie, the main character and Jewish child, is living under a barn in a cellar with her sister Mimi and her mother’s friend Hermine in Brionne, a village outside Paris, when the story opens. She watches people in the village through a crack in the wall, well aware Nazis are hunting Jews like her and that Nazis in gray uniforms are close. She understands the German they speak because it sounds like Yiddish. Natalie misses her parents; her father is far away fighting those Nazis. Her mother has been arrested in Paris.

Outside of the barn is a farm, and when able, Natalie draws water for the pigs, swims in a pond, and goes to a nearby candy store. One day she has to hide behind the counter because Nazis came into the store asking directions. The owner is threatened and Natalie’s favorite pig Bijou, who was outside is injured. Although Natalie is not supposed to go to the vet, she wants to help Bijou. Once at the vet, after bringing eggs to pay the doctor, she confronts a Nazi officer. “*Wo bist du her?*” Where are you from, he asks her. What does she do?

As Natalie is returning to the farm, she meets another Nazi. Does she escape a third time? What happens to Bijou? You’ll have to get the book to find out, and also read the Author’s Note about the real life events that occurred between 1942 and 1944 to find out what happened to Natalie’s mother and friend Hermine.

Writers might consider writing memoir such as this and about difficult issues for children. There are several similar books for young adults, but children, too, are capable of critical thinking about historical and personal events. Gendler is also the author of *How to Write Compelling Stories from Family History* and offers online courses. This book and her others are available on Amazon. 







# Jenny Margotta

## From an Editor's Desk

### THE GENRE OF CREATIVE NONFICTION

This month I'm covering the emerging genre of Creative Nonfiction. My thanks for Richard Zone for inspiring this one.

Creative Nonfiction (CNF) uses the elements of fiction—scene setting, dialogue, narrative, story arc, even character development—to tell a true story in such a way that it grabs the reader's attention and pulls them in much better than simply reciting what can be very dry statistics and facts. The CNF genre focuses on story, meaning it has a narrative plot with an inciting moment, rising action, climax and denouement, just like fiction. However, although the writer may push the bounds of creativity to tell the story, the story must be based in truth and the writer must be able to back up the facts 100 percent. That's not to say that dialogue must be 100 percent accurate; in many/most cases, that's not possible. But the dialogue must not state any "facts" that are not verifiable. In some cases, however, it can express opinions and emotions about those facts. Keep in mind that, while the CNF writer has a great deal of creative leeway, those opinions and emotions should never come at the expense of the facts.

Creative Nonfiction can range from the purely personal—such as memoirs or personal essays—to the researched and reported (narrative journalism), to revisiting important historical events and times. Within the memoir genre alone there are food memoirs, stunt memoirs, medical memoirs, grief memoirs, travel memoirs, and more. The forms CNF can take can vary too. They can be graphic, lyrical, even strung-together essays or strung-together flash pieces. A CNF work can incorporate several of these forms or sub-genres all at once. And on top of that, personal pieces and researched/reported pieces can be woven together. (<https://bookriot.com/creative-nonfiction-books>)

The website [masterclass.com](https://www.masterclass.com) offers four golden rules the CNF writer should follow:

1. Make sure everything is factually accurate.
2. Play with person. Consider shifting from first person to third person. This can give you some new perspective on real-world events.
3. Follow emotion. CNF writers often listen to their emotions and allow their feelings to affect the shape and tone of their writing.
4. Incorporate literary techniques. Elements of fiction can include: extended metaphor, allegory, imagery, and many more.

The Master Class site also offers the following tips to get some training and to expand your knowledge of the genre:

- Writing programs. Attend programs to help you hone your craft and learn alongside other aspiring nonfiction writers. These can be undergraduate, MFA, or community writing workshops.
- Read. The best way to learn to write creative nonfiction is to *read* creative nonfiction.
- Network. Meet other writers and professionals in the world of nonfiction. Large cities like Los Angeles offer free writing events and readings. And there are plenty of online resources and communities that can connect you with writers and potential publishers.

In addition to memoirs, another CNF subgenre is immersion journalism in which the journalist immerses themselves in a world or experience unfamiliar to them in order to tell their story. Examples of this subgenre are *The New New Journalism*, by Robert S. Boynton and *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer.

Another popular subgenre is true crime. One example is *I'll Be Gone in the Dark*, by Michelle McNamara, in which she weaves together her own personal tale of attraction to true crime writing along with the search for the Golden State Killer.

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Of course, those who know me will understand that I cannot pass up another opportunity to include something about history, particularly WW II. There seems to be a great deal of renewed interest in World War II these days. Some examples of the subgenre of military/historical creative nonfiction are *The Princess Spy: The True Story of World War II Spy Aline Griffith*, *Countess of Romanones*, by Larry Loftis, *Prisoners of the Castle: An Epic Story of Survival and Escape from Colditz, the Nazis' Fortress Prison*, by Ben Macintyre, and *Half American: The Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad*, by Matthew F. Delmont.

There are also a number of magazines and journals dedicated to the CNF genre. They include:

- *Creative Nonfiction*
- *Slice*, a literary magazine that publishes short works of creative nonfiction.
- *The Sun*, a magazine that often gets political. 

## WORD OF THE MONTH

*Jenny Margotta*

SYNECDOCHE [sin-nec-de-kee): NOUN

a figure of speech in which a part is made to represent the whole or vice versa.

First used in the late fifteenth century. Typically an attribute or adjunct substituted for the thing meant ("head" for "cattle," "hands" for "workmen," "wheels" for "automobile.") Also a single word substituted for a group. EXAMPLE: "Cleveland won by six runs." (where "Cleveland" is inclusive for "Cleveland's baseball team.")

*"Close the door. Write with no one looking over your shoulder. Don't try to figure out what other people want to hear from you; figure out what you have to say. It's the one and only thing you have to offer."*

*~ Barbara Kingsolver*



# Poets Who Show it

By Mike Apodaca

*Let's clear things up . . . forever  
A timeless look . . . keeps you sane  
I am . . . made for more  
Ask me why . . .  
The truth is in  
Inspired . . . Promise*

I wrote this poem Monday night, April 17<sup>th</sup>, from a pile of scraps of oddly-shaped magazine clippings haphazardly thrown on a table.


This was one of the four stations at the poetry night our club sponsored at the Hesperia Library.

The evening began with Lorelei Kay emceeding and inviting poets to read their poetry. One by one, each reader engaged us with their unique turns of phrase and range of expression. Topics ranged from politics, to a beloved son, to Biblical women.

After the poems, our own Bill Lopez and his friend Jerry Mosco played guitar and entertained us with songs about The Woman at the Well and Saul of Tarsus.

There was a break and social time where we enjoyed yummy snacks provided by Rita Wells.

We ended the night in a workshop with the four stations. One was the clipping poems. Another was haiku. Still another was poetry inspired by beautiful pictures, and the last was a table where we took newspaper articles and cut out most the words, leaving only the powerful words we wanted to keep—and wouldn't you know it, a poem emerged!

The evening, organized by Mary Thompson, was delightful. And judging by the amount of laughter I heard, everyone who came thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I know I did. 

## HDCWC SLATE ANNOUNCED FOR 2023 ELECTIONS

The California Writers Club High Desert branch will hold elections at its June meeting of 2023. Officers will be elected by those present and voting at that time.

The slate of officers who have expressed interest in standing for election is:

**Mike Apodaca for president**

**Joan Rudder Ward for VP**

**Jenny Margotta for treasurer**

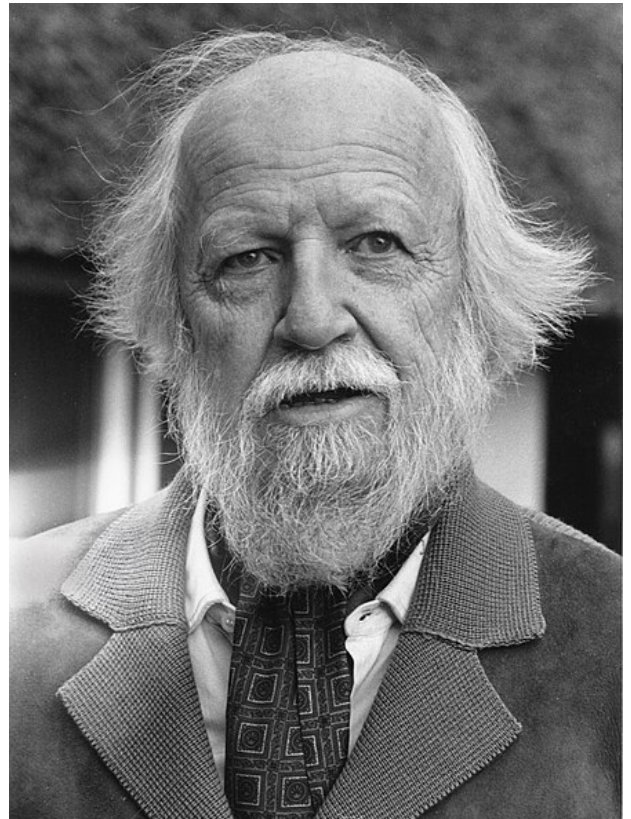
**Ann Miner for secretary**

**IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER MEMBERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO STAND FOR ELECTION FOR THESE FOUR OFFICER POSITIONS, PLEASE CONTACT BOB ISBILL, NOMINATING CHAIRMAN.**



## WILLIAM GOLDING

William Golding was born in 1911 and grew up in Marlborough, Wiltshire, England, where his father, taught at Marlborough Grammar School. His mother, a crusader for female suffrage, used to tell William



Cornish ghost stories.

In 1930 he attended Brasenose College, Oxford, and enjoyed an extensive education. While obtaining his BA, a book of his poems was published.

In 1935 he taught English at Michael Hall School in London. He was also an English and music schoolmaster before moving to Bishop Wordsworth's School, in 1940, teaching English, philosophy, Greek, and drama.

Golding kept a personal journal for over 22 years to record his dreams, but over time, it became a record of his life. It featured thoughts about his novels and memories of his past. John Carey, a professor at Oxford, studied Golding's unpublished papers and journal. Although Golding hadn't written his journal with a biography in mind, in 2009 Carey published *William Golding: The Man Who Wrote Lord of the Flies*.

Golding married Ann Brookfield in 1939 and had two children.

During World War II, he enlisted in the Royal Navy and was on a destroyer that participated in the *Bismarck* pursuit and sinking. He took part in the invasion of Normandy, commanding a landing craft that fired rocket salvos.

After being rejected by numerous publishers, Golding sent Faber and Faber his manuscript *Strangers From Within*, which was rejected by their reader, who called it "Absurd, dull, rubbish" and a lot worse. It was, however, championed by Charles Monteith, a new editor, who asked for some changes, and the manuscript was published in 1954, renamed as *Lord of the Flies*, Golding's debut.

His other novels included: *The Inheritors*, *Free Fall*, *The Spire*, *The Pyramid*, *Darkness Visible*, *To the Ends of the Earth*, *Rites of Passage*, *Close Quarters*, *Fire Down Below*, *The Paper Men*, and *The Double Tongue*.

Golding was open about his problems with alcohol, perhaps caused by his feelings of dejection which plagued him his entire life.


The publication of *The Spire* sustained negative reviews. After *The Pyramid*, Golding experienced writer's block, and became unable to deal with his life without alcohol. His recovery began when he studied Carl Jung's writings and in what he called "an admission of discipleship."

Drinking certainly affected Golding's writing, and his novel *Darkness Visible* took twelve years to be published, a far cry from the author who had written six novels in thirteen years.

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*(Continued from page 12)*

In 1985 Golding and his wife moved near Truro, Cornwall. He died suddenly of heart failure eight years later in June 1993, and was buried in a churchyard near his former home.

As with several famous writers, I read one of Golding's novels while in high school, namely *Lord of the Flies*. Quite frankly, I was shocked—but mesmerized as well. Its plot concerns a group of English boys who are stranded on an uninhabited island. Before long, they are divided into two tribes in a violent descent into barbarity. It certainly opened my eyes to the frailty of humanity. 

### **FUN FACTS ABOUT WILLIAM GOLDING**

Because of his contributions to literature, he was knighted in 1988.

When he died, he left a draft of *The Double Tongue*, which was published posthumously in 1995.

In 1983, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

In 1993 a few months after his death, the First International William Golding Conference was held in France.

In earlier drafts of *Lord of the Flies*, the airplane the boys were flying in was shot down at the beginning of World War III.

I've always considered *Lord of the Flies* a horror story. In literal terms, the title means Beelzebub. In Christian theology, that translates to Satan.

Castle Rock, a fictional town in many of Stephen King's books, is named after the mountain in *Lord of the Flies*.

I've seen two movie adaptations of *Lord of the Flies*, and in my opinion, neither of them did the book justice.

**Until next time, keep reading, writing and give**

*Lord of the Flies* a peek. 



# *A Writing Salon!*

*Thursday, May 18 at 3:00 p.m.*

*Hosted by Richard Zone*

**“IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING, HOW WILL YOU KNOW WHEN YOU GET THERE?”**

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**CONTACT: LORELIE KAY: LORELEIKAY7@GMAIL.COM**

**OR**

**RICHARD ZONE: RETIREDZONE@GMAIL.COM**

### HIGH DESERT CWC ANNOUNCES WRITING WORKSHOP ON SEPTEMBER 30 IN HESPERIA

The High Desert branch of the California Writers Club announces a special workshop to be held in the Percy Bakker Conference Center in Hesperia, CA, 9333 “E” Ave. The event will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. *Insanely low early bird prices are available for a limited time at only \$35! Save the date now and make your reservation early to avoid missing out on this fantastically low price for an outstanding workshop valued at \$85.*

*Finish Your Book in Three Drafts: Crafting Fiction and Creative Non-Fiction with the Book Architecture Method*

It’s the age-old battle between the outliners and the pantsers—those who meticulously script every writing session and those who plot solely by feel. Finding your unique approach requires a method rather than a formula. The Book Architecture Method has helped bestselling writers transform their messy manuscripts into polished books. Accomplished and aspiring writers alike will learn the secrets of how to painlessly create a complex narrative including:

- what “plotting” actually means and why there isn’t one narrative arc but several
- how to make sure your book has one “theme”—and one theme only
- how to separate your work into scenes and use this disassembly to diagnose what’s going wrong with your manuscript
- the secret to why some narratives feel like they are all coming together at an emotional pay-off while others do not

This workshop will introduce writers to a process for organization and revision that includes in-depth exercises to be completed throughout the day so that attendees leave with a new perspective on their book’s core, its structure, and where the work of revision lies most clearly. The workshop assumes nothing of a writer’s previous knowledge of technique nor how much of their manuscript is complete.

Bio: Stuart Horwitz is a ghostwriter, independent editor, and founder of Book Architecture ([www.bookarchitecture.com](http://www.bookarchitecture.com)). His clients have reached the best-seller list in both fiction and non-fiction and have appeared on *Oprah!*, *The Today Show*, and in the most prestigious journals in their fields. He is the author of three acclaimed books on writing: *Blueprint Your Bestseller: Organize and Revise Any Manuscript with the Book Architecture Method* (Penguin/Perigee), which was named one of the year’s best books about writing by *The Writer* magazine, *Book Architecture: How to Plot and Outline*

*(Continued on page 15)*

## WRITING WORKSHOP


(Continued from page 14)

*Without Using a Formula*, which became an Amazon bestseller, and *Finish Your Book in Three Drafts: How to Write a Book, Revise a Book, and Complete a Book While You Still Love It*.

Horwitz holds degrees in literary aesthetics from New York University and East Asian studies from Harvard University. He is also an award-winning poet and essayist. He recently relocated to California with his family from New England, something he should have done years ago.

Due to the very low price of this event, we cannot offer PayPal for the purchase of tickets, and there will be no refunds for this event unless the workshop is canceled by the HDCWC. All requests must be mailed to HDCWC, 17645 Fisher St., Victorville, CA, 92395. Send your check made payable to HDCWC in the amount of \$35 and include your contact email address and telephone number.

Please note: seating is limited and prices are subject to change without notice.

Visit [www.hdcwc.com](http://www.hdcwc.com) for more information or call 760.221.6367. 

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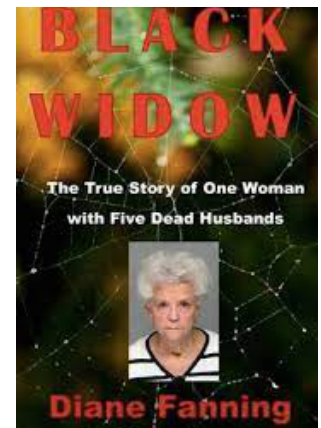
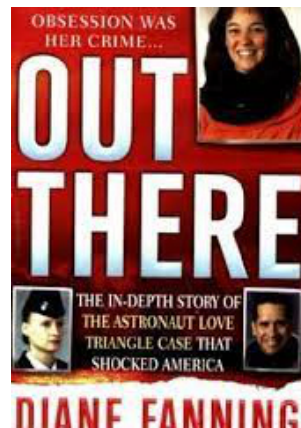
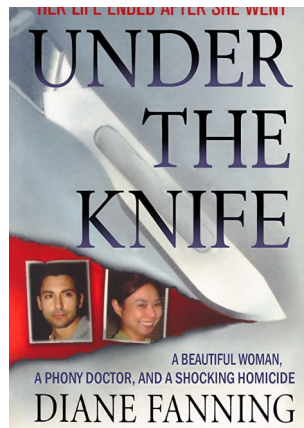
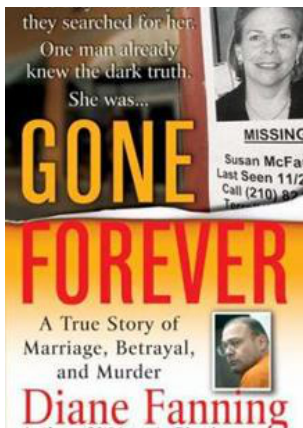
## MAY MEETING OF THE HDCWC

By Dwight Norris

We're in for an excellent treat for May's Saturday meeting.

Our special guest will be Diane Fanning. Best-selling author of fifteen true-crime books and eleven mystery novels. Ms. Fanning is the recipient of the "defender of Innocence" award from the Innocence Project.

She has served as a consultant to 48 Hours, has been a regular presence in the last fourteen seasons of *Deadly Women*, and has appeared on the *Today Show*, *20/20*, *Forensic Files*, *Snapped*, The Biography Channel, Investigation Discovery, E!, and the BBC, as well as numerous cable networks news shows and radio stations across the United States and Canada. Raised in Baltimore County, she moved to Virginia, then South Texas, and now lives in the shadow of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Bedford, Virginia.





## HAPPY BIRTHDAY SHAKESPEARE AND CERVANTES!

In honor of World Book Day, April 23, the birthday of Cervantes and Shakespeare, the High Desert California Writers Club, for the 12th year, gave free books to our community, donated by local authors. The recipient of adult and children's books in several genres this year was Mustard Seed Book Store at 17973 Bear Valley Rd., Suite 2 in Hesperia. The purpose of World Book Night is to spread the joy of reading, which Mustard Seed owner, Janelle, loves to do. Mustard Seed is open Monday through Saturday.

Thank you to these HDCWC authors who generously gave of their books:

*The Story of Sandy Armistead: A Black Man's Journey in a White Man's World*, by Dwight Norris

*Janie Plants a Tree*, by Rita Wells

*A Secret*, by Lucille E. Hull (author is mother of author member Roberta Smith)

*Angel and Stories from the Heart*, by Evelyn Bender Blocker

*Nature Lights My Soul*, by Aylin Belle Amie

*Poems in Water*, by Mary Langer Thompson

*A Chat About Parkinson's: Practical Tips for Patients and Caregivers*, by Ann Miner

*The Woman in Room 23*, by J. Margotta-Ferrara

*Growing up in Riverside: A Lifelong Accumulation of Essays*, by Gary C. Layton

*Chasing the Elusive Dream*, by Tom Foley

*Angel and Stories from the Heart*, by Evelyn Bender Blocker

*Let it Be Recorded: A Collection of Memoirs*, by the students of the Academy for Academic Excellence in Association with HDCWC

*All Our Yesterdays: A Collection of Memoirs*, by the students of the Academy for Academic Excellence

*Footprints From Around the World: A Collection of Memoirs*, by University Preparatory High School (Victorville) students in association with HDCWC

*Howling at the Moon*, Anthology of the California Writers Club, High Desert Branch

*Tales Between the Sand and Stars*, by the High Desert Branch California Writers Club

Various High Desert California Club Anthologies

Thank you, President Dwight Norris, Vice-President Mike Apodaca, and members Sam Lujan and Mary Langer Thompson for distributing. 



## MEMBERS URGED TO NOMINATE JACK LONDON AWARD WINNER

*By Bob Isbill*

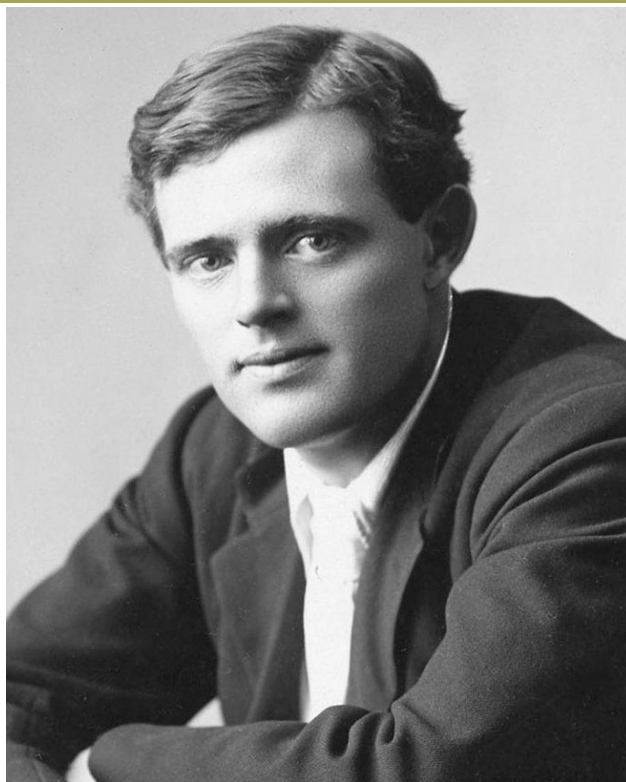
Every other year the CWC invites each branch to select a Jack London award winner for outstanding service 2023 is that year again.

The HDCWC is inviting all its members to participate in nominating a person they feel has done an outstanding job of volunteerism for the Jack London award. The Jack London award is a once-in-a-lifetime recognition, and so all prior Jack London award winners are ineligible to be nominated. Those include:

Bob Isbill, Carol Warren, Roberta Smith, Dwight Norris, Jenny Margiotta, Mary Thompson, and Rusty Lagrange.

Members should write to Dwight Norris and include a summation of the reasons for the nomination of the person or persons you are choosing to be recognized. His email address is [DwightEdward-norris@gmail.com](mailto:DwightEdward-norris@gmail.com)

Nominees will be published in the June issue of *The Inkslinger* and the recipient will be announced at that time.



## JENNY MARGOTTA SPEAKS ON DIALOGUE TO THE WRITERS OF KERN

*By Bob Isbill*

HDCWC treasurer and editor Jenny Margotta recently spoke to the Writers of Kern in Bakersfield on the art of writing dialogue.

Jenny and Bob Isbill were hosted by Sandy Moffett and her husband for a special pre-meeting dinner party.

Jenny was very well received with her talk on dialogue, and she fielded many questions regarding that topic and the topic of editing. Jenny is currently editing her 179<sup>th</sup> book.



## ACT II TAKES ON BOOK SIGNING DO'S AND DON'TS

*By Mike Apodaca*

On April 25, twelve of us showed up to a terrific ACT II meeting by Michael Raff and Roberta Smith, on doing a book signing. Their presentation was so inspiring and informative that I decided to create a checklist for myself that I'd like to share with our entire club in case someone else might find it useful.

### Book Signing Checklist

- Find a venue that jives with your books. You'll have better sales.
- Avoid swap meets. People don't generally go to those to find books.
- Consider and weigh 1) Distance traveled, 2) Parking, 3) Entrance Fees, 4) Table Fees,
- Have more than one book. It shows diversity.
- Bring enough books. Order them early. They can take weeks to arrive.
- Advertise your event in advance; use social media, have a press release.
- Bring your seller's permit with the State of California.
- Bring business cards with your email address on them.
- Bring good pens to sign with.
- Bring cash for change and your Square to take credit cards.
- Use props on your table that accent your books, but not too many.
- Have a banner that says you are an author selling books.
- Have a display stand for your books.
- Have a nice table and tablecloth.
- Wear comfortable shoes. Standing draws people in.
- For outdoor events, bring an easy-up and sandbags.
- Bring food and water from home.
- Make sure your book covers draw customers in.
- Have a sign showing that you take credit cards.
- Have a sign with the price of the books.
- Be friendly. Greet people. Talk.
- Ask if the customer wants an autographed book, or one with their name.
- Keep track of how many you sell of each book.
- Have a short pitch for each book.
- Take pictures with people, if they want to.
- Allow people to start reading your book—a free sample.
- Clean up before you leave.
- Keep tabs on responses on Amazon.
- Send those putting together the event a poster by email so they can put it up.
- Plan to be successful by planning well and early.

Thanks again to Mike and Roberta for sharing their wisdom and experience with us. And to Mike for our managing Town's End Marketplace events, for us. Roberta told us she has learned that we get better at book signings by doing them over time. We are so fortunate to have the Town's End available for book signings. Hopefully, we will all be selling books by the dozens at many events each year.



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## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

One day work is hard, and another day it is easy; but if I had waited for inspiration I am afraid I should have done nothing. The miner does not sit at the top of the shaft waiting for the coal to come bubbling up to the surface. One must go deep down, and work out every vein carefully.

*- Arthur Sullivan, composer.*

## MEMBERS ONLY

Take advantage of your membership benefits

- Free advertising and free posting of your book titles and latest projects.
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