



# The INKSLINGER

Sail On



HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC

*Inspiring a Community of Writers*

**OCTOBER 2022**

## VIVA LA RAZA!

By *Mike Apodaca*

This was a rallying cry I heard often growing up in a mostly Hispanic neighborhood and attending schools where Chicanos outnumbered Gringos like me, two-to-one. Viva La Raza (long-live the race) is a call to preserve the richness of Latino culture.

October is Hispanic History Month. The HDCWC celebrated by hosting a very special event at the Hesperia public library. Bill Lopez coordinated the evening's festivities and was our master of ceremonies.

We started the meeting with short speeches by two of the most accomplished Latinos: Rene De La Cruz and Luis Fuerte. Mr. de la Cruz is a passionate reporter for *The Daily Press*. He's a High Desert native who gave us a birds-eye view of what's going on with *The Daily Press* (Did you know our local paper is actually printed in Arizona?) Luis Fuerte shared with us his career working at KCET, which included shooting a piece on the seventy-second floor of a high-rise—from the swaying platform of a window washer—in gusty winds. Both men took questions and the mood was light-hearted, friendly, and inviting.

After a break where attendees were treated to delicious pandulces and other Mexican treats (thank you so much, Rita Wells and Sally Ortiz), Bill Lopez showed a video he produced in honor of his uncle, Corporel Henry Ortiz, who served in World War II and earned the Bronze Star. Debbie Rubio followed this with an upbeat poem she wrote to inspire her bilingual students. Mary Langer Thompson read a short portion of the book *The House on Mango Street*, a wonderfully expressive memoir by Sandra Cisneros. I shared about my adopted Apodaca family and their many incredible accomplishments. Bill Lopez then showed another short video, this one about his sister, Liz Lopez, an accomplished artist. We ended the meeting with a raucous, festive dance from the Baile Foklorico troupe, *Mexico En Su Corazon*.

I'm sure everyone who attended would agree with me that our branch of the California Writers Club truly honored Hispanic heritage. **Viva La Raza!!** 🇲🇪





## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Dwight Norris*

### WELCOME TO HDCWC

HDCWC stands for High Desert California Writers Club, one of twenty-two proud branches spread throughout the state of California. We are not the largest of the branches, but we are certainly one of the most active. In addition to a membership in the upper eighties, we have an abundance of kind and helpful people.

What we don't talk about much is our website, found at [hdcwc.com](http://hdcwc.com). It is chock-full of interesting and useful information, thanks to submitters willing to share expertise about technology and writing. Also, we are grateful to our generous webmaster, Roberta Smith, who donates untold hours and organizes this project so that our people can be enriched by it. And if you can believe it, our website is not restricted to members. There are no clumsy passwords. This technology is open to all.

Consider some of the contents of this amazing website. Learn about the history of the club, with the likes of honorary members Jack London, George Sterling, John Muir, Joaquin Miller, and the first California Poet Laureate, Ina Coolbrith.

The general purposes of the CWC are to provide a forum for literary criticism and for recognition of achievement, to discover new authors and assist them in developing their talent, and to sponsor educational meetings to promote professional growth.

Get acquainted with the members of this branch and many of their writings, books, and anthologies. Read our branch by-laws and mission statement to see what directs our activities and the reason we do them. Find some good advertising sources in the *Bulletin* or the *Literary Review*. Sometimes, a writer can offer a service or product that can assist other members and be compensated for assisting in this way.

Other locations on the website provide links for club members: to the club Facebook page, or the club's email address, or a place where a writer can be instructed on how to obtain a seller's permit, as well as many other helpful topics. Other pages instruct a reader on how to join the club or how to renew their membership.

One page contains a form which could be used to notify the club of a newly published book. Another gives access to copies of our newsletter, *The Inkslinger*. Other places contain how-to articles such as *I've Published a Book. Now What?* Or an article about the personal writing processes of some of our popular writers or a *Poemsmiths* page on the writing and presentation of poetry.

Other pages contain special Zoom meetings which we have come to call Act II to balance our regular monthly club meeting. Some display testimonials where members express how much the club has meant to them and helped them in their writing. By its linear format, the website keeps a natural history of our projects and guest presenters and reveals where we have been and where we are going.

You are invited to mine the depths of this treasure trove of creativity and aid to good writing. Share this mission statement with us: The CWC shall foster professionalism in writing, promote networking of writers with the writing community, mentor new writers and provide literary support for writers and the writing community as is appropriate through education and leadership.

In times of writer's block and stifled creativity, continue to live by the motto of this great club: *Sail On!* 🚢



## HOW TO BE A SUCCESSFUL WRITER

One can only imagine the horror Lockheed/Martin scientists felt when, in 1999, the \$125 million-dollar Mars Orbiter crashed into the planet.

And what was the cause of such a costly embarrassment? The NASA scientists were using metric measurements while the Lockheed scientists were still using Standard. The result? Disaster.

The standard of measurement we use matters.

I was part of a lively discussion today with some of our wonderful authors about how we measure success.

We are all pressured by what others might consider grabbing the brass ring. The overwhelming message we get is that to be successful we must sell thousands of books, have a sharp, skilled agent, and a powerful publisher. We need to be on the speaking circuit. Models are held up before us—Rick Riordan, John Grisham, Stephen King, Dean Koontz, Nora Roberts, J. K. Rowling, and the list goes on. When you become one of these, then you can consider yourself successful.

This last week I saw the documentary *Harry and Snowman*. It was a memoir of the life of Henry La who migrated to America with nothing and went on to win the Triple Crown at Madison Square Garden twice riding a white horse he rescued from the dog-food mill—a horse he called Snowman. But I was struck by what I would consider the great failures of the man's life. His wife, fed up with his obsession and the cost to their family, ordered him to sell all the horses. When he refused, she left him. At least one of his children, whom he used as a worker on his ranch, left home as soon as he could to escape his father's tyranny. Even the daughter and son who would agree to be interviewed displayed an undercurrent of resentment for the way they were used by their father.

Here's something to think about. What is your measure of success as a writer? How about considering some of these:

- The joy of writing. What if you measured the success by how much fun you have in the writing process? After all, isn't that why you started?
- The accomplishment of finishing a book. A recent survey showed that only six percent of the American population write half a book. Most quit. If you finish writing your book, you are exceptional! Celebrate your success!
- What about the reaction of the few readers you have? I've had people tell me that my book *Godsend* was their favorite book ever. You can bet I felt successful.
- What about the impact you have, even on a few lives? I'm reading Dwight Norris' book *Johnny McCarthy*. It's teaching me how some Americans lived at the turn of the century. It's informing my ideas about justice, the proper treatment of workers, the grit and spirit of the people who built America. When anyone reads your book, you have made an impact on them—even if they disagree with you.
- The fun of being in a supporting writing community. I enjoy talking and working with other writers. Writing is a craft that I relish learning about. I'm especially grateful for the friendships I've developed in the HDCWC.

We can accept the measures of success that others might impose upon us. If we do, we will most likely become discouraged and, ultimately, will crash and burn out. Or we can identify what makes us successful on our own terms and write happily for the rest of our lives. 🏠



# WRITERS ARE READERS

BOOK REVIEWS *by Mary Langer Thompson*



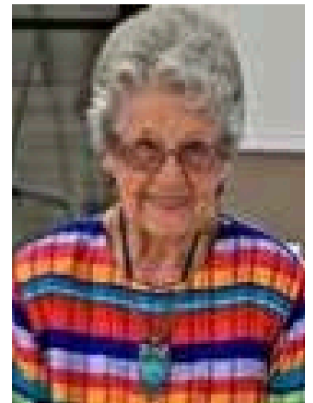
## WILLOW THE LOST PILLOW

By June Langer

(Previously published in *The View*, August 2022)

A couple of weeks ago, I had a birthday—a big one, almost three digits—and as old people are prone to do, I started to reminisce. I began to think about the paths I had traveled and how some of them changed the roads I took. At the same time, my daughter gave me a delightful children’s book, *Willow the Lost Pillow* by Cynthia Freymueller, that reminded me of one of the most important changes in my life.

The book told of a little yellow trailer who was traveling behind a little red truck and looking for a little blue pillow who had got lost. The little red truck was traveling east on Route 66 from Santa Monica, California on the Pacific Ocean to Chicago’s Lake Michigan where Route 66 began. They stopped at all the historic spots along the way, but no pillow. There was the Summit Inn on the Cajon Pass, where ostrich burgers were served. They crossed the Colorado River, visited the Pueblos, where Indians still lived, traveled across the Petrified Forest, explored Springfield, Illinois, where Lincoln lived for a long time, and finally reached Chicago’s Union Station, where trains from all over the U.S. meet.



I remembered every stop on that journey because my family and I made that trip and stopped in all those places and more in 1958. The difference was that we were coming west to begin a new life in California. My parents had retired and bought a house in Glendale and encouraged us to come. They even came and got us in their new Crown Victoria automobile. My children learned a lot of history and geography on that trip.

As important as that trip was to us, there is one portion that stands out in my memory vividly. It was late in the afternoon. My father’s legs were beginning to ache. He was the driver. We were all thirsty and desperately needed to stop and stretch, but there was no place for miles around. There was nothing but empty space. At last a small café appeared, but there didn’t seem to be anyone in it and no cars parked in front of it. My father stopped anyway. When we entered the café, we were shocked to see a dejected-looking woman with her right arm bandaged from her shoulder to her fingertips. We asked if there was a place to get something to eat and she said, “I have plenty of food. I just can’t fix it for you. If you want, you can fix it yourself. Just pay for what you use.”

It was getting late so we decided to help ourselves. Mom found some pork chops and corn on the cob and prepared them, my daughter, Mary, helped set the table and we invited the injured lady to eat with us. We had the most delightful visit with her and she was most appreciative. Afterwards, my father and husband secured the outside so that no animals would disturb anything. Mom and I made sure the kitchen was neat and clean. As we left to find a motel before it got dark, the café owner assured us that someone was coming the next morning to take her to the doctor for a check-up. She invited us to come again. We said we would if it were possible.

It took two more days to finish that trip. We didn’t realize that we were making history just like the Forty-niners in their prairies schooners. Route 66 is history now. Freeways have taken over and some historic places no longer exist. I have my memories.

Did the little yellow trailer ever find his little blue pillow? Read the book to find out. I enjoyed it so much that I am giving it a five-star rating. Soon I will give it to one of my grand children and tell them about my historic, life-changing adventure. 🏠



*Jenny Margotta*

From an Editor's Desk

## GO. LEARN THINGS

One of the things that brings joy to my life is learning new things. Each morning—well, most mornings, at least—I start the day wondering what new subject I might be introduced to or what new piece of information or word I might be lucky enough to add to my mental file cabinet that day. That new knowledge might come from anywhere: a book I'm editing, one I'm reading for pleasure, from my daily perusal of the internet, and even from a TV show or movie. A few weeks ago I was watching a British TV show where the characters were in the neighborhood pub, participating in Trivia Night. One of the categories was collective nouns for animals, birds, and insects. That started me wondering just how many collective nouns there are. When I started researching, what I found was fascinating to me.

Let's start with insects. The site [www.adducation.info](http://www.adducation.info) listed twenty-five separate insects or categories of insects. (Yes, I know, there are actually thousands.) For those twenty-five categories, there were thirty-two collective nouns. Many were ones we're all familiar with: a colony of ants, a hive of bees, a cloud of gnats. But did you know that when it comes to butterflies, you can have a rabble, a kaleidoscope, or, my favorite, a rainbow of butterflies? Then there's a loveliness of ladybugs, a scourge of mosquitoes, a whisper, a flutter or a universe of moths, and a clutter of spiders. Along with a nest of wasps, they are also referred to as a plague, a pail, or a swarm. In addition to a hive of bees, you can also have a grist, a flight, and a bike.

Next I moved to animals, again using [www.adducation.info](http://www.adducation.info). Seventy-six types or categories of animals were listed with 109 associated collective nouns. We all know a herd of cows, a flock of sheep, or a pack of dogs or wolves. But I found a shrewdness of apes, a sleuth or a sloth of bears, and a quiver of cobras. For cat lovers, there's a clutter, a clowder, a glaring, a kindle and a litter. There's a scurry of chipmunks, a drift of cows, a memory of elephants, a business or flensing of ferrets, a skulk of foxes, a troubling of goldfish, a horde of hamsters, a down or husk of hares, a crash of rhinos, a harem of seals, and a cupboard of pandas. To our well-known flock for sheep, they are also collectively called a drove, drift, meinie, mob, parcel, trip, hurtle, or down. There's a dray or scurry of squirrels, and a cohort, dazzle, or zeal of zebras.

Surprised yet? So was I. And when I moved to birds, I was even more surprised. Another site, [www.birdspot.co.uk](http://www.birdspot.co.uk), listed 206 types or categories of birds to which an amazing 154 collective nouns were assigned.

We all know about a flock of birds, a brood of chicks, and a gaggle of geese, and many of us know there's a murder of crows. But I found such unusual collective nouns as a pretence, sedge, or siege of bitterns, a grind of blackbirds, a twack of ducks, a charm, trembling or trimming of finches, a glean of herons, a constable or unkindness of ravens, and a contradiction of sandpipers. Robins had an amazing eleven collective nouns: blush, bobbin, breast, carol, gift, reliant, riot, rouge, round, ruby, and worm. I smiled at a flamboyance of flamingos, a charm of hummingbirds, a mischief of magpies, and a storytelling of crows.

Now as to why all these collective nouns have been applied to various animals, birds, and insects, I haven't yet been able to determine. I can see another research day coming! But the next time one of your stories or poems deals with living creatures, venture away from herds, flocks, and colonies, and surprise your readers with more unusual terms. Imagine a character being overrun by a twack of hungry ducks or finding a prickle of hedgehogs in the garden while fighting off a grist of angry bees. 🐝

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## WORD OF THE MONTH

•**meinie; meiny** ('meini) **noun; plural meinies; (archaic or historical)**

1. a household, a crowd, or feudal attendants. Also a family, a body of attendants, a company of people employed together, a great number, the multitude.

The word was used as early as 1484. Examples throughout history include: a meiny (meinie) of attendants; of brooks; of chessmen (a set); of cranes, 1484; of geese, 1484; of male foals, 1522; of oxen, 1530; of people, 1609; of pilgrims, 1442; of plants, 1530; of discontented puritans, 1670; of rascals, 1529; of sheep, 1522; of sparrows, 1556; of villains, 1529. ([www.freedictionaryonline.com](http://www.freedictionaryonline.com))

# DESERT BUNNIES

By *Ann Miner*

When I lived in Las Vegas and I was looking for a job, I discovered an opening in a school in Caliente, a little town in Southeastern Nevada. I invited my friend Lois to ride along with me. Lois knew exactly how to get there, so she said, and since I didn't, I listened to her.

As we sped along, I saw a sign for Pahrump pointing that-a-way. That didn't seem right, and I questioned her. She insisted all was well. "It's okay, just keep going."

I did, and, eventually, we stopped to check directions because it felt to me like we should be there by now. Lois went inside the gas station and came back with the information that we were on the right road.

Soon it got closer and closer to my interview time, and I became more concerned. We were in the middle of what seemed like Nowhere, Nevada, with nothing but desert cottontails, lizards, and rattlers. We came upon a large motor home parked on the side of the road. I pulled over and asked if they had a map of Nevada. They did, and we discovered that we were on the exact opposite side of the state from Caliente. It would be impossible to be on time for the appointment.

Cell phones were not prevalent in 1995, and I hoped we would come upon civilization soon so I could call the little school to make amends. Mind you, it was all vast, open desert. Then we saw it, a giant sign indicating an establishment, and lo and behold, there was a phone booth right in front of it!

But hark! A large, rather rapid-moving semi pulled into the place just before we got there, and I just knew that the truck driver was stopping to make a call. But we were in luck because he went on around to the back of the buildings, leaving the phone booth to us. I jumped out of the car to phone my contact in Caliente. I apologized and rescheduled for the following week. Lois had stayed in the car, and from her vantage point, she had a view of the front door.

When I returned to the car, she pointed out the little sign above the doorbell. It read, "Ring bell for pleasure." That is when I realized what the big sign on the road had read. We were at the Cottontail Ranch, a brothel. And yes, I guess the truck driver did stop to "make a call." 🚗



## TIME TO CELEBRATE!

The Bible tells us to rejoice with those who rejoice. Susan Elizabeth Philips said, "Celebrate the success of others. High tide floats all ships." In that spirit, please join with me in rejoicing with Mary Ruth Hughes who received a \$1000 check from the California Center for the Arts as part of the California Relief Fund for Artists and Cultural Practitioners. This award is in recognition of Mary Ruth's brilliant work with her books about Tishomingo and the Chickasaw Nation. These books have been honored for their cultural relevance and accuracy.

One of the best things about our writing club is that we celebrate the success of our members. Today we applaud **Mary Ruth Hughes**. We are so happy for you!





# THE MOST FAMOUS AUTHORS OF ALL TIME

By Michael Raff

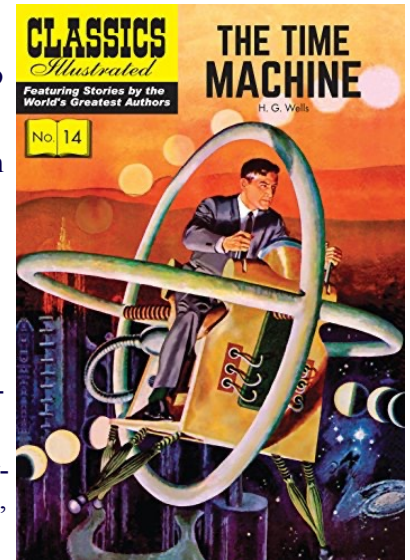
## H. G. WELLS (PART 2)

In October of 1938, Orson Welles unleashed his radio adaptation of *The War of the Worlds*. Many listeners, didn't understand it was just a fictional presentation and thought the Martians had actually invaded, which caused a historical panic throughout the U.S. Two

years later, Orson Welles along with H. G. Wells, were both interviewed on KTSA, San Antonio, by Charles Shaw. Wells expressed surprise regarding the panic and acknowledged his gratification to Welles for the abrupt sales increase for one of his "more obscure" titles.

Wells most productive period was prior to WWI. According to George Orwell, Wells had squandered his talents in his later years, writing social commentary books, short stories, and articles.

Wells had diabetes and was a co-founder of the Diabetic Association, an important organization in the United Kingdom. He died at his home in London of unspecified causes, on August 13, 1946. His remains were cremated, and his ashes were scattered into the English Channel. In the preface of the 1941 edition of *The War in the Air*, Wells wrote that his epitaph should be, "I told you so. You damned fools."



A statue in Woking, England

During his lifetime, Wells was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature four times. He wrote more than 50 novels, dozens of short stories, and has been called the "father of science fiction" as well as the "Shakespeare of science fiction." A futurist, he foretold the advent of aircraft, tanks, nuclear weapons, space travel, satellite television, and the World Wide Web. He inspired the imaginations of countless future writers with his stories about time travel, alien invasions, biological engineering, and invisibility.

When I was a boy, I loved reading comic books. To this day, my all-time favorite is the Classics Illustrated edition of *The Time Machine*. I was well-acquainted with the 1960 movie version starring Rod Taylor. However, the comic included a scene that wasn't in the movie, which took me totally by surprise. When the time traveler and Weena are on their way back from the museum, miles away from the Eloi, they are chased through a forest at night by the cannibalistic Morlocks. The scene raised more than a few hairs at the back of my neck and I have never forgotten it.

### Fun Facts About H. G. Wells

A commemorative plaque in Wells's home was installed in 1966 by the Greater London Council.



My favorite comic.

Science fiction historian John Clute stated that Wells was, "the most important writer the genre has yet seen."

Winston Churchill was an avid reader of Wells's works and borrowed some of the author's lines in an early landmark speech. The phrase, "the gathering storm" that Churchill used to describe the rise of the Nazis was taken from *The War of the Worlds*.

There have been numerous film adaptations of Wells's work including: the already-mentioned *The Time Machine*, as well as *The Island of Lost Souls*, *First Men in the Moon*, *The War of the Worlds*, and *The Invisible Man*. The director of the 2002 remake of *The Time Machine* was Wells's great-grandson, Simon.

Actor Malcom McDowell played Wells in the film, *Time After Time*, where Wells uses his time machine to chase after the murderer Jack the Ripper.

In a fitting tribute, a crater on the far side of the moon is named after Wells.

As I'm writing this article on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, I discovered that it's H. G. Wells's birthday.

Until next month, keep reading, writing, and for a fantastic journey into the realm of science fiction, take a peek at one of Wells' books! 🚀



## VIN SCULLY EVENINGS

By *Suzanne Dalzell*

When I was a child bride, one of the most mesmerizing things that I remember is summer evenings lying on the floor in the small living room of the home on Merrill Street listening to Vin Scully announce the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball games. There was a transistor radio, and pillows, and I suppose your dad drank a Pepsi, and we laid on the new 9' x 12' beige loop cheap carpet that we bought with the wedding money that my Grandma McGuire had given to us. I don't recall ever having been to a baseball game. I did not come from a sports-minded family, except for maybe boating and water-skiing out at Kemper Campbell Ranch.

I had graduated from Victor Valley High School. I was pregnant with Tami that summer, and life was very narrow for me. My husband went to work early each day, and I had no idea what to do. My mom was pretty much not speaking to me, and besides that, she was gone off on a vacation for a few months in a trailer with my dad and Sally. They had closed/sold the Motor Inn Grocery in Oro Grande, and so they were vacationing, trying to forget their disappointment in my pregnancy and early marriage, in that order. Besides some anxiety about the future of being a mother, I was happy enough. I did not know how to cook, but I learned. I did not know how to iron, but your other grandmother, Thelma Meyer, helped me. I did not have a vacuum, so Thelma would come and help me pick up the pieces of lint etc. on the Grandma McGuire carpet. We only had two, maybe four, towels and so I learned to make sure they were dry every day. I am sure your dad dried himself off after a shower with a T-shirt more than once. I think we went to the laundromat. Sometimes, Thelma helped with laundry. We were poor. Like young people of that era, we had to learn everything the hard way. We opened a charge account at McMahan's furniture and bought the couch and chair and two end tables.

The end tables with the sharp edges that gave you kids grief and scars all those years... so we had monthly payments on my wedding rings and the McMahan's furniture, and the jazzed-up red 1959 Ford payments.

Listening to Vin Scully announce the Dodgers games on the radio was like a pacifier in my ear. He had the most soothing and reassuring voice. I can remember when there was a close game, and then the Dodgers would make a home run or something, watching David react with a soft YES, and fist in the air movement and biting his tongue like he did. Over the years I became a baseball fan. Ron and I were watching the Dodgers game on TV night several weeks ago—they playing the dreaded San Francisco Giants—when they announced Vin Scully's death. I felt a profound loss. The memories flooded over me: all those years of baseball with David, watching and listening to him discuss the game the next day with his dad. Maurice was a huge Dodgers fan. He even taught our parakeet later to say Damn Dodgers.

Life got better between my mother and me *as* the time drew nearer for me to have Tami. And by the time Diana came, we were still in the little house on Merrill Street old town Victorville, \$40.00 a month. My mother was a happy grandmother, or should I say a happy "Mother", as you girls ended up calling her. I had a washing machine by the time Diana came, a used one that Dad bought us. I hung out diapers on the clothesline. There was no such thing yet as a dryer, as I recall.

The constant in my life has been Vin Scully and summer evenings with Dodgers Baseball.

You both listened to Vin Scully in the womb; maybe you can remember.

Love, Mom 🏠

*"We write to taste life  
twice, in the moment and in retrospect."*

--Anais Nin



## HDCWC CELEBRATES CALIFORNIA WRITERS WEEK WITH CHILDREN'S STORY PANEL

Have you ever wanted to write a children's story but didn't know how to begin or what was entailed with getting it written and, especially, published?

On Monday, October 17, 2022, the High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club will present a panel of authors who are published in that genre. The special event will be held from 5 p.m to 7 p.m. at the Hesperia Library Community Room 9650 Seventh Avenue in Hesperia. The public is invited and welcome to attend at no charge.

The panel will include Andrea Willow, Ann Miner, Mary Langer Thompson, Mary Ruth Hughes, and Amelia Hanson. A special feature has been added to complete the understanding of writing this type of story. Editor Jenny Margotta will explain complexities of publishing and easy ways to make it simple. The combination of experienced panelist and the professional knowledge of an editor who can explain how to comply with publishing requirements make this presentation a valuable resource for anyone with the desire to write children's books and stories.

For several months in early 2003, with the expert help of Anthony Folcarelli, the Central Board of the California Writers Club worked to establish California Writers Week. The plan was successful and on September 4, 2003 at 10 a.m., California Writers Club members gathered on the Assembly floor in Sacramento to receive a Joint Legislative Resolution from Assemblyman Tim Leslie. The Resolution is endorsed by the California Library Association.

The text of the document establishes the third week in October as California Writers Week. Traditionally, individual branches have celebrated this recognition with special events over and above their normal activities.

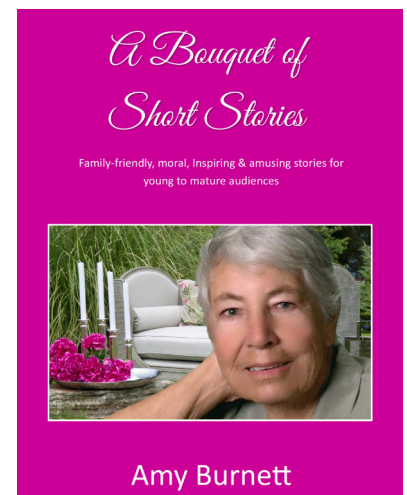
The full text may be found on [www.calwriters.org](http://www.calwriters.org).

For more information about the HDCWC, visit [www.hdcwc.com](http://www.hdcwc.com). 🚩

## AMY BURNETT WRITINGS PUBLISHED POSTHUMOUSLY

**AMY BURNETT'S DAUGHTERS PUBLISHED A COLLECTION  
OF AMY'S WRITINGS AFTER HER DEATH ON JULY 30,  
2022. THEY HAD COPIES TO DISTRIBUTE AT AMY  
BURNETT'S FUNERAL ON SEPTEMBER 24 IN  
WRIGHTWOOD.**

The collection is available on Amazon.com. 🚩



# A PREMIER EXPERIENCE AT PREMIER ACADEMY

By *Mike Apodaca*

HDCWC has partnered with the AIMS Project, spearheaded by our members Mary Langer Thompson and Debbie Rubio. Debbie is an art teacher at Premier Academy in Apple Valley. It is a school geared to those students who, for whatever reason, were not making it in the traditional high school setting. As their Mission Statement says: “High Desert Premier Academy is an alternative school of choice that seeks to prepare students for college or career.”

So what does our partnership entail? Some of our members have volunteered to work in the classroom, presenting a lesson to the students on the art of literacy.

For our part, Judith Pfeffer and I did a class on song lyrics and how music enhances the musical experience. Judith started by introducing us and then singing the song “Ode to Billy Joe.” I followed with the song “Count on me,” by Bruno Marris. We helped the students understand the difference in tone and message between the two songs.

We ended by bringing the students into the experience. We played for them the song, “High Hopes,” by the group Panic at the Disco. Judith took a student out and worked with him on singing the lyrics. I stayed with the class and we reviewed the lyrics. I defined words with them and helped them understand that this is a powerful song about setting your goals high and giving your all—not becoming discouraged by early failure. Then I handed out percussion instruments to the twenty-two students and played the song again with the students playing the instruments and our one student singing.

And then the bell rang. Period was over. It went so quickly.

I ran into a student afterwards who was waiting for the bus. He said the word I was hoping to hear—he had fun. I told him I did as well. He thanked me for being there that day.

Inspiring students is an honor. Giving them an exciting experience with music is a delight. Think about a way that you can inspire Debbie’s students with a writing exercise or fun activity. Let her know you are ready to inspire. 🚩





# Dwight and Mike Hit the Road Introducing Schools to the Scholastic Writing Program



Sitting Bull Junior High School

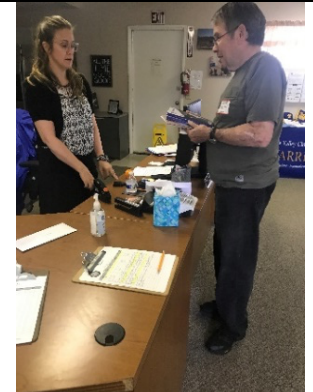
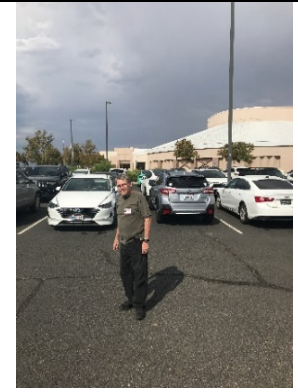
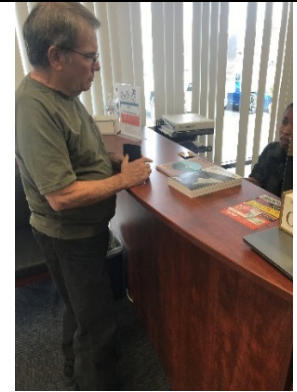
Excelsior High School



Excelsior High School

Apple Valley High School

Alta Vista Innovation HS



Alta Vista Innovation HS

Granite Hills High School

Apple Valley Christian



Lewis Center

Dwight Norris and Mike Apodaca did their yearly trek, visiting local high schools, sharing with them the Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards Program. Every year our members help to score the writings of junior high and high school students. The highest-rated writers are included in a yearly published anthology and have the opportunity to earn a scholarship. Best of all, they learn the joy of writing.





## PUBLISHED AUTHORS TO SHARE WISDOM IN VARIOUS GENRES AT HDCWC MEETING

A panel of published authors sharing their knowledge on several writing genres will be featured at the October meeting of the High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club (HDCWC). The public is welcome and invited to attend at no charge. The HDCWC will host the meeting on Saturday, October 8 at Jess Ranch Community Church 11537 Apple Valley Road in Apple Valley from 10a..m to noon.

Round-Table Genre discussion will include Roberta Smith, Screenplays; Michael Raff, Suspense writing; Lorelei Kay, Memoir; Mike Apodaca, Christian Writing; Mary Langer Thompson, Poetry; Dwight Norris and Jenny Margotta, Historical Fiction and Research. Each author who will lead the genre topics is an experienced writer in that particular type of publication.

The California Writers Club was founded in 1909 and is the largest professional writers club west of the Mississippi. The High Desert Branch was founded in 1990 and meets monthly on the second Saturday of the month. The mission of the CWC is to assist writers at all levels of the craft to write, publish and market their work. For more information, visit [www.hdcwc.com](http://www.hdcwc.com) or call 760.221.6367. 🚩



*"Don't bend; don't water it down; don't try to make it logical; don't edit your own soul according to the fashion. Rather, follow your most intense obsessions mercilessly."*

--Franz Kafka

HIGH DESERT BRANCH OF THE  
CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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

**PRESIDENT**

Dwight Norris

hdcwcpresidentdnorris@gmail.com

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Mike Apodaca

Mrdaca.ma@gmail.com

**SECRETARY**

Joan Rudder-Ward

imaker@msn.com

**TREASURER**

Jenny Margotta

jennymargotta@mail.com

**MEMBER-AT-LARGE**

Linda Boruff

lindajeانبoruff@msn.com

**PROGRAMS/PUBLICITY**

Bob Isbill

risbill@aol.com

**MEMBERSHIP**

Michel Raff

mprseven@aol.com

**SALON COORDINATOR**

Loralie Kay

LoreleiKay7@gmail.com

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Richard Zone

retiredzone@gmail.com

**WEBMASTER**

Roberta Smith

hdcwc\_web@aol.com

## Quote of the Month

By Michael Raff

***"Monsters are real, and ghosts are real too.  
They live inside us, and sometimes, they win." -***

Stephen King.

## Members Only

Take advantage of your membership benefits

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

## HDCWC's Youtube Channel

Catch the latest happenings at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC28XLtEK5oBNq5gW2Zy1ssg>

## Free Advertising

Do you provide a service that could benefit other writers?

Send a JPEG file of your business card or ad to

[retiredzone@gmail.com](mailto:retiredzone@gmail.com)

**We'll advertise it free of charge!**

## Submitting to the Inkslinger

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

Call Richard Zone if you would like to discuss  
an article or idea: 909-222-8812

