



# The INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC  
Inspiring a Community of Writers

Sail On  
**September 2021**



## Club Meetings for September

**Saturday September 11th 10:00**

### Marilyn King: Storytelling

Marilyn King is a historical-inspirational writer who scatters seeds of hope into the lives of her readers. As a fiction author, she writes Southern Antebellum, Prairie-Western, and Amish stories. Marilyn has spent half her growing-up years on a farm in Kansas. She loves the country charm and in truth, it never left. In the rare moments she isn't writing, Marilyn can be found in her craft room making retro aprons, dish towels, or charming pillowcases. She loves spending time with her children and grandchildren. She's been a member of the High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club for over ten years.

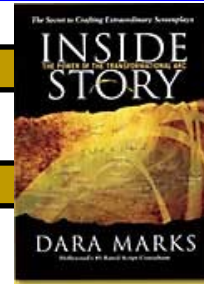
Her first novel, *The Winds of Grace*, takes place in 1830s Jamaica. Grace Cooper must trust God to help her find acceptance from a father she never knew, fulfillment in a place she's never been, and safety from those who would rather see her dead. Can she hope to find love as well?

Subsequent books include *The Winds of Courage*, *The Winds of Promise*, *The Winds of Redemption* and *Isabel's Song*. She is also author of a children's book, *Tony Finds a Home*.



September 11th, Marilyn will show her unique method of weaving tales together. It's bound to intrigue and entertain. Invite a friend!

**Tuesday September 21st 6:00**



**Dara Marks, PhD**, is a writer and leading international script consultant who's devoted the last thirty years to the development of a groundbreaking approach to the theory of the transformational arc and screenplay structure.

Her unique method of story analysis has earned her top ratings by *Creative Screenwriting Magazine* as the best consultant in the business. She's worked with most major Hollywood studios and many independent filmmakers and has recently received a doctorate in Mythological Studies from Pacifica Graduate Institute. Dara is a highly sought-after keynote speaker whose work is committed to the idea that a culture speaks through its stories. She offers workshops, seminars, and script development services. Dara lives in Ojai, California, with her husband and son.

## Quote of the Month

By  
Michael Raff

"The bitterest tears shed over graves are for words left unsaid and deeds left undone."

Harriet Beecher Stowe, abolitionist and novelist.

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

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### Treasurer

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For what it's worth  
Writing is transformative

### Our Address

HDCWC  
17645 Fisher Street  
Victorville, CA 92395



**Dwight Norris**  
from the  
President

## Our Mission

Any entity that is managed must have a Mission Statement so the managers will know what to do. The following three paragraphs represent the mission statement of the California Writers Club.

*The California Writers Club (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.*

*The club supports all genres, writing styles and related professions such as editing, publishing, photographic journalism and agents.*

*The branches provide an environment where members can obtain critique of their efforts, attend workshops, and share experiences. Branches are encouraged to mentor writers of all ages by providing educational programs for adults and fostering youth programs.*

This statement is quite extensive and involves many aspects of writing. Under this broad umbrella the club can move in many directions. Experienced writers can offer instruction or supervise various learning experiences. New writers can take classes and participate in gathering information and increasing their understanding. And all of us, regardless of experience, can continue to grow and learn.

One member might devote himself to publishing a book that would help others learn

how to write with more skill. Another member might want to assemble a group of speakers who could go out and instruct and inspire those who want to have more influence with their writing. Yet another member of the club might want to be a mediator at break time in a Zoom Meeting. And we all enjoy sharing with others what we have accomplished. These are all worthwhile goals but are not as broad as the breadth of information contained in the complete mission statement. It's the responsibility of the president and members of the board to determine which directions to take to fulfill the objectives of the mission statement.

Some additional objectives that could be considered by board members who are seeking ways to fulfill the mission statement are to reach out to the community and promote or teach a class about writing, perhaps *How to Write My Life Story*. Imagine eight lessons on how to do this—maybe eight Tuesday nights in a row. It might stir up a lot of interest in writing; or contribute a piece to *The Inkslinger*; or reach out to the community selling some of your books at a book fair; or have the club attach itself to a national organization that promotes writing among young people and receive inquiries from teenagers throughout the country. You could put young people with a passion for writing in touch with each other so they could learn from us and from each other. That sounds like an idea that would be nothing but good. All of these are worthy objectives that align themselves well with our mission statement. And of course, there are countless others.

The HDCWC is a wonderful supportive writing community that helps us reach out and connect with others who share our passion. To get the most out of your membership, avail yourself of the many events and activities that are offered and make new friends with our members and enjoy them and learn from them. If you're interested in improving your writing, all the opportunities are before you. You are exactly where you need to be,

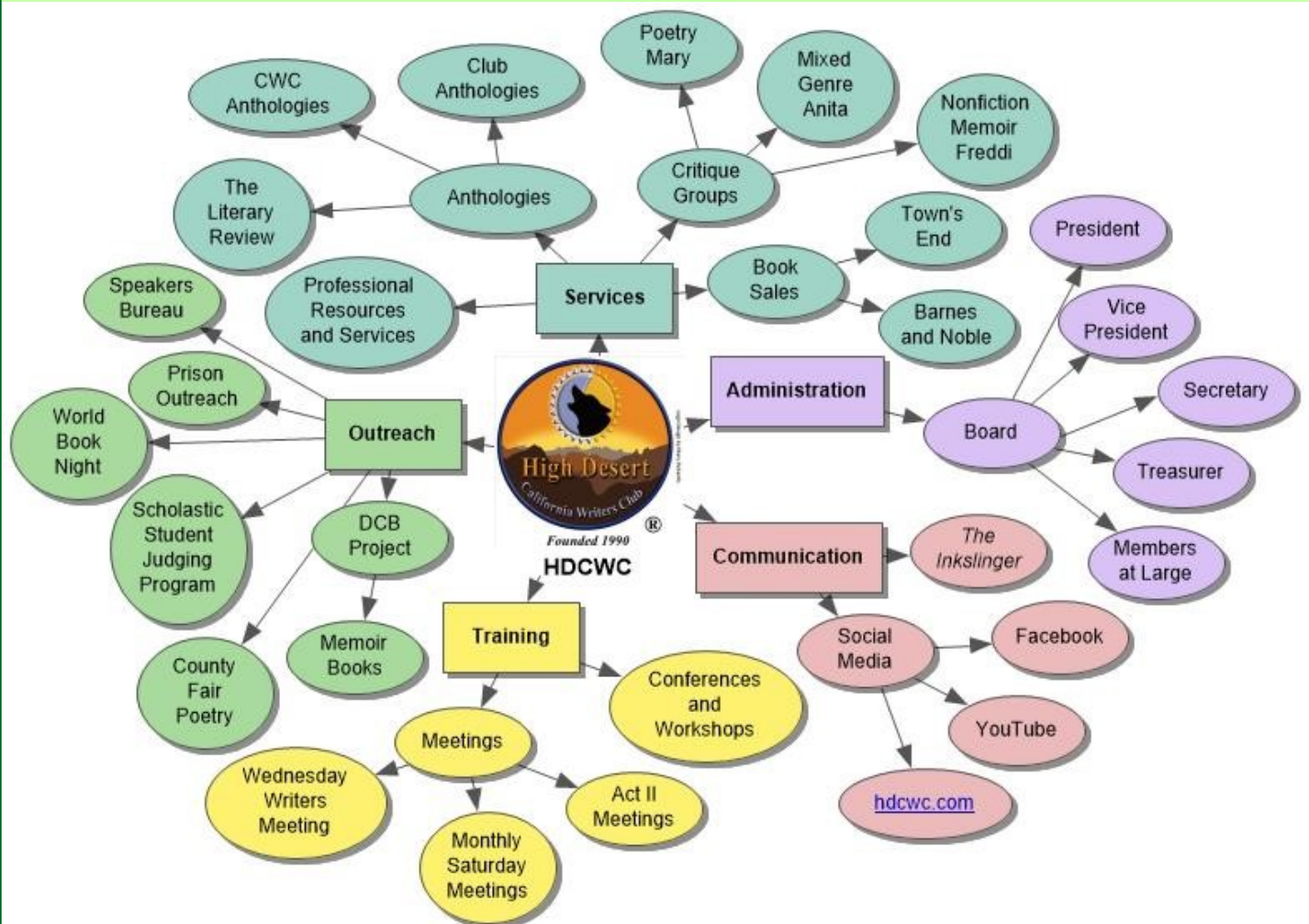




# HDCWC Organizational Chart



After reading Dwight's article, I felt it might help all of us to see at a glance the many things our club does. Before I was part of the board, I had no idea of the many programs and support opportunities available in the HDCWC. This is by no means a complete representation. I'm sure there are things left out. But this is a start. Thanks to all who participate in these vital programs and make our club what it is. And if you are yet to be involved, find a place and jump in!





**Mike Apodaca**

**from the  
Vice President**

## Overcoming COVID's Subtler Effects

We're all aware of the frightening effects of COVID-19. Sickness, hospitalization for some, and death for others. At this time over 640,000 have left us due to COVID. In most cases, they would not have otherwise died. Covid led to a societal shutdown, job loss, schools becoming virtual, and family members (like myself) stepping up to help kids do school online. A difficult season indeed.

I'm growing concerned with the less obvious effects of the pandemic—that of falling into depression and a state of the doldrums.

In the children's book *The Phantom Tollbooth*, Milo finds himself in the land of the Doldrums where he doesn't care about anything and tries not to think. He essentially shuts down. We see a similar thing in *The Lightning Thief* when Percy Jackson and his crew find themselves in the Lotus Casino in Las Vegas where there's no exit and all is play, loud music, and distractions. They are unaware that their precious time disappears in this place.

The Bible tells us to guard our hearts. Good advice. When it comes to our personal lives we have to be proactive and willing to do what it takes to not be affected by the general morass that has overcome so many.

Here's my two cents on how to prevent depression and the COVID doldrums.

1. Keep writing. Have a couple of writing projects that you are working on. Join a critique group or start your own. Working with others is powerful. It helps us feel connected and gets us out of our own

heads. It also gives us someone else to cheer for. I know I feel the success of my teammates is also mine.

2. Engage in the writing club. I'm most likely preaching to the choir. If you're reading this, you're probably already engaged to some degree. However, my encouragement is to become engaged even more. There are many needs in the HDCWC and programs you can become a part of. Join the Speaker's Bureau that Bob Isbill is putting together. Tell Mary Thompson that you're available to help with the DCB Memoir project. Get prepared for our next book sale. Volunteer to run our social media sites. Our club is very active and things go so much better when everyone helps out.

The CDC warns us to watch out for these signs of depression:

- Feelings of fear, anger, sadness, worry, numbness, or frustration
- Changes in appetite, energy, and activity levels
- Difficulty concentrating and making decisions
- Difficulty sleeping or nightmares
- Physical reactions, such as headaches, body pains, stomach problems, and skin rashes
- Worsening of chronic health problems  
Increased use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.

3. Stay close to family and friends. I call my mom every couple of days. I text my son. I see my daughter and grandchildren every couple of days. And, of course, my beautiful wife partners with me in life. There is a cliché that when things get tough the tough get tougher. When a virus separates us, it's up to us to get closer, however possible. This is why we launched the Zoom meetings as well as the Act II meetings, to get us together even if it had to be virtually.

This is a time to fight for our peace of mind and for our lives. We must overcome the pull of depression and the doldrums. We do this by living our lives, guarding our hearts, and staying close to others. I will not allow my life to be one more casualty of this pandemic. I hope you will do the same.





**Jenny Margotta**

from an

**EDITOR'S DESK**

## LEARNING WHEN YOU WRITE

One of my favorite aspects of editing is that I learn something new with nearly every book I edit. Over time, I've become quite conversant with archaeological digs in Mexico and Central America, can speak intelligently about the sport of landsailing, learned about rice production in the South prior to the Civil War, and can tell you exactly what a third cousin, twice removed is.

I've been known to read the dictionary for fun at breakfast, and I often "hatch" in bed in the mornings, thinking about what new thing I'll have the pleasure of learning that day. ("Hatching" was my mother's term for those not-yet-ready-to-spring-out-of-bed minutes each morning when you're half awake and contemplating the day.)

This lifelong love of learning spills over into my everyday activities, too. I'm currently rewatching Season 4 of Amazon Prime's *Bosch*. (*Bosch* only lasted 7 seasons. I think it is one of the best TV shows in years, so when Season 7 ended, I promptly began watching it again from the beginning.) For those who don't know, *Bosch* is based on Michael Connelly's series of novels featuring L.A. detective Harry Bosch. Each season presents one novel, and Season 4 is based on *Angels Flight*. Angels Flight is a funicular in downtown L.A. that runs up Bunker Hill between Hill Street and Grand Avenue.

My first experience with a funicular was years several years ago when I attended a wedding in the posh community of Sedona, Arizona. The wealthy bride suffered from severe arthritis and could not navigate the very steep hillside from her house to a stream and garden at the base of her property. So she had a 2-passenger funicular built just for that purpose. I enjoyed the ride but knew nothing of the history of such a conveyance.

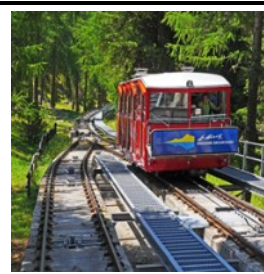
I remember thinking about it again the first time I watched Season 4 of *Bosch*, but I didn't pursue the subject then either. However, the other night when I was again watching the Angels Flight funicular climb Bunker Hill, I decided to do some research.

Angels Flight was originally built 118 years ago and is said to be the shortest funicular in existence. The very first funicular was built in Lyon, France, in 1862. It was steam operated. The first hydraulic one was built in the U.K. in 1876, and in 1888 the first electric funicular began operating in Switzerland.

At one time there were more than 300 funiculars in operation. Today, there are only about 200, but they are making a comeback due to their safety, functionality, capacity, and the fact that they equally adapt to urban and mountain areas. They can be found in the U.K., Austria, Germany, Italy, Norway, Israel, Turkey, Chile, Hong Kong, and in the U.S. in Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Iowa, Alaska, and, of course, Los Angeles.

What exactly is a funicular? According to Wikipedia, a funicular is a form of cable railway that operates on steep slopes. Two counterbalanced cars are permanently attached to opposite ends of a cable, which is looped over a pulley at the upper end of the track. The two cars move in concert: as one ascends, the other descends.

But Angels Flight only has one car. How can it be a funicular? I found the answer to that too. Single car systems are technically inclined elevators. The car is either raised or lowered by means of a cable, or it is balanced by a counter-weight moving along the track in the opposite direction. Numerous systems around the globe, including Angels Flight, are called funiculars even though they do not meet the technical definition.



That's my latest new piece of knowledge. What new thing are you going to learn today?

Photo courtesy of pixaxay.com

## WORD OF THE MONTH

Philomath: (noun) phil·o·math | \ 'filə, math

a lover of learning; a scholar, especially, a student of mathematics.



## The Most Famous Authors of All Time

BY  
Michael Raff

# Jules Verne

Jules Verne (1828-1905) was born on a small island on the Loire River within the town of Nantes, France. He studied in boarding and religious schools and just may have been influenced by his teacher Madame Sambin, a widow who told tales of her late husband, a navy captain, who survived a shipwreck and lived as a castaway. (Possibly an inspiration for *The Mysterious Island*.)

Verne moved to Paris around the time of the French Revolution to study law. However, on the side he wrote plays, poems, short stories, autobiographical accounts, songs, scientific and artistic studies, and most importantly—books. He met and married Honorine Anne Hébée Morel in 1857. He published several pieces in magazines and became a successful playwright.

He also met publisher Pierre-Jules Hetzel, who was trying to establish a high-quality publication, *Magazine of Education and Recreation*, that specialized in scientific education along with fiction and entertainment. Hetzel's magazine proved a perfect fit for Verne's literary pursuits, and before long he published Verne's novel *Five Weeks in a Balloon* (1863), in serial form. What followed was a golden age for Verne and his most famous books appeared in Hetzel's magazine: *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, (1864), *From Earth to the Moon*, (1865), *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, (1870), and *Around the World in Eighty Days*, (1872). It wasn't always smooth sailing for Verne and Hetzel. *Paris in the Twentieth Century* was rejected by the publisher as being too pessimistic and subversive. Also, an important plot element in *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* became a point of contention. Hetzel insisted changing Captain Nemo's motivations for sinking Russian ships to sinking slave trading ships. After that their relationship became less amicable.

Verne was able to live on his writings, but most of his wealth came for his stage adaptations. He also won some prestigious awards, including the Chevalier dela Légion d'honneur, (1870), and in 1892 he was promoted to officer. Verne also went into politics.

Verne was an avid researcher. *The Mysterious Island* was probably influenced by Francois Raynal's book, *Wrecked On A Reef*, about sailors who survived a shipwreck in the Auckland Islands for nineteen months. Other influences were:

*Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe, and *Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann Wyss.

Verne died in 1905 while suffering from diabetes.

Verne's books have been vastly successful with readers. He has been cited as one of the founding fathers of science fiction, along with H. G. Wells. He has also been referred to as a "prophet of scientific progress," which Verne denied. He is the second most translated author, between Agatha Christie and Shakespeare. His works have been adapted for film, TV, comics, theater, opera, and video games. Critics haven't always been kind. Some have labeled him a mere genre-based storyteller, not a serious author. Yet they have also said he had an impact on avant-garde and surrealism. I read *The Mysterious Island* while in grammar school and deemed it an adventure story.

Fun Facts about Jules Verne:

Author Ray Bradbury said of Verne, "We are all in one way or another, the children of Jules Verne."

His nephew Gaston shot him in the leg. Gaston spent his remaining days in a mental asylum. Verne ended up walking with a limp.

Some of Verne's works were never published during his lifetime. His son, Michel, helped publish *Invasion of the Sea* and *The Lighthouse at the End of the World*.

After Hetzel rejected *Paris in the Twentieth Century*, it was believed lost but was recovered and published in 1994.

At Tokyo DisneySea, a theme park is named after *The Mysterious Island*.

Until next month, *au revoir*, happy reading and writing!





## Meeting of Presidents

A ZOOM meeting was held Thursday evening, August 26<sup>th</sup>, for the presidents of the various twenty-two branches of the California Writers Club. New CWC president Roger Lubeck was present and provided his thoughts on the future of the club.

It seems that most branches of the CWC share common problems and desires. Members prefer to return to live meetings without restrictions. Most branches have adapted to ZOOM meetings, and some have had to hire technical assistance to be able to set these up. Leaders mentioned that when ZOOM meetings are recorded they get more appreciation and use from members.

It is clear that nearly all branches have experienced lower attendance during the pandemic. A perpetual problem of virtual meetings is how does a speaker sell his or her book? Amazon was right up there with *forget about it*. Fees for speakers at live meetings seemed to hover around \$100, with \$150 for a workshop. Quite a deal!

A common problem is how to secure volunteers. One leader recommended always talking to a member about this in

person, not relying on phone or email. At the largest branch, which has about 250 members (Redwood), about seventy members are involved in volunteering. The leader suggested encouraging them to *bring forth their skill sets* to help the club. The branch also has an annual meeting/dinner of appreciation with celebration photos and good food. The branch leader did say that when the club ran a roster of three hundred, no one ever saw the faces of a hundred of them.

**A common problem is how to secure volunteers.**

Some of Roger Lubeck's ideas included a branch that updates bylaws, job descriptions, and policies and procedures can do so but cannot conflict with CWC regulations. He wants the club (CWC) to develop a document like *Goodreads* to show the writings of each of our approximately 1,900 authors. To go along with that, he wants the term "associate" dropped from our membership rolls so that any designation is more about authorship rather than membership. He also wants to see a speaker's bureau started up for the entire statewide club so that the club will make a greater impact. He's looking for someone to head that up. If you can think of someone like that, have that person call Roger Lubeck.





## Our first in-person meeting in months



We were a little nervous at 9:00 on Saturday, August 14th as we set up tables and chairs for the meeting. Would anyone come?

There were hiccups, of course. Bob and Judy Isbill's power went out Friday night and they spent most of the night awake. The Zoom aspect of the meeting required Wi-Fi and I did not have the password. I was considering work-arounds when I remembered seeing people practicing special music for Sunday's church service. Fortunately, the leader was able to get me the password. The sound system set up was easy, but I wasn't sure the battery in the microphone would hold out. It did, thankfully.

As it got closer to 10:00, people began pouring in. Mike Raff had his table set up at the front greeting people as they came in and giving them name stickers. Jenny had her command center.

Dwight started the meeting in rare form. He's a social guy and really enjoys being with people. He sees his role as club president more like that of a minister—someone who looks after the membership, making sure everyone's doing well.

I had created an ice breaker to get everyone out of their chairs and talking with everyone. Those present were given sheets with a series of COVID-related questions. They had to find people who had done the things on the sheet—for example, "Saw Dwight Norris somewhere in the High Desert."

The ice breaker did its job. In no time people were chatting and having a great time.

Dwight led us through the meeting, highlighting new members—those who had joined during COVID. He had Mike Raff come up and share about the importance of critique groups. Dwight introduced those whose writing was accepted for publication in *The Literary Review*.

Bob Isbill shared the vision of the Speaker's Bureau and that headshots would be taken on Sunday.

A highlight of the meeting was hearing James "Grizzly" Elder singing his songs accompanied by his guitar. He didn't need a mic. His pipes blared out loud and clear.

When we took a break, people milled around to catch up with those they hadn't seen for so long. At this point, I was a little concerned about those joining us on Zoom. What were they supposed to do for twenty minutes while those in person ate delicious cup cakes (thanks, Mike Raff!)? I sat down with those on Zoom and was thrilled to find them in their own conversations, led by Debbie Rubio. She had people talking about what they were writing and what was going on in their lives. Dwight's right, we have excellent people in this club.

Karen Ohta, a wordsmith who regularly gives me pieces for *The Inkslinger*, approached me and introduced herself at the meeting. She told me I was taller than she expected.

When we reassembled, Dwight gave us more insights about our club. He asked for any first timers to introduce themselves. At first no one volunteered and I wondered if they were too shy. Then one by one the visitors introduced themselves. One was a dear teacher friend of mine named Gary Goedell whom I worked with in the GATE program at Hesperia Unified Schools. We talked after the meeting and I found him to be the big-hearted man I remembered. I'm hoping he'll join the club.

Dwight was closing the meeting a little early when he remembered that he wanted me to say a few words. I've been vice president for almost two years, but most members have only seen me on Zoom.

After I shared, Grizzly came up and did one last song he wrote all about the club. He especially poked fun at Dwight, which we all enjoyed.

Thanks to all who attended our meeting. We hope things will turn around with the virus and we'll be able to have in-person meetings from here on out.



We shall see.





## Matt Cabe Takes us to the Movies

You wouldn't believe how many times you've turned on your television or watched a movie and didn't realize it was shot right here in the High Desert.

It was enthralling listening to Matthew Cabe, editor of our own *Daily Press*, share with our members about movies made here in our own backyard.

These were not just B-movies or low-budget films. Thirty-five Academy Award nominated pictures were shot in the High Desert with 148 nominations and 47 wins.

Mr. Cabe started researching this fascinating history between 2015-2019. Digging into the *Daily Press* archives, he kept finding articles about movies, music videos, and commercials, being shot here.

Mr. Cabe first talked about silent movies beginning with the 1911 the movie, *Little Dove's Romance* which was shot in Big Bear. More than 200 silent films were made in this area. William S. Hart, an early western movie star, put Victorville on the map.

John Ford shot the movie *Stagecoach* here. It launched John Wayne's career.



The movie industry also supports our economy. It has contributed 1.4 billion dollars to San Bernardino and Riverside in recent years.

Mr. Cabe talked at some length about the movie *Mank* by David Fincher in 2019. The movie is about Herman Mankiewicz, who was sent to the Kemper Campbell Guest Ranch in Victorville to write the screenplay for *Citizen Cain*. *Mank* was also shot at the ranch and reveals a lot about Victorville history.

This was a nice theme in Mr. Cabe's presentation—that we can actually see the history of the High Desert in these films.

Some other films shot in our community include the off-beat *Saturday Night Bath In Apple Valley* and *Electra Glide in Blue*, the establishment response to movies like *Easy Rider*. This movie has a long chase scene that takes place in Old Town Victorville.

Some famous directors have made movies in the High Desert, including Stephen Spielberg (*ET*) and Quentin Terrantino (*Kill Bill*).

There was a time at the end for Rusty and others to share about their experiences with movies made here, including *Top Gun*.

This was a terrific Act II and I am so thankful Matthew Cabe made time for us.

Mike Apodaca



## On Topic Speakers for You Holds Meeting and Serves Tacos

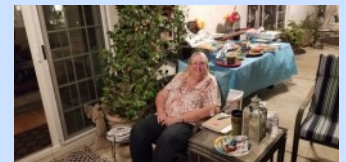
On Thursday, August 26th, a group of a dozen people who have expressed interest in the evolving formation of a HDCWC speaker's bureau met at the home of Judi and Bob Isbill, founder of the project, for an introductory session on the group's mission. Those attending were Bob Isbill, Anita I. Holmes, Rusty LaGrange, Mary Langer Thompson, Ann Miner, Gary Layton, Jenny Margotta, Emmalisa Hill, Lorelei Kay, Joan Rudder Ward, Marilyn Ramirez and not-yet-member, Ted Farcasin.



The writers brought lists of potential topics of talks and personal bios. This is the next area of putting together a publicity package. Most of those present had been part of the photo shoot held on August 15 at Sunset Hills to get a professional headshot together for the publicity package.



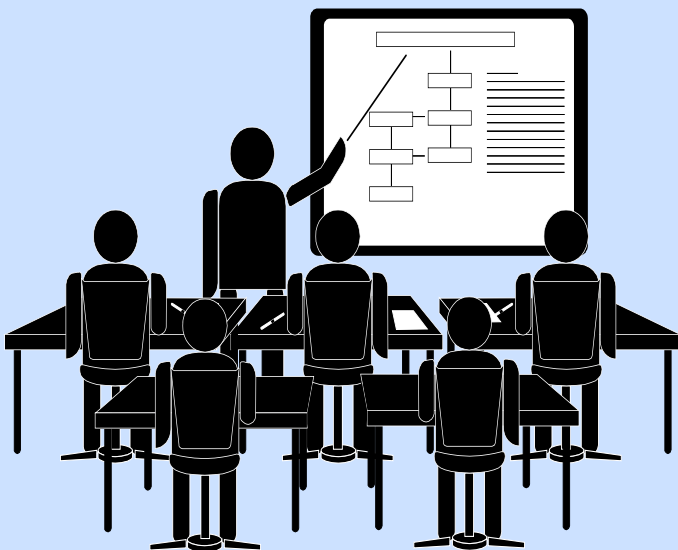
Bob Isbill outlined the program's goals and talked about some of the many aspects of the promotional project. As part of the overall vision of what could come about as an outcome, his "future press release" was read to the group to illustrate some of the things that might take place. The press release, imagined some time in the future is as follows:



### Book Launch on Writing by Writers

The High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club (HDCWC) held a book launch at the Victorville Barnes & Noble Booksellers for its collection of articles about the craft of writing written by HDCWC members and participants in the "On Topic Speakers for You" Presentation Project.

The OTSFY book will be used as a textbook for the 2022 Dorothy C. Blakely Memoir Project as well as the club's local writing workshops and the prison project whose goal it is to produce an anthology this year consisting of inmate poetry, essays, and stories.



The On Topic Speakers for You Presentation Project began in early 2018 as a platform for the club's writers to participate in a "speakers bureau" that offers presentations on a myriad of topics for organizations in the Southern California region. In conjunction with these presentations, the California Writers Club members may offer their books for sale while providing a community service by speaking on subjects of interest to those people.

As a foundation for the OTSFY, writers come together to listen, critique, and encourage fellow authors. They practice their presentations with other members of the HDCWC to hone their skills of making informative, interesting, and sometimes humorous talks to groups.

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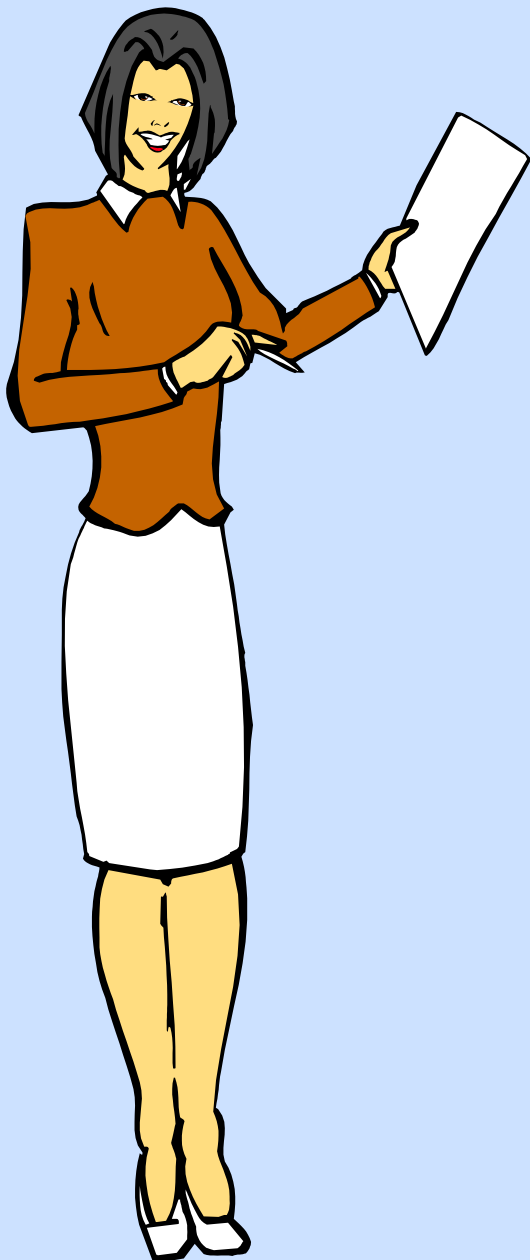


## On Topic Speakers for You Participants Hold Taco Feed Meeting

*Continued from page 11*

The OTSFY also assists its authors in developing a publicity package that includes bios, log lines for their books, press releases and professional headshots for a “rapid response” to those seeking a professional presenter.

The HDCWC describes the program as the next step in promoting its authors and giving them an opportunity to get themselves and their books “out there.”



Participants develop their specific topic writing craft skill by teaching the same two or three items to the programs that the HDCWC sponsors. Those authors take a craft topic (such as plot, character, theme, etc.) and intensely study everything they can learn about the subject. Then the OTSFY helps them develop a coherent, interesting, professional presentation about that topic.

The On Topic Speakers for You founder, who has for years dealt with procuring presenters for the HDCWC meetings and conferences, brings to the program his experiences with those who have and have not had their presentations and/or publicity packages together.

Speakers may be contacted by visiting [www.hdcwc.com](http://www.hdcwc.com)

**Their slogan is, “Whether you need a poet, a panel, or a personal presentation, call On Topic Speakers for You!”**



**Bob Isbill**

## Our Writers are Making a Difference

Let the **CALIFORNIA WRITER'S CLUB**

help you tell your story!

Join us as Award Winning authors  
Lorelei Kay and Mary Langer Thompson  
teach you how to tell your story!

**Monday, September 13, 2021**

**1 pm to 2:30 pm**

**At the Barstow Senior Center  
555 Melissa Ave., Barstow, CA 92311**



Lorelei Kay is the author of a three-time award-winning memoir, *From Storm to Mermaid—a Woman's Voyage from Oppression to Freedom*. Lorelei became hooked on poetry when her dad sat her down and helped her write her first poem. She later attended Brigham Young University on a journalism scholarship.

Her poems have appeared in anthologies, online publications, and magazines. Lorelei's served on the Blue Ribbon Judging Panel for Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards, as a mentor on the Dorothy C. Blakely Memoir Project, and on the board of the High Desert Branch of The California Writers Club. Her other loves include the hundreds of dolls she collects and displays, and a husband who doesn't complain—too much—about sharing the house with them.



Mary Langer Thompson, the 2012 Senior Poet Laureate of California, also writes short stories and essays and is completing a memoir of her first year as a public school principal. She is a contributor to two poetry writing texts, *The Working Poet* (Autumn Press, 2009) and *Women and Poetry: Writing, Revising, Publishing and Teaching* (McFarland, 2012). Her children's books *How the Blue-Tongued Skink got his Blue Tongue* and *The Gull Who Thought He Was Dull* were published by Another Think Coming Press. A retired school principal and former secondary English teacher, Langer Thompson continues to enjoy conducting writing workshops in her community where she won the 2019 Jack London Award from the California Writers Club, High Desert Branch.

This poster was created to advertise a special event at the Barstow Senior Center where Lorelei Kay and Mary Thompson will teach about writing.

It's part of our mission to support writing wherever we can. One way to do this is to get our writers speaking in public venues, like this one.

If you are interested in sharing what you have learned about writing, please contact Bob Isbill and become a part of the HDCWC Speakers Bureau.

## Critique Groups

Being a member of a critique group can greatly improve your writing. Truth is, few of us see all the mistakes we make when we're putting together a story, a novel, a poem, essay, non-fiction book or screenplay. Our critique group recently analyzed the resume of one of our members.



If you're not a member of a critique group and would like to be, consider hosting one, either in a home or on Zoom. Our group meets on Zoom, which has been great since not all our members live in the High Desert. We have a two-week cycle, submitting ten pages of our writing one week and meeting together the next week to explain our edits.

If you're interested in critique groups, contact Mike Raff ([mprseven@aol.com](mailto:mprseven@aol.com)) or Linda Boruff ([lindajeanboruff@msn.com](mailto:lindajeanboruff@msn.com)) and they will help connect you with others who want to take their writing to the next level.

**Mike Apodaca**

## Hybrid Meetings

This is a time of flexibility and innovation. Organizations that adapt will do better than those who are rigid and inflexible.

One of our adaptations is to go to hybrid meetings. While we are meeting in person, we also are making our meetings available on Zoom. This way, everyone can be present for our meetings.



This also means you can participate while out of town or on those Saturday mornings when you wake up at 10:00 and are not able to get it together to make the meeting. Just pour yourself a cup of coffee, turn on your computer, and join in.





## Aunt Ginny

From the book, *Growing Up In Riverside*  
By Gary Layton



One of Grandmother Layton's younger sisters, Ginny, lived with her husband, Bill, in a nice home in Tustin, California. I assumed that they were fairly well off financially because of the new car and the nice home but you never know. In the off-fire season of 1959, Bill said he could get me a job at a construction company in Santa Ana, so I loaded up and headed down there to find a job in that area.

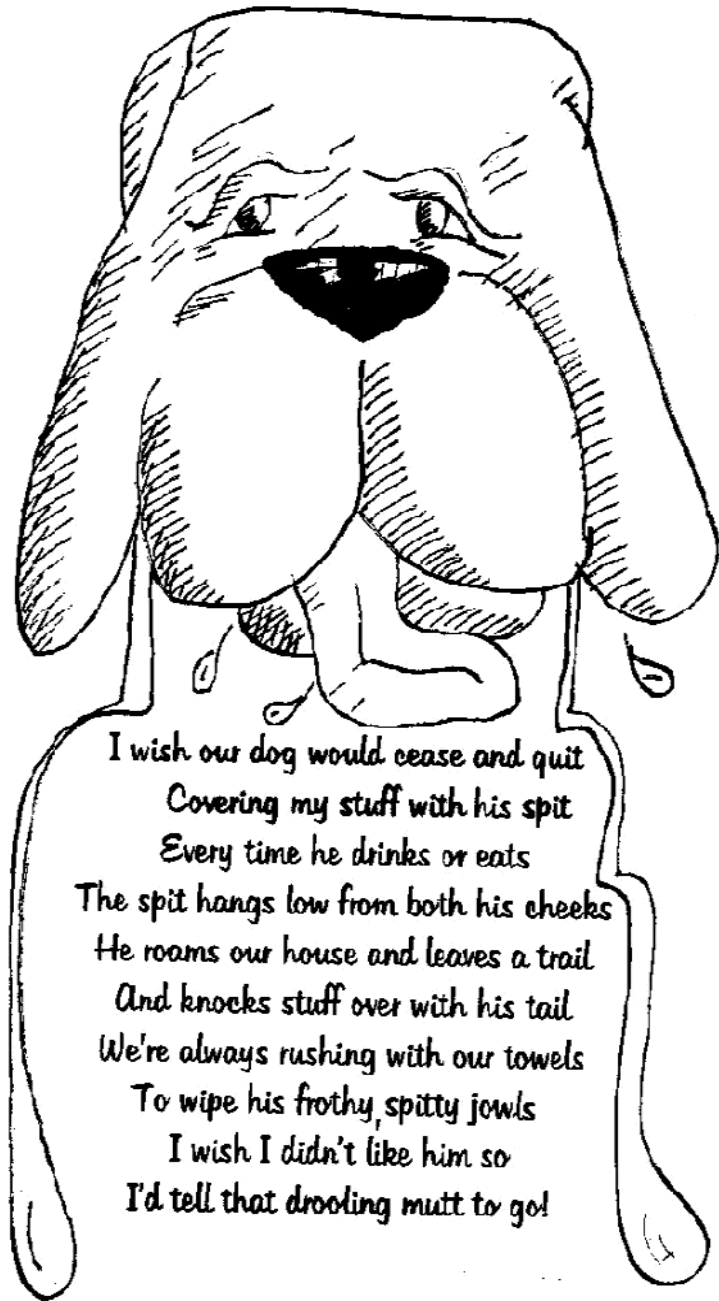
I ended up staying a couple of weeks with them at their home in Tustin. Ginny was a good cook and we always had nice meals with plenty of vegetables and salads. I was enjoying my visits with Ginny, sitting at the dining table, sharing tea, and talking with her. She was a very interesting individual.

One Saturday morning they were going grocery shopping and they asked me if I would like to go along and I said, "sure" and we were off to the store. We pulled up to one of the major grocery stores and I expected them to park, but they continued on around to the back of the store and pulled up to the large row of dumpsters lined up behind the store. They got out of the car and Bill proceeded to climb into the dumpsters and started handing items out to Ginny. He would say, "Look, here is a nice head of lettuce or a good bunch of celery." He would continue handing items out to Ginny, commenting on the conditions of said items. Ginny was stuffing bags full of carrots, ears of corn, cabbage (we had just had boiled cabbage the day before) celery, radishes, bananas and other various fruits and vegetables.

Bill and Ginny finished their "shopping" and we headed back to the house with me sitting in the back seat in total disbelief. That evening we had a nice dinner of meatloaf with the trimmings. I knew where the trimmings came from, but was afraid to ask where the meatloaf came from.

By early the next morning I miraculously had job offers in Riverside and headed back to my sister's house in Arlanza.





I wish our dog would cease and quit  
Covering my stuff with his spit  
Every time he drinks or eats  
The spit hangs low from both his cheeks  
He roams our house and leaves a trail  
And knocks stuff over with his tail  
We're always rushing with our towels  
To wipe his frothy, spitty jowls  
I wish I didn't like him so  
I'd tell that drooling mutt to go!



## A Day to Remember

By Ann Miner, as remembered by daughter, Katherine.

Mom gave us the word. “Come straight home after school today. We have a surprise for you.” Both she and Daddy were there when we arrived.

“Okay, Kiddos, get into the car,” they told us. “And put these on.”

They gave us all blindfolds, and next thing we knew, we were riding around the town, trying to figure out where we were headed.

We three little kids—ages 6, 8 and 10—knew the town well, but something was strange. Where could we be going? The turns were no longer familiar. We later learned that they were taking circuitous routes around the area to confuse us.

Soon the car stopped. We stumbled out and were guided blindly across a large concrete area, then lifted about 2 feet off the ground into—what? Where were we?

“Okay, you can take off your blindfolds now.”

Oh, wow!

We were inside a brand-new Volkswagen camper van. It was beyond our wildest dreams.

After we got home and the van was parked, we didn’t want to get out. And that’s where we slept all night that night.



## ZEN

By Barbara Badger

To the lady who wanted the Ray Bradbury book *Zen in the Art of Writing*, I plotted to “steal” it and I won. However, this is too precious a jewel to keep without payment to SOMEone. He has been a favorite writer of mine for decades, even though I haven’t opened one of his books for that long.

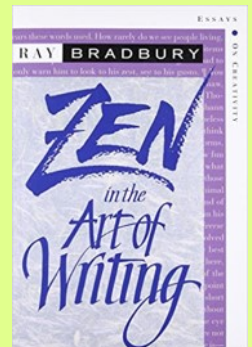
Words fail me now to describe the joy, intellectual titillation, satisfying thirst for words that dance like music to my heart and soul.

Here is a quote out of many that stirred me to write this.

“What do you think of the world? You, the prism, measure the light of the world; it burns through your mind to throw a different spectroscopic reading onto white paper than anyone else can throw.

Let the world burn through you. Throw the prism light white-hot on paper. Make your own individual spectroscopic reading.”

I hope the lady sees this. I want her to have this book. It rains life into a dry, shriveled mind.





# Poetry

## Have a Good Life for Us

by fumi-tome ohta

*I wonder how my friends are doing  
at the animal shelter*

*They were all barking when I was  
walking out with my new family*

*"Have a good life for us, puppy,"  
they yelled.*

*They all sounded so happy for me.*

*Sometimes I think it's not fair for  
me to be so happy. I have  
everything! I have a forever home,  
a family all my own, a warm bed and  
blanket and all the food I want to  
eat and all the stuffed animals I can  
play with.*

*I can still hear my friends barking.*

*I don't now why, but I worry for  
them.*

*"Have a good life for us, puppy!"*



## Resources:

If you're interested in expanding your poetry-writing abilities, there are some excellent materials and classes on [Writing.com](http://Writing.com).

Link for materials on Prose Poetry:  
<https://writers.com/prose-poetry-definition>

## aweigh with words by Anita I. Holmes

short—red—just three lines  
restless canoes bob dockside  
writer's craft haiku



# Dang You, Spell Heck

by  
Anita Holmes

On deadline, I've found myself humbled,  
By finding my copy's been jumbled;  
While rapidly typing  
(Clicked send), I'm soon griping  
Yom, Spell-Heck, heat; ice foxed gar bundled.

**Most of us** have our own Spell-Heck stories, ranging from the annoying or amusing to the wondering how to enter a witless protection program.

## What are yours?

Last month in the *Inkslinger*, my list of Control+Letter shortcuts might've caused you to wonder about my home-decorating ideas (as well as why I don't know how to make a noun plural):

Control + Q Removes selected paragraph's for matting

It was supposed to be:

Control + Q Removes selected paragraph's formatting

Weird what a change in margins between the submission to the *Inkslinger* setup can do, right?

## The solution(s)?

Disable autocomplete. Now. Right now. While Spell-Heck might be flaky on its own, paired with autocomplete, they're an evil duo.

Proofread whatever you write, at least once.

Depending upon what you're writing, have someone else read over what you've written.

When writing in Word, pay attention to the red and blue squiggles under words and phrases.

Have a sense of humor. I've programmed "Spell-Heck" into my dictionary, because... Spell-Heck.

## Plus?

I'm looking out for paragraphs that are suitable for framing. You never know.





# Service Opportunity Social Media Wizard



We live in an age of social media. A large number of people get their information from the internet. If the HDCWC is going to reach more writers, one way will be through social media outlets like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

We're hoping there's a member in our club who's completely comfortable with social media and would be willing to volunteer to post information for the club.

The person who would take this position would simply post materials sent to them from the board. For instance, our club recently did a book signing at the Town's End Marketplace in Apple Valley. This event would be promoted on social media. Then, after the event, pictures would be shared. This gives us a consistent up-to-date presence in cyberspace.

Although many of our members post on our social media (which is something we strongly encourage), this person would be the board's go-to contact, someone we could count on to get information out to the public.

If you're interested in serving, please contact one of our HDCWC board members.





## HDCWC Plans Backyard Celebration

For October 2nd

For over a year, our HDCWC meetings have been conducted via Zoom. We are grateful for that innovation and have had some excellent speakers and events that would have been otherwise impossible.

For those who feel comfortable attending an outdoor face-to-face celebration with food, HDCWC is planning a gathering on Saturday, October 2, 2021, at Judi and Bob Isbill's home in Apple Valley. Masks and vaccinations optional.

We can accommodate sixty guests. Therefore, we're opening up registration to members only until sixty people have signed up or until September 15th, whichever comes first. Reservations will be on a first come, first served basis. After September 15th, we will open up registration to members' significant others.

This event will be free to members, \$10 for guests signed up after September 15th.

The fun will begin at 5:00 pm, food served at 5:30 pm. Location and other details to follow. Those wishing to pay their renewal dues for next year may do so at this event.

If you plan to attend this affair, please email Bob Isbill at [risbill@aol.com](mailto:risbill@aol.com). Put Backyard Party in subject line.



# An Opportunity to Sell Your Books



ARTISANS AND CRAFTS PEOPLE FROM  
THROUGHOUT THE HIGH DESERT

**Saturday, October 23, 2021**

**9 am to 3 pm**

**Barstow Senior Center**

**555 Melissa Ave., Barstow, CA 92311**

The Craft Fair will be open from 9 am to 3 pm, and you will be able to set up beginning at 8 am.

A 6' x 2 ½' table is just \$10 for HDCWC members, and they ask for a donation of a raffle prize. They have 8 tables available with electricity for an additional \$10 fee.

If you are interested, request a registration form at [barstowsc@hotmai.com](mailto:barstowsc@hotmai.com).

Fill out the form and return it to the

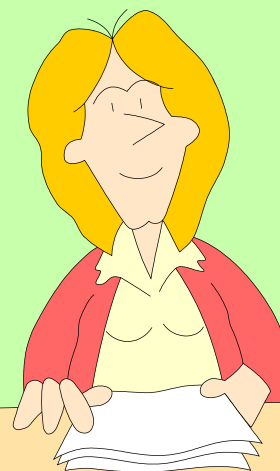
Barstow Senior Center

ATTN: Joyce

555 Melissa Ave.

Barstow, CA 92311

with a check payable to BSCC to reserve your table by September 30th.



*Buy My Books*

## Events Ahead > Book Fairs & more

### AUGUST — SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

September 10 4:00 DCB Memoir Meeting  
September 11 10:00 HDCWC Meeting  
September 15 8:00 Accountability Meeting  
September 16 3:30 Poemsmiths Meeting  
September 21 6:00 Act II meeting  
September 22 8:00 Accountability Meeting  
September 23 5:30 On Topic Speakers  
September 30 3:30 Poemsmiths Meeting  
October 2 5:30 Yard Party Isbill home  
October 4 9:00 Board Meeting  
October 6 8:00 Accountability Meeting  
October 9 10:00 HDCWC Meeting  
October 13 8:00 Accountability Meeting  
October 14 3:30 Poemsmiths Meeting  
October 19 6:00 Act II Meeting  
October 20 8:00 Accountability Meeting  
October 27 8:00 Accountability Meeting  
October 28 3:30 Poemsmiths 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.



### TIME TO RENEW

Remember, it's time to renew your membership. Go to [www.hdcwc.com](http://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 copies of our HDCWC anthologies for your bookshelf, gifts, or as a donation.

Titles can be found on Amazon.com in hardback, softback, and ebook editions

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 SEPTEMBER

September 2, Barbra badger; September  
17, Linda Boruff; September 21, Jolene  
Dallyn; September 24, Barbara Parish;  
September 26, Richard Zone; September  
27, Mike Apodaca; September 29, Peg  
Ross-Pawlak

**Famous September Birthdays:** 1, Edgar  
Rice Burroughs; 8, Ruby Bridges; 9, Phyllis A.  
Whitney and Leo Tolstoy; 11, D.H. Lawrence  
and O. Henry; 12, Michael Ondaatje; 13, Roald  
Dahl; 17, Ken Kesey; 19, William Golding; 20,  
Upton Sinclair; 21, Stephen King and H.G.  
Wells; 24, F. Scott Fitzgerald; 25, Truman Ca-  
pote, Carlos Ruiz Zafon, Jim Murphy and Wil-  
liam Faulkner; 26, T.S. Eliot; 29, Miguel de  
Cervantes

## 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 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 poets make 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 have judged our anthology submissions 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](mailto:mh_thompson@hotmail.com)

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

## MEMBER SERVICES



Dorothy C. Blakely



The DCB Memoir Project is alive and well. The committee met recently to discuss the guidelines being written for the

project and to plan an upcoming project with Barstow College and the Veterans' Home.

Take advantage of your membership benefits

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

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

Contact a board member, or our webmaster, Roberta Smith.

Or review your Benefits Booklet online at:  
[www.HDCWC.com](http://www.HDCWC.com)

### OUR OWN YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Here's the link to the channel:

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

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

**Send a JPEG file of your business card or ad to  
[mrdaca.ma@gmail.com](mailto:mrdaca.ma@gmail.com)  
We'll advertise it free of charge!**

### Temporary Editor



Mike Apodaca

## Notes From the Editor

If you have yet to submit your writing to me for *The Inkslinger*, it's time to get started. I'm looking for short pieces (about 200 words) and longer pieces (about 400 words) in all genres.

One thing I ask. Please resist the temptation to push your own religious or political views on others in *The Inkslinger*. When I see this, I will ask you to make changes so I can publish your work. Without the changes, the piece will be set aside.

*The Inkslinger* is to entertain, allow a forum for our writing, and provide information about the club. Thanks!

Submitting to *The Inkslinger* is easy. Use Microsoft Word, single-spaced, 11-point Arial font, please. The email address for submissions is [Mrdaca.ma@gmail.com](mailto:Mrdaca.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 October items by September 23rd  
Submit November items by October 23rd