

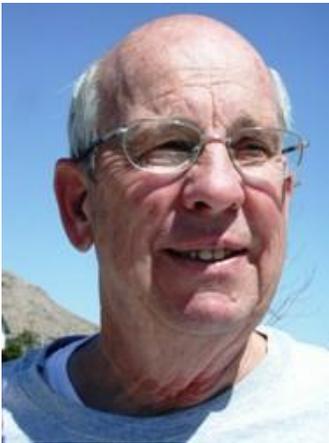


INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC SAIL ON

JANUARY 2012

The California Writer’s Club (CWC) shall foster professionalism in writing, promote networking of writers with the writing community, mentor new writers, and provide the literary support for writers and the writing community as is appropriate through education and leadership



The President’s
POV
Bob Isbill

2011 was an amazing year.

We saw Alan Moore, age 61 and the oldest college football

player ever, kick a field goal that he had been practicing for over 40 years—and finally got to do for the Faulkners in Montgomery, Alabama. "I knew I was going to do it," he said. "It was just something that I was going to do, and I didn't care if I died doing it."

He had one word painted on the shoe of his kicking foot: "Believe!"

Gabrielle (Gabby) Giffords was shot in the head point blank on January 8, 2011 and not only survived, but we have watched her courage and heart as she lives on as an inspiration.

We also watched a young lady, Molly Catchpole, get upset about Bank of America charging a \$5.00 monthly debit fee. "At some point, we've got to say enough is enough!" she wrote. Her complaint was pooh-poohed and dismissed by the bank, but she went on to defeat the huge

institution through social networks and her own strength of mind to see her justice done.

Dewey Bozella, convicted of murder and who spent 26 years in prison for the crime he did not commit, refused to plead guilty when, if he had done so, he could have gone free. He had a dream. Dewey got pretty good with his fists in Sing-Sing, and he wanted to prove to the world that he was a champ. When finally declared innocent of the crime and released, Bozella fought his first professional fight at Staples Center in Los Angeles—and won. And he did it at age 52. "I used to lay in my cell and dream about this happening," Bozella said. "It was all worth it. It was my dream come true."

Injury, injustice, age, and the odds all stacked against you just don't seem to matter when human will and unwavering determination are behind the goal.

The longer I live, the more I think that we can accomplish things that once seemed impossible.

In 2011 we got out of our comfort zone. This coming year, let's dream *big* and believe!

Happy writing in 2012.
Seize the year!

HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYBODY!

(Even as this is being written, military personnel are returning home after the long middle Eastern war. To those men and women who have served this country in the armed services, this seems an appropriate salute)

All over the world, all races, all creeds have stood in front of it all. For thousands of years it's been the duty of the righteous to stand in front of it all.

STAND IN FRONT OF IT ALL

James R. Elstad

All over the world, all races, all creeds have stood
in front of it all.

For thousands of years it's been the duty of the
righteous to stand in front of it all.

A family divided, no end in sight.

A time has been drawn for all to see.

They and their friends "stand In front of it all".

It's my family, and yours too.

Tourists come, take pictures, and laugh.

Our young men, "stand In front of it all."

The enemy is related to my brother.

We share the same fate.

We all have our young men "stand In front of it all."

We both stand guard, armed and at the ready.

No time to rest, only time to be vigilant.

For they are the ones who "stand In front of it all."

When will it end? In my lifetime? In theirs?

Let's pray we have the young men to be vigilant.

The vigilance and courage to "stand In front of it
all."

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Joy Bryant

James Janrhett

Amanda Smith

Clifford Walker

David Winkler

It's great to have you as a part of the High Desert Branch! Enjoy and WRITE ON!!

BLOGS AND BOOK DEALS HELP US SHINE

Last month's column entitled "Calling All Bloggers" produced interesting proof that the CWC definitely has serious bloggers who reach huge audiences.

Member Bill Belew (<http://billbelew.com/speaking/>) who spoke at San Fernando Valley Branch's December meeting, has taken 10 topics to more than 1 million unique visitors each and well over 50 million views overall, has two published books and has addressed Mexico's largest Writers' Conference, Asia's Largest Publishing Convention, and spoken in Thailand, New York City and to many of the California Writers Club branches.

Member Aline Soules

(<http://alinesoules.wordpress.com/poem-tips/>)

began her list of "Poem Tips" before blogs, before social networking and even before computers. She switched to a blogging format about two years ago. Now writers and teachers around the country refer to it, Aline appreciates the easy communication, wide application and ability to ensure that everyone has the latest version of her material.

Redwood's Arletta Dawdy

(<http://arlettawrites.wordpress.com/>) made glowing statements on her blog about Redwood's Robin Moore's

(<http://robinofrockridge.wordpress.com/>) reading at a Redwood Writers meeting, thereby illustrating a "tag team" strategy that gets their word out while promoting fellow CWC members and expanding their readership

Utilizing another very effective tool, High Desert members partnered with Barnes & Noble on a fundraiser that raised revenue for and awareness of their branch. The CWC might want to consider this approach statewide, either for all of 2012 or around California Writers Week in October.

So sail on until next time. But wait! The responses to our last set of questions encourage me to pose another: Can a traditional writer earn a living in the Internet Age? Please send your comments to pr@calwriters.org and we can share them with the rest of the CWC.

Thanks in advance.

Donna McCrohan Rosenthal, PR chair,
pr@calwriters.org

"Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself." - Chinese Proverb



**JANUARY MEETING
HAS SOMETHING FOR
EVERYONE WITH**

SELF PUBLISHING DEFINED

Roberta Smith, author of two novels, "The Secret of Lucianne Dove" and "Chapel Playhouse" will teach on how to self-publish in the most economical ways on Saturday, January 14, 2012 at the Apple Valley Library Community Room.

Paired with that presentation, Jim Elstad, Publishing Pathways CWC Mentor, will present a PowerPoint presentation on what the California Writers Club has learned in selecting the best publishers.

So if you are in the process of writing a book, publishing a book, or have plans for such a future activity, be sure not to miss our program this month!

DR. ROBERT F. KIRK

DECEMBER'S SPEAKER AT HDCWC

By Frances Smith Savage

Our Speaker at the Saturday December 10, 2011 HDCWC spoke of the time he spent in the Vietnam War as a pilot. Kirk recently published his first book, *Warriors at 500 Knots*. The book recaptures fourteen short stories and he took part in most of the true stories and only the names have been changed to protect the innocent.

His presentation included many pictures of the military coming home as fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters were greeted by their families and loved ones; even one dog greeted his owner. The pictures brought the wars home in a very personal way.

Kirk wrote the book as a memorial for the fiftieth Anniversary of the start of the war in 1961,

own memories. Those were difficult days in America and for those who remember that period of time he brought out many of the myths that were

presented to us as facts, and I for one believed many of them.

Robert said, "No event in American history is more misunderstood than the Vietnam War. They've been so wrong about so much." He continued telling us some of the myths and one that stuck in my mind is the one that we lost the war in Vietnam. He continued, "The military did not lose a single battle. North Vietnam suffered great losses." If you recall those years, Washington is the one who interfered with the military, and the press played a part in it as well.

By comparison he brought out the differences with Vietnam and World War II. In World War II they saw 40 days of combat over a period of four years. In Vietnam they saw 240 days of combat in one year. The difference was the helicopter.

Following are a few myths, shown in italics: *Most American soldiers were addicted to drugs, were cruel and inhuman.* While there was alcohol, not all were addicted to drugs. Robert said, "I never saw drug abuse." The majority of the military served honorably without any cruel or inhuman treatment; the other side was horrendous.

They didn't make a successful transition to American life. "Actually the military had a much lower unemployment rate and were less likely to be in prison."

Most were drafted. "2/3 were volunteers."

Fought largely by the poor and uneducated. "79% had high school educations. Best educated of any of American military."

Average age of the military was 19 years.

"The actual age was between 22 and 22.8 years old."

The picture of the military running to get on the helicopter to get out of Vietnam at our Embassy. "The picture was falsely reported and the picture was an apartment building blocks from the Embassy, and it was taken after the war was over.

The domino theory was proven false. *When one Asian country falls, they would all follow.* "The truth was that many countries still have democratic governments."

Vets were blamed for the war. "The military man is not responsible for war, it's the politicians. The military's duty is to fight and they feel the brunt of the war, and they don't want to go, but they have great dedication to our country and to each other."

Robert flew almost 200 missions in Vietnam, and what those guys went through to simply survive. The food alone would make anyone not want to volunteer. If you haven't purchased his

book, you should read it, and you will be proud of what the military accomplished.

I agree with our President Bob Isbill that we in the audience were in the presence of a hero.

FEDERAL PRISON SPEAKER FOR DECEMBER 2011

Mary Scott was guest speaker at the HD CWC Writers' Workshop in the federal prison in December presenting her "How To Market Your Book" PowerPoint which she did in August for the HD CWC. She fielded questions on marketing and publishing, and also read her five-minute pitch of her "Spirit Driven Events" book.

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“There ain't nothing that breaks up homes, country
and nations like somebody publishing their memoirs.”
Will Rogers

ART SHOW ANNOUNCEMENT

John (Margotta) Ferrara

At the age of 16 I decided I wanted to be a professional photographer. The plan was held in abeyance until after World War Two in which I served in the Naval Construction Battalion (Sea-Bees). After the war, using the G.I. Bill, I attended and graduated from the New York Institute of Photography in 1948. Eventually I opened my own studio and went on taking photographs for the next sixty years. Now, at the age of 87, it is time to have a retrospective and pass on my images.

The Eclipse Gallery at 18361 Bear Valley Road, Ste.7, Hesperia (across from Victor Valley College) is hosting a One Man Retrospective of my work from January 11th, 2012 to January 28th, 2012. A reception and open house will be held on Saturday, January 14th beginning at 7:00 p.m. The following Saturday, January 21st, there will be an informal conversation with the artist.

All work will be for sale at very nominal prices. Please drop in and say “Hi”. Regular operating hours at the Eclipse Art Gallery are Wednesdays through Fridays, 12-6 and Saturdays 12-9. For further information regarding my show, please contact me at wolfhawker77@aol.com or feel free to call me at 760-843-5448. Everyone is welcome. See you there.

FROM ONE WRITER TO ANOTHER ABOUT THE HD CWC *(In response to a query from an interested friend)*

Thanks for asking. We are a State-chartered non-profit club with 16 other chapters throughout California. Jack London actually used to be part of our Club way back when. We are the fastest growing chapter in the state with about 100 members. It's pretty surprising because we are located in what is called the high desert (Victorville, Apple Valley, Hesperia). You would pass through here on the way to Las Vegas so we are not a highly populated city area.

We meet once a month and have a speaker and program designed to help people become better writers and to successfully market their work. Sometimes one of our members with a particular expertise brings the presentation. Many

times we will have an editor or author from outside the club. There are critique groups that meet in homes. I think at the present time there are seven different groups for different genres and they usually meet twice a month. A newsletter called the InkSlinger is prepared and sent out via email once a month with contributions from members and with helpful articles. It's a nice positive group of people with many published authors of varied backgrounds. Sometimes when I look around I am amazed at the level of expertise I see among many of our members. We have beginners and veterans.

Oh, one other thing I almost forgot. We do work at the local Federal Prison. I participate in that. We go in once a month and present a class to select inmates (there are 20 who have been cleared to be in our class) and teach them about writing and marketing, though they are limited as to what they can do now about marketing. The quality of the inmates is amazing. Many are well-read (they have a lot of time on their hands) and some have already written quite a bit. They are all very polite, courteous, respectful, and eager to learn. They are very appreciative that we come and eager to talk to us and ask questions. I figure everyone deserves a second chance, so if the hope of writing encourages them and helps them to become a better person, I'm honored to participate in that.

Other things we do are book signings at local book stores (we have a Barnes & Noble and some smaller independent book stores) and the public libraries, speaking at local colleges (there are several), and an Annual Convention where we have seminars throughout the day with high-profile editors, publishers, attorneys, and authors. I guess we are the fastest growing chapter because we are so active. Many things are going on all the time. There is something for everyone to participate in. There are ways for everyone to grow and learn. Its like coming to a buffet for writing, with lots of friendly and helpful people.

If we can make this fund raising effort really successful, it will help us to reach out more and be more of a resource to those we can help. Gotta go get some turkey. Have a wonderful day.

Dwight

(More observations/memories from our successful HATM 2011 in October)

LOOK BACK TO THE 2011 HOWL AT THE MOON CONFERENCE

By Frances Smith Savage

As we sat in the comfortable auditorium at the October 10, 2011 Howl at the Moon Conference, remember how warm it was especially in the afternoon? Now two months later it has been very cold, but back to our subject. Our first speaker Jennifer Grisanti was introduced by Holly LaPat. Ms. Grisanti's theme was 'How to add fiction to your truth.'

She had a great deal to say and every word was instructive to us, the writers. She suggested that we should follow her lead as she said, "Go deep inside yourself to find your goal. Believe in the power of you. Write from your emotional truth."

Grisanti held our attention as she continued to give us encouragement in our own writings. She said things like, "As I speak, you will know a lot about me. Writing is about truth, feel what your story is so you can connect with your audience.

"Emphasize your central character, and do you start your story with a powerful dilemma? Is your goal clear? Do your pivotal points connect back to it? Do we hear your voice in your story, theme, symbolism, or message?" Without a doubt, she had us as she continued, "Emotions vs. structure. The emotions outweigh structure. Put your central character between a rock and a hard place. Do your pivotal points direct back to it? Why do certain stories get nominated for awards?"

She then spoke of memoirs and she said, "Go over aspects of your life, in this section we look at life after the attainment of a goal, both in regards to your own life and the lives of your characters. What are the messages that come up in your life and how can you bring them into your stories? Think of whom, and create empathy, dilemma, action, and goal with a twist of irony. A newly married bride obsessed with the hero with a twist of irony."

Still she continued, "Dig deep, the answers are all inside. All your emotions and experiences mean something to your audience. When you are able to see yourself, you will help others to see you. By extracting the truth from your well and transferring it to the page, you will elevate your writing. We want to see you in your story."

Her final statement, "I brought cookies, e-mail me and I'll send them to you."

DISCLAIMER:

All items in this newsletter are the opinions of the author(S) and do not in any way reflect the views or official position of CWC

TIPS FOR CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHORS: HOW TO SELL IDEAS

By Ann Heimbeck

Take out an ad in your local newspaper that you will read for sleepovers, family picnics and children's events. (Don't forget museums, zoo's and parks)

Purchase an "Easy-up tent" for local farm markets and festivals. Sign & sell!

Contact your local schools and ask if they would like you to come in to do a reading. Contact your local library as well.

Contact local children's hospitals to see if they would like you to do readings for holiday or birthday parties.

Prior to these events always state the price of your book to purchase with your signature.

SELL! SELL! SELL!

SUNDAY AFTERNOON
AT BARNES & NOBLE
WITH THE HIGH DESERT
CALIFORNIA WRITERS
CLUB -

Mary Thompson is an award winning poet and read from some of her work.



Diane Neil, on the other hand, writes in several genres and throws herself into the life and times of her varied characters.

The HD CWC also thanks our other Barnes & Noble Book Fair readers, Jenny Margotta, Thomas Kier, Roberta Smith, Barbara Badger, Jim Elstad, Winnie Rueff, Michael Raff, Josie Sotomayor, Virginia Hall, Mary Scott, Mary Ruth Hughes, Anne Fowler, and to our Emcees and readers, Freddie Gold and Ann Heimbeck.



**LEO DULAC IS
CELEBRATING
HIS 100TH
BIRTHDAY AND
STILL READY TO
WRITE!**

We will take the opportunity at our January meeting to wish our most senior member a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** So Saturday, January 14th, will be a singular meeting date. Mark your calendars!

TEARS OF AN ANGEL

by Thomas Kier

It was a once in a lifetime moment. Maybe there's one in every life. But some lives are special, and in a special life, that one moment is greater by far than all the singular moments lived by all the ordinary people. It was the wonder of a sparkling snow globe seen through the eyes of a child for the very first time--you know, magic.

Joey's eyes filled with tears and he couldn't say why. It only became known to him when the sudden chill on his cheeks told him he was crying like a baby. Not bawling, No Sir! He wouldn't be caught dead doing that! But he was crying, and he hadn't even stubbed his toe or slammed the car door on his finger this time. So why, Why?

He couldn't look away. The magic was right there, the magic was all around him and it was in him. To look away was to deny all that Christmas had ever meant to anybody, and to do that would rob him of the greater part of his heart. Gone was the boredom of walking these few streets of lights which they did every year. Gone was the runny nose and gone the fitful wailing of Susie Barf-Breath in her stroller. Gone was the fearful clomping of Dad's big galoshes through the slush on the sidewalk kicked up by the snowplow.

The magic filled Joey's eyes and his heart. There, in the trackless snow on the lawn in front of him was Santa Claus! He was glowing with a light of his own, and was the second brightest light Joey could see. He was kneeling in the snow along with some other people where the light was muted to him. Some of the figures there were animals, he barely saw or cared right now. What mattered was what Santa was doing.

Joey had learned last year that when people were on their knees with their heads down, they

were either hurt very badly or they were expressing very great love for whatever they were kneeling toward. So that explained the kneeling child with hands pressed together that had been on his bedroom shelf forever. At least that kid wasn't in pain; that had used to worry Joey greatly.

Something as crucial as this epiphany couldn't be rushed, and for now Joey was going to follow Santa's example with downcast eyes while creeping, hopefully undetected, toward the spot where the others had gathered to show their love and respect for whatever the brightest light was shining down on. He would take his place beside Father Christmas and prepare his mind before gazing upon the most important thing at the center of the scene. He had almost spoiled it right off by letting his eyes wander where they would, but had caught himself in time. Such as this had to be done right.

Joey's trudging bootprints made an unbroken and unsteady line leading to his feet, still shuffling forward bit by deliberate bit.

"Honey, where's he going?" The words were far away and unimportant.

"I guess he wants to see it better." Dad's words made no more impact on Joey than Mom's had.

"Do you think it's a good idea to let him go wandering into someone's decorations like that?"

"I'll get him."

Joey was suddenly lifted up into the air where his heart soared and his mind opened into another whole realm of exaltation: this was what he had been waiting for his entire life; this was another plane of existence with limitless promise that was finally his! If it was that important to someone such as Santa, it would be so much more to him!

A single fleeting glimpse of what was in the center of the scene, doubled and blurred by his tears of gratitude, then his father's big hand lowered him gently back to the slushy sidewalk.

"I think it's kind of creepy anyway. No one should mix up the Nativity with Santa." Dad's voice cut through the fog and dried up all of Joey's newfound awe at the sight of the world's most amazing baby lying in some hay.

"Some people just don't get it." Mom's voice closed a heavy door in Joey's heart. "But our little angels will have better things to do at Christmas, I'm sure."

And the tears of a suddenly cold angel fell in the snow just before Dad's galoshes landed on them.

(How would you like to be the mail delivery person during the holidays in the Wadden Sea?)

MAILMAN IN THE WADDEN SEA

By Ingrid Stotz

I don't want to tell you what the average mailman's job is. The Wadden Sea is a very special area, since 2009 a UNESCO World Heritage Site, located from Denmark to Holland along the western German coast reaching into the North Sea. It is the world's biggest nature conservation site, administered by the three countries named above. The Wadden Sea's total area amounts to 10 000 square kilometers, it is 500 km long. Of course, there are several mailpersons there, enormously important people.

You would perhaps never hear about them, except I knew one of them, because I grew up at the Wadden Sea. It was formed by giant hurricanes causing storm floods during the tenth to seventeenth centuries when huge areas of farmland were taken by the North Sea with enormous loss of lives. Hurricanes there are caused by the Gulf Stream from Mexico meeting the Arctic Ocean north of Scotland. This clash of vastly different temperatures causes big hurricanes. The Gulf Stream warms the coast of Northern Norway and stops at Murmansk, Russia's only ice free harbor. Very small islands, called Halligen, were left of the lost lands. They can only be reached under certain conditions and by different means.

On the island Neuwerk, 13 km north of Hamburg, live 40 people. Their mail comes by boat when the tide is in, that means there is water, and at low tide there is no water, the mail comes by horse and buggy. The tide changes every six hours, and also changes daily by up to ten minutes. Mail delivery changes with the tide, and with the weather. In fog the islands can easily be missed, in storm neither boat nor horses can go. In winter mail is delivered three times a week, weather permitting. The mailman not only brings mail, but groceries and medications, she actually used to shop from a list before cell phones came. All mailpersons did that. On Neuwerk the mailperson has an electric runabout for deliveries, other islands have the mail bicycle, perhaps now they have small gasoline delivery vehicles, because some Halligen

have no electricity, only a generator. Packages and big items recipients have to pick up from the boat.

Hallig Oland is reached by a narrow gauge rail line across the Wadden Sea and from Hallig Langeness. It used to be that the mailperson had to use a sail for power to move the RR draigene platform on iron wheels like a train car, or when the wind was not blowing, move a lever up and down to move the small car and the mail. Now, in modern times, the thing has a gasoline engine. But it can only go during very dry conditions. Other than that, the mail has to wait until the water is back, and when a storm is coming up, even a small thunderstorm in summer, the mailperson has to stay until it blows over. Germany has nine of these small islets called Hallig. Oland has one wharf, an artificial hill, on which the houses are; about thirty persons live on Oland. Langeness has 16 wharves with about 110 inhabitants. The people make a living from tourism, agriculture, coast protection work, keeping the Hallig in good repair, a never ending job because there are no dikes. Most have a small protected area for the mailboat, Langeness, the biggest Hallig, has ferry service in summer. On the west coast of Schleswig-Holstein the Wadden Sea has nine of these small islets. They have absolutely clean air and are used by people with lung and bronchial diseases, and asthmatics as healing places, and by tourists who just want peace and quiet.

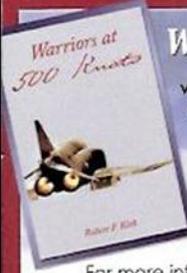
Walking on the mud at ebb tide is a very healthy way to strengthen and improve circulation, one can observe wildlife, such as several varieties of seals, and very many birds. The Wadden Sea is breeding and food area for most birds between the Arctic and Africa. World class resorts are a little further out, having the North Sea on their west and on the east coast Wadden Sea; these are island of Sylt with Westerland and Kampen, and the islands Amrum and Foehr. Sylt can be reached across a dam by railroad. Visitors can take their cars by railroad to the island. On the smaller islands and halligen no cars are permitted.

Mailman to a Hallig is a singularly important job. Hallig Groede has 17 inhabitants on 2 wharves, Nordstrandischmoor has a narrow gauge rail line to the 4 wharves and 17 inhabitants, Suederoog has one wharf and 2 inhabitants, Norderoog and Habel are bird sanctuaries. Hooge is the second largest Hallig, it has 10 wharves and about 120 people. Oland and Langeness share one mail person, the others have their own.

HOW TO MEET JUDGE JUDY

1. Pay for things ONLY in cash, especially rent.
2. Deal ONLY with people who do not give receipts.
3. Make (cash) loans to people who have not paid you back yet for other (cash) loans.
4. If it is a loan and not a gift, make sure you "loan" the gift to the "borrower" right around Christmas or just before their birthday.
5. When you meet a new boy friend, wait no longer than two weeks before you move in together. Otherwise, he might lose interest and find someone else.
6. If he moves in to your double-wide, limit the number of his children who move in along with him to six.
7. Regularly have unprotected sex with him, especially if he shows early signs of being abusive and/or unfaithful.
8. Set up any such "rental" agreements only in verbal contracts. He could get offended if you want it in writing.
9. When dealing with family or friends in any monetary matter, see #8.
10. When making a purchase of any kind, do not keep receipts. They clutter up your place and your life.
11. As for starting your own family, there is no rush to commit to a wedding too soon. Have two or three or more babies before making big decisions such as the colors for the bridal party.
12. Above all, share. Loaning your car to a friend is a sign of generosity, particularly if they are handicapped by having no license and you have no insurance.
13. If you do not pay your rent, make sure your landlord KNOWS you are having a hard time financially because this is a good defense in eviction cases.
14. Another especially good defense for almost any case is to point out to the judge that the plaintiff regularly smokes pot.
15. And when you do meet Judge Judy, bring no photographs, no receipts, nothing in writing, no evidence whatever. You will have a more interesting case when you tick off the judge, and a better likelihood that your case will be seen by 10 million viewers!

Books

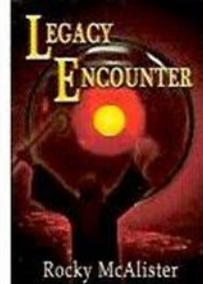


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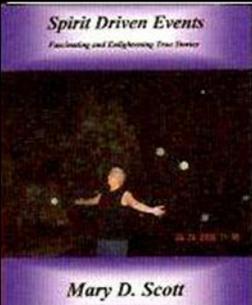
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"How to" Market Your Book
Including a Book Marketing Plan Template
by Mary D. Scott, PMP



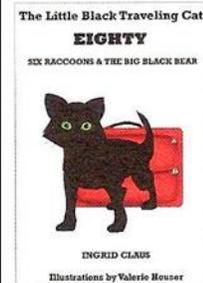
Book Marketing Plan

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Services



The Little Black Traveling Cat: EIGHTY
SIX RACCOONS & THE BIG BLACK BEAR

The Little Black Traveling Cat EIGHTY
by Ingrid Claus

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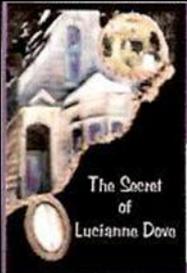
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Illustrations by Valerie Houser



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The Secret of Lucianne Dove

A blend of the paranormal, mystery
and romance

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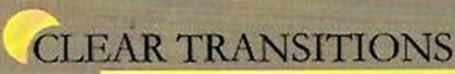
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