



INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC

SAIL ON

A STRICTLY BUSINESS ISSUE

MARCH 2010

Dear Readers,

No, the Pantry isn't bare, but HDCWC is on such a great roll I've taken the liberty of featuring our two major projects in this issue to bring you on board and remind you of the opportunities being offered to all of our members to be a part of our Branch renaissance . Our special feature articles this time deal with the Anthology and the Writer's Conference. It's hard to believe that these two endeavors are coming together so well. These are big undertakings and some may say it's a whole lot for a Branch that had only 15 members a year ago to take on but we can do it and each one of us can benefit from it. So, read the features carefully, polish up your offering to the Anthology, sign up to help with the Writer's Conference, and let's show the CWC world what we can do!

LET'S GIVE IT A HOWL – IT'S ALL GOING TO BE A BLAST!



CAROL'S COMMENTS

This year of 2010 is shaping up to be even busier and more exciting than last year. It is my hope that many of our members will be submitting a story or several poems for our anthology. Some have already submitted stories so I better get on the ball myself. If you need to review the process, all information is detailed on our web site at hdcwc.org. You can also talk to any board member or George Gracyk who has generously accepted a position of editor for our anthology.

Our writer's conference in September continues to be developed and we are very optimistic how great it is going to be. Tickets will go on sale at our March meeting and will continue until we are either sold out (that is an exciting idea to me) or the day of the conference. We have tried to build into the cost structure incentives for early bird registration. After much discussion and price shopping, we are pleased to announce that Overland Meats will be catering the event and it is going to be great. Am I sounding like a bragging mother?

The critique group continues to do well . As it was described at the last meeting, the current group is at capacity. If there are other members interested in starting another group, please talk to Carol Warren . We can develop a second one in the evenings or can consider a day meeting.

Membership sharing of personal information has recently been provided to all those willing to share an e-mail address. Most members prefer e-mail contact because it can be done anytime, any day. If you do call one another, just a few reminders: ask the person if they have time to talk when you call them; keep the conversations to a reasonable length of time and safeguard this personal information. That is, if you get a new list, do not throw old ones into your trash. Many homes now have paper shredders but if you don't, you are welcome to bring such items to a meeting and I will accept it for shredding. Sadly, we now live in a society where it has become increasingly necessary to protect personal data. So, just keep this in mind and treat others as good or better than you would want to be treated.

In closing this issue of our *Inkslinger*, I would like to encourage members to share resources and web sites that they have found particularly helpful and we will add this to our web site.

MARILYN MEREDITH
COMES TO HDCWC

The March meeting will feature Marilyn Meredith as guest speaker. Ms. Meredith is the published author of over 20 crime and mystery books and has judged many writing contests including *Writers Digest*, *Epic* and *Public Service Writer's Association*. Her books include the Deputy Tempe Crabtree mystery series as well as the Rocky Bluff PD books. She also includes family historical sagas and Christian horror writing in her genre. It's no surprise that she is the president of the Internet Chapter of Sisters in Crime.

Ms Meredith is on the Board of the PSWA and is Program Chairman for the PSWA Conference. She was an instructor for *Writer's Digest* as well as the Maui Writer's Retreat.

She is published by Hard Shell Word Factory and Treble Heart Books.

This looks like it's shaping up to be another outstanding HD Branch program. Don't miss it!

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(For those who haven't met George Gracyk, the editor of our Anthology, we asked him to give us a short bio. He brings experience - he worked on the first Anthology - enthusiasm and quiet optimism for whatever the Branch decides to undertake. Here is his response to that request.)

GEORGE GRACYK'S BIO
By George

Regardless of the depression years, George relates an extremely happy childhood in suburban Chicago. Parochial Grade School, Public High School and Junior College with an Associate Degree in 1951 were tempered by two years of Army duty. The G.I. Bill allowed an unproductive but interesting year at Mexico City College. Marriage and family of five children prospered for 26 years but then found him widowed. Marriage to Marj in 1985 has given them 25 happy years. Employment consisted of 30 years with Pacific Gas & Electric Co. Retirement from a mid-level management position was in 1987.

While employed, he did some technical writing but a true love was that of an inveterate writer of "Letters to the Editor". Being well known at the Marysville-Yuba City Appeal Democrat he signed-on as a feature correspondent, later with a weekly column. An Apple Valley resident since 2001, his short stories have appeared in our *Inkslinger*.

SKELETONS
IN HER
CLOSET?

By Barbara A. Schultz

I admit it. This was what I was thinking when I first heard the topic of S. Kay Murphy's presentation. The first female serial killer in this country? I was definitely intrigued. So, I went to hear S. Kay Murphy's presentation at the February HD-CWC meeting, and I was not disappointed. In her witty and "up front" style, she told the guests and members present at the meeting how her book, "Tainted Legacy" came to be.



She began by getting a feel for who her audience was -- "How many of you write memoirs?" A few hands went up. "How many write fiction?" Lots of hands went up. "I think it's amazing that people can write good fiction." At this point, she told us about the conversation that started her on the journey to write the story of her great grandmother, a nurse in a rural Missouri community, who could be the very first female serial killer in this country. She'd heard from relatives that her great grandmother had poisoned some of the people in her care, and they wanted her to find out if these stories were true. She then shared the journey to get this book written and published, giving lots of first-hand experiences/tips about writing, especially about family. She also gave us information about the publishing industry, including self-publishing which was the route she ultimately took to get her great grandmother's story into print.

After a break (during which I purchased a copy of her book), she answered questions (on topics such as self-publishing vs. traditional publishing and her writing habits) from the audience.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going to start reading "Tainted Legacy". I've got to find out if the stories were true! Skeletons, here I come!

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Addendum:

Don't forget to check our website frequently at HDCWC.org for the latest information on what is happening in the Branch. Bob keeps it fresh and current – take advantage of it.

ALSO: While the pantry isn't bare, it is low on supplies. Please, finish that writing gem you've been thinking of sending in, and e-mail it to me as soon as you finish your Anthology contribution. Next issue will be published the first week of April and deadline for receiving copy for that issue is March 22 – takes time to put it together. And we don't want to go hungry!

THANK YOU

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Please seek out these folks and let them know how glad we are that they have joined us at HDCWC

Christine Bulisco

Bob Buckingham

Terry Posada

Penny Jenkins

Dwight Norris

They're just in time to participate in this year's major projects! Happy writing!

We're on the launch pad and the rockets are fired up. HDCWC is embarking on a new journey destined to let the High Desert know we're alive, well, and producing as writing professionals. If you haven't mailed your Anthology item to George Gracyk, polish it and send it along with a brief bio. Anne Fowler is waiting for your check and signed release form. The program is explained in good detail on the following pages which can be printed out to keep as a handy reference and check list as you come on board for this exciting venture!

SAIL ON!

NOTICE – NOTICE – NOTICE

March 13 – HDCWC will meet at the Apple Valley Library – 10:00 a.m.

April 10 – HDCWC will meet at the new Hesperia Library – 10:00 a.m.

Keep this change handy so you'll remember the change. More on this in April's *Inkslinger*

MISSION STATEMENT

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

ARE YOU GOING TO HOWL AT THE MOON?

By Bob Isbill

The High Desert Branch announced their intention of putting together an anthology of works by its members, to be called "Howl AtThe Moon". The book, to be published on demand, will be edited by George Gracyk, 2003 recipient of the Jack London Award.

The collection of poems, short stories, essays or excerpts from larger original works should be submitted as an email attachment directly to George at ggracyk@charter.net.

The contributor will retain all rights to their work, and will only relinquish rights of their entry for the "Howl At The Moon" anthology for publication of the collection and for any electronic (E-book) production, if any, of the same title. Complete rules and instructions, including format required, and a copy of the one-time release form are listed below.

Our goal is to have the book published prior to our Howl At The Moon Writers' Conference scheduled for September 25, 2010.

Projected wholesale will be \$8 to \$10, with a retail price of \$12 to \$14.

The HD CWC published an earlier anthology, "Images", in 1993 edited by Casey Wilson, current State President of the CWC.

Basically, here are the guidelines:

1. Each individual contributor would retain his/her own rights to whatever went in the anthology, but the HD CWC would get all royalties and/or profits (if any) from this anthology.
2. A fee of \$25 would be required to help finance the project in addition to the contribution of the writer's work with any surplus money to be considered a donation to the HD CWC.
3. The fee would pay for the initial setup of a "publish on demand" (POD) book.
4. The retail would be set at \$12 to \$14. Wholesale would be \$8 to \$10. All contributors could purchase as many books as they wanted at the wholesale price. Or, they could choose to purchase none. There would be no further costs after the initial contribution except for the individual purchases of wholesale priced copies of the anthology.
5. We would ask that you submit your very best original, unpublished work to the anthology that would make you and your fans proud, and that the branch would be proud of. Please do not submit anything that is being considered by another publisher, or a work that has been published elsewhere. The exception to this is that it would be okay if it has been published in the Inkslinger, or if it is otherwise unsolicited material from other sources for which you have never been paid.

Submissions will be read by a volunteer committee and final decision for acceptance will be up to the editor. We ask that you use an economy of language and remember that this is for short works. Word maximums will be limited to 2500 or less, and space permitting.

6. You can submit up to five (5) stories, poems, essays, etc. Of course, only those published would contribute the fee. Authors of material that is not included would have their \$25 returned unless one of their submissions is accepted.

Our intent is to have only one fee per participant no matter how many entries you may submit. (For example, you might submit a short story and 2 poems that were accepted; however, your fee would still be \$25. Another example is that you submit 5 entries and only one is accepted for inclusion. Your fee would be \$25. Or you submit 5 entries and none are accepted for inclusion, your \$25 fee would be returned to you at the close of the anthology selections.)

7. The intent would be to have only members of the High Desert Branch of the CWC be considered for inclusion and publication because the purpose is to showcase the work of our branch members only.

8. Acceptance will be based on space availability (a book of about 200 total pages is projected) and because we want this project to be on an accelerated basis, a first-come, first-considered manner. The editor reserves the right to reject at his sole discretion any submission he deems unsuitable or inappropriate, or for any other reason whatsoever.

9. The purpose of this project is:

- a) to provide a platform to publish our writers
- b) to highlight and publicize our club and our branch
- c) to participate in a fund-raising event for our branch
- d) to encourage and support our members in accordance with our Mission Statement

What do you do now with this information?

If you are interested, please GET YOUR ENTRY READY NOW to submit. That is, a Word file (or other application that can be read by Microsoft Word) in 12 font. (Please, no script, calligraphy or fancy font. Times New Roman is suggested but not necessarily required.) Please carefully proofread your submission and have it print-ready to save our editor the work of what can be done prior to submission. TIP: Have a trusted friend double-check it for proper punctuation, etc.

Make it your best offering-- something that will represent who you are as a writer and who you are as a member of this branch of the California Writers Club.

We would also appreciate a brief and concise biography of no more than one or two paragraphs to tell the reader something about yourself and, if you like, your submission. (For space availability, this is subject to editing as needed.)

Have fun. We look forward to seeing your submission!

High Desert CWC Anthology Entry Instructions

Print out the HDCWC - First North American Publication Rights Contract, complete and sign.

Mail the form and a check or money order made payable to the High Desert California Writers Club (or HD CWC) in the amount of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) with the notation "Anthology Submission". Send the signed release form (one for each title entered) and your payment to:

HD CWC Treasurer
20162 Hwy 18-Ste G-281,
Apple Valley, CA 92307

The Treasurer will maintain a list of all those who have registered their fee, and the Editor will track all submissions for editing determination.

Email your submission as an attachment to Editor George Gracyk at ggracyk@charter.net.

Be sure to follow the below format when sending your submission:

Begin the first page at the top line of your word processor's page. The title goes there.

One space below that goes the word "by".

One space below that goes your name as you want it to appear in the publication.

Center title, by, and author's name with word count. (Example)

This Is My Entry

by

Ima Darned Goodwriter (748 words)

If your entry is one page only such as a poem, word count is not needed.

Submit the remainder of your entry in double space format in 12 font.

Please proofread and spell-check so that your entry is "print-ready" for a publish on demand publication.

Please do not number your pages in any way.

Please do not put your name or address on the entry file except as above under the title.

Please no carriage returns except to paragraph. (Use your word-wrap feature only.)

If your entry has segments where your story is interrupted by the passage of time or you want to separate thoughts, use three centered asterisks *** to denote this without any extra spacing such as this:

Please limit the number of your entries to five (5) submissions or less. There is only one entry donation no matter how many you submit or how many are included in the anthology.

IMPORTANT: A SIGNED RELEASE FORM FOR EACH SUBMISSION MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR CHECK!

Please send a separate file as an attachment with a brief bio to ggracyk@charter.net. (Example)

Ima Goodwriter is a retired teacher who now owns and operates a coffee shop in Switzerland and spends her winters in Apple Valley. "This Is My Entry" is an excerpt from her unpublished novel, "How High Was the Hilltop". She has been a member of the HD CWC since November of 2009.

We are ready to accept entries as above submitted immediately. When enough entries are received to complete a quality anthology, this project will be closed.

(Ideally, we'll have the Anthology published in sufficient time to offer it to those attending the Writer's Conference)

"HOWL AT THE MOON" WRITERS' CONFERENCE

An all day writers' conference is scheduled for Saturday, September 25, 2010! What a "cast of characters" we have lined up for you! The affair will be held at the Lone Wolf Colony in Apple Valley on Bear Valley Road. The list of speakers is distinguished to say the very least:

Mike Foley... Past *president* of the HD CWC . Writer, teacher, co-founder of the Big Bear Writer's Retreat in Big Bear, California. Mike Foley is author of over 750 published stories and articles, and teaches fiction and non-fiction writing at the University of California at Riverside. A full-time writer since 1980, he has worked as a staff writer for three newspapers and two magazines, and has been the editor of the Dream Merchant Magazine for twenty years.

Glen Hirshberg.... Won the 2008 Shirley Jackson Award for his novella, "The Janus Tree." Both of his two story collections, *American Morons* (Earthling, 2006) and *The Two Sams* (Carroll & Graf, 2003), received the International Horror Guild Award and were selected by Locus as a best book of the year. *The Two Sams* was also named a Best Book of 2003 by Publishers' Weekly. He is also the author of a novel, *The Snowman's Children* (Carroll & Graf, 2002). Mr. Hirschberg teaches writing and the teaching of writing at Cal State San Bernardino

Alton Gansky.... Christian Novelist and author of over thirty books. Gansky has been a Christie Award finalist (*A SHIP POSSESSED*) and an Angel Award winner (*TERMINAL JUSTICE*). He holds a BA and MA in biblical studies. Mr. Gansky was our very popular speaker at the November 2009 meeting.

And those are the speakers just so far...!

Also part of the conference are:

- * Continental Breakfast
- * Door Prizes
- * Lunch and snacks
- * Raffle
- * Free Parking
- * Networking and a time to meet with your writing friends!

Don't miss this exciting conference! Save the date NOW!

Saturday, September 25, 2010

Dates:	Members	Non-CWC Members
3/13/10 - 5/13/10	\$25.00	\$45.00
5/14/10 - 6/30/10	\$35.00	\$55.00
7/1/10 - 9/25/10*	\$45.00	\$55.00

*(or until sold out!)

Limited seating availability. Tickets will go on sale at our March 13, 2010 meeting. Thereafter, they can be purchased from Treasurer Anne Fowler by sending your check or money order to:

**20162 Hwy 18 Ste G-281
Apple Valley, CA 92307**

Special price for early-bird HD CWC member volunteers: \$15.00

Volunteer positions are available. Call Carol Warren for more information regarding this entry fee. (760)242-3367