



INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC

SAIL ON

Inspiring a Community of Writers

AUG. 2017

OUR MEMBERS COME HOME WITH AWARDS!

Bob & Jenny Honored with Ina Coolbrith & Jack London Awards

Now it's official, Robert Isbill has received the once-in-a-lifetime Ina Coolbrith award for outstanding service to the branch as well as being a representative and appointed Director of Advertising & Promotions, and the Forum Administrator and Moderator. He and Jenny Margotta flew to Oakland for the summer's annual California Writers Club event.

Bob takes the stand that it always relies on the efforts of a good working team to make a branch successful. In 2008-09, the branch was barely standing on wobbly legs. Bob drew his team together and helped develop a PR and promotions plan with the idea — not new by any means — if you build it, they will come. He called on high quality speakers to draw the attention of new and existing writers to take a chance.

"I regard Bob as the President Emeritus of our branch. He is always there in his leadership, publicity ideas, and creativity. I have said that one day our branch will have the Bob Isbill Award, but nobody will be able to achieve it.

**~~ Dwight Norris,
past president**

Within 20+ months and 100 members later, the branch is healthy, energetic, creating the programs that the members want.

Bob Isbill



Jenny Margotta

With Jenny Margotta as our steadfast Treasurer for 7 years, she has refined our pay system, added PayPal, managed an extensive list of programs and CWC grants that help fund members' needs and even more events.

She edits manuscripts, our anthologies, and works as an editor while

Harry Cauley Returns by Unanimous Appeal For His Charming Storytelling Ability



Guest Speaker

For those of us who missed Cauley's first visit to the High Desert branch meeting in May, we have a second chance August 12th at our regular meeting.

Harry cultivated his personal stories from the years of living as a writer for TV and film, a theater playwright, book author, and at age 86, we just can't wait to see him again.



Harry Cauley

See Page 2

High Desert Chapter of
California Writers Club
Board of Directors



The following officers and appointed positions are current to the fiscal year of July 2018.

President

Rebecca Kosko

RKosko@icloud.com

Vice President

Shalechia Hunt

shalechiar@gmail.com

Secretary

Elizabeth Pye

lizpye@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Jenny Margotta

jennymargotta@mail.com

Member-at-Large

Linda Boruff

lindajeaneboruff@msm.com

Advertising & PR

Bob Isbill

Risbill@aol.com

Membership

Lorelei Kay

LoralieKay7@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Rusty LaGrange

Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com



Remember we now offer PayPal as a payment method for dues and purchases.

Continued from Page 1

also writing a memoir, cookbooks, and other projects. There was no amount of wondering if Jenny could be our Jack London award winner of the seven nominated.

Jenny is also a principal/owner of the new book portal www.WritersLair.com. Here, new writers can submit their books to be edited, produced, and submitted for publication.

A quote from our past president, Dwight Norris, is a significant insight to the value of an experienced treasurer: "We can't let Jenny go. She's the only one who knows where the money is buried."

A Board's strength is in its key members, so Jenny Margotta will remain as our Treasurer for many good reasons.



**Story & Photos
by Rusty LaGrange**

Continued from Page 1

Harry Cauley, one of the most popular guest speakers in memory, charmed the HDCWC members and guests and will return to be featured speaker at the High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club (HDCWC) Saturday, August 12. At our May meeting, he entertained us with anecdotes and tales -- such as mowing the lawn for Albert Einstein -- and those listeners present insisted on more.

Harry Cauley is the recipient of the Writers Guild of America award for his film, "There Were Times, Dear," about the caregiver of an Alzheimer's victim, starring Shirley Jones and Len Cariou. Two of his plays, "The Paisley Convertible" and "Let Me Hear You Smile," were produced on Broadway.

He was a co-founder of the Apple Hill Playhouse and for thirteen years he was the producer and director there. He toured for a year in a two-character musical that he co-authored and directed, about a marriage falling apart, "Separate Checks, Please". He originated the title role in Israel Horowitz's "Alfred the Great," also starring John Cazale.

For many years he was a TV writer/producer, starting with his first job, "Maude", which landed him a job on the groundbreaking "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman" and he worked as a writer/actor for Norman Lear for the next three years. He was a writer/producer for "Angie and Julie," starring Julie Andrews. He also wrote for Carol Burnett. His first novel, *Bridie and Finn*, was chosen for the W.H. Smith fresh talent award in England. His other novels are *The Botticelli Angel*, *Millersburg*, and *Another Season of Figs*. He is published in several languages.



Second of 3 Summer Programs at Hesperia Library



A mix of new writers, current writers, and HDCWC published authors, filled the Library community room July 29th.

In the second HDCWC offering to new writers, Jenny Margotta, manuscript editor and the branch's treasurer, shared her extensive knowledge of Internet resources, "cheat sheets" and expertise to a full house of writers eager to learn. Although half the audience were new to writing, the support of the balance of the audience were loyal HD members and those still learning their craft. Bob Isbill was host for this event.

Margotta discussed the various ways to self-edit a book when getting ready to move forward with a professional copyreader and proofer. "The best tip is to completely finish a first draft and read it aloud. Listen for phrases that seem awkward or too long or too choppy," she said.



**Your Final
Chance to
Unlock Your
Story From
Your Brain**

Alan Watt's 90-Day Novel All Day Workshop

10 am to 5 pm

Sunday, October 1st

with a one-hour lunch on your own

Our price: for non-members \$75

\$62 for CWC Members

— Regular price \$195 — WoW!!

Limit 25 persons

Motel 6 Conference Room -- Hesperia

Act now to reserve you place!

Gonna Go?? Contact: **Bob Isbill**

Hollywood Book Festival Honors Roberta Smith

Long-time HDCWC member, Roberta Smith, has taken the top award at the 2017 Hollywood Book Festival with her young adult novel, *Simone's Ghosts*. As the grand prize winner, she will be paid a \$1500 appearance fee to be at the awards banquet on August 18th at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood where she, along with other authors and publishers, will be honored. Here is how the festival announced her win:

“The story of a 15-year-old girl with unusual gifts and her struggle to keep them under control is the grand prize winner of the 2017 Hollywood Book Festival, which honors books worthy of further attention from the film and TV industries.

Author Roberta L. Smith’s “Simone’s Ghosts” (CreateSpace) is the story of Simone, who thinks her abilities to move things with her mind, see ghosts, and sometimes read people’s thoughts make her weird. She keeps to herself as she starts her sophomore year in a new high school. That plan goes awry when a couple of ghosts befriend her and the jealous girlfriend of a boy who shows interest in her plots against her.

The book offers a fresh and intriguing take on the well-worn path of paranormal abilities, displaying “a keen eye for the trials that all teenagers endure.”

The Hollywood Book Festival considers published, self-published, and independent publisher non-fiction, fiction, children’s books, young adult, how-to, spiritual, wild card (anything goes!), unpublished stories, science fiction, biography/autobiography, sequels, genre-based, business, and history. A panel of judges determine the winners based on the following criteria:

- 1) The story-telling ability of the author
- 2) The potential of the work to be translated into other forms of media.

It isn’t known how many books were entered; however, a list of those who won top honors in their categories, runners-up, and honorable mentions number well over one-hundred. Smith and other authors and publishers will be honored at a private ceremony .

For our newer members, Roberta L. Smith is a member of the HDCWC and is former vice-president and the 2013 winner of the Jack London Service Award for outstanding service to our branch.

To learn more about Roberta’s books you can visit her website: <http://www.bertabooks.com>

To learn more about the Hollywood Book Festival you can visit: <http://www.hollywoodbookfestival.com>



FROM THE HEART

By Diane Neil

UPDATE ON THE CRAYON DEBATE

You may remember my rant against the Crayola company a few months ago. I want to thank everyone who signed my petition to boycott the company for arbitrarily discontinuing my favorite colors and coming up with hues I didn't like.

Apparently many of us felt the same way, because Crayola has hit the news again, and this time the article was prominently headlined in a *Parade* newspaper article feature about ways companies are endeavoring to do good for the planet instead of just raking in profits.

Although some huge corporations are donating many millions, humble little companies like A.C. Moore, the current distributor of Crayola, are also doing their part to save the planet. In partnership with the Crayon Initiative, a nonprofit that collects and recycles unwanted colors and broken or crumbled crayons, the A.C. Moore stores provided designated receptacles for people to drop off their unwanted crayons. Then the crayons were melted down and recycled into new packs and distributed to children's hospitals nationwide.

Bravo! Keeping the precious paraffin wax out of landfills is commendable indeed.

And hopefully the new crayons are in bright, cheery hues.

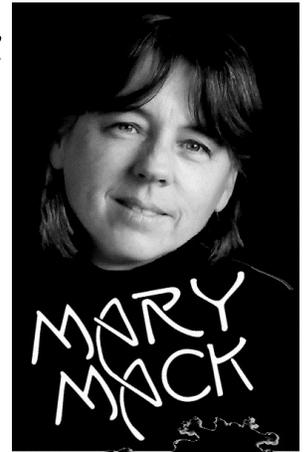


Graphically Speaking ...

a new column

by Mary DeSantis

Setting Up a Website



Nowadays it is good policy to provide a website where people can find out more about you and your book; a place where they can also order and pay for the product, and have it shipped directly to them. As I mentioned in a previous column, CreateSpace and Amazon both provide those services, but it is advisable to create a catchy, easily typed and memorable name to use for advertising.

Writers are not business people by nature, nor are we experts in internet technology. I know that most HDCWC members have not set up a website, and have no intention of doing so, simply because it seems out of your league and impossible.

That's exactly how I felt at first. I balked at getting an email account and was afraid to try the internet. Then screenplay contests and literary agents started phasing out snail mail submissions; they wanted entries to be submitted via the internet, and I was forced to upgrade electronically.

At first, I got an email account at the local library. Then I began spending more and more time at the library because my online correspondence increased. Eventually, I got internet access at home. Starting with nervous and hesitant forays into the world of the internet, and learning through trial and error, I questioned everything, looked up everything, and made every mistake possible. I'm not an expert, but neither was anyone else before they learned, so I encourage you to give it a shot.

I asked someone in our club how I would go about setting up a website. She gave me a short list of online companies and said to

Ann Miner's Children's Book Catches Scout's Eye for AJC Decatur Book Fest

Ann reports: "I have just learned that my children's book, *Polly Possum's Wandering Path*, was recommended by Literary Book Scouts for the AJC Decatur Book Fest in Atlanta, Georgia. I am flattered but I'm still thinking about whether to attend. A marketing person from that organization will attend in my stead if need be. But it is nice to be considered. I will keep you posted as to whether I attend. It's scheduled Labor Day Weekend."

Awesome news! And congratulations!

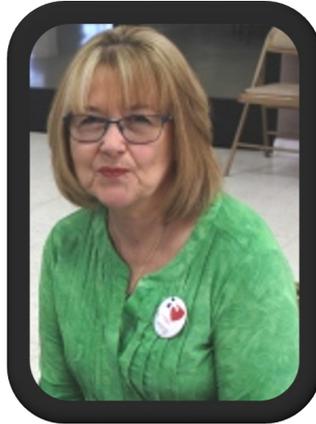
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A Hamlett Interview for Thompson & Gold

Christina Hamlett, our June 2017 speaker, offered writers excellent advice and made a spectacular offer to writers in the audience — an interview on her website to promote us and our work.

Both Mary Langer Thompson and Freddi Gold took advantage of the offer, and you can read their interviews at <http://fromtheauthors.wordpress.com>.

Learn what inspired Freddi to write *Dimension Norraena* and what she learned by going through the publishing process. Read about how teaching high school English influenced Mary write a children's book, *How the Blue-Tongued Skink got his Blue Tongue*. Both Freddi and Mary give credit to the High Desert branch of the California Writers Club for their achievements.



Thompson

One of the best ways to support fellow writers of the club is to write book reviews on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Goodreads, and other bookseller sites. Another way is to make comments directly on websites or blogs where our members are featured. Christina, Mary, and Freddi would appreciate your comments, even a line or two. When we make comments or share only on Facebook, although appreciated, we miss many other people and potential readers of our work.



Gold

Her offer is still open if you wish to have you and your work featured in an interview. Promotional interviews give skill value and talent as a benefit to your work. Don't miss this opportunity!

Christina Hamlett has a new success of her own. Her play, "A Bel Air Lawyer in King Henry's Court" made its debut the first week of August in Cornwell, England! You can friend her on Facebook, subscribe or follow her blog, or write to her at authorhamlett@cs.com to offer her your congratulations.



Check out your local Library's extensive resources for writers and readers!

The HDCWC branch is "Friends of Education," and we encourage you to make use of your library's valuable educational aids.

Continued from Page 5

Mary Mack

type in the domain name I wanted and see if it was available. Then all it would take would be a credit card to buy the name, and *voilà*, I would be the proud owner of a domain name that nobody else in the world could claim. It costs about \$15 per year. A domain name is a website name, but is not an active website.

Since then, I have bought domain names from Squarespace, GoDaddy, and Hostica. I set up a website through Squarespace.com using the domain name www.desantisdesign.graphics.

Squarespace offers a lot of different website designs, and they maintain the site for you. You choose a password and then you can customize your website. They have customer service people who can answer any questions you have, right there, online, via the 'chat' box, as you work on your site. You have to pay the company to maintain the site, which costs anywhere from \$10-30 per month, depending on the design you choose. I'm sure other club members know how to do it cheaper, so don't be afraid to ask.

If that is too much money and effort, you can simply redirect your domain name to your Amazon Author Page and customers will be transferred directly there whenever they type in your domain name. I did this with www.MaryMackBooks.com. This gives you all the benefits of owning a website and making sales, without any headaches. If you cannot figure out how to do this yourself, contact either Amazon customer service or the company you bought your domain name from, and they will do it for you over the phone or via online chat.

Amazon offers each author a place to show pictures and videos, and to announce upcoming events. Type 'amazon author central' into your search engine, and go from there. You can use your existing Amazon account or set up a new one. This is NOT the same account as your CreateSpace account. Follow the online prompts to set up and customize your page.

Ω

Lending an Ear

by fumi-tome ohta

My dog, Farley, and I were out on a walk.

I saw a dove sitting atop the roof of a carport.

I wondered if she would fly away as we approached.

No, she didn't.

I wondered if she would fly away if I took out my camera

and pointed the lens toward her.

No, she didn't.

As I got as close as I could, I started to speak to her softly.

She cocked her head ever so gently

then
leaned
one ear
toward
me.

This is a photo
of she and I
communicating.



★★★★★

Wanna Stay in Touch With Other Writers During the Month? Try Our MeetUp.com Connection

For instant notification of all our events and meetings, join us on [Meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com). You will automatically be notified by email of any upcoming events as a member of our group on [www.meetup\(dot\)com](https://www.meetup.com). Just request your membership.

Part Two:

Fine Tuning Your Manuscript

by Daphne Gray-Grant

Look for transitions and make sure you have enough of them. Also known as bridges and connectors, these are the words, phrases and stylistic devices that help direct readers through our writing. The biggest difference between sophisticated writing and more amateur efforts, I find, rests with the volume of transitions used. Shrewd writers will often make intriguing statements/questions or paraphrase frequently to pull the reader along.

Look for and eliminate clichés. You will likely have studied your **crappy first draft** with plenty of clichés. This is not a problem. The problem arises only when we fail to *remove* these hackneyed phrases. Don't leave in expressions such as: *old as the hills*, *fit as a fiddle*, *diamond in the rough* and *every cloud has a silver lining*. But there are other less obvious clichés that may also need your attention. The Washington Post maintains a **list of journalism clichés** I suggest you review before your next edit. It may surprise you to see such comments as *double down*, *strange bedfellows* and *game-changer* on the list. It can be tough to find a fresher language for these terms, but it's worth the effort. You'll be a better writer if you try.

Check spelling. For sure, run your spellcheck. The feature exists on your computer for a reason: to help you. Just be aware that it will not catch homonyms — such as *two*, *to* and *too* — so you'll need to look for those manually.

Check grammar. I share Joan Didion's feeling that, "grammar is a piano I play by ear." If you were not born with this ear, or haven't been able to train it, then please, get a friend to check your text for grammatical errors. Do this after you have completed the substantive edit, however.

Substantive editing tasks

Prepare an outline of what you have written. Note that this is the *only* time in the entire writing process that I recommend an outline. When you're at the *preparing-to-write* stage, you're better off using a *mindmap*. That said, outlines can be useful when you're editing. They will allow you to see, succinctly, what you have covered, and in what order you have done it. If you have an entire section that is in the wrong place, an outline will help show you that.

Continued next page

I like to think of outlines as architectural plans that will expose the entire structure of what you have written. Do you have a weak foundation? An outline will help tell you that.

Read for logic and flow. This is the most challenging and time-consuming part of the editing process. I like to handle it slowly, one sentence at a time. I read the first sentence and ask myself whether it raises any questions in my mind. If it does, then I expect the second sentence to answer them.

Finally, read your work aloud, considering your rhythm. When I worked in an open-area office in a newsroom, I did this with every story I handled. I'm sure people thought of me as the crazy woman muttering in the corner, but I never found a better system than reading aloud. All words have rhythm and saying them aloud is the only way to hear that. As well, when you read silently — in your head — it's tempting to skip over sections you may have read a dozen times already. Forcing yourself to read aloud will stop you from succumbing to that temptation.

In giving you this checklist, I hope I haven't caused you to think that substantive editing is less important because I've given it less space here. In fact, it's the *most* important step. And the most time-consuming one. That "read for logic and flow" instruction should take you longer than *all* the steps in the "copy editing" section.

As for the time that editing takes, be aware that it should take you at least twice as long as writing. Now if you want a polished and professional product, it's time to send it to a copyeditor.

Editor's Note: Daphne Gray-Grant can be found at www.PublicationCoach.com. This article is reprinted with permission.



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“Promoting Your Brand” Class Available Saturday

The value of being exposed to more marketing ideas will help you determine your marketing platform and your target audience. These concepts will be offered in another Social Media and Affiliate Marketing class by Angie Horn.

She'll be covering basics in WordPress, a website platform, directing Social Media traffic to Amazon, and how they can be used to develop your brand.

One: Ways to Promote your Book/ Product/ Services

Selling Amazon with affiliate marketing and linking;

Campaigns on Social Media;

Two: Blogs and Websites

How to use Social Media and your business website to attract clients, buyers, and drive traffic to your services.

Three: Social Media Platform

Promoting thru Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Instagram, and their benefits.

Workshop focuses on Facebook that becomes a tool that networks to all of the extensive media outlets.

They all work together in a giant spider web — the World Wide Web — your Internet platform.

Training available through Facebook with a group of authors who want to learn more about promoting their books and services they provide.

Next class is at Neighbors of Hope Now Realty, 16888 Nisqualli Road, #400 in Victorville (off of Hesperia Road.) Contact Angie for info and workshop price RealMcAngi@gmail.com



High Desert Arts and Literary Festival

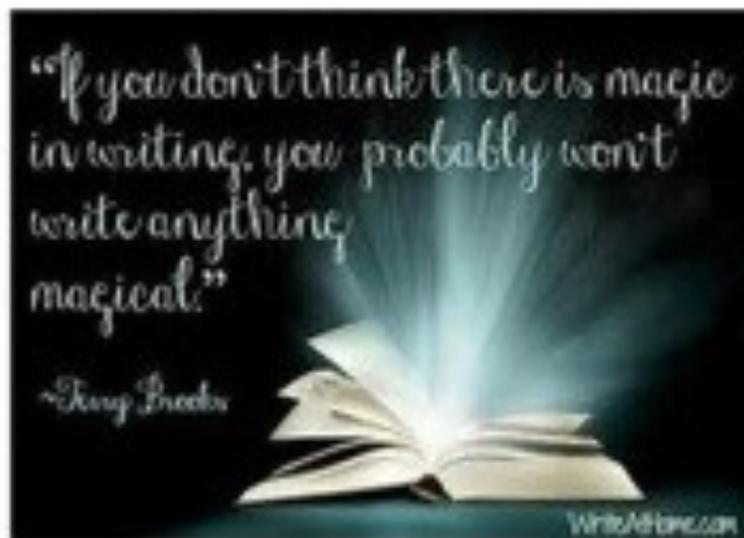
September 9, 2017

10am — 4pm

San Bernardino County's Victor Valley Museum in Apple Valley

11873 Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley, CA

Exhibit & Sale Free and Open to the Public



The *High Desert Arts and Literary Festival* is presented by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Victor Valley Branch, the San Bernardino County Museum, the High Desert Chapter of the California Writers Club, and the San Bernardino County Library. Special events for children including the opening of the Museum's *Curiosity* interactive Children's exhibit, and the *Children's Creative Corner* where children can paint their own masterpieces.

Festival proceeds benefit local STEM educational programs and local scholarships.



SAN BERNARDINO
COUNTY MUSEUM



Library

What You Missed HDCWC BRINGS SUMMER OPEN MIC READINGS & MEETING NEW BOARD OFFICERS



Text & Photos by Rusty LaGrange

NEW BOARD: —(Clockwise rear right), President Rebecca Kosko, Secretary Liz Pye, Treasurer Jenny Margotta, Member at Large Linda Boruff, VP Shalechia Hunt.



Jenny Margotta



Open Mic readers: (l to r rear) VP Shalechia Hunt, Prez. Rebecca Kosko, Anita Holmes, Lindsey, Ann Miner, Diane Neil, Amy Burnett, Liz Pye, and Judy S.



Barbra Badger

Continued next page

News You Can Use

3rd Public Meeting at Hesperia
Library: **Aug. 26 from 2 - 4 pm**

OPEN MIC

Your Friendly Nag:

Time to get
your dues paid.
Plenty of great
activities coming
that you don't
want to miss —
or even worse — pay full-price
to enjoy!!



Ann Miner



Anita Holmes



Readers' Round Up news & reminders

DATES TO REMEMBER

- AUGUST 26..... WRITER'S MTG., HESPERIA LIBRARY**
SEPT. 8-9 HD ARTS & LITERARY FESTIVAL AT VV MUSEUM
OCT. 7 HD FALL FESTIVAL & BOOK FEST



highdesertbookfest.org

Saturday, October 7, 2017- 9a.m.-4p.m.
Victor Valley Arts and Education Center sponsor
A "street-fair" venue on Civic Drive

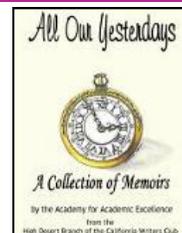
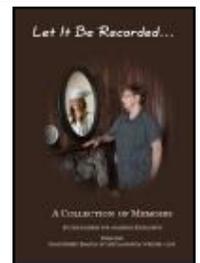


After the success of our first book festival, we are doing it again!

Sell direct to HD readers!!

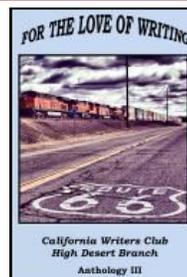
We invite authors interested in being exhibitors to email us at hdbookfest@gmail.com with details about their books and requesting information about registration. *Hope to see you there!*

"Let It Be Recorded..."
A Lifetime of Memories
by Students
~~ Anthologies For Sale ~~
\$11.95 at meeting,
online, or by mail
Now on Kindle: \$3.99



All Our Yesterdays: A Collection of Memories is the latest student-created anthology which focuses on interviews of senior citizens,

[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) for \$11.99



**2015 CWC Anthology
Second Order Planned**

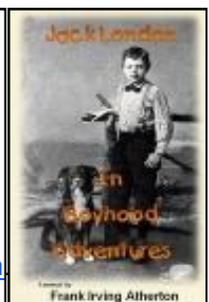
2015 Anthology — 53 Top-Notch entries from our Branch's best authors.

Makes Great Gifts!

JACK LONDON IN BOYHOOD ADVENTURES — A document found stashed away in a box of mementos, recounts the downhome early years of a famous California boy and his pal. They find life full of serious & frivolous days of summer in early Oakland.

First Printing now available for only \$13.35 at Amazon; Barnes & Noble \$13.08

www.jacklondoninboyhoodadventures.com



Notices

Guest Blog Your New Book!! at HighDesertBlogging.com

Regional News, Events, Post Your
Book Signing, Free Guest Blog Entry

Just call 760.646.2661 or text, or
email to Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com

Services

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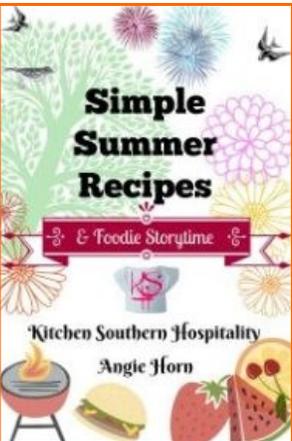
   



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NOV

Books

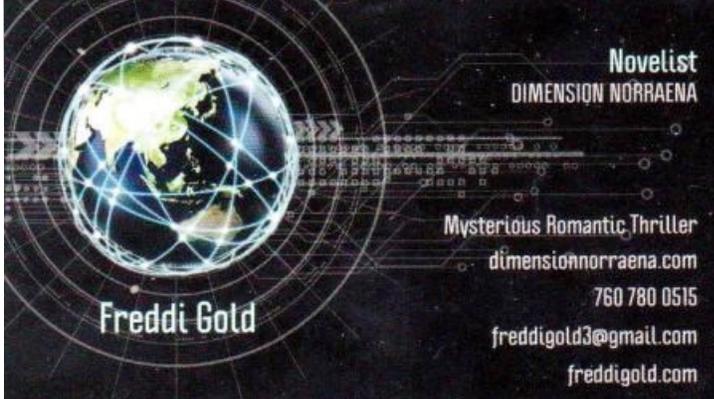


Angie's latest book
is just in time for
Summer cooking

Buy at Amazon for
\$18.99 + s/h/tax or
Prime

Order directly from me
at CWC meetings

[http://angelahorn.com/
joylife-press/](http://angelahorn.com/joylife-press/)



Novelist
DIMENSION NORRAENA

Mysterious Romantic Thriller
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freddigold3@gmail.com
freddigold.com

NOV

Editor



Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com

Notes From the Editor ---

Is the sun frying your brain? Where do you run to get cool?

Submitting to *The Inkslinger* is easy. Use Arial font, 11pt. with single spacing, please. **My email address for submissions is Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com. (Super easy!)** Articles and stories between 300 to 700 words are accepted. Photos, poetry, and graphics are always welcome.

Have a new book? Let me promote your book here with your cover, your bio, your mug shot, and book highlights. This package can also be used in statewide *The Bulletin* for \$90 — but here it's free!

September's deadline: August 23. Oct. deadline: Sept. 23

I am not going dark in December so send in your holiday stories and poems early.

~~~ Rusty LaGrange