



# The INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC

*Inspiring a Community of Writers*

*Sail On*

**May 2020**



## Tips From Books I've Read

### On Writing ~~

Mike Apodaca, VP HDCWC



"Remember, your job is not to tell a story, but to make the reader experience the story."

*Firsts In Fiction*, by Aaron Gansky

"The first line is the door to your story. If you've got an automatic door that slides aside to welcome the shopper, you're doing well. If you've got a manual door that sticks and rattles, you're not doing so well. Same with your book. The first line shouldn't be a tripping hazard."

*The Art and Craft of Writing Christian Fiction*, by Jeff Gerke

"Without conflict there is no story. The more direct and pointed the conflict, the greater the complications; and the greater the complications, the more demand there is for further decisions to be made, which in turn increases the complications and heightens the conflict."

*The Making of a Writer*, by Sherwood Elliot Ward

"Plot...is a force that attracts all atoms of language (words, sentences, paragraphs) and organizes them according to a certain sense (character, action, location). It is the cumulative effect of plot and character that creates the whole."

*20 Master Plots*, by Ronald B. Tobias

"Dialogue is an artificial creation that sounds natural when you read it."

*Self-Editing for Fiction Writers*, by Reni Brown and David King

"Writing is hard, even for authors who do it all the time."

Roger Angell, in *The Elements of Style*, by Strunk and White

Aristotle can be a good friend to you. Really. He did a lot of the heavy lifting on the different parts of storytelling. For plot, he identified five parts: reversals, discoveries, complications, catastrophe, and resolution. Beginning, middle, and end. Sounds easy, doesn't it. Yeah, well, not always."

*Write to be Heard*, by Diane Sherlock and Aaron Gansky

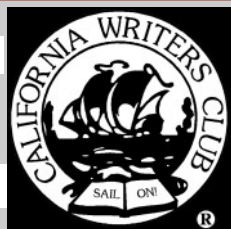
"Read poetry every day of your life. Poetry is good because it flexes muscles you don't use often enough. Poetry expands the senses and keeps them in prime condition. It keeps you aware of your nose, your eye, your ear, your tongue, your hand. And, above all, poetry is compacted metaphor or simile. Such metaphors, like Japanese paper flowers, may expand outward into gigantic shapes."

*Zen in the Art of Writing*, by Ray Brandbury

"Don't wait for the muse. As I have said, he's a hard-headed guy who's not susceptible to a lot of creative fluttering. This isn't the Ouija board of the spirit-world we're talking about here, but just another job like laying pipe or driving long-haul trucks. Your job is to make sure the muse knows where you're going to be every day from none 'til noon or seven 'till three. If he does now, I assure you that sooner or later he'll start showing up, chomping his cigar and making his magic."

*On Writing*, Stephen King

High Desert branch  
of  
California Writers  
Club  
Board of Directors



*The following officers  
and appointed positions are current to  
the fiscal year of July 2020.*

**President**

Dwight Norris  
hdcwcpresidentdnorris@gmail.com

**Vice President**

Mike Apodaca  
MrDaca.ma@gmail.com

**Secretary**

Joan Rudder-Ward  
imaker@msn.com

**Treasurer**

Jenny Maraotta  
Jennymargotta@mail.com

**Member-at-Large**

Linda Boruff  
linda jeanboruff@msm.com

**Programs / Publicity Chair**

Bob Isbill  
Risbill@aol.com

**Membership**

Michael Raff  
mprseven@aol.com

**Newsletter Editor**

Rusty LaGrange  
Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com

**Webmaster**

Roberta Smith  
hdcwc\_web@aol.com

## The Pandemic Short Story Anthology

### Something We Hope Will Go Viral

We hope many of our members participated in the virus-themed stories, having taken Dwight's challenge to stretch our writing skills. The deadline for this contest was April 30th.

If you did not get to enter this contest, don't despair. You have another chance to get your writing noticed. The HDCWC Board members have decided to collect stories from our club, and other clubs throughout California, to publish in a new anthology.

There will be a first, second, and third place in this contest. Each person who places will get a cash prize and will be able to direct a matching prize to a pandemic-helping charity of their choice. Since we're writing about pandemics, we wanted to help those fighting on the front lines.

So, it's time to write. Come up with a story based on a viral epidemic. This is to be a work of fiction, not a memoir. The deadline for this is June 30th. Entrée fee: \$15.

Finally, the Board has decided to expand the word-count for the anthology. Whereas the in-club contest was 2,500 words, the anthology limit is 5,000 words. You may simply submit the story you wrote for the club, expand your story, or write a completely new one. Time to roll up your sleeves. For complete guidelines and further details, visit [www.hdcwc.com](http://www.hdcwc.com).

For what it's worth

**This pandemic is a blip on the screen of  
human history. ~~ Daphne Gray-Grant**

Our New  
Mailing Address

HDCWC  
17645 Fisher Street  
Victorville, CA 92395



## CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

When setting up a novel, why would a writer want to spend a lot of time in character development? There are a lot of good reasons. Let's talk about two.

In dealing with the protagonist, we benefit from a pretty complete picture of this character. A physical description is important, but if that's all we have, it's too shallow. We need to know about the major influences in his or her life—where they grew up, the family relationships, friendships, love interests, traumatic experiences, people or events that influenced the character. Whatever might be the reason for quirks, beliefs, and behavior, we need to know.

Since we are painting a picture of a human being with many facets, we need to know information that is on a more incidental level as well, like favorite food, or food he or she absolutely will not eat, occupation, favorite color, fears in life. A human being is a composite of many facts and influences, and in a story, these would be sprinkled freely throughout so that the reader would gradually come to know the character better. But the writer! The writer constructs this character from the beginning to know the individual through and through. So why is this

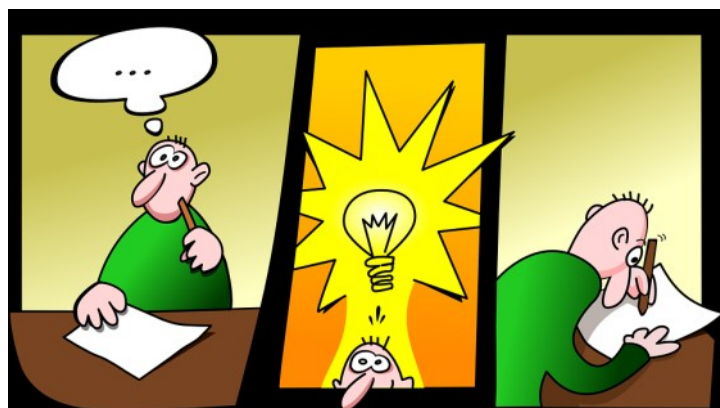
... we are painting a picture of a human being...



... the mind of the character can take over, and take the action that is completely authentic to their true self.

One reason is dialogue. When your character is a well put together human being, creating believable dialogue is so much easier. In an interaction with an exchange of dialogue all you have to do is listen. Give your character free reign to interact. The dialogue will write itself. And because you know the character so well, the dialogue will be authentic, and you may not be able to type fast enough. Isn't that wonderful? But if you don't know the character that well, you'll be making it up as you go and it may be stilted and not fit that well.

The other issue is if your character is well-developed, you may have the delightful experience of your character taking on a life of his/her own. You had a chapter all planned out. Your protagonist was going to do A, B, and C. You were deeply engrossed in your writing and suddenly your character went off in a different direction and did X, Y, and Z. Whoa! How can this happen? Because your complete character is so deeply absorbed in your brain the mind of the character can take over, and take the action that is completely authentic to their true self. That is one of the high moments in the creative life of a writer. Keep writing. You never know what's



Let your imagination help you write. You know it wants to.





**Mike Apodaca**  
**from the**  
**Vice President**

## Share Your Writing Process

I recently met a woman who'd started to write a book. She had a general idea and plot. She started the first chapter, then stopped and never picked it up again. Unfortunately, this is a common story with new writers.



All writers come up with their own original ways to organize their writing. Mapping out your story is a crucial step in the process.

If you are an experienced writer who has figured out your process, please share it with new writers who could

use some help getting started.

Here's how you make your video:

- 1) Make an outline of what you want to say.
- 2) Practice your explanation. Make it between 5 to 10 minutes long. Remember, you're sharing tips, not giving a lecture. Have fun. Keep it conversational.
- 3) With Windows 10, go to the Start menu and select Camera. Click on the video icon on the right. You're recording. When you're done, click on the red circle on the right. Click on the video (it's at the bottom right). Watch it and make sure you like it.
- 4) Email it to me. Open your email. Address it to [mrdaca.ma@gmail.com](mailto:mrdaca.ma@gmail.com). Put your name in the body of the text. Lastly, attach your video by clicking on the paper clip on the bottom. Click on pictures on the far left. Click on the folder called Camera Roll. Finally, click on your video and click Send.
- 5) Exhale!

Thanks for helping our new writers.

# zoom

Our April HDCWC Board meeting was a Zoom meeting, hosted by Dwight Norris.

It only took us forty minutes to get everyone in the meeting—that is we had five faces, one person with voice only, and one person who couldn't join with voice or video and had to type his responses in the chat room (what a great sport).

Once we were all in, the discussion moved along brusquely (as they often do). Ideas were flying, with each member sharing their opinions and insights. Good ideas were made better with everyone's input.

By the end we had made several important decisions.

Your HDCWC Board is working hard to keep our club vibrant and helpful to all High Desert writers.

Thank you so much for your help and support.



What a Zoom meeting feels like ;-)



**We don't write because it's easy.**

**We write because we have something to say.**



Jenny Margotta

from an

EDITOR'S DESK

## CONTRONYMS

Writers spend a lot of time looking for just the right word. We all have a thesaurus of one kind or another nearby. I not only have my favorite thesaurus, but I have *Family Word Finder*, *The Descriptor's Dictionary*, *American Thesaurus of Slang*, and *Dictionary of Problem Words and Expressions*, among others. We spend most of our efforts, I think, on synonyms, but there are also acronyms, anachronyms, heteronyms, homonyms, and pseudonyms, just to name a few. The suffix “nym,” of course, is used to form nouns describing types of words.

A *chrononym* is a term for a specific period of time (autumn, month) *Zoonyms* are the common names of animal species. (fox, bear) A *mononym* is a person known by only one name. (Elvis, Madonna) A relatively –nym is *textonym*. A textonym is one of two or more words that can be generated by pressing the same combination of numbers on the keypad of a mobile phone. (kiss, lips) That one's courtesy of Collins Online Dictionary.

One of my favorite “–nyms” is *contronym*. (or *contranym*.) Contronyms are also called antagonyms, auto-antonyms, or Janus words. According to Meriam-Webster, a contronym is “a word having two meanings that contradict one another.”

*Sanction*, for instance, can either signify permission to do something or a measure forbidding it to be done. *Cleave* can mean cut in half or stick together. A *sanguine* person is either hotheaded and blood-thirsty or calm and cheerful. Something that is *fast* is either stuck firmly or moving quickly. (Bill Bryson, *The Mother Tongue*, 1990)

These days we hear the word *oversight* used fairly often. The original meaning was “watchful care or supervision.” But over the years it also came to refer to errors of omission. *World Health Organization oversight* can have two distinctly different meanings.

<https://www.wordhippo.com/what-is/words-ending-with/nym.html> lists contronyms:

- anabasis - military advance, military retreat
- apology - admission of fault, formal defense
- aught - all, nothing
- bolt - secure, run away
- by - multiplication (a three by five matrix), division (dividing eight by four)
- chuffed - pleased, annoyed
- cleave - separate, adhere
- clip - fasten, detach
- consult - ask for advice, give advice
- copemate - partner, antagonist
- custom - usual, special
- deceptively smart - smarter than one appears, dumber than one appears
- dike - wall, ditch
- discursive - proceeding coherently from topic to topic, moving aimlessly from topic to topic
- dollop - a large amount, a small amount
- dust - add fine particles, remove fine particles
- enjoin - prescribe, prohibit
- fast - quick, unmoving
- first degree - most severe (murder), least severe (degree of burn)
- fix - restore, castrate
- flog - criticize harshly, promote aggressively
- garnish - enhance (food), curtail (wages)
- give out - produce, stop production
- grade - incline, level
- handicap - advantage, disadvantage
- help - assist, prevent ("I can't help it if...")
- left - remaining, departed from
- liege - sovereign lord, loyal subject
- mean - average, excellent ("plays a mean game")
- off - off, on (e.g., "the alarm went off")
- out - visible (stars out), invisible (lights out)
- out of - outside, inside ("work out of one's home")
- oversight - error, care
- pitted - with the pit in, with the pit removed
- put out - extinguish, generate (something putting out light)
- quiddity - essence, trifling point
- quite - rather, completely
- ravel - tangle, disentangle

## Distance Learning Tests Teachers

Mike Apodaca

It's no surprise that some of our HDCWC members are teachers. I retired from teaching last year. While teaching I wrote five novels. Writing and teaching go together.

I want to give a shout out to teachers who are trying to figure out how to do the best for the children in their classes during the current pandemic.

Few non-teachers understand the great weight all teachers have for their responsibility to provide their students with everything they need to be successful in the following grade and beyond. Every teacher has one eye on the high expectations of the coming grade.

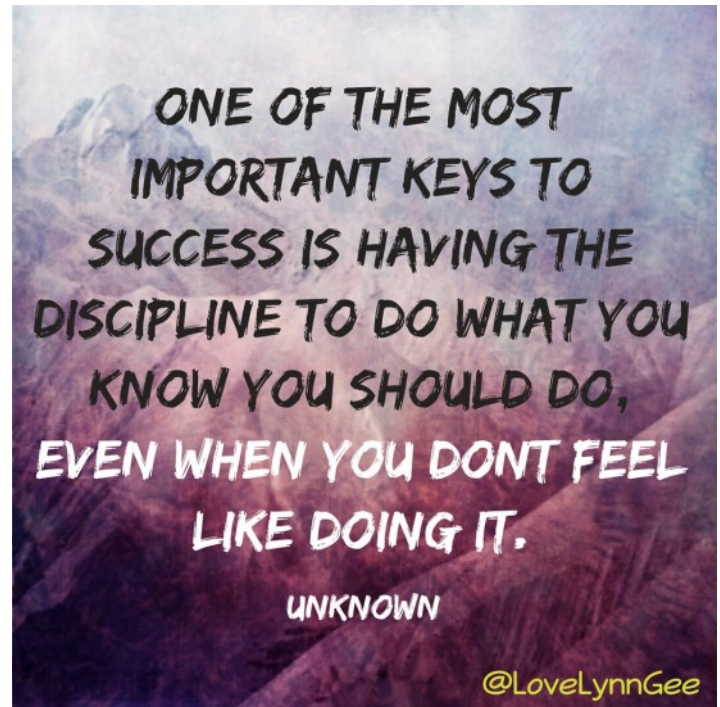
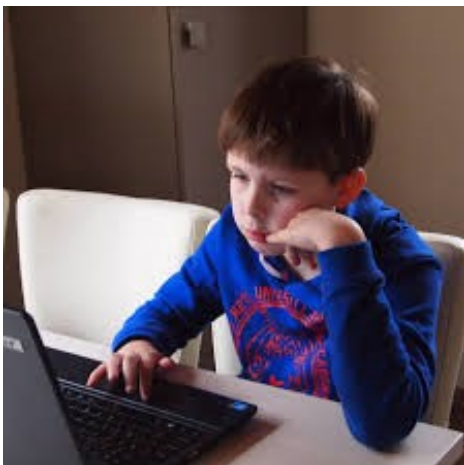
Ever since California went to the Common Core Standards, teachers have been working hard to figure out how to teach very difficult concepts. For instance, in sixth grade I had to teach eleven and twelve year olds how to discover the Mean Absolute Deviation and the Median Interquartile Range of a set of data (and, yes, it is as hard as it sounds).

I found that more than half of the success I had in teaching children was earning their trust through our daily relationships. Smiling at them, welcoming them at the door in the morning, and listening to them, all led my students to trust me and to want to work hard for me..

Now, because of this virus, teachers have been given the added hurdle of teaching their students virtually, from computer screens and with on-line resources. This has made a difficult job far more difficult.

Some of my teacher friends have shared with me how terrified they are of teaching this way.

So, thank a teacher today. Tell them how much you appreciate them. Tell them you empathize with their current struggles. Make their day.



a t q s c r e e n p l a y s n  
n p t e l e v w o y k k r o x  
f r w u i s o n i e r v a y d  
l o t u m e c j t u g t r i f  
a t r g a a a l a g n n e e z  
s a a e x r b i c o i o t o n  
h g n c s c u a i l t i i v p  
b o s i h h l t l a t t l e s  
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c o n f l i c t p t i o a t w  
d u y r e g a m i b e n r h u  
p t h e m e t a p h o r g p q

## Writing Word Search

character	mood
climax	nonfiction
complication	plot
conflict	poetry
detail	prose
dialogue	protagonist
fiction	punctuation
flashback	research
font	screenplay
foreshadowing	setting
grammar	theme
imagery	transition
literary	vocabulary
metaphor	voice



# Handling Rejection

By Mike Apodaca

Dr. Seuss's first book was rejected by 27 publishers, and he did okay. Many famous authors have their own rejection stories.

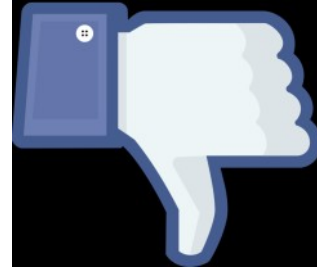
Rejection sucks. Actually, the feeling of being rejected sucks. Rejection is just reality.

I'm guessing that the fear of this intense feeling of being rejected is what keeps many from writing, or, at least, from putting their work into any public forum.

So how can we get past this debilitating feeling?

Firstly, we must understand that it is our work that is being rejected, not us. When you send in your story or your query letter, you are not putting yourself in the email or envelope. A story is just that, a story. We must get our feelings of being accepted (and acceptable) from our personal relationships (with God and man). Care more about what your spouse and/or family and/or friends think about you. These are the people whose opinion matters.

We also need to understand that there are many other factors that determine whether or not a piece is rejected, and few of them have to do with the quality of the idea or of the writing itself. I had my book series rejected by an agent last year. When I asked him why, he said, "I see dozens of books like this each year. Nobody will publish them, so I don't represent them." There are market factors that you and I are unaware of. Sometimes, the agent or publishing house is already representing another author or story that is so similar to yours that they don't feel they can represent yours as well.



So why would anyone write in the first place?

Writing allows us to understand ourselves. Everyone has feelings and opinions. Writing allows us to get in touch with our perspectives. It helps us make sense of the world in a deep and meaningful way. Writing is good for our souls.

Writing also allows us to express ourselves. Each human being yearns to be known, to share themselves with others. I'm currently reading Jenny Margotta's excellent book, *The Woman in Room 23*. As I read it, I hear Jenny's voice. I understand the love she has for people. I am inspired by her kindness, empathy, and patience. I am made a better human being. I have always considered books central to my personal growth.

Writing makes us part of a supportive community. Our writers club has meant so much to me. I have developed friendships with supportive co-writers who encourage and inspire me. They help me make my writing the best that it can be (especially my wonderful critique group). I cherish my HDCWC friends.

Finally, we must understand that writing is an art form. We paint pictures with words. You will have great satisfaction when someone pulls you aside and tells you how much your writing has meant to them. It is even better when someone tells you that your books are their favorites.

Writing is a difficult stressful process, requiring sustained focus and discipline. The difficulty is compounded if we succumb to the fear of rejection. Let's hang in there together, encouraging each other, accepting each other and changing the world with our well-crafted words.



# HDCWC Nominating Committee Slate Announcement

By Bob Isbill  
Nominating Committee Chairman

In accordance with the HDCWC Bylaws, the slate of officers standing for election at the June 13, 2020 meeting is hereby announced:

Those incumbent officers willing to stand for election are:

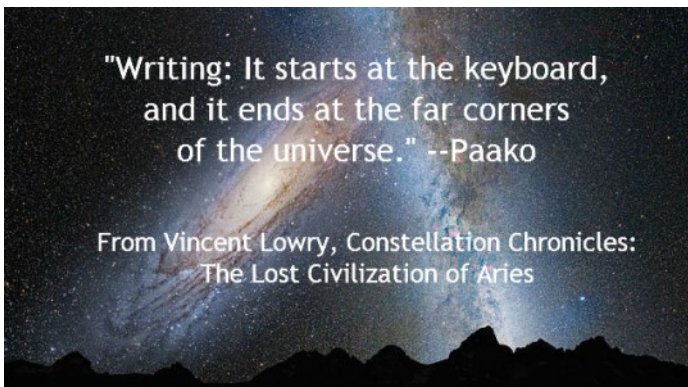
President Dwight Norris  
Vice President Mike Apodaca  
Secretary Joan Rudder Ward  
Treasurer Jenny Margotta

The election is scheduled to happen at the June 13 meeting determined by those present and voting.

If anyone else is interested in standing for election in any one of those four roles, please contact me.

Thanks.

Bob Isbill risbill@aol.com 760.221.6367



## Writing To Your Theme

By Mike Apodaca

Writers write because they have something to say. This may sound trite or obvious, but it is not. There is great power in stories. In fact, stories can do things other forms of communication cannot.

Stories, especially stories that are well-told, can challenge our preconceptions about life. Jesus was a master of this (just read his parables and how they challenged the established power centers and the misconceptions of the day).

J.R.R. Tolkien did this for me in this description of an encounter with Gandalf and Frodo.

"Frodo: 'It's a pity Bilbo didn't kill Gollum when he had the chance.'

Gandalf: 'Pity? It's a pity that stayed Bilbo's hand. Many that live deserve death. Some that die deserve life. Can you give it to them, Frodo? Do not be too eager to deal out death in judgment. Even the very wise cannot see all ends. My heart tells me that Gollum has some part to play in it, for good or evil, before this is over. The pity of Bilbo may rule the fate of many.'

Frodo: 'I wish the Ring had never come to me. I wish none of this had happened.'

Gandalf: 'So do all who live to see such times, but that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us. There are other forces at work in this world, Frodo, besides that of evil. Bilbo was meant to find the Ring, in which case you were also meant to have it. And that is an encouraging thought.'

Tolkien doesn't hit us over the head with his theme. Nor does he state it obviously. He reasons with us through the wizard Gandalf as he mentors Frodo and helps this hobbit widen his own perspective.

Writing well is getting in touch with yourself, with what you value; with what you care about above all else. Every great writer is a teacher that shows us, through story, that life has a deeper meaning (you can also write to show that life has absolutely no meaning—Cat's Cradle, by Kurt Vonnegut). Write what's important to you and you will write every day.

So, try it. Try writing to convey a theme, meaning, or value. As your readers experience your book, ask them what they thought the whole book was about. Ask them what parts showed them the theme. If they saw your theme(s), celebrate (ice cream is always good).



# Origins

I'm fascinated with the origins of words and phrases. They help me understand our language on another level.

An **author** is someone who originates (from the Latin, "auctor"). The word, "**book**" came from the English word, "boc", which meant, "beech", because the first writing was scratched on the wood and bark of these trees. "**Writing**" comes from the word meaning, "to scratch." "**Erase**" means "to scratch out." It's what Romans had to do to the wax they wrote on when they made a mistake.

When we say we are putting together an **anthology** for our club, the word, "anthology" comes from a Greek word to gather flowers. Hopefully, our writing is as sweet smelling and beautiful.

**Fiction** comes to us from the latin word, "fingere", which means to create something. **Fantasy** is from the Greek word, "to make visible." Fantasy writers show us things we've never seen before. **Horror** comes from Latin for making one's hair stand on end (which good horror stories do!). **Poetry** comes from the Greek word meaning to create.

A **manuscript** is something "written by hand." **Text** comes from the Latin, textus, which means to weave (like textiles). This is why we spin yarns and weave tales.

The word, **verse**, comes from the Latin word for furrow. A verse plows forward, then re-verses to begin the next line.

Each word has its own story.

*Dictionary of Word Origins*, by John Ayto

*Word Origins and Their Romantic Stories*, by Wilfred Funk



Sharing  
ideas is  
Great.  
Sharing  
Germs, not  
so much.  
Please stay  
home if  
you're not  
well.

## Yes, I write, but I also...

How would you end this sentence? Would you say, "...do woodworking," or "sew," or "work on cars"? Whatever you would put, these activities make us who we are and contribute to our writing.

I would add, "gardening and working with my grandkids." These activities help to make me who I am.

Gardening requires planning and faithfulness. I'm still designing my garden, laying concrete, building a grape arbor, etc. There is also the constant weeding and driving out pests. Along with all this, you have to plan for your harvest and plant the seeds that will produce it. In the process of working in the garden I see many metaphors that help me live my life in a more positive way. As I write this, I can see wonderful parallels between what I do in the garden and what I do while writing.

Being with my grandkids, teaching with them, playing games, and being silly, warms my heart and keeps me connected to people I love.

What I'm getting at is, I think we can minimize the things we do in our lives that are not writing, when, in reality, it is these very activities that make us better writers.

Agatha Christie was an amateur archaeologist. Victor Hugo did art. Sylvia Plath kept bees. Emily Dickenson enjoyed baking. Leo Tolstoy was an avid chess player. Ernest Hemingway was an outdoorsman. They all had other interests which made them better writers. If it was good enough for them, perhaps it's good enough for us as well.



My granddaughter, Cecelia, in my garden in 2018

Mike Apodaca

## Events Ahead > Book Fairs & more

### MAY — JUNE ACTIVITIES

Pandemic Anthology Contest. Submissions are due by June 30th. The cost of submission is \$15 per writing piece. Only fiction will be accepted.

zoom

May 9th HDCWC Meeting... well, sort of...

At this point, our club is planning on having a special Zoom meeting for May. We will host this meeting on various writing topics. You will receive an email with more information, including some beginning training on Zoom, if you feel you need it.

For those of you who have done Zoom meetings, you will know how great it is to see the people we have missed being with. We are hopeful that this will not only be helpful to your writing, but also that it will warm your heart to talk and laugh with your HDCWC friends.

### IF I COULD FLY

by Diane Neil



If I could fly  
I'd soar so high  
like a yo-yo in the sky.

I'd join some birds in flight  
and give them all a squawking fright.  
But I can't even fly a kite.

I have no wings like agile birds.  
I can only send my words  
and hear the echo afterwards.

### A Shout Out

Although she wouldn't want me to do it, I have to share my appreciation to Rusty LaGrange for all she does to produce this newsletter for our club each month.

We never know how much others do for us until we try to do it ourselves. Remember when you took for granted what your parents did to keep your household functioning, and then you grew up and developed a much better understanding.

Producing this newsletter this month has made me realize how much hard work it is. Every hour I've spent, night after night, typing I have thought of Rusty and my appreciation has grown.

So, let's all tell Rusty thank you for all she does for us every month, producing our excellent newsletter. Also, let's consider contributing more of our own writing (poems, articles, etc.) to Rusty to help her fill all these little boxes (I had no idea how many there really were!).

Thank you, Rusty for all you do. Mike Apodaca



Order extra copies of our HDCWC anthologies for your bookshelf, your gifts, as a Senior Center donation. Titles can be found on Amazon.com Pre-orders can be delivered at our regular meetings.

## MEMBER SERVICES

### OUR OWN YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Here's the link to the channel:  
[https:// www.youtube.com/channel/UC28XLtEK5oBNq5gW2Zy1ssg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC28XLtEK5oBNq5gW2Zy1ssg)

Managed by Joan Rudder-Ward

Take advantage of your membership benefits

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

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

Contact a Board Member,  
our Webmaster Roberta Smith,  
or review your Benefits Booklet  
online: [www.HDCWC.com](http://www.HDCWC.com)

Our member directory is MRMS. Use it to connect with other members in our club. Go to [www.mrmsys.org](http://www.mrmsys.org). Select our branch. Then enter your USER ID. Then enter your PASSWORD (Bob Isbill sent these to all the members). Click on the box, Not a Robot. If you need your info again, email Bob Isbill at [Risbill@aol.com](mailto:Risbill@aol.com)

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

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

### WORD OF THE MONTH

**Trumpery** (No, not *that* Trump.) noun: 1 a: worthless nonsense; b : trivial or useless articles, junk: ("a wagon loaded with household trumpery"—Washington Irving); 2: archaic: tawdry finery

**Trumpery** derives from the Middle French *tromper*, meaning "to deceive." It originally meant "deceit or fraud" but has since come to refer to objects of little or no value.

### Editor



next issue is mid-June

## Notes From the Editor

Rusty gave me the great honor of putting together this month's newsletter. It's been an eye-opening experience. Today my wife pointed out how much I've whined while doing it (she's right). I appreciate Rusty for all she does as Newsletter Editor. I will try to be more helpful to her in the future.

If there's something you think should be in the newsletter, write it and get it to Rusty. Mike Apodaca

Submitting to *The Inkslinger* is easy. Use Microsoft Word, single-spaced, 11-point Arial font, please. The email address for submissions is [Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com](mailto:Rusty@RustyLaGrange.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, 760-646-2661.

**Submit Mar. 2020 items by Feb. 23, 2020**  
**Submit April 2020 items by Mar. 23, 2020**