



INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC

SAIL ON

Inspiring a Community of Writers

NOV. 2016

AN HONOR FOR 2017

SEEKING a BLUE RIBBON PANEL

For nearly 100 years, Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, 557 Broadway, New York, NY, has run a recognition program for creative teenagers. And now, their Alliance for Young Artists & Writers has given us the opportunity to help judge submissions of teen writers, grades 7-12.

Writing categories include critical essay, dramatic script, flash fiction, humor, journalism, novel writing, personal essay/memoir, poetry, science fiction and fantasy, short story, and writing portfolio (seniors only).

Based on our experience with our anthologies, the DCB Memoir Project, inmate critiques, our own critique groups, as well as the memoir, Jack London in Boyhood Adventures, The HDCWC has been selected to host a Writing Region-at- Large (WRAL) Judging Session. With our experience over the last five years, this project is a good fit for us. And a great honor.

So we are assembling a Blue Ribbon Panel of judges to read submissions within the two-week period of January 7-20, 2017. We need fifteen jurors on the panel, and five back-up jurors. Our club will receive a maximum of 110 WRAL submissions, which will require an estimated 10-15 hours per juror during the two-week period. This averages out to about an hour or less per day.

This project will allow the Alliance to recognize the next generation of young writers — as it did for Sylvia Plath, Joyce Carol Oates, and Truman Capote. And it will give us an opportunity to connect with the work of contemporary young writers, get a first look at nation-wide trends in writing education, and affiliate with the most prestigious awards program for creative students in the country. It will give us another unique way to fulfill our mission statement of promoting excellence in writing, and allow us to give press releases and media alerts to notify the public of our participation in this project. Oh, and did I mention that The Alliance will also provide a donation of \$2,000 to our club for our participation?

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You're the One We Celebrate!
Congrats to Our Published Authors!

Our Best Year Ever

Our guest speaker this month is YOU! Time to tell us about your new book, your accomplishments, your latest news!

OPEN MIC MONTH
~~~  
Sign-up online with Mike

Dress Your Best for our group Authors' Photo during the break

VOLUNTEERS MAKE OUR BRANCH ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE!!

Thanks to you!!  
Learn how we volunteer for next year's programs

## Volunteers Gave “Howl at the Moon” Writers Conference a Smooth Running Event



*Lorelei hosted our guest*



*Gabriela Pereira*



*From  
Gabriela Pereira*



*Jerry Ellis from Barnes & Noble Bookstore cashiered*



Thank YOU and the High Desert Branch of the CWC for a wonderful conference this past weekend. My favorite thing is speaking to a group that is super-motivated and engaged, and your club was truly exceptional in that respect. I could tell just by looking at the audience how serious your writers are about their craft!

The link to the slides I shared and other worksheets is: [DIYMFA.com/HATM](http://DIYMFA.com/HATM)

I've found that if I don't give people a deadline, they often procrastinate on downloading the materials, so please note that I'll be closing down that opt-in page on **November 15**.

Also, if could pass along a little request to the group, I would so appreciate it if the people who attended could write up a little 2-3 sentence **review for me** to use as testimonials on my website or other promotional materials. If they'd like to see some examples they can check out my Speaking page at: [DIYMFA.com/speaking](http://DIYMFA.com/speaking).

I would also LOVE a **testimonial from you** as the event organizer, or anyone else who was involved in the planning of the event.

Thank you so much for everything. I was truly honored to be part of this conference!

Best, Gabriela Pereira

*Continued on Page 3*

**HATM photos continued ~~**

As a one-woman show, Gabriela was endearing and energetic explaining many of the insider processes of writing that struggling new writers often ask about.

How do you tell someone how to write without them having the basic elements of craving to write?

The first part of the conference focused on how to set goals you can live with to become an efficient writer. Are you an outline taker or “seat of you pants” crafter? Or both?

Many of her processes that capture the writer’s mind are inside her book — DIYMFA.

She discussed Formula in Action based on the promises you make to your reader while you construct your storyline. Even though many writers don’t like to outline in detail, the process of placing key elements into your story and characters results in a “living outline” — evolving as you create your characters’ world and conflicts.

Once that outline is fleshed out a bit more, you have the book proposal requirement that all publishers look for. So, if your plan is to self-publish, you won’t need to outline. However, if a publisher looks at your work, they will want more than just the outline.

The second half of the conference was devoted to the “writing heart” where attendees considered how they find guilt as a motivational tool or one that can limit them to failure. By allowing your life to fit your schedule you can defeat the guilt



**By moving sales to a second table, those who bought DIY MFA could easily get the book autographed by the author.**

and use it to your advantage. “There is no best practice. It’s allowing you to work while focusing on the journey. We all have a story to tell or we won’t be sitting here. For you, writing is survival.” Setting a goal, a time, a schedule will allow you to be efficient but don’t stick to it despite the life you live. “Honor your reality,” she said, “and if someone messes with you — write them into one of your books and then KILL them off.”

Attendees commented that she offered excellent advice, tools, and a viewpoint that covered a range of first time writer to seasoned author.



**Story & Photos by  
Rusty LaGrange**



**Jerry Ellis smoothed the book buyer’s line by hosting Gabriela’s sales for her book and bringing extra copies to the conference.**

# When We Gather Together

by Diane Neil



Alice looked at the invitation that had come in the morning's mail. Her nephew Peter must have felt sorry for her to include her on his guest list.

"We gather together to count our blessings and celebrate Thanksgiving with a potluck dinner. Please bring your favorite dish..." the card read.

Hah! she snorted. What do I have to celebrate? It's been a rotten year. And what a cheapskate Peter is, asking his guests to bring the food. He probably won't even have a turkey. Well, I'll show him. I'll bring the turkey. She visualized a Norman Rockwell picture with the family gathered and Grandpa carving the browned bird on its lovely platter.

Turkey platter! She had her mother's up in the cupboard somewhere. She dragged a chair over, climbed on, and reached in to pull out the platter, and - CRASH! The platter along with her beautiful crystal cake dish fell to the floor.

Alice swept up the shards and revised her plans. Cookies would have to do. Always known as a formidable cook, Alice had felt her reputation slipping in the years since her husband had died. The big family gatherings were a dim memory. She was lucky if her nieces and nephews sent her an email now and then.

She looked at Peter's invitation again, feeling a bit more charitable. She knew Peter and Laurie had had a rough year. One of their children had been seriously ill, and Laurie lost her job through company downsizing.

Over the following week, Alice shopped for ingredients for her favorite recipe 'Granny's Pantry' cookies: chocolate chips, candied fruit, oatmeal, nuts and spices. She hadn't made them in years and had forgotten how pleasurable it was to handle the dough, forming and flattening the balls with a glass on the cookie sheet. She took the last batch from the oven and ate two warm cookies with a cup of tea. Not bad.

The day of the party, Peter greeted his aunt at the door. Behind him, the aroma of roasting turkey and the sounds of laughing children welcomed her.

"Aunt Alice! We were hoping you'd come." Peter took the big canister of cookies she held out. "Did you make your 'Granny's Pantry' cookies? Those are my favorite!" He held the door wide open and Alice stepped inside.

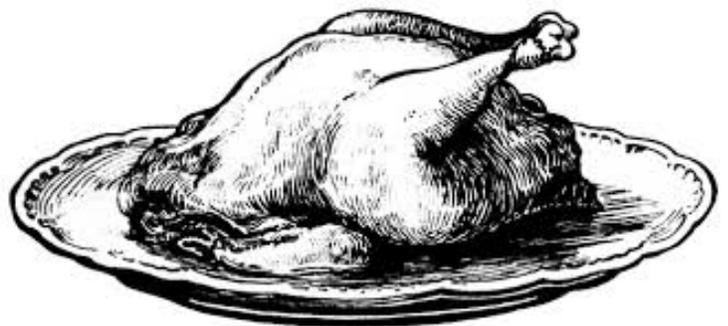
Laurie greeted her with a hug. "Aunt Alice," she said, "there's someone I want you to meet. My Uncle Henry's recently widowed, and I knew you could cheer him up."

The day passed in a warm and noisy chaos, with children making Christmas ornaments in one corner, some of Peter's friends watching football on TV, while Laurie scurried around offering drinks and introducing everyone. Toward evening Alice offered to help clean up, but Laurie demurred. "That's what paper plates are for," she said as she helped the guests gather leftovers to take home.

Alice had planned to leave early, but found herself sitting by the fire with Henry after most of the others had departed.

"This has been a wonderful Thanksgiving," Henry reflected.

"Yes, it has," Alice agreed. "The best in years." I do have much to celebrate, she thought.



## REMEMBER THE GOOD TIMES

by Hazel Stearns

Don't try *not* to think of her  
and choke back all the tears.  
Relish the memories 'n good times --  
the laughs throughout the years.

You gave her care and comfort,  
bathed her body, combed her hair,  
'til the end you stayed beside her --  
you gave yourself -- a person rare.

You've done the same for others,  
now it's time for something new  
to fill the hours you always gave  
with joys meant just for you.

If I were there beside you,  
we'd share a glass of wine.  
We'd watch some sad old movies  
and cry and laugh and whine.

Just because we're miles apart,  
don't think that you're alone.  
Kindred thoughts and sorrows  
will always bring friends home.



## ODE TO A WOMAN

by Sara Metcalf Leach (August 21, 2016)

I sing to you with my best note.  
My tears cannot yet fall.  
The women of time know who you are,  
for you are the sum of them all.  
You could serve on a corporate board  
or for your family have a tender word.  
You could put on your face for the marketplace  
and at nightfall put down your sword.  
For you are the sum of them all --  
the world demanded you give your all.  
Religion demanded your faith  
when your body began to fail.  
You marched on to a higher call.  
For you are the sum of them all.

\* \* \*

*Dedicated to K C*

*(December 30, 1946 -- August 18, 2016)*





## CHECK HERE FOR THE LATEST SALON DATES, EVENTS & BOOK SIGNINGS

### T. Faye Griffin follow up at Hesperia Library

Celebrating Writers' Week, High Desert of CWC held a special meeting Oct. 17 featuring award-winning TV writer, producer, director, and script consultant, T. Faye Griffin, who for 25 years wrote for such shows as "In Living Color" and "Black Girls Rock."

The audience at the Hesperia Library Community Room was charmed by her stories "from divorced mom on welfare to successful writer for such greats as Damon Wayans and Steve Harvey."

"It's hard," said Griffin. "But it's not impossible!"

Her humor program, including a PowerPoint of comedy genre, was titled "Finding Your Funny." She discussed the differences from slapstick to observational humor, offbeat "blue" humor to shock and fringe. In all 16 styles have evolved "so anyone can fit into a genre of their choice", she explained.



*T. Faye Griffin*



Attendees laughed their way through T-Faye's "Finding Your Funny."



She also shared stories how she just happened to be writing "spec" scripts when a friend needed a skit writer for her church, then another connection to writing for an internship got her in front of series head writers for In Living Color.

Soon she was learning that if you never turn down work it will come to you. "Humor takes you to the edge and kicks you over," says T-Faye, that's the name she prefers.

Most comedy is scripted although some actors can do good in improv, and not all writers rewrite their own pitches when the last minutes of a table pitch session go crazy, she said. Even all the adlibs during rehearsal are written down for possible use later.

"Remember: when the economy is down we need more comedy writing. And have you noticed — comedy is still on the rise. We need more writers."



### Planning a Writers' Salon in Your Home or Local Café?

Let Lorelei Kay help you.  
She's our Salons Coordinator  
with some great ideas. Email her at  
[LoralieKay@aol.com](mailto:LoralieKay@aol.com)

Shared Credits:  
Bob Isbill &  
Rusty LaGrange

## What You Missed

# Horror Book Fest III sets Eerie Tone for Edgar Allen Poe, Spiritualist Medium, and CWC Authors

You could say that the threat of rain and the gloom of day set the mood for the 3rd Annual Horror Book Festival.

It helped immensely. The lights were dimmed and the shadows cast across the featured room at Courtyard Marriott felt as odd.

Once the dramatic readings of Edgar Allen Poe echoed throughout the space, there was no mistaking the eeriness of the Horror Fest as it grew more intense.

Travis Rhett Wilson, skilled performer of stage, community theater, film and TV, embodies the charisma of Poe, the voice and the character. Or does Poe embody him? Well done, Mr. Wilson.

Michael Raff and Roberta Smith, partners in *Nevermore Enterprises*, who brought the festival to life, also brought horror genre authors together, the tallest Emcee and radio personality on record, Charlie Ray, and the mystifying spiritual interpretations of Susan Grau, must take a bow for another creative event.

This photo gallery that follows doesn't represent the true details of the festival — not unless you attended — would you understand.

Thanks go to the authors who manned their booths and Charlie Ray for sharing a "Halloween Night" song he composed.

Does it seem odd that the person who received a free reading at the end of the event was the very same lady who Susan Grau had "read" during the program?

Curious, I'd say....



Presented  
by  
*Nevermore  
Enterprises*



*Emcee Charlie Ray*



*Travis Rhett Wilson  
aka Edgar Allen Poe*

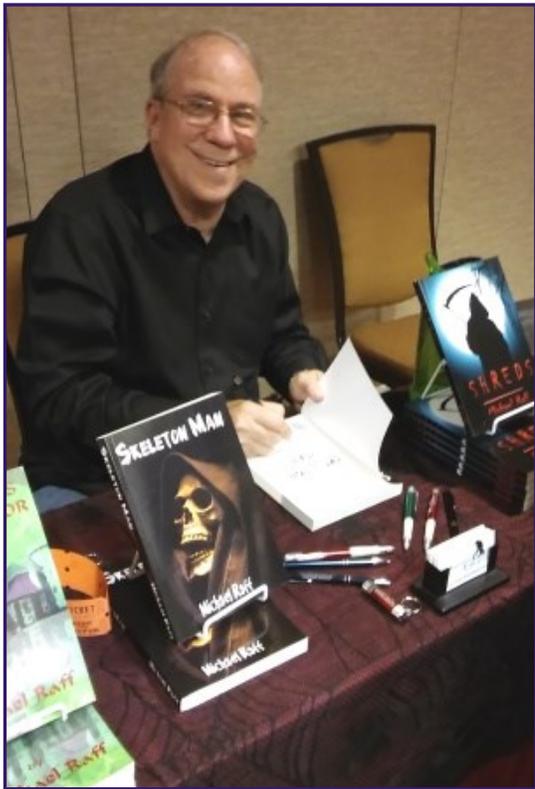
Story & Photos by  
Rusty LaGrange



*Spiritualist Susan Grau*

Continued on Page 7

**PHOTO ALBUM** continues



*Center trio: Poe, Charlie Ray in top hat, and ghoulishly stunning Holly LaPat*



# News You Can Use

Are you ready for another HDCWC anthology? We've gained a lot of new members over the last two years. If you have an entry in mind let us know at our next meeting Nov. 12th.



Our DCB Memoir Project is on hiatus for a year since we didn't secure a starting date early enough to select a school, mentor a class, and begin the book process. We'll search for a school district to support our DCB project in 2017. See story page 14.



If you considered mentoring prisoners in our original program several years ago, you may get a 2nd chance. Let Bob Isbill know if you want a Walking Tour of the Federal Correctional Complex in Adelanto. A list is being compiled. The tour is the first step in revitalizing the inmate's writing program.



I just received very exciting news: My screenplay 'Ashling' is a finalist at the 2016 Wexford Film Festival in Ireland! I am thrilled to get this important thumbs up from my own countrymen. The festival is being held at the end of November.

*Carpe Verbum! ~- from Mary DeSantis*

## Photo Op for All Published Authors at Nov. Meeting

Please plan to attend our Saturday, November 12th meeting at Jess Ranch Community Church in Apple Valley 10 a.m. to noon.

Published Authors: We will have our 2016 photo taken of our HDCWC published authors. Plan to be a part of this photograph.

We will be honoring our HDCWC volunteers in this month of Thanksgiving, because we are thankful for all they do during the year.

We will also have "Open Mic with Mike," brief readings coordinated by Vice President Michael Raff. If you would like an opportunity to read your work, contact Mike at [mpseven@aol.com](mailto:mpseven@aol.com).

While there may be opportunities to sell your books on an individual basis, we will not be having formal tables or setups for this. You are welcome to bring copies of your work to sell to those interested, but much of the intermission time will be taken up with the photograph.

Come and hear our plans for 2017! We have much in store for our members in the coming year.

~~ Bob Isbill, Programs/Publicity



Did you know that volunteering for a juried panel, working on a non-profit board, taking a board position in a civic group, are all ways to pump up your resume? It looks good that your activities in the community continue your abilities to know how to share your talents. There's no spider webs on your rocking chair...



It's that time again for the **Submitorious** Award. Just one very productive, creative, and consistent member in good standing will win the annual cash award of \$50 in our "Submitorious" contest. If you **submit** to *The Inkslinger* regularly you just may be **victorious**. Our winner will be revealed in Jan. 2017.



Gabriela would love to have testimonials from you about your thoughts and reviews of her program. Most authors don't think to ask for reviews. Do her a favor: [DIYMFA.com/HATM](http://DIYMFA.com/HATM) or email her directly [gabriela@DIYMFA.com](mailto:gabriela@DIYMFA.com).

### High Desert Branch of California Writers Club

#### PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT

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# Hot Chocolate With Whipped Cream

by fumi-tome ohta

A little boy and his uncle walk into the recreation room of a veterans hospital. It is Christmas time and the little boy feels a need to be with someone... anyone... who wears a uniform much like his late father used to. The little boy and his uncle meander throughout the hospital. The little boy sees men in uniform but the soldiers he sees do not stand straight like his father. Their uniforms do not have the crispness of his father's. And their faces... did not have that veteran-proud look he remembered so well on his father's face.

The little boy searches throughout the hospital. Disillusioned and tired, the little boy and his uncle are about to leave when the little boy sees a small group of veterans just outside the main entrance. There is one who reminds him of his father. He walks up to the soldier and greets, "Merry Christmas, sir," but the soldier is too engrossed with the conversations of his group to take notice.

The little boy speaks a little louder.  
"Merry Christmas, sir."

The group stops talking. The group motions to the soldier to take notice of the little boy looking up at him.

"Oh yeah, yeah, Merry Christmas," the soldier says, brushing the little boy off and making a slight mockery of the gesture by laughing off the greeting.

The little boy is hurt. He stands there, not quite understanding why his greeting did not make the impression he had dreamed of.

Off to the side, his uncle has been talking to one of the veterans in civilian clothing sitting on a bench. The uncle had explained his nephew's mission to the veteran. Seeing the dejected look on the little boy's face, the veteran limps softly toward the little boy whose eyes are downcast.

The man stands straight and tall before the little boy.

"Merry Christmas, young man."

In that microsecond when the brain processes information, the little boy sees before him someone not quite like his father but there is something that is his father. The way he stood straight and tall. The way his face looks, not quite like his father's but weathered and older but there is that proud look in the man's eyes that was so much like his father's. And when the little boy looks down at the man's shoes, they are not shoes but boots! The man's boots are old and cracked and mottled with age... boots that looked like they walked a thousand miles.

The little boy stares. Even though the boots are old, they still hold that glimmer of a spit-shine that gave the unmistakable look of pride... the unmistakable look of a soldier... a real soldier... just like his father.

"Merry Christmas, sir," the little boy said, looking straight up to the man before him.

"Merry Christmas, young man. Would you and your uncle like to join me for some hot chocolate... with whipped cream?" the soldier asks as he extends his hand to the little boy.

When the little boy took the man's hand, a hand that enveloped his, the little boy felt a certain warmth when their hands touched. This man's hand was hard and calloused with age and maturity, and the way they held hands... in that certain way that only a father and a son hold hands... the little boy remembered.

This is how his father's hand felt.

And hot chocolate with whipped cream? Hot chocolate with whipped cream was what the little boy and his father loved most about Christmas.



## More of What You Missed

T.E. Watson: "I'm just a big kid who knows how to write."

Our guest speaker for October, Tom Watson, has written and produced 41 children's books or history-related books for a young audience. His enthusiasm for writing was not lost on those attending our regular meeting.

Engaging children as young readers is just as difficult as writing for adults. With a mixed genre for kids, anyone can now write much broader in more variety, instead of thinking that children needed to be handled differently. Kids love stories with courage, solid story-

lines, imaginative characters with good quality just like adults do.

You won't need to think you're locked into writing just for children because every author can suddenly go through a "flip phase" for wanting to jump genres and reading levels.

Explore your inner child, says Tom, children's books are a strong market and growing.



*T.E. Watson promotes childlike ideas*



*Brisk sales for titles: I Wanna Iguana, and others.*

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## Branch Features Open Mic Readings at November 12th Meeting

The High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club will feature members reading their works in an "Open Mic" meeting conducted by Vice President Michael Raff. They will also honor their volunteers, review their past, and present plans for their future on Saturday, November 12 from 10 am to noon at the Jess Ranch Community Church located at 11537 Apple Valley Road in Apple Valley. Admission is free and the public is welcome to attend.

The club will take its annual photo of the published authors in the branch.

Have you written a book and don't know where to get started on publishing and marketing? Are you thinking about writing a memoir or maybe a novel? Are you a beginning writer looking for answers and direction or an accomplished author seeking likeminded writers? The California Writers Club may be the place for you to network with other writers at any stage of the craft.

For more information, visit [www.hdcwc.com](http://www.hdcwc.com) or call (760)221-6367.

## What makes writing bad?

Blog Columnist: Daphne Gray-Grant

**When I recommended** the Gregory Maguire novel, *Wicked*, to a neighbor of mine, I had no idea what I was doing.

**To me, it was a funny, clever** and deeply affecting re-telling of the *Wizard of Oz* story — from the (sympathetic) point of view of the wicked witch. To my neighbor, as she confessed after more than six months following my recommendation, it was a millstone hanging around her neck. She *hated* the book and read it only out of a sense of obligation to me. It took her more than six weeks.

**My neighbor is smart.** Educated. Sensitive. Well read. Why could we not agree on this book? The answer is simple: Reading is a matter of taste. Asking why we didn't like the same book is a bit like asking why not everyone likes the color green (my favorite), or broccoli (my most loved vegetable), or vocal jazz (the genre of music I like best.) We are all different and we each have our own preferences.

Clients often ask me to tell them **if I think if they've produced "bad writing."** I'm always willing to do this, but not without issuing a proviso first. Here is what I say:

**Imagine I was to take all the writing in the world** and arrange it on a scale from the absolute worst to the absolute best. (Yes, I understand this is not possible and even if it were, the scale would stretch from here to the moon. But let's pretend for a moment.) If you or any other well-read person were to look at where I'd placed various pieces of writing on my scale, you'd probably disagree with precisely where I'd put *the vast amount of material in the middle*. We'd likely only come to consensus with the writing at each end — the really bad stuff and the outstandingly good stuff. (And even there we might still have some disagreements.) This is because the judgements "good" and "bad" are matters of taste.

But, wait, you say. **What about book sales?** Don't they reveal a more neutral view? Sadly, no. In the case of *Wicked*, for example it was a bestseller, it launched two sequels, and it was turned into a Broadway

musical. Yet my neighbor still thought it was bad writing. And while I disagree with her, I totally respect her view.

OK, so then **what about those authors who are mega bestsellers?** John Grisham, Stephen King, E.L. James? For me, many of these types of books are among the *worst-written* I've ever encountered, even though the authors are wildly successful. I explicitly dislike Stephen King's writing, apart from his sensitive and wise instructional book, *On Writing*, which I highly recommend. As for E.L. James, author of *Fifty Shades of Grey*, friends and reviewers tell me her writing is execrable and I haven't been able to bring myself to read it. The bottom line is that commercial success isn't a sign of great writing. It simply tells you what's popular. So, if you want me to answer the question, "do I think your writing is any good," be aware that I'm not going to tell you about whether you'll be successful in publishing. That's an entirely different question.

**Finally, what about the prize winners?** There's a plethora of them: **The Pulitzer. The Man Booker. The Newbery Medal. The National Book Awards. The Giller.** Surely those authors must be "good" writers. For me, however, winning a book prize doesn't signify much except perhaps that the author might be worth taking a look at. Fashions come and go and book prize panels are not always neutral. Judges may have friends they want to reward or enemies (perhaps authors who gave *them* a bad review) they wish to punish. Here's another issue, authors sometimes win a prize for what's clearly not their best work. I'm typically a big fan of Ian McEwan but I disliked his book *Amsterdam*, which won the **Man Booker** in 1998. Also, be aware, that writers of literary fiction often sell far fewer copies of their books than popular authors — sometimes in the order of 5,000 copies versus two million.

For all these reasons, **it makes no sense to worry** about whether your writing is good or bad. That's an opinion — it belongs to other people and it's clearly out of your control. Don't you think it's far better and more useful to concentrate, simply, on turning your crappy first draft into something that pleases *you*?

~~ Daphne is a blogger, writer, and publication coach. Contact: [daphne@publicationcoach.com](mailto:daphne@publicationcoach.com)



Dorothy C. Blakely  
Memoir Project



## *Memoir Project Shelved for 2017*

Due to scheduling impossibilities with the Academy for Academic Excellence in Apple Valley, the Dorothy C. Blakely Memoir Project was unable to go forward at the school where we had done two prior teachings.

Learning of this at the last minute, and after getting the generous commitment from the CWC Central Board to again help fund the DCB project, we were ready to pitch to another school in another school district so that we could provide this important service and complete another anthology of stories that needed to be told.

On the day scheduled for our interview with the Hesperia School District, Dwight Norris, Bob Isbill, and Mary Langer Thompson were ready to leave when we got a phone call from the district office. Due to the Bluecut fire, they were closing the schools and the offices.

As those of you who have worked on this project in the past know, the DCB Memoir Project is what can be called a mammoth undertaking with many moving parts that need detailed planning and coordination. Both previous projects have involved about 100 people. Even with willing volunteers and our club's capacity to fulfill the needs, we were faced with pretty overwhelming obstacles that prevented going forward for the 2017 school year.

The Dorothy C. Blakely Memoir Project, so named for the woman who inspired and encouraged the idea, is an original High Desert Branch educational project that consists of teaching high school students basic writing skills and connects them with senior citizens. They then interview and write stories of those elders whose stories otherwise may never have been told. With the help of the CWC, we have been able to give scholarships to those students whose stories have been judged the best of the collection.

The HDCWC has published two anthologies available online: "Let It Be Recorded... A collection of Memoirs" and "All Our Yesterdays" both edited by Jenny Margotta and published with by Roberta L. Smith.

We want to thank so many of our HDCWC members for their willingness to commit. Our thanks as well go to those members of the California Writers Club Central Board for realizing the value of this effort and cooperating with our branch so that we would be able to engage in this effort.

We hope to be able to place this project on the front burner in the fall of 2017 for completion in 2018. We will keep you posted on the developments as they occur.



### **Holiday Buffet**

**December  
10th**

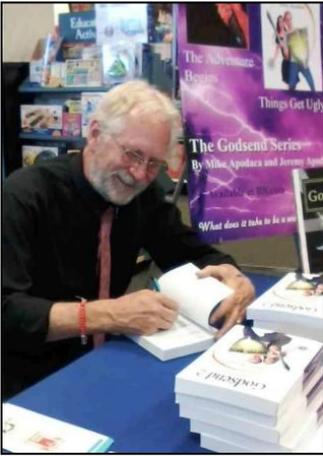
**10 am -  
noon.**

**Please RSVP  
if you will be  
reserving a  
plate.**

Celebrate the Holidays with Hazel and a bunch of hungry writers!! She's opening her home to members only for our branch's catered Holiday party.

Only \$10 per plate per person for an outstanding Mexican buffet. Members may bring their spouses. You may prepay at our Nov. meeting or pay at the door.





Mike Apodaca

### Ambassadors at Large During B&N Book Event

HDCWC members love meeting the public and selling their books. And Barnes & Noble Bookstores are willing partners to draw in new readers who want those autographed editions.



Jenny Margotta



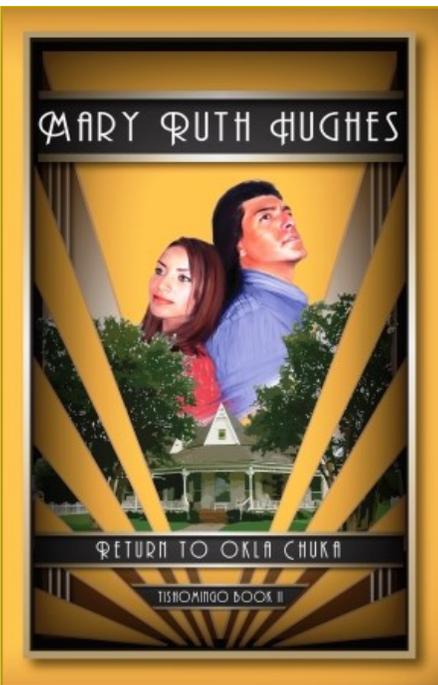
Suzanne & Willard Brumbaugh

### THREE CALIFORNIA WRITING RESIDENCIES AVAILABLE AT LAKE ARROWHEAD

The visionary 1888 Center has launched a residency exclusively for Californians, and they've asked us to get the word out to our own California Writers. Surely this is right up our alley. These are "three two-week residencies in the mountains of Lake Arrowhead where the creative environment will nurture your craft and help carry on the tradition of the California voice. Finished work will be included in 1888's 'The Cost of Paper' anthology." Your submissions will consist of a CV or narrative bio, a statement of intent, and a writing sample. The submission period is January 1 through February 29. There is a \$25 entry fee. Judges will select three California authors and schedule residencies from April 1 through May 15.

All applications must be submitted through "Submittable" at <http://1888.center/cwr/> (for further details) once the submission period opens.

As long as you're on 1888.center, also take a look at the October 30th "The How The Why" podcast interview with our CWC president Joyce Krieg.



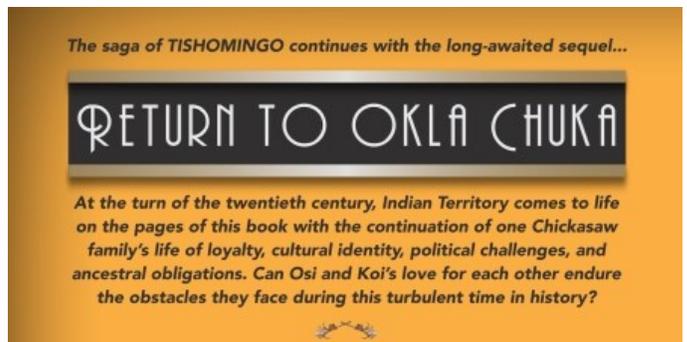
Return to Okla Chuka

### Mary Ruth Hughes Announces Her Sequel to Tishomingo

Mary Ruth has completed her historical novel *Return to Okla Chuka*, and has recently returned from her road trip to Oklahoma to promote it. Sales are doing well and complement the first novel, *Tishomingo*, which was considered for film.



Mary Ruth Hughes



# Anthology Round Up, news & views

Continued from Page 1

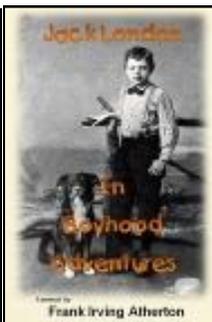
If you'd like to be part of our **Blue Ribbon Panel**, please email me at [hdcwcpresidentdnorris@mail.com](mailto:hdcwcpresidentdnorris@mail.com) with your name and desire to serve in this way. I will be the contact person for the Alliance. Recognizing the possibility of receiving more volunteer jurors than we can accept, Marilyn Ramirez, Mary Thompson, and I will serve as a committee to make the final appointment of **Blue Ribbon Panel** members. Thanks for your help and support.

~~ Dwight Norris

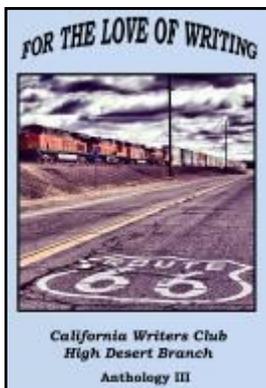


**JACK LONDON IN BOYHOOD ADVENTURES** — A famous California boy and his pal who find life full of serious & frivolous days of summer in early Oakland.

HDCWC proudly presents the first printing of this treasure now available for only \$13.35 at Amazon; Barnes & Noble \$13.08



[www.jacklondoninboyhoodadventures.com](http://www.jacklondoninboyhoodadventures.com).



## 2015 CWC Anthology Second Order Planned

Get Your Orders in for our 2015 Anthology you've been waiting for — 53 Top-Notch entries of our Branch's best authors.

*Makes Great Gifts!*

## Tell Us About Your Book Signing



If you are actively selling and signing your books then we need to know. Space is free for announcements of your upcoming event.

Just send it to [Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com](mailto:Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com).

Give date, time, location, and other news. And photos if you have them.

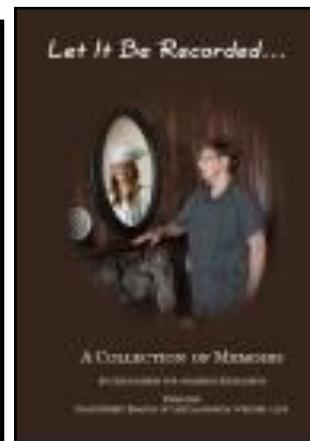
## "Let It Be Recorded..."

A Lifetime of Memories  
by Students

~~ Anthologies For Sale

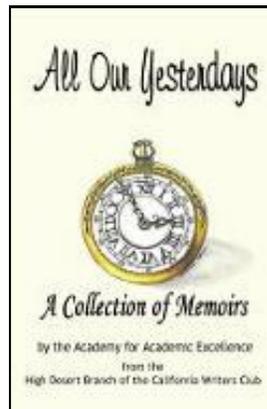
\$11.95 at meeting,  
online, or by mail

**Now on Kindle: \$3.99**



**Our DCB student anthology — *Let It Be Recorded* — is now available on Amazon.com in Kindle format for only \$3.99.**

## Wrong Hands



The latest student-created anthology through the Dorothy C. Blakely project, which focuses on the selection of interviews of senior citizens, is available.

HDCWC is the publisher with sponsors and support of donations, and a grant from CWC Central Board.

[Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) for \$11.99

## Notices

Celebrate the Holidays with Hazel and a bunch of hungry writers!! She's opening her home to members only for our branch's catered Holiday party.

Only \$10 per plate per person for an outstanding Mexican buffet.



### ANNOUNCEMENT:

*The Inkslinger* will now be published 11 times a year. I'm taking a month off to visit with family and friends. So I've chosen December to be my dark month.

You can still submit articles, short stories, and poems in November and December, but there will be a delay in responding to them.

The January 2017 issue will appear in early January.

Have a great holiday break!

~~ *Rusty*

## Services

### Books

Highlight ONE Book Cover  
**Only \$10**  
For 3 months

Web site URL included  
(write a synopsis  
for *Inkslinger* pages inside)

## Editor



[Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com](mailto:Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com)

## Notes From the Editor ---

At this time of year we get somewhat melancholy, remembering friends we miss, and sharing family times while gearing up for the holidays. Our collection of poems reflect this. Ride with the feelings and develop your inner ear for memoir ideas, essays, poems, and the verse you may write in a greeting card.

As always, submissions to *The Inkslinger* should be Arial font, 11pt. with single spacing, please. **Also make note that My email address for submissions has changed to:** [Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com](mailto:Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com). Try to aim for articles and stories between 300 to 600 words. Photos, poetry, and graphics are also welcome. Have a new book? Let me promote your book highlights.

**December's issue will be dark. January's deadline: November 30th.**

~~~ *Rusty LaGrange*