Will You Give Up Quality for Early Success?

OCT. 2014

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Parable of the Young Carpenter:
Where Time & Craftsmanship Equal Valued Excellence

The story is told of a young carpenter named Adan who was learning the craft of house building. He met every other week with a group of men of similar interests.

Some had more experience than Adan; others less. Some had better skills than he did; some, not so much. But they all came together in good spirits to share with one another the tools and techniques that they knew about the ancient art of craftsmanship.

Adan and the others lived in a kingdom where the king valued excellence in all endeavors. When a craftsman was ready, and when he had built a house which he believed to be excellent in all ways, he could submit the house to the king and his court for judging. Craftsmen who received an award of excellence often achieved for themselves great wealth and recognition throughout the land.

Though Adan was learning much from the group, as well as contributing to the progress of others, he was anxious to finish a cottage he had started building in the forest and submit it to the king and his court for evaluation. Adan felt it was not the best use of his time to continue to learn from the sharing and helping group because he had to finish the project at hand. So Adan quit attending the group.

As the months sailed by, Adan was right to predict that he could finish the cottage faster if he was not taking time for the group. But when it came time for the evaluation by the

Continued on Page 2

Students at Academy for Academic Excellence paid their tribute to the fallen with a mass of national flags across their campus front lawn.

(Department credit: Bob Isbill)

Our Next Guest Speaker May Be YOU!

We’ll Meet and Greet some of our newest members, talk about our projects, and read a few excerpts of work now published. You’ll be inspired to join in!

Dwight Norris

CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC

Inspiring a Community of Writers

OCT. 2014
All are invited to Raff and Smith’s very first “Horror Book Festival,” hosted by Fright Master of Ceremonies, Dwight Norris. Michael Raff, Roberta Smith, and special guest speaker, Martin Lastrapes, will present their takes on topics of horror. Roberta’s Power Point presentation will delve into "Ghosts in Literature."

Michael's presentation ramps into "Karloff and Company - The Classic Universal Monsters."

And Martin's will be everything you ever wanted to know about "Vampires," but were afraid to be bitten in the neck for asking. Pretty scary stuff!

A Question & Answer period will follow, and the authors will have their newly-released books for sale. All kinds of spooky refreshments will be on hand, (lady fingers anyone?) and maybe a few surprise creatures lurking in the shadows! And as horrifying as it sounds - free admission!

Limited seating. Come join the fun . . . if you dare!

Saturday, October 4th, from 2 to 5 pm
at the Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce.
(See Poster on Page 5 for details)

Sponsored By
HDCWC

Continued from Page 1

court, Adan did not receive the award of excellence. It turns out the judgment of each submission was thorough and the competition steep. To Adan’s surprise, he learned that the evaluators did not just walk through the cottage or view it from the outside. They actually took sections of it apart—joints, and layers of thatching on the roof, and hinges on doors and windows.

The young carpenter did not have training on all sophisticated techniques, but did the best he could. He did not, of course, intend to deceive the king and his evaluators, or hide anything about his technique. But he could not know what he did not know.

As Adan looks back on his time in the sharing and helping group with the other artisans, he believes had he continued with the group, it might have been his best use of time. He would not have finished the cottage on the same self-imposed schedule, but when he did finish it, the quality he sought would be there. And the knowledge and wisdom he gained he would carry with him the rest of his life, and his chances of fame and fortune would have been enhanced. He learned it is better to be efficient in the pursuit of excellence, but never take shortcuts or be in a hurry.

News You Can Use

A Plug From Our State CWC PR Officer

From Donna McCrohan Rosenthal, CWC PR Chair: “Joyce Kreig (CWC State Secretary) and I staffed a table for CWC at the “Central Coast Writers Conference” this past weekend, and I sat on a panel about joining writers’ clubs. You’ll be happy to know that I held up Let It Be Recorded as an example of the anthologies our branches publish, and I plugged “Howl At The Moon”, and I photocopied both of the flyers you sent me and distributed them from our table. Keep up the good work, y’all.

Planning a Writers’ Salon at your home or a café? Let Loralie (Pallotta) Kay help you. She is our Salons co-ordinator with some great ideas. Email-LoralieKay@aol.com

Contesting for Lit Review Magazine Deadline

Now accepting submissions through October 31, 2014, for 2015 issue. (See details on Page 9)
http://calwriters.org/literary-review-submission-guidelines/
Treasurer Eager to Return to School

I have always loved being a student. From the beginning, I absorbed school like some magic carpet ride to unknown worlds. That feeling has never changed, even after 60+ years, multiple schools and a wide variety of subjects absorbed.

On September 17th I was given the opportunity to attend a 4-hour seminar on accounting for non-profit — 501 (c)3 — entities. I grabbed at the chance without hesitation and off to Rancho Cucamonga I went.

I found the address easily – I always use Yahoo Maps for guidance – but had trouble finding the correct building, and then there was the inevitable problem with parking. All were minor irritations and did not decrease my interest in the purpose for my trip.

There were only twelve of us in the class, ranging from those who barely knew the difference between a debit and a credit up to a few who were qualified to call themselves accountants.

Four hours later I braved rush hour traffic back up the hill, enthused with putting some of my newly acquired knowledge to good use. I had learned new concepts and terminology, but the seminar was also a refresher course for knowledge I’d acquired from other sources over the years. Even that, however, was well-worth the seminar’s cost. Knowledge reinforced and validated gave me the "pat on the back" everyone needs to retain confidence that they are successfully handling any job with which they are tasked.

I seldom, if ever, turn down the opportunity to learn something new or to refresh my memory on subjects learned long ago but which, in my current "life form," are sometimes seldom used. I have managed to retain, over the years, a good portion of that childlike inquisitiveness and eagerness to announce to the world, with a grin on my face, "I learned something new today."

Jenny Margotta, HDCWC Treasurer

This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian cafe, but I'd never met herbivore.

Write It with words of wisdom by Christopher Vogler, of “The Writers’ Journey.”
Sell It with tips by prominent Literary Agent/Owner B.J. Robbins.
Publish It by learning your options from Dog Ear Publisher Ray Robinson.


Use PayPal, check, or cash to get this high-quality training for your future.
Nov. 1 at Performing Arts Center on 8th Street in Victorville, CA

General Audience Rate:
Now $45 Students:
Only $25

An Electronic Handshake to our Newest Member

Eric Burns resides in Hesperia and lists his interests in free verse poetry, sonnets, writing songs, and novellas.

If you have questions or we’ve missed your name please contact Rusty by email.
RustyL@Hughes.net
Aaron Gansky reads from his latest book, and holds audience spellbound.

It's not hard to like Aaron Gansky, our guest speaker during last month's HDCWC general meeting. He's enthusiastic about the craft of writing and it comes across in his amiable style when speaking to large groups. Our meeting room at the AV Library was full.

If you ask him about his comfort level in front of a microphone, he will tell you, with a disarming smile, that he's really a knee-knocking introvert. He never really expected to be in the public eye, teaching high school English or taking his books out on the road for promotions.

Aaron is the son of Alton Gansky, who some of you will remember was one of three guest speakers at our Howl At The Moon 2010 Writers Conference, so writing is in his blood. However, these two authors stand far apart in topic choices: Aaron likes the dark side and odd characters in odd situations; Alton writes for the Christian Book industry, having co-authored numerous books in fiction and nonfiction.

Speaking on the topic of character development, Aaron likes to see characteristics chosen that enhance that tone of the tale and not just for defining a fictional person. Define unique characters that draw the reader in, he says.

"Make a medical record of your characters. A physical body reacts to physical emotions. He has limps, scars, diseases, joint pain, wears glasses, has crooked teeth," Aaron said. "Learning more about personality traits and types -- what a person likes or hates, how they perceive their world, how they don't fit in it -- will give him real emotions."

Aaron claims he's an introvert but loves the reaction he gets from his audience when he gives them challenges. His talk continued with strategies in Dominant and Submissive traits and how a person will avoid eye contact or become uncomfortable when their personal space is compromised. He also mentioned to allow your characters to lie to you. Whether it's a concealed lie out of fear, an avoidance to protect themselves or someone else, allow your characters to surprise you.

To learn more about Aaron you can visit his web site at www.AaronGansky.com and sign up to his podcasts or email him from his web site. He suggested that you visit www.writersexcuses.com for more on development. There is a free tool that can help define personality traits at www.16personalities.com.

"Don't rely on these lists of traits, experiment," he said. He will also allow direct links to his podcasts if you contact him he'll provide the link. If you didn't have a chance to ask him questions, you can send questions to him by email on his site.

~~ Rusty LaGrange
You’re invited
Horror Book Festival  October 4, 2014  2 pm – 5 pm

Presentations on
Ghosts In Literature  Classic Monsters  Vampires
by authors
Michael Raff, Roberta L. Smith and
Martin Lastrapes
Food  Fun  Books  And Scary Monsters
Come join us. The event is Free!

Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce
16010 Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley 92307

Sponsored by HDCWC
For more information email: mprseven@aol.com or cwrlsmith@verizon.net
At the AAE Campus

The program was presented in 5 minute segments each by Mary Langer Thompson, Dwight Norris, Bob Isbill, and Charlotte Wilmeth-Street of the Academy for Academic Excellence.

2015 Dorothy C. Blakely Memoir Project
Moves Forward with Second Session

The Class of 2015 session of the Dorothy C. Blakely Memoir Project has conducted two meetings with 30 Advance Placement senior high school students at the Academy for Academic Excellence in Apple Valley, led by this year’s Project Manager, Mary Langer Thompson. The HDCWC is again working with teacher coordinator Charlotte Wilmeth-Street of the Lewis Center.

Mentors included: Dwight Norris, Michael Raff, Bob Isbill, Ann Miner, Rita Wells, George Gracyk, Loralie Kay, Hazel Stearns, Roberta Smith, Tania Ramos, and Mary Thompson. Mentors work with two or three students for more individual attention enabling the students to start off with better skills interviewing their “Memoir Stars”.

Photo credit: Bob Isbill
DCB Project a Hit at Jess Ranch Community Church

Reports Mary Langer Thompson: “We presented year one of the Dorothy C. Blakely Memoir Project and sold books at Jess Ranch Community Church.

Dwight, Mike, Bob, Charlotte, Jenny, Linda Boruff and I were there and the program ended with Winnie Rueff reading from her prize-winning memoir.

We sold so many copies of Let It Be Recorded that Mike Raff has to order more before selling on Oct. 25-26 at the “Art Show at the Aspen!” Thank you, everyone, for your support!”

**BOOK REVIEW:** Write Your Novel From the Middle

By Bob Isbill

In 1984, I got hooked on studying the craft of writing when I enrolled in a week-end seminar by Michael Hauge on “Writing Screenplays That Sell.” His teaching inspired me to learn more and more about this fascinating thing called craft. In the thirty years since then, I’ve attended tons of classes and read dozens of books on all kinds of topics pertaining to learning just what it is that makes good story. In that time, I’ve noted that authors and teachers don’t necessarily have something new to tell about the skill one can develop, but once in awhile, someone has a different perspective with which they can show you how to see something you haven’t seen before.

In this case, James Scott Bell has shown me how to see that at midpoint, characters “look in the mirror” and see who they are and/or where they are going in the story.

In **Write Your Novel From the Middle: A New Approach for Plotters, Pantsers* and Everyone in Between**, famed author and teacher James Scott Bell opened my eyes to a great way to find out what your story is truly all about. And by finding out that key thing, you can actually write your novel from the middle. That is, you can conceptualize where your character came from and how he/she is going to transform or become stronger by just visualizing them looking in the mirror at that specific plot point: the middle.

He proves his point with such novels as Gone With The Wind, and such movies as “Casablanca”, “Moonstruck”, and “Lethal Weapon”. He admits to purposely (but effectively) using this technique successfully in his own novel, Try Dying.

What is the technique? This is not going to be a “spoiler alert” because to effectively explain it, I’m not going to try to outdo JSB. It took him a whole book to do it. Well, it doesn’t take him the entire book to explain what he calls the Golden Triangle because it’s also packed with other good writing tips.

However, I will say that if you take a DVD of your favorite movie, or go to the exact middle of your favorite book, you’ll probably see right at the midpoint that the main character looks into his/her “mirror” and asks the question: “who am I and where am I going?” Or he/she assesses the odds against him/her and decides whether or not to go on.

It’s fascinating.

And so is this book. I have to give Write Your Novel From the Middle five stars. A book worth having in your writer’s library.
Great turnout for new salon session about book signing

**Book Signing Salon**

**Held by HDCWC**

A salon about book signing strategies was held at the meeting room at McDonald’s in Apple Valley. The group had selected Wed., September 17th, from 6 to 8 pm as a convenient time to meet. Those attending were: Winnie Rueff, Michael Raff, Roberta Smith, Mary Ruth Hughes, Jeanne Newcomer, Rita Wells, Marilyn Ramirez, Emma Hill, and Bob Isbill.

The group swapped experiences, exchanged ideas, and talked about the do’s and don’ts of holding a public book signing. Michael Raff and Roberta Smith shared their experience doing a joint book signing at Barnes and Noble. Winnie Rueff discussed selling 300 copies of *Calling Nurse Mearns* by word-of-mouth to family and friends, and especially to those interested in her nursing experiences during World War II. Marilyn Ramirez shared her know-how with book signings for *The Winds of Grace*. Mary Ruth Hughes revealed her marketing execution of detailed planned book tours and appearances in coffee shops in location towns she had written about in her historical romance novel, *Tishomingo*.

As part of the discussion, tricks and techniques for using the best publishers were also revealed.

The members agreed that the salon was a lively and informative meeting. For future salons contact Loralie (Pallotta) Kay at LoralieKay@aol.com.

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**Jack London Memoir Is “Proof” of Neil’s Grandfather’s Boyhood Pal**

**by Bob Isbill, PR Director**

Diane Neil, long-time Apple Valley resident and member of the High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club, was surprised recently when branch president, Dwight Norris, presented her with a galley proof of a memoir of Jack London written by Neil’s grandfather, Frank Irving Atherton.

Diane Neil, 80, had her maternal grandfather’s manuscript about his memories of the famed and prolific writer, Jack London, since they met as boys in school when they were about ten years old. They became lifelong friends, and after London’s death at age forty, Frank Atherton wrote *Jack London in Boyhood Adventures*.

Neil’s younger sister was aware that the book had been written, but not until her cousin found the unpublished memoir in a museum, and secured a copy for her did Neil actually lay eyes on it. Although she believed her grandfather was a good writer who captured the experiences of knowing Jack London in an interesting and well-told way, she never dreamed of seeing it published until she met Norris at the local branch.

Diane Neil was present at one of the branch meetings when, early in his term as president, Dwight Norris was recalling history of the century old non-profit organization, and mentioned that Jack London was an honorary member of the CWC founded in 1909. Neil mailed Norris a note of appreciation on his comments, including the information that her grandfather was a personal friend of Jack London, had written a memoir never before published, and that she had a copy. She stated that if he would like to
More News You Can Use

Gimme Grammar Girl

Oh, good grief! — There is an actual “National Punctuation Day!!” As if we, — the industry equivalent to “Colon Cops!” — are facing the day wondering just what it is that we are celebrating!

I suppose we can gift an fellow writer with a copy of Grammar Girl’s Quick & Dirty Tips. Yup.

Boyhood Pal Continued from Page 8

see it, she could put it in the mail to him. Norris’ response was a phone call to Diane Neil, saying, never mind the mail, where do you live?

Norris recognized the value of publishing such a manuscript and after reading it, his mind was made up that with Neil’s permission, the HDCWC should and would publish the book.

He formed a steering committee and began the process. The High Desert branch had the copyright researched and cleared, the committee spear-headed the book through the process of publication with special assistance from editor Jenny Margotta, and local author and member, Roberta L. Smith, with her knowledge of using CreateSpace to manage the publishing.

As a total surprise to Diane Neil, Norris and the steering committee presented her with a copy of the proof for her final review and approval. Full publication of Jack London in Boyhood Adventures is expected to be completed by the club for mid-November sales. For further information, visit www.jacklondoninboyhoodadventures.com.

Poems of My Father

Jeanne Newcomer recently published a collection of her poems using Virtual Book Worm publishers, and was thrilled with the results. She stated later that without being a member of the HDCWC, she never would have had the courage to attempt such a thing.

J. Newcomer and Dwight Norris

Brumbaugh Hosts New Book Signing at Mojave River Trail Days, Oct 4-5

Join Suzanne and Willard at the Mojave River Trail Days, in Silver Lakes (Helendale,) on the weekend of October 4th and 5th.

“Willard and I will have all 13 of our books for sale and signing. Stop by and see us. As you know we have a wide variety of books for all ages: Fantasy, Mystery, slightly supernatural mystery suspense (Sarah Jane), a ghost story, adventure, short stories, slightly scary/intense, chapter books and more.”

Find more info at (www.mojaverivertraildays.com)

It’s Showcase time! — Submit Your Best

Within our local branch the So Cal representative is Anita Holmes. She and Rusty LaGrange will review all entries to the Showcase prior to submitting. Please don’t submit directly to that new web site.

With seven active branches in the Southern district, competition is stiff, and there is no guarantee that your submissions will be published.

Check out the different categories at http://www.socalwritersshowcase.com

It’s a Showcase for all active members — enjoy!

Contact: RustyL@Hughes.net to submit and type “Showcase” in the subject title.
Changing Names

Since I was born female,
I’ve grown accustomed to the
unstable nature of my last name.
It first changed when I
gave up my virginity and
earned a husband.

It again changed when we took
his Italian name to court,
and with the rap of a gavel,
a dark-robed judge returned it
to its original Italian roots.

When my husband left our marriage,
he gallantly left his name behind,
which matched in triplicate
the last name of our daughters.

All three girls grew into women
who fell in love and stood
at the marriage altar for their
female name-shedding ritual.

They untied their father’s name
and tied new knots
with their husbands’ names,
leaving me moored with a name
that’s not really mine,
not now my daughters,
not ever my heritage.
Do I even remotely look Italian?

But it’s blatantly still the name
my ex-husband bears,
and ironically the same name
his last ex-wife still shares.

This balderdash all illustrates my
point. What kind of cockamamie
barricade now stands between me
and an exclusive-personal-mine-only
last name?

Let it be written—today’s a new day,
I’m claiming a new chapter
in the Book called My Life.
I hereby bequeath upon myself—
to venerate this special day and
celebrate my middle name—
my brand new name of Loralie Kay!
(Pallotta is now just a “has been”)
~~ Loralie Kay

Over Use of Exclamation Points!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!..ENOUGH

F. Scott Fitzgerald once said: “An exclamation point is like laughing at your own joke”. If that rule applies to everyday uses, it should go double for professional writers.

Exclamation marks give the impression of an over-excited child. And in marketing copy, they often just aren’t needed. If a statement’s flat, no amount of exclamation marks are going to liven it up, they’re just going to make it look ridiculous, says Copywriter Collective newsletter. If it’s already exciting, why would you need to sign-post it? Exclamation marks are distracting. And while excitement will always be subjective, no brand should lose their minds over a simple mark. Have a look at the next Lost Dog poster, Yard Sale, or Fresh Lemonade sign you see. Chances are it will be festooned with exclamation marks, most likely some clip-art and quite possibly a smattering of “Comic Sans” font use. These are not the communications tools of professional authors, marketers, or even sappy greeting card creators.
“CHILDHOOD ENDS WHEN DEATH WALKS IN THE GARDEN GATE”

by Naomi Ward

Gentle hands were lifting me and a soft and familiar voice was saying, “It’s all right, Sister. Just let me get this jacket around you.” I was so sleepy, but the feel of the lovely sheepskin-lined jacket around me was pleasant and the quiet reassurance in my brother Don’s voice let me know he would take care of me. With very little help from me, I was shortly cocooned in the soft pile of his coat, and as he lifted me from my crib he assured me that we were just going across the street and I would sleep the rest of the night with Mrs. Mason. He would come for me in the morning. His voice sounded “different” but I was so sleepy, and in a short moment we were at Mrs. Mason’s house. Her voice was different, too, as she let us in and led us to a snug bed made up in her spare bedroom.

“Don’t you worry, Don,” she said, “I’ll take care of the little one. I’m so sorry this is happening……”

I was drifting back to sleep as he pushed my hair off my face then gave me an awkward kiss on the forehead.

The next morning, after breakfast with Mrs. Mason, Don arrived at the door to take me home. For some reason, as soon as she saw him, Mrs. Mason began to cry, and quietly and efficiently I was wrapped in a blanket and carried back across the street to our house. But there was something different. The house was filled with “big people” — the ones we called “aunt” and “uncle” on the rare visits we had with them. Don handed me off to our eldest brother, George, who held me safe and warm in his arms as he had for much of my life after Daddy went away to the hospital. It was very quiet in the house. The “big people” were moving about, talking in hushed voices. I understood that something was different but knew Momma would make it right again as soon as I saw her. Squirming to get down from George’s arms, I told him I wanted Momma.

from the house but only Forrest, the youngest boy, was with us. And he was angry as only a teenage boy can be angry when he realizes his own future is out of his hands. Left behind were the three oldest boys. They would live together as each worked to help the others finish high school, but Forrest had been charged with “looking after Sister” in the home of Aunt and Uncle. He never really reconciled to his situation. He was sure that at age 14 he could handle the parentless living arrangements as well as his older brothers could. He certainly didn’t want to be deprived of that opportunity by the little sister he had never forgiven for usurping his place as “King of the Hill” in the household, that “baby” of the family, much less in any way be responsible for her well-being in this new life.

My crib had magically appeared on the sun porch at Aunt and Uncle’s — at night I could see the stars all around thru the generous windows, but still, so much didn’t seem to be in order. We slept and during the day “big people” were in and out of the house, talking in that same strange voice Mrs. Mason had used. It seemed time stood still and then I was walking into the church with my hand tucked into Aunt Posy’s.

We all had on our “Sunday clothes” and now we were walking into this uncompleted building — but the basement was full of people and almost immediately, I saw George seated near the front of a row of chairs. Ted and Don were beside him. Aunt Posy released my hand and I ran to George who caught me in his arms and sat me on his lap — home, almost, and with familiar arms about me, I relaxed and snuggled down. Ted was sitting quietly and composed, while Don was ramrod stiff, and, as I know now, stifling tears. Forrest had joined the others.

There was a preacher, soft music, and someone singing “The Old Rugged Cross”, and “The End of a Perfect Day”. Soon, everyone stood up and George carried me down the aisle where a stand with a large grey box on it stood. From the conversation, I knew it was Momma in that box. I had never seen the brothers cry, before, not even when Don had broken ribs on the football field. Witnessing their grief was devastating.

Continued on Page 10
Witnessing their grief was devastating. Whatever it was that was done at the cemetery, where over half of the occupants bore our family name, was incomprehensible to me. Somewhere, somehow, in those few hours between my crib on the sun porch and the dirt dropping onto Momma’s coffin, I knew nothing would ever be the same. Soon all of the big people were standing around a hole in the ground. The grey box was there. Their heads were bowed as though they were sad as the minister spoke and then sent the last prayer heavenward.

And, at the bottom of the garden, Death quietly slipped out of the gate, leaving it swinging silently on broken hinges.

RESERVATIONS STILL AVAILABLE
For “Howling at the Moon” 2014 Writers’ Conference

“Listen: It is the very best time to be a writer. There is more opportunity to make real dough from books than has ever existed, anywhere, anytime. The world is now the writer’s oyster. Let’s step up to the oyster bar.” James Scott Bell, author of Self-Publishing Attack: The 5 absolutely unbreakable laws for creating steady income.

Welcome to the High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club and its presentation of the fourth major conference of the 21st Century.

Our first “Howl at the Moon” was held at the Lone Wolf Colony on September 25, 2010. The purpose, quite frankly, was to raise money for the HD CWC treasury because we were a branch operating on a shoestring budget. We had zero funds, and our undying gratitude goes out to the generosity of Mike Foley, Glen Hirshberg, Alton Gansky and John Moffett who appeared for a token stipend and delivered a million-dollar program.

The next “Howl at the Moon” of October 1, 2011 featured four creative and talented speakers: Jennifer Grisanti, Linda Cowgill, Devorah Cutler-Rubenstein and Marilyn R. Atlas. This was held at the Academy for Academic Excellence (Lewis Center), and was an outstanding success both as a fundraiser and as a literary happening.

On October 19, 2013, we brought to you the exceptional author and teacher, James Scott Bell who gave us an unforgettable morning of pure writers’ delight! Then Scott Rubenstein humorously instructed us on taxes for writers. Lauren Stephens was our theme speaker talking on memoirs. A great day!

On November 1st, you’ll meet the internationally famous writer and teacher, Chris Vogler; we also have B.J. Robbins, Literary Agent, and Ray Robinson, with 26 years of publishing experience to tell us about publishing options.

Our aspiration for these events has never changed. Our desire is to bring the writing community the very best program at the most affordable price available. Once again, we believe this goal has been achieved. And now we are in a financial position so that the HD CWC can give back to the community with programs such as writing workshops at the Federal Prison, teaching and scholarship programs such as the Dorothy C. Blakely Memoir Project, and donation of funds to the Newton T. Bass Apple Valley Branch Library.

We are once again in the historic High Desert Center for the Arts Theater, which includes a gallery named in honor of the HD CWC founder, Ruth Theodus.

From this experience on November 1st, we hope you will take with you more knowledge, more encouragement, and a whole lot of inspiration to fulfill your hopes, dreams and goals to become the best writer you can be.

If you have not reserved your place, don’t wait any longer! Member price is now $40 by mail or at the door. Use PayPal here: http://www.hdcwc.com

Bob Isbill, Conference Director

Dare a friend to be a writer. Nothing works better than peer pressure.
Tales with Bite...  
Terror  
Suspense  
Chills  
Mysterious Monsters  
Heart-Pumping Horror  
Paranormal Premonitions  
Ghosts  
Demons  
Vampires  
Creepy Creatures  

Special Discount Prices at the Spirit Store  
These dates & times only  
October 24  6 - 8 PM (12429 Mariposa Rd - Victorville)  
October 25  6 - 8 PM (12174 Hesperia Rd - Victorville)  

Books shown and more
CWC’s Literary Review Magazine ~~~

~~~Call for Submissions

Detailed instructions in "redline" inserts by the Editor.

Some of you may not know that the literary-styled magazine, provided by our State Board’s publication committee, is called the CWC Literary Review. They offer author’s submission guides online. For the serious contestor, each author should know how to follow the explicit rules for entries. Judges use these rules to help “weed out” the amount of submissions received.

Following is the "Literary Review Submission Guidelines." These guidelines are important. Your entry can easily be disqualified if you don't follow them. If you've submitted to other contests nationwide, you'll also be required to send money for each entry. You'll lose your check as well as your entry.

If you have any questions after reading the guidelines, ask a CWC member first. Many of them have sent their work to contests in the past; some continue contesting today.

Reviewers will often send back your entries with suggested changes for improvement. You can always re-enter with your revised work.

Submissions, Issue 2014-15 now open

CWC members are invited to submit their published or unpublished work following the guidelines below. Work meeting a threshold of quality and interest will be published. Minor editing may be performed. Proselytizing or potentially libelous material, gratuitous vulgarity or obscenity will not be considered. Rejections will be accompanied with editors' suggested improvements.

Send submissions, for this issue only, as an email attachment to dalaroche@comcast.net, with “CWC Lit-Review” in the subject line.

General Guidelines (Nonconforming work will not be considered)

Prose: 2500 words or fewer: fiction, memoir, or essay (excerpts if the submission can be judged as a complete story). Poetry of 30 lines or fewer. Photography and graphics through arrangement with the editor.

A maximum of two submissions per member, same email, separate files, will be accepted per issue [this means two separate attached files]

Body of email:

"Author’s name, email address, and branch affiliation
"Title(s), word count, and genre: fiction, memoir, essay, or poetry
"Statement must be included: “I, (name here) own and convey the right to publish this/these work(s) (title or titles here) for this one time publication in the CWC Literary Review.” [They wish to have no exposure to your name on the entries; no letter of introduction; no cover letter either. Be as neural as possible.]

Attachment(s) – your artistic work:

"Pages numbered in footer, prefer bottom center. [if you don't know how to add Page Numbering, ask for help] Do not use a cover sheet.
"Each page will contain the "title of the work"; once above the body of the work on the first page. Include the notation, "NF-M, NF-E, poetry or fiction". Please, no other identifying information. [NF-M means Non-Fiction Memoir, NF-E means Non-Fiction Essay]

"MSWord:doc, docx or rtf format [This is important -- the documents must be in one of these formats to be read. "Doc" means standard MSWord document; "docx" means it comes through a newer Word doc format; and "rtf" means "Rich Text Format" where the file is changed to be more widely compatible with different aged/different name brand computers. If you are not compatible with the judges’ systems, you probably won't get read.]

"Left justified, one and one-half line spacing, New Times Roman 12 pt font." [Some authors type in a basic, comfortable setting in MSWord, but in this case, you must adjust your "look" by "Right clicking" on the paragraph of your submission. A small menu will pop up as "Paragraph". Go to "Line Spacing" and Select "1.5" spacing under "Spacing" menu and be sure to click "OK." Also check the Font style by right clicking on the text, and selecting New Times Roman. The Font size is there, too.]

"No page breaks, special leading, or any other unusual text manipulation or spacing. [This is especially hard for poetry writers who want to indent and space with wild abandon. Keep it simple. Good Luck.
Notes From the Editor --

Are you a coat monger? Do you buy a season ahead to be sure you’ve crammed new coats in your closet? Are you waiting for chilly weather? As a long-time closet coat monger, I must admit I am tired of summer. I have wood in the fireplace… just waiting for that first cold snap.

As always, submissions to The Inkslinger should be Arial font, 11pt. with single spacing, please.

November’s deadline: Oct. 23rd & December’s deadline: Nov. 23rd.
Contact me by phone 760-646-2661 or email RustyL@hughes.net.

-- Rusty LaGrange