



The INKSLINGER

Sail On

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC
Inspiring a Community of Writers



SEPTEMBER 2022

SEPTEMBER 10 MEETING TO FEATURE JOHN BEYER

“HOW I BECAME A STORYTELLER”

John R. Beyer is currently writing a weekly travel column (1500 words and photographs) for USA Today Network. In 2020, one of his columns won a prestigious CNPA award. His pieces are about traveling with a humorous spin on them. Also, he has four novels published under his belt, and has written award-winning fictional short stories in both the adult and young adult categories.

As a novelist, short story writer, traveler and researcher, John loves nothing better than to share those experiences with his readers. Often in the company with his lovely wife, Laureen, stories emerge of the places they visit and the people they meet. In his weekly travel feature for the USA Today Network, *Beyer's Byways*, John takes his readers along on his adventures. Some funny, some sad, but these are the stories that need to be told. 🚢

John R. Beyer, Ed.D./Ph.D.

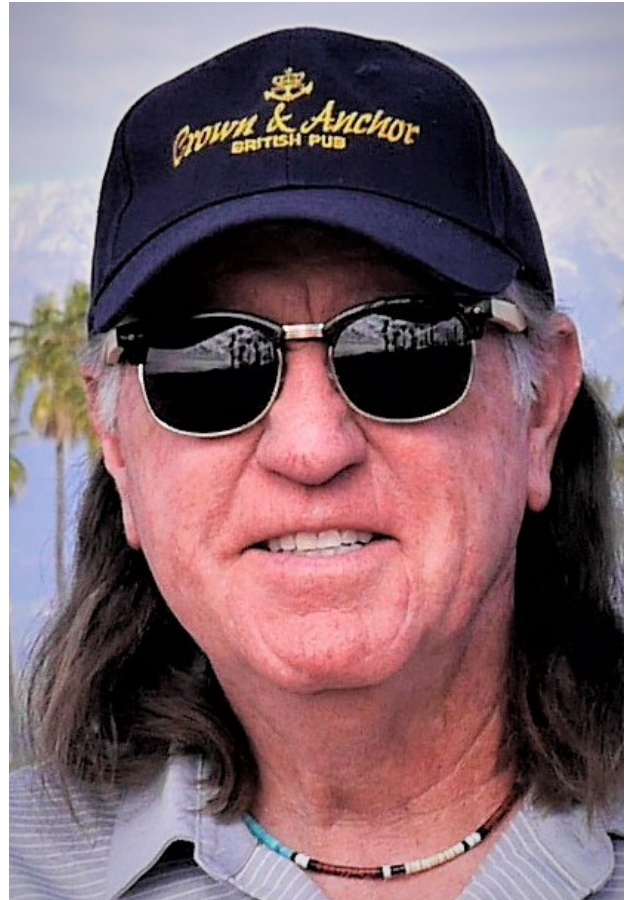
Author of *Hunted/Soft Target/Operation Scorpion/Iquitos, The Past Will Kill* - Police Thrillers

Black Opal Books

Columnist, *Beyer's Byways*, USA Today Network

Member, International Thriller Writers

2020 California Journalism Award winner - 'Columns'



NEVERMORE ENTERPRISES

Nevermore Enterprises, (Roberta Smith & Michael Raff) broke their old record for selling books at the last, "Midsummer Scream" event in Long Beach. Over the three-day weekend, they sold 64 books, breaking their record of 50. There are going to be a lot of frightened people who can't sleep in Southern California! 🚢





FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dwight Norris

REACHING OUT

The Mission Statement of the California Writers Club directs us to foster professionalism in writing, promote networking of writers within the writing community, mentor new writers, and provide literary support for writers and the writing community as is appropriate through education and leadership.

I have always thought that our mission statement carried with it a degree of nobility and honor. We are to reach out to others and help them become better writers. So positive and so beneficial. The mission statement helps us to stay on track and improve the literacy of those around us.

Some of the works we are currently doing help fulfill our purpose in the purest sense. When we pass out flyers to patrons of a public library, telling them we will help them write a story they always wanted to tell, that's hard to beat when it comes to people telling their story. It is gratifying to all of us to stand in a classroom with eight or ten guests who would not have been there had we not had some of our members make an extra effort to let them know of our instruction. We are grateful for each of our members who come to a meeting ready to reach out and help others.

We also are going into classrooms in the public school system, helping those students who are falling behind, measured by either grade level or writing skills in particular. It is a testament to our members and their commitment to help adults and children improve their literary skills. People are responding and appreciating our outreach. Stories are getting told that otherwise might not have been passed along. Talk to some of our board members to see how you can get involved helping others. And thanks for being part of this effort. 🚩

HDCWC SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

BARBRA BADGER SEPTEMBER 2

LINDA BORUFF SEPTEMBER 17

BARBARA A PARISH SEPTEMBER 24

RICHARD A. ZONE SEPTEMBER 26

MICHAEL APODACA SEPTEMBER 27

PEG ROSS PAWLAK SEPTEMBER 29

HDCWC LOSES 99-YEAR YOUNG MEMBER

By Bob Isbill

Our High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club (HDCWC) has lost a dear friend and loyal member: Amy Burnett. She was a member of the Wise Women Critique Group (all members 90 or more) and we often enjoyed her readings during Open Mic. Her story, "Trains and Dresses on a Summer Day" was published in the 2021 CWC Literary Review. Her family shared the following:

Amy Burnett died on Saturday July 30, 2022

She was born in Buckeye, AZ February 12, 1923. Amy was a mother, pilot, electrician, Sweet Adeline, and published writer. She served during World War II as a 'Rosie the Riveter'. Her job at Lockheed Burbank included assembling retrofit kits for the P-38 fighter airplane.

Amy first married during World War II to Dale Hazelbaker. They met at Lockheed where they both worked. They were living in the San Fernando Valley at time of their marriage. Amy grew up in Santa Ana, CA and Dale grew up in the Lewiston, ID area.

Amy and Dale had 6 children of their own. Later in life, Amy remarried Mr. Claude Burnett (Bernie) and added 8 adult stepchildren to her own. She was loved and revered by all who knew her, but especially her 6 children and 8 stepchildren. The descendants from the 14 'kids' are too many to enumerate in this short bio.

As a mother of young children, Amy moved a few times between Idaho, Montana, Nevada and California. Later when the kids were high school age, the family lived in Saratoga, CA. It was during those decades of the 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's that Amy was active in the Sweet Adeline's, flying multi-engine planes, raising a family and also working outside the home as a technician and electrician. In her spare time, she pursued writing as well as choral singing.

In the 80's and 90's, she spent a happy retirement in her second marriage to 'Bernie' Burnett. One of Bernie's kids was a pilot for Northwest Airlines. That enabled Amy and Bernie to economically travel the world for 2 decades. They saw places in Europe, Asia, Australia and NZ. They also crossed the continental US innumerable times for family visits and reunions. Bernie preceded Amy in 2005.

The last 2 decades of her life in the 21st century were quiet and low key. She was active in her church life and performed many charitable activities. One charity was to provide knitted baby clothing to mothers of newborns at Camp Pendleton. Amy's specialty was the creation of very fancy and very colorful knitted caps. Also, during that time, Amy made a safari trip to Africa with a church friend. Amy lived with one of her daughters for the last 5 years of her life. She passed quietly and comfortably in Apple Valley, CA on July 30, 2022.

She will be remembered fondly and missed terribly by those who loved her.

The memorial service for Amy Burnett will be held September 24th, 2022

Service at 11:00am, followed by a light lunch

Wrightwood Community United Methodist Church
1543 Barbara Street
Wrightwood, CA

**There will be a gathering for family and close friends at our home afterwards, at
20161 Majestic Dr, Apple Valley, CA 92308 🏠**





FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Apodaca

HOW TO KILL A WRITING CLUB (OR ANY CLUB, FOR THAT MATTER)

When I was teaching in public school, I used to do a lesson where I would take two small bottles of water and put a few drops on an overhead slide. The small pools looked the same. Then, after a few hours, as the puddles dried, they'd become markedly different.

While one of the stains dried almost clear, the other formed extensive crystals that refracted rainbows on the screen. Then I'd share with the students that the water was taken from the same water system.

So why the difference in the results?

The clear water was from the Sea of Galilee and the mineral-filled water from the Dead Sea. While the same water flows from beginning to end, there's one significant difference between these two seas: Water flows in and out of the Sea of Galilee, but only flows into the Dead Sea. Water evaporates off the Dead Sea, leaving behind all the minerals collected from the Jordan River.

It's a metaphor.

We can either live a balanced life where we take in new information and learning while also producing, giving, contributing, or we can simply sit back and take everything in, producing nothing. The first way will result in vibrancy, growth, and life (the Sea of Galilee is teeming with life). The second way produces only stagnation and loss. Those who only acquire information but do not use it are as barren as the appropriately named Dead Sea.

How do you kill a writing club? Fill it with members who are content, complacent, and devoid of vision—people who sit back waiting to be served.

When people ask me why our branch is thriving, why there's such enthusiasm, I explain that it comes from two things:

1) The HDCWC has the attitude that we're never finished. There are always new mountains to climb. In big part this comes from Bob Isbill, our Activities Director, who pushes all of us with his visionary thinking. But there are also those like Mary Thompson and Debbie Rubio who begin new programs like the AIMS program. And then there are those who start and manage critique groups—the lifeblood of our club.

2) Our members don't just sit back, they engage. They write, they work with critique groups, they teach, they do public presentations, they're part of the On-Topic Speakers bureau, they work behind the scenes on publicity, help with set up for meetings, and, sometimes, they just call a friend in the branch and say hello. Every person who contributes in small and big ways to our branch can claim some part in its success. Best of all, my experience has been that when our members are called on, they respond. There's a lot going on in HDCWC because there are many people behind the scenes making it happen. No one person or group can claim credit for the HDCWC.

With each new project will come the need for more helpers. I'm confident that our members are ready to meet the challenge. Whether it's something as simple as handing out flyers or as arduous as taking an office on our board, we are up to the challenge. We will respond.

So thank you for all you do. It's gratifying to be in a thriving group of writers who are constantly learning, producing, and making a difference. 🚤

WRITERS ARE READERS

BOOK REVIEWS *by Mary Langer Thompson*



ULTRALEARNING

Writers are readers and also lifelong learners. Scott H. Young will give you strategies to make it easier to master new skills and difficult subjects more quickly in *Ultralearning*.

Young admits to a bias toward action, wanting you to not simply soak up knowledge, but to put that knowledge to use. For example, he wants you to use a new language immediately, or if you want to learn photography, take many, many photos and relentlessly experiment. His is a “learning by doing” process: “Passive learning creates knowledge. Active practice creates skill.” Practice lifting weights to create strength; to get customers, practice making sales calls. Come to think of it, we learn to write by writing, by practicing the craft.

Young’s Principle #1 is Metalearning. One bestselling author began by examining popular bloggers and authors and from there to creating a map. Language learning through intensive immersion beats learning in a classroom. Another tactic is to interview experts. First, learn about how knowledge is structured and acquired within the area you are interested in learning.

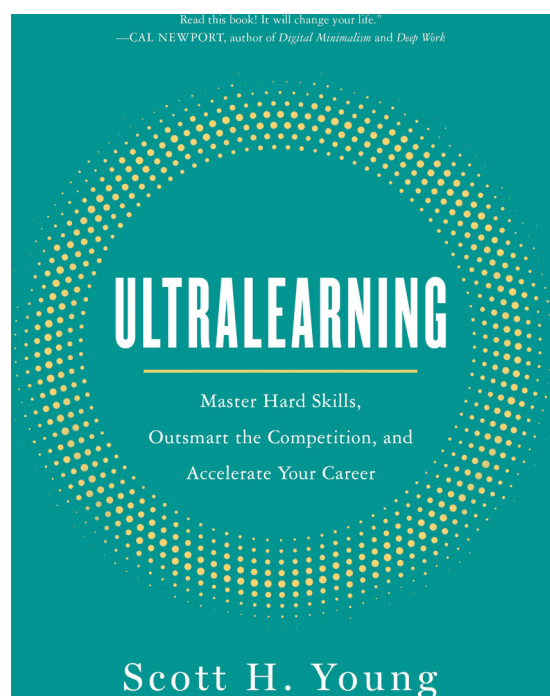
Principle #2 is Focus. Even if you are exceptionally intelligent, you need to be able to focus to learn anything (why students shouldn’t be able to look at their cellphones in a classroom—personal opinion). However, even if you have the ability to focus, you need to learn the habit of leaving a subject and resuming it again, like putting a bookmark in a book you are reading. Do you procrastinate? That’s the first problem people have in starting to focus. Many of us run away until we have a deadline, but that’s stressful. Young discusses recognizing when we are procrastinating. Read about a “good first crutch” to get over procrastination and about the “Pomodoro technique,” a technique I learned in the Learning How to Learn online course offered by Coursera.

Learn about distraction sources and what you can do about them.

Principle #3 is Directness. Directness is “the idea of learning being tied closely to the situation or context you want to use it in.” For example, one *Jeopardy!* contestant tested himself on actual questions from past shows. Learn how Duolingo, although fun, is an indirect approach to learning a second language. Read about how “transfer” has largely failed in formal education but can be overcome by Directness. Learn the tactic of “Project-Based Learning” (exactly what the HDCWC did with the Dorothy C. Blakely Memoir Project!).

There are several more principles. For example, Drill discusses how the writer can systematically break down each aspect of writing articles, and even put together spreadsheets. Principle #6 is Feedback, which is the purpose of surveys and other means of hearing what your reader or audience thinks.

This is a book writers will want to have in their library and can be useful if you want to try writing in another genre or to learn any new skill or even a sport. Ultralearning can be your new superpower. 🦄





Jenny Margotta

From an Editor's Desk

TIMES REMEMBERED

I turned 70 yesterday, so you won't find it surprising that I spent part of the day wondering where all the years had gone—and how it had happened so quickly. Given my reflective mood, I thought the following excerpt from a piece I wrote in 2013 was appropriate this month.

Memory is a strange thing. You probably don't remember what you ate two weeks ago or what you were doing at 10:30 on the morning of February 12, 2015. But asked what you did as a child—now *that* you remember.

In September 2013 I went to a family reunion in Pennsylvania—something I had not done in 50 years. I wondered if anyone would recognize me, and I wondered if I'd recognize anyone—or anything. Surely, it would all be different after so long.

At the airport I was introduced to cousins I did not recognize, but I guess you can't hide family genes. The first words out of one of my cousins' mouth was, "My garsh, you sure look like your dad."

As we approached the family farm, long-buried memories surfaced. There, that was the "butterfly" hump in the road Daddy always took fast to make our tummies flutter. And wasn't that the stand of trees where my sister almost hit the deer? Coming up over the last rise, I immediately recognized the old homestead sitting squarely on the hillside, the barn—still gray and weathered—off to the left. But the horse paddock was gone, and a modern garage door shone whitely where the old wooden doors had been. And there was a house where, long ago, the cows had grazed.

There were no horses in the barn, so I guess my cousin David no longer feeds them "horse candies." It took me years to stop calling those nickel-sized, Pepto Bismol-pink, peppermint candies anything but "horse candy." The horses in the barn were long gone, but I'll never forget playing "horses" on the pump house and gas tank with Cousin Davey. We rode actual "horses," too. Well . . . small ponies—Betsy and Judy.

One time Davey and I were playing in the woods behind the apple orchard and we got separated. Suddenly, I was all alone . . . lost! I was certain I'd never be heard from again. I collapsed in the grass, crying, "They'll miss me when I'm dead! They'll be sorry they never found me!"

About that time my brother came up over the crest of the hill. "Oh, for heaven's sake, Jenese! If you'd walked another ten feet, you'd have been in the apple orchard!"

The pond where we used to swim was gone, but the garden was still recognizable. It brought back memories of sweet corn, green beans, ripe tomatoes, and Aunt Edna's strawberry preserves. For me, dinner at the farmhouse will always be pot roast, mashed potatoes, peas, sweet corn, fresh milk, and homemade butter. Grandpa Luther used to put the mashed potatoes along his butter knife, carefully pat in a row of peas, run the knife across his mouth, and smack his lips as he chewed the peas. I remember, too, how proud Edna was when Uncle Charles modified her churn with a small motor so she didn't have to churn by hand anymore!

The bedrooms weren't heated and were extremely cold in the winter. We'd snuggle under thick handmade quilts, and I loved to make up stories about all the colorful squares. *That red corduroy piece is all that's left of one of Grandpa's old work shirts. The blue velvet square came from one of Edna's go-to-meetin' hats.* None of my stories were true—at least, not that I know of—but it was a fun pastime on cold winter mornings.

The echo of my childhood was still stamped on that farm. Memories peeked around the corners of familiar buildings and played hop-scotch with the shadows. Imagined giggles floated on the fall air. And, just for a minute, I distinctly heard a splash, and laughter floated above the ghostly image of the raft—made of old boards and 50-gallon drums—on the warmed-by-the-summer-sun water of the long-gone pond.

Fifty years is a lifetime. Fifty years is the blink of an eye. 🕯️

WORD OF THE MONTH

CONFABULATE [kən'fabyə,lāt]: Verb

1. (formal) engage in conversation, talk. "She was confabulating on the telephone."
2. (psychiatry) fabricate imaginary experiences as compensation for loss of memory. "She doesn't remember so she may confabulate a little."

A LETTER FROM DIANNE NEIL

August 8, 2022

Hello friends! It's been a long time since you've heard from me, and I hope you haven't forgotten me by now. I certainly have not forgotten any of you.

Getting settled into my new living quarters took much longer than I thought it would. It's been quite an arduous journey with some ups and downs and bumps along the way. But I'm in a nice place now, so it has all ended well.

I am in a studio apartment at the Heritage Estates in Livermore, California. Address and phone number are 850 E. Stanley Blvd, Apt. 90, Livermore, CA 94550. 760-217-1116. This is a wonderful facility with lots of amenities, but I was only able to enjoy it for about a week, and then we had a lockdown because several people had covid. We had to stay in our rooms and meals were brought to us.

Just today the lockdown ended, and it's great to be out again, to mingle with others and to participate in all the activities offered here. Until I moved here I had been at my daughter Elaine's in Pleasanton. She spent many hours getting my Kaiser membership from Southern CA to Northern CA and looking for a facility I could move into. Some had years-long waiting periods or were too far away. Here I'm close to all my CA relatives.

I talk to Duncan every day but he has no plans to leave Apple Valley.

Love to all, Diane 🚢



APPLE VALLEY MAN ELECTED STATE VP OF 1900-MEMBER WRITERS CLUB

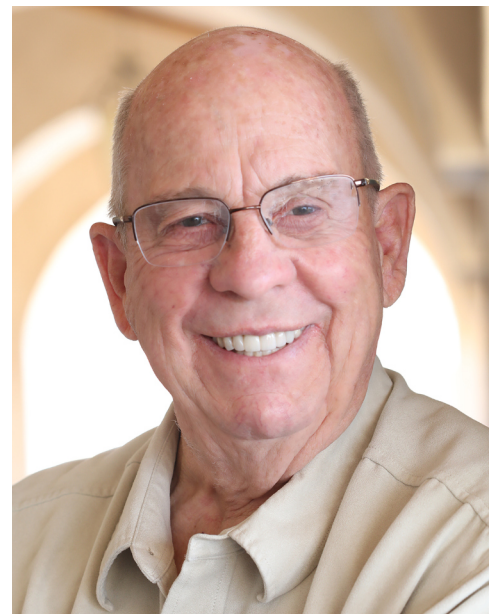
Robert Isbill, a member of the High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club (HDCWC) was recently elected to serve as state CWC Vice President of the century-old nonprofit organization. He is the first local member to be elected to state-wide office since Ruth Theodus served as state president in 1995.

Isbill joined the HDCWC in 2008 and has served as programs/publicity chair for almost twelve years. He was HD-CWC president from 2010 through 2011 and has served as Central Board Representative since 2011. Isbill is the recipient of the Jack London Service Award in 2009 and the Ina Coolbrith Service Award in 2017.

Following his election to vice president, he was subsequently assigned the position of Director of Publicity and Public Relations by CWC President, Roger Lubeck.

The California Writers Club is a statewide organization of writers whose mission statement is to assist writers at every level of the craft to write, publish, and market their work. There are 22 branches with a membership of over 1900. The HDCWC meets on the second Saturday of each month. The public is invited and welcome to attend at no charge.

For more information, please visit www.hdcwc.com or call 760.221.6367.





THE MOST FAMOUS AUTHORS OF ALL TIME

By Michael Raff

H. G. WELLS

Herbert George Wells was born in Bromley, Kent, England, on Sept. 21, 1866. In 1874, Wells became bedridden when he broke his leg, thus becoming an avid reader and stirring his interest in writing. Later that year, he attended Thomas Morley's Commercial Academy. When his father was no longer able to support his family, Wells worked as an apprentice at Hyde's Drapery Emporium, working thirteen-hour shifts and sleeping in a dormitory. Although he failed as a drapery *and* as a chemist, he excelled in science and philosophy.

In 1879, he joined the National School in Somerset and taught as a pupil-teacher and later, at Midhurst Grammar School. During this time, he demonstrated impressive proficiency in latin and science. He continued his education and won a scholarship to the Normal School of Science, aka, the Royal College of Science. Although he was fairly well paid, he was often hungry and malnourished. He was one of the founders of *The Science School Journal*, where he wrote *The Chronic Argonauts*, a precursor to his novel, *The Time Machine*. In 1890, Wells earned a Bachelor of Science in zoology from the University of London. He continued teaching and his first published work was the two volume *Text Book of Biology*.

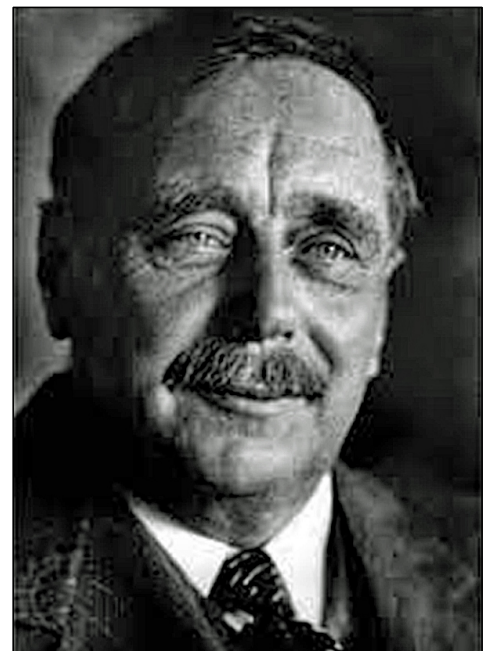
Wells' finances suffered when he left his teaching position and had to move in with his aunt. During this time, he courted his cousin, Isabel, whom he later married. Also, he grew prolific in writing articles for journals, many of them, sadly, have been lost to history. His momentum continued and he published his first fictional work, *The Time Machine*.

Wells and Isabel were separated after only three years of marriage when he fell in love with one of his students, Amy Robbins. They were married in 1895, and had two sons. Wells enjoyed his most creative and productive writing during this period, which included not only *The Time Machine*, but *War of the Worlds*, *The Island of Doctor Moreau*, and many others.

Some of Wells' earliest novels such as *The Time Machine*, *The First Men in the Moon*, and *The Invisible Man* were called "scientific romances". Additionally, he wrote critically acclaimed, realistic novels such as *Kipps* and *Tono-Bungay*, non-fiction, and dozens of short stories and novellas. Published in 1901, his first non-fiction bestseller was *Anticipations of the Reaction of Mechanical and Scientific Progress upon Human Life and Thought*. (Now there's a mouthful!) Within its pages he predicted what the world would be like in the year 2000. Among other revelations, it foretold the population growth from cities to suburbs, decline of morality, sexual freedom, the defeat of Germany, and the rise of a European Union. His two-volume *The Outline of History*, proved a commercial success and made him wealthy. His *A Short History of the World* was praised by Albert Einstein. Critic Malcom Cowley said, "By the time he was forty, his influence was wider than any other living English writer."

Wells' Utopian novels which included, *A Modern Utopia*, and *The Shape of Things to Come* became famous in his lifetime. In the latter, published in 1933, he predicted World War II would start in January 1940, (only four months off). That same year, his books were burned in Berlin by the Nazis and his works banned throughout Germany. Wells was included in the Nazis' "Black Book," a list of certain individuals to be arrested once Britain had been invaded.

An outspoken socialist, Wells traveled to Russia several times. He once interviewed Joseph Stalin, and praised him for his accomplishments, but pointed out the country's lawlessness, class discrimination, and the lack of free expression. His hope of winning Stalin over never materialized. Despite the criticism, it was said the dictator enjoyed the visit. 🏰 **To be continued.**



WRITING THE STORY YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO TELL PART 2 A SUCCESS!

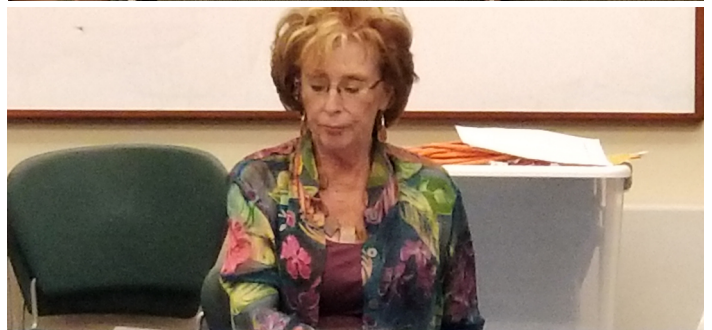
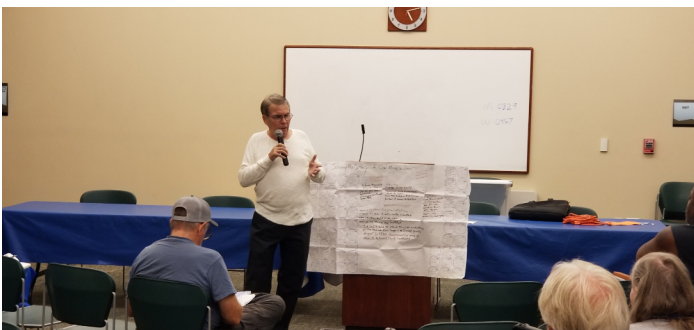
By Bob Isbill

An introduction to researching your story presented by HDCWC President, Dwight Norris, and a panel of published authors talking about how they structured their story comprised part two of the HDCWC presentation of Writing The Story You Always Wanted to Tell at the Hesperia Library Community Room on Monday evening, August 31.

Mary Langer Thompson moderated a panel consisting of Jenny Margotta, Roberta Smith, Lorelei Kay and Dwight Norris, all authors of memoirs, and uncovered the various ways to structure your story. Several new faces were in the audience, thanks to the leafletting done earlier in the day and week by Ann Miner and Mike Apodaca.

The program was extremely interesting because of the distinctly different sources of story and how the authors approached their topic in various ways.

The next session of the project will take place on Monday, September 25, again at the Hesperia Library Community Room from 5 to 7 pm. 🚩



ALL IN

By Mike Apodaca

Arrived at the Hesperia Library at ten o'clock and saw the text from Ann Miner that she was on her way. When she arrived we exchanged niceties and I gave her a handful of half-sheet posters and cards to hand out to library visitors. These would let them know about our club's free writing workshop being held at the library from five to seven that day.

We talked with many people—and with each other—Ann is a fascinating person to talk with.

There were a couple who didn't write and kindly didn't take our materials. There were some who took them, but we were not sure they didn't just drop them in the trash once inside the library.

And then there was the cheerful woman walking with her brother who gasped when I told her about our club. She had been recently thinking that she needed to write her memoirs for

the sake of her kids and grandkids. She loved hearing about our club.

Well, Ann, with a much more perceptive eye than mine, noticed that the brother was having tremors in his hands, and she moved right in. She asked him if he had Parkinson's.

He did.

Ann shared with him her work with people and families dealing with Parkinsons, gave them one of her books and her card, and invited them to come to her monthly meetings. The woman was overwhelmed. Here she was only going to the library to return some books and instead she meets people who will make a difference in her life.

If you would like to help promote the HDCWC, and make a difference, please contact Michael Raff at mprseven@aol.com. We are looking for people to pass out flyers for our next event. After all, why throw a party if we're not willing to hand out invitations? 🚩

RESCUE ME

By Gary Layton



My lifelong friend Doug was a water rat. Doug took to water like a duck. I hate the water and won't go near it. I have a swimming pool in my back yard and in the 14-years of owning that pool I have been in it twice.

Doug loved the water, and since I was his constant companion, I spent a lot of my youth in swimming pools, oceans and lakes. Doug would swim around enjoying himself while I bobbed around like a drowning rat.

Doug tried everything to teach me to swim to no avail. I am a sinker and if I relax in a pool, I will sink to a depth of three feet and float around at that depth. Doug tried everything to teach me how to float but finally gave up in despair. The only thing he accomplished was calming my fear of the water and allowing me to get into a pool without panicking.

All of us kids would go swimming during the summer, and the guys would all be running around jumping off the diving board and having a great time. There I would be, down in the little kids' section, splashing around in two feet of water. None of the guys seemed to mind and I was always invited along. I spent a lot of time in the kids' section cooling off and getting a sunburn.

There was a lake somewhere in the Pedley area near Riverside that we went to quite often. About a hundred yards offshore, there was an island that the guys would swim out to all the time to play. I used to splash around on the lakeshore while the guys were all out there running around on the island. It was boring sitting there by myself while all the guys were on the island having a good time.

One day I decided to try to swim out to the island to join in on the fun. I was able to make it to the island, but my knees were cramping and burning when I walked up on shore. All the guys were excited that I made it and were congratulating me on my accomplishment. We all had a great time running around and playing on the island.

The playing time on the island had come to an end, and all of the guys dived into the water and headed for shore, leaving me behind. I sat there, stranded, wondering what to do. Ultimately, I was going to have to swim back. All the guys were back on shore enjoying themselves and not paying any attention to me.

I went back into the water and started swimming for shore, but it didn't take long for me to realize I was in trouble. My knees were cramping so bad that I was not able to get horizontal in the water and couldn't make any forward progress. Fortunately, all of Doug's teaching me not to panic helped me reason out what to do. I started dropping to the bottom of the lake, hoping it was shallow enough for me to stand up and walk out, but that wasn't happening. I started going to the bottom and leaning forward, pushing myself to the surface and paddling. This gave me some forward momentum and I was getting closer to shore, but the lake wasn't getting any shallower and I was tiring quickly.

I finally had worked my way to about 50 feet from the shore but still, the lake wasn't getting any shallower. I got Doug's attention and told him I was cramping and didn't think I was going to make it to shore. Doug was a lifeguard and had passed all the training classes on saving drowning people. In those days the lifeguards were trained to try and knock the panicked drowning person out to keep them from taking you down with them. Doug came swimming out and as he got close to me, I said, "Don't you try and knock me out." He laughed and started dragging me toward the shore. I was a happy camper when my feet finally hit bottom and my head was out of the water. I told Doug I was okay and I walked the rest of the way out of the lake from there.

I believe Doug saved my life that day. I was so tired and my legs were cramping so badly that I doubt I would have made it if he hadn't been there to drag me the rest of the way in. I never attempted to swim out to that island again.

I often think about the times we rented paddle boards and paddled out to Balboa island on them. I doubt I would have survived if I had fallen off that paddle board.

I wouldn't be here to write these stories if that had happened! 🚤

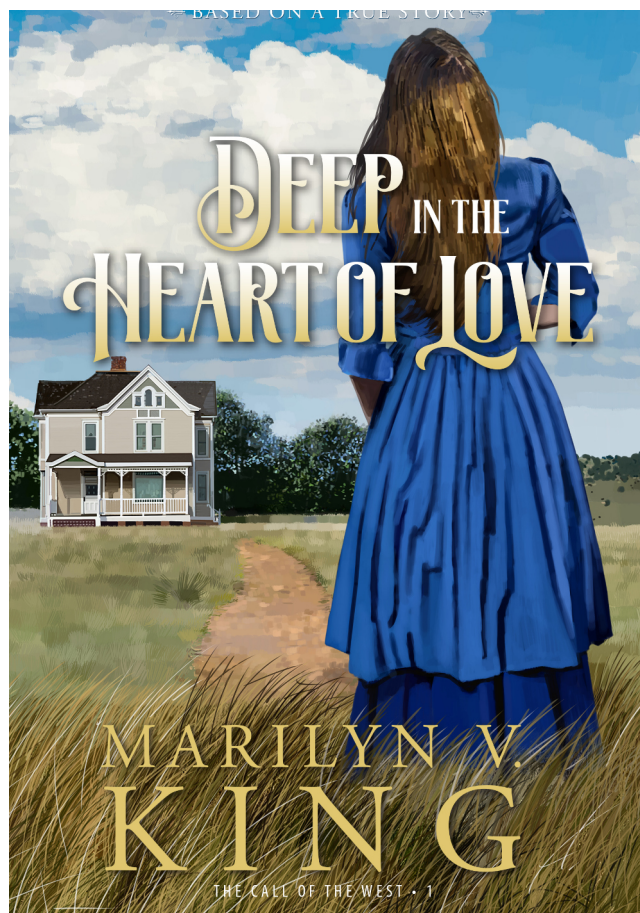
HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Marilyn V. King's newest book, *Deep in the Heart of Love* has recently been released on Amazon.com. Based on a true story, The Call of the West, Book One is the first of a two-book series. This is the first time Marilyn has written fiction based on the lives of real people who have gone on before her and who lived in the 1800s. The challenge of writing a book based on real people from the past kept her on her toes.

Her third great-grandfather, Captain John Grigsby fought for the California Bear Flag, became a wagon master on the Oregon Trail, and helped build a town in northern California. It was Marilyn's desire to bring John Grigsby and his family to life in a fictional way so that you could go on a journey with the Grigsbys. 🚢

Visit Marilyn King's website: marilynking.net or use this URL to buy the book on Amazon.

<https://tinyurl.com/deepintheheartoflove2>



HDCWC TO HOST HISPANIC HERITAGE EVENT

Hispanic Heritage Month will be recognized and celebrated by the High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club (HDCWC) on Monday, September 19, at the Hesperia Library Community Room, 9650 Seventh Avenue in Hesperia from 5 to 7 pm. The public is invited and welcome to attend at no charge. HDCWC member Bill Lopez will moderate.

Hispanic Heritage Month was officially legislated during the Ronald Reagan administration and declared to be from September 15 to October 15. The movement was initiated under Congressman George Brown. The purpose is to recognize the contributions to American culture that Hispanic Americans have made in art, music and literature.

HDCWC members may sign up to participate with five-minute segments of celebrating Hispanic literature, music, or art. Time allowing, guests may participate by signing up at the time of the program.

Members wanting to participate may email Bill Lopez at matt633@yahoo.com. 🚢



BILL LOPEZ (Photo by Susie Osborne)

A LOOK BACK AT A YEAR OF COVID RECOVERY

By *Bob Isbill* -

In mid-August of 2022 we celebrated music and lyrics and writing. But we also celebrated a year out of COVID-19 and about a year and a half of isolation due to the pandemic.

And so, we would like to review some of the things we have done since August of 2021. It is quite amazing.

In August of 2021 we opened our in-person meetings with a networking meeting featuring open mic. It was great to get back together again and to experience our friends in person. For those who did not yet feel confident in personal attendance, we did a hybrid meeting using Zoom in addition to our live audience.

The very next day, on August 15th, we had a photo shoot featuring the photography of Joan Rudder-Ward at the Sunset Hills Memorial Park. This gave our members the opportunity to update their headshots done by a professional at an amazingly low cost of just \$30 for two jpeg files.

In June of 2021 we had started forming the On-Topic Speakers for You, program which was our new speakers' bureau. In September we were able to use one of our On-Topic speakers, Marilyn King, to illustrate how she develops her storytelling for her books. A fascinating presentation!

In October we featured a panel of children's book authors, which turned out to be interesting and informative. It illustrated the complexities and challenges of writing children's books as well as the opportunities and pleasures. In November 2021 we launched our sixth club anthology called *Unforgettable*, and what a smashing hit it has become. For December of 2021 we had a special meeting where people pitched their books and sold them as gifts.

In January of 2022 we had planned a round-robin table of presenters from our On-Topic speakers. Attendees would go from table to table learning about various aspects of writing. However, San Bernardino County had an upsurge of Covid cases. Because our plans did not allow for much social distancing, we decided to go to Zoom for this presentation and cancelled the in-person meeting.

In February we featured four of our On-Topic Speakers for You presenters each giving individual 15-minute presentations. The program featured Emmalisa Hill, Jim Grayson, Joan Rudder Ward, and Dwight Norris. We also had another popular photo shoot by Joan Rudder-Ward, again at the Sunset Hills facility. Another great bargain for those who missed the August event.

Also in February, Mary Langer Thompson organized another National African American Read-in at the Hesperia library for Black History Month.

In March we presented Penny Sansevieri on book marketing. On March 15 we launched our www.ontopicspeakers.com website, professionally created by Vice President Mike Apodaca.

For our April meeting, we had Jonathan Maberry speaking on the genre of you, which turned out to be one of our most popular speakers ever. In May we had an open mic, which was a brief but impressive meeting.

In June we were one of only two branches in the CWC South Region to apply for and receive a mini grant of \$200, which we presented to the Hesperia library for their Adult Literacy Program. *(Continued on page 11)*



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In June our venue was preempted by a wedding at the church, so we met at the Hesperia Library Community Room, where branch elections were held. Incumbents were re-elected for another term.

We also did our first episode of Writing the Story You Always Wanted to Tell. So far, this has featured On-Topic members doing presentations to the club and to the public. And so began our series of workshops of teaching and encouraging people to write the story they have always wanted to tell.

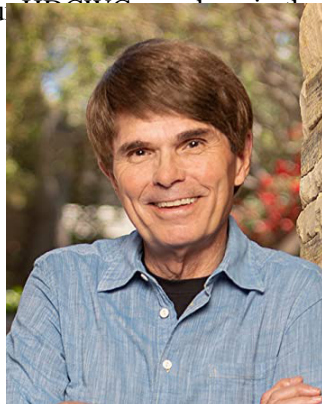
Our July meeting was outstanding. We had a charming presentation by Luis Fuerte, who was the cameraman for Huell Howser for a dozen years. We had the largest turn out ever, which was 112 in person at the church and half a dozen on our Zoom link.

We also joined the Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce which has been instrumental in implementing our program as well as opening up doors for other speaking engagements and networking. We have continued with our Act II meetings with Zoom and have been able to feature such speakers as James Scott Bell, Christopher Vogler, Dara Marks, add, most recently, Dean koontz. All these broadcasts on Zoom were offered to the entire CWC state membership. So we are making an impression on the High Desert and at the state level as well.

In conjunction with the Koontz presentation, we fulfilled a commitment to him to donate in his name, which was recently made to the Victor Valley Animal Protection League. A check for \$150 was from our branch, was matched by another \$150 from the Central Board of the CWC.

It has been an outstanding year of Covid recovery for our High Desert Branch! Ironically, we have actually gained in membership during this time rather than decline in membership.

There is no reason to be anything but optimistic about the future of excellence for our High Desert Branch in the coming years. 🚢



Poetry

Aunty's skirt

By Karen F Ohta

Can it be
at least in our hearts,
reliving days of long ago
I remember the days
of quiet times
sharing crayons
with echoes of voices
of only my own
Then came aunty,
my being with someone
being together
Looking forward to each day
not to adventures on the horizon
but of holding onto aunty's skirt
Later, aunty would move on
with someone special
a life that was meant to be
Time marched on
as each day passed
I would remember those days
of crayons,
singular voices,
days with aunty
holding aunty's skirt

HDCWC SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

BARBRA BADGER SEPTEMBER 2

LINDA BORUFF SEPTEMBER 17

BARBARA A PARISH SEPTEMBER 24

RICHARD A. ZONE SEPTEMBER 26

MICHAEL APODACA SEPTEMBER 27

PEG ROSS PAWLAK SEPTEMBER 29



HIGH DESERT CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB AIMS TO HEAL THROUGH THE ARTS

by Mary Langer Thompson

Our club has launched an arts enrichment program for the 2022-23 school year at High Desert Premier Academy in Apple Valley.

Art and Ink MatterS (AIMS) is sending artists of all kinds and writers of all genres (D-ART Ambassadors) into member-teacher Debbie Rubio's sixth period class of twenty-one students every Thursday from 12:40-1:30 p.m. D-ART Ambassadors (you?) will guide students through art projects, lead group discussions or demonstrations, or help them be creative in some way.

The brainchild of teacher Debbie Rubio and Mary Langer Thompson when Debbie Rubio was assigned to teach art, the program seeks help from club volunteers who want to go into the classroom, judge student art in showcases, or donate art materials (thank you, Richard Zone, for the donation of your wood blocks) or magazines for collages or found poetry. There may even be field trips that need D-ART Ambassador chaperones. Visual arts and telling your story will be the focus as per the California Arts Standards. Governor Newsom has approved extra funding for mental health and the arts. Both Debbie Rubio and Mary Langer Thompson believe that art in all its forms can help to heal after loss. And this year is a transition year for many students coming back to a real setting after being on Zoom.

Your HDCWC board has enthusiastically approved this project, and Dwight Norris, Mike Apodaca, and Bob Isbill enjoyed Back-To-School Night and met

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Mary Thompson and Teacher Debbie Rubio ready for a day's art class.

(Below) Administrator Sarah Garcia with her acrylic pour art tile



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Principal Earl Smith and administrator Sarah Garcia who welcomed them August 24th.

The HDCWC previously partnered with The Academy for Academic Excellence and was twice recognized by the Apple Valley City Council. A third year of our Dorothy C. Blakely Memoir Project was added with University Preparatory High School, which won a Partnership Award from the Association of California School Administrators. Each year the club produced a book of student writers, memoirs of their “Memoir Stars”: *Let It Be Recorded; All Our Yesterdays; Footprints from Around the World*. All are still available on Amazon.

For AIMS, we’ve had two lessons already, with Debbie and Mary helping our high schoolers do an acrylic pour on tiles. The results were beautiful and the entire Premier Academy staff wanted to participate. The Poemsmiths of the Mojave High Desert did lesson two, with four stations to which students rotated to learn haiku (Bob Young), ekphrastic poetry (Lorelei Kay), black-out poetry (Anita Holmes), and toss metaphor dice with Aileen Rochester. Joan Rudder-Ward is scheduled to do visual boards or collages and Robert Keith Young is returning as our Hiking Haikuist to take AIMS students for a walk and return to the classroom to write haiku. Judith Pfeiffer and Mike Apodaca will do a music lesson, and Andrea Willow is scheduled to teach art. If you are interested, please email Mary Thompson at mh_thompson@hotmail.com.

Come, be a writer, artist and teacher! 🏖️



Back to School night.



Erasure Poetry anyone?



The Poemsmiths teaching different poetic forms

HIGH DESERT BRANCH OF THE
CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS AND
APPOINTED POSITIONS ARE CURRENT
UNTIL THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR
ENDING IN JULY 2022.

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Quote of the Month

By Michael Raff

"There is no friend as loyal as a book."

Ernest Hemmingway.

Members Only

Take advantage of your membership benefits

- Free advertising and free posting of your book titles, and latest project,
 - Free PR author's webpage
 - To find out more, contact a board member, or Roberta Smith, our webmaster.
- You can also review your Benefits Booklet online at: www.HDCWC.com

HDCWC's Youtube Channel

Catch the latest happenings at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC28XLtEK5oBNq5gW2Zy1ssg>

Free Advertising

Do you provide a service that could benefit other writers?

Send a JPEG file of your business card or ad to

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Submitting to the Inkslinger

- We seek articles and stories of between **200 to 500** words.
- Poetry submissions are welcome as are photos and illustrations accompanying submissions.
- Please avoid sending items that are embedded in other media (like Word files). Simply attach items to email.
- Submit in Microsoft Word.
- Send submissions to Richard Zone:

retiredzone@gmail.com.

Call Richard Zone if you would like to discuss
an article or idea: 909-222-8812

