



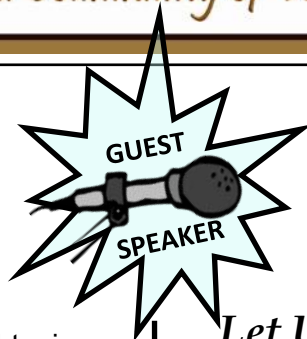
# The INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC  
*Inspiring a Community of Writers*

*Sail On*

**April 2021**

## James Scott Bell's Free Event Saturday



If you haven't registered by now, you might miss out on this Saturday morning's Zoom meeting with James Scott Bell as our returning guest.

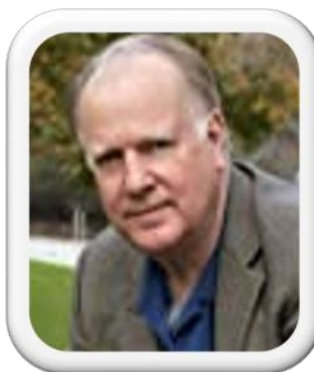
Many of you will remember how Bell delivered a high-quality workshop that we hosted at Apple Valley's community center.

***People must register for this one! The link furnished will be to register, not the link to attend. Prior to the meeting, all the registered people will be sent a link to attend by Mike Apodaca.***

This time all CWC members can sit in with us. What!?! Our technology now offers our branches to share across all regions of California, so take advantage of this first-time opportunity from HDCWC.

**FREE**

**Zoom Room Saturday  
10th at 10:00 am**



Go to [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeIH2y0LBxtZk82vm90pyRwuoCH5NXv6PUAKbEOVUbnUpeG3g/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeIH2y0LBxtZk82vm90pyRwuoCH5NXv6PUAKbEOVUbnUpeG3g/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Bell offers valuable sessions with international students and clients.

Hurry, register now. Latest count was 67.

## ACT II

### THE EVOLVING POEMSMITHS

*Let Us Entertain You April 20th*

**Y**ou've heard of us, shared poems on Open Mic, even seen our work at the fairgrounds. Some of us have published our works.

Now you'll see and hear us on the next ACT II event in a ZOOM room on April 20 at 6 pm.

Mary Langer Thompson hosted the first poetry salon years ago. She says there are seven "alumni" poets who arrived and stayed on. New participants come and go, but the resolve is strong to keep the group moving forward, learning the craft, and being exposed to new or unknown poets and their structural challenges.

This event will be a showcase of the Poemsmiths' work read by the poets. We won't have space to offer an Open Mic this time. We'll showcase our work and new plans.

This is also National Poetry Month, so you will find a larger number of poems gleaned from the archives of each reader.

Look for the ZOOM invitation in your email box from Vice President Mike Apodaca prior to April 20. Then settle back, turn up the volume, and enjoy.



**APRIL IS NATIONAL  
POETRY MONTH**



**High Desert branch of  
California Writers Club  
Board of Directors**



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

**President**

**Dwight Norris**  
hdcwcpresidentdnorris@gmail.com

**Vice President**

**Mike Apodaca**  
MrDaca.ma@gmail.com

**Secretary**

**Joan Rudder-Ward**  
imaker@msn.com

**Treasurer**

**Jenny Margotta**  
Jennymargotta@mail.com

**Member-at-Large**

**Linda Boruff**  
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**Programs /Publicity Chair**

**Bob Isbill**  
Risbill@aol.com

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**Newsletter Editor**

**Rusty LaGrange**  
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**Newsletter Proofreader**

**Jenny Margotta**  
Jennymargotta@mail.com

**Salon Coordinator**

**Lorelei Kay**  
LoreleiKay7@gmail.com

**Webmaster**

**Roberta Smith**  
hdcwc\_web@aol.com

## **Nominating Committee for 2021 Elections Announcement**

President Dwight Norris appointed Programs/Publicity Chairman Bob Isbill to be the nominating committee chairman for the 2021 elections slated for June of this year.

If there are any members interested in standing for election in the 2021 HDCWC elections, please contact Bob Isbill. Phone 760.221.6367 or write him at

Risbill@aol.com.

Elections will be conducted at the June meeting, which will probably be conducted on Zoom.

The slate will be announced in the May *Inkslinger*.



## **Character-Driven Anthology Meeting**

The deadline for the club's seventh anthology, May 1st, is rapidly approaching. Jenny Margotta and Mike Raff of the Anthology Committee were gracious enough to meet with our members on Tuesday night, March 23, to explain the anthology guidelines and to answer our many questions.

Jenny explained a character-driven story as one where you can finish the sentence, "There was a woman who ... " She went on to say that a character-driven story is one where the character is not interchangeable with anyone else. She used the example of a World War II story. If the person in the story is a normal soldier who can be replaced with any other soldier, then it is not character driven. If it is a story about someone like Winston Churchill, a person who had an immeasurable impact in the war, then it is driven by a character.

Mike and Jenny explained to us that the story can be written in first or third person, whichever we are more comfortable with. The point is to have an intriguing character.

During the meeting, the 19 members in ZOOM attendance asked questions about their own stories and poems to see if they were acceptable and to get tips.

As far as submission goes, Jenny explained that the Authorization Form is available on the branch website ([www.hdcwc.com](http://www.hdcwc.com)). The price is \$10 for your submission. Members can enter up to three

*continued page 4*

# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## World Book Nite Arrives April 23rd

Our commitment for the last eight years has been to give away 20+ books to the less fortunate or marginalized people who don't have access to new books.

Mary Langer Thompson picked up the torch from the European version of this project and established our HDCWC branch as an honored extension in the U.S.

April 23rd was selected because famous author Cervantes and playwright Shakespeare share a birthday.

Authors donate a book. The 20+ books are gathered and delivered to a selected location such as a homeless shelter, prison, service organization helping those in need, or wherever we feel our books will benefit others.

Mary will need your books by April 20th.

Contact her at: mh\_thompson@hotmail.com

## Zoom Room News



### Northern Events You Can Zoom Into

For those of you who haven't heard about the Nor-Cal Events Calendar, here's the link: <http://cwcncalwriters.org/events/>. It's a quick access to most of the Northern California branches' events and meetings. While most branches continue to meet on Zoom, this is an opportunity to drop in and see what other branches in other parts of the state are doing.

Nancy Guarnera, editor of *Ink Spots*, says, "Happy National Poetry Month!" And the same to you and your members at Fremont Area CWC, Nancy.

## SURVEY ANYONE?

There has been discussion about calling everyone back to live HDCWC meetings. Even the board is not sure how comfortable our seniors feel about comingling with friends and perhaps new visitors.

Watch for a survey and please respond so we know how to proceed.

We may also see a combination of Zoom Room regular meetings and showing the ZOOM attendees live in the meeting room AT THE SAME TIME!!

These items are all open to you opinions.  
~~ editor

### Life Got in the Way??

If you registered for James Scott Bell's program on ZOOM but weren't able to attend, a replay of the event will be available to you.

His training is not free to the general public, so you must be a registrant to receive this benefit.

Wish to review it? Contact Mike Apodaca  
MrDaca.ma@gmail.com

## Guest Speaker for May

Our May speaker will share the insights of audio books and video marketing when she comes to our Zoom Room May 8th.

It's an explosive market right now. Audiobooks are filling the need of people who prefer to multitask at home while listening to a larger number of Best Sellers. Your book sales can be enhanced by this additional sales stream.

Learn who she is and what makes her expertise so valuable to you.  
~~ editor

### Bureau Designed to Showcase You

Bob Isbill created a Insight for Writers Speakers Bureau two years ago to help authors sell their books with a polished approach for speaking in public. Zoom on May 18 @ 6pm. to learn more.

Eight authors have taken the challenge, and now Bob is gearing up for a new year of scheduled presentations. Practice your public image and more.

Want to sign up? Call or text Risbill@aol.com.

Continued from Page 2

submissions. Each story or poem is limited to 5000 words or less. When you submit, include a short 150 word bio in a separate file.

After your story is published in the anthology, it still belongs to you. You may publish it anywhere else you wish; you retain the rights. Also, any work you submit must be a piece you have the rights to. It can be published elsewhere, as long as the rights are still yours.

Jenny and Mike asked that we don't include stories that are overtly political or that attempt to proselytize. This is a sure way to have your piece rejected.

During the meeting, the suggestion was made that you have your story looked at by a critique group (if you are in one) or by a friend who will help you polish it.

There will also be prizes given for the best in prose and poetry. The prizes for each category include:

4<sup>th</sup> place: \$50

3<sup>rd</sup> place: \$100

2<sup>nd</sup> place: \$150

1<sup>st</sup> place: \$200

A special thanks to Mike and Jenny and Steve Marin for all they are doing to put together our anthology, and to our prestigious judges.

~~ Mike Apodaca, VP

Check your deadlines and submission dates for our next anthology, the next issue of *The Inklinger*, and CWC's *Literary Review*.



## How to Assemble a Lamp

By Mary Langer Thompson

(Poemsmith critique group creator)

First, haul it in from the front porch. Heavy.

Get the scissors to open the tall box.

The lamp is packed tightly in white Styrofoam.

Remember, you could have bought one fully assembled.

Try not to get the cut Styrofoam stuck to body or floor.

It clings like grief. Pull the white blocks, as white as skin can turn, out of the box.

Finally! The purchase.

Why get rid of the old lamp with its golden stem?

These have labyrinthine metal poles with faux wood, like life,

more complicated than originally thought.

Make sure to have the right bulb, so no shocks.

So much plastic wrapped round and round the shade which does not match the picture from Lamps Plus Minus You.

Squeeze the metal loop to get it into the base.

Twist hard to screw in the special bulb. Heed caution warnings.

Time to plug it in. *Light!* Surprised?

Life can be good when you go step-by-step.

A prayer: Let this light be a lamp unto my feet and eyes and brain.

*Alexa, turn off lamp.* Uh oh.







**Jenny Margotta**

from an

**EDITOR'S DESK**

## Learning 'Til the Last Day

A friend once told me he had no desire or need to learn anything new. "I'm eighty-four years old and I get along just fine with what I know now."

How sad, I thought, to limit yourself like that. "You're a luddite," I told him. For those of you who don't know the term, look it up. It can be your "new thing" this week. It's a great word.

I love to learn. I don't think a week goes by that I fail to learn something new. Sometimes, it's as simple as a new word. Sometimes, it's a new recipe. This week I made a new recipe for Colorado Green Chili using fresh tomatillos. Many times, it's something very few of my friends would be interested in—like a new World War II fact. But trivial or major, I always revel that my mental database has a new addition.

Learning is one of the things I enjoy most about editing. Over the years I have edited books in genres I would never have picked up on my own. These have included horror, science fiction, romance, and non-fiction political, scientific, and "how-to" books. I always read a manuscript through from beginning to end at least twice—and often, three times—and I become very familiar with the material. And I have found, in nearly every case, that I learned something new, along with enjoying the contents of the book itself. So, thank you, all my authors, for giving me the pleasure of working on such a wide range of creative efforts.

Three years ago I worked on a book about *landsailing*. For those of you who aren't familiar with the sport, it involves a three- or four-wheeled craft driven by sails across our wide-open, desert dry lakes (or a very large parking lot or along a deserted beach, if nothing else is available.) My editing efforts generally include quite a bit of fact checking, and this book was no exception, so I am now quite conversant on the sport.

In mid-March I edited a book written by a young political activist who worked for the Arizona Democratic Party in the 2020 elections. From that book I learned a new term: Latinx. When I first saw the word, I thought it was a typo, so I researched it.

The term is defined as "of, relating to, or marked by Latin American heritage; used as a gender-neutral alternative to *Latino* or *Latina*. Latinx is not a race; however, a majority of Latinxs consider it part of their racial identity." The term first appeared in 2007. (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Latinx>.)

A number of years ago I bought a book called *To War in a Stringbag*, mostly because the title caught my eye. I knew what a string bag was, of course. Net bags have been used throughout the centuries by many cultures. But why take one to war? It turns out the book was talking about an entirely different type of string bag. In 1933 the British Admiralty commissioned the design of an aircraft "which would fulfill every naval requirement except the air defense of the fleet. They listed six requirements for a start."

When the prototype, the Fairey Swordfish biplane, was first flown in 1934, one of the test pilots is reputed to have remarked, "No housewife on a shopping spree could cram a wider variety of articles into her stringbag." (In the book, the term is always just one word, although my dictionary shows it as two.) The name stuck. The plane is most famous for its role in the Taranto Raid of 1940, in which 21 Swordfishes decimated the Italian Fleet. But it is also worth noting that it is the only British plane that was flying operationally when the war began in 1939 and still flying in 1945 when the war ended. (*To War in A Stringbag*, Charles Lamb, copyright 1977, p. 45.) Given the great advances of aviation during that six-year period, it is remarkable that a biplane was still considered useful.

More new facts for my mental hard drive. Just call me "Number 5." (Number 5 was the robot in the 1986 movie *Short Circuit* that always demanded, "More input.")



## WORD OF THE MONTH:

**BIBLIOPOLE:** (/ˈbɪblɪə pɒl/ 'bibliə poul/) **Noun. Archaic.**

- A person who buys and sells books, especially rare ones.

### Origin

Late 18th century via Latin from Greek *bibliopôlē*, from *biblion* 'book' + *pôlē* 'seller'.



## That Autumn Scent Villanelle

*by Lorelei Kay*

Golden leaves rustle in the crisp autumn breeze,  
and lift my drooping spirits in the air  
Promises of things to come drift through trees.

Ruffled orange faces of marigolds tease,  
*Just keep raking leaves—don't think of his affair.*  
Golden leaves rustle in the crisp autumn breeze.

I just never thought that he would really leave.  
Lawyer's papers came today; how will we fare?  
Promises of things to come drift through trees.

Working in my yard, I'm often on my knees.  
My hands tug at weeds as my heart holds a prayer.  
Golden leaves rustle in the crisp autumn breeze.

The wind whispers low of possibilities,  
filling me with strength; life still has much to  
share.  
Promises of things to come drift through trees.

Scents of new beginnings, opportunities,  
blow across the grass and dance around midair.  
Golden leaves rustle through the crisp autumn  
breeze.  
Promises of things to come drift through trees.

## Dining Fine

Up here,  
perched up high on asphalt shingles  
overlooking oleanders  
and our neighbor's yapping dogs

Up here,  
my three daughters made the dare  
we all scrambled up the ladder  
lugging with us bags still warm

Up here,  
laughter fills our all-girl outing  
as I pass around the Big Macs  
and the swollen yellow fries

Up here,  
there's no empty dadless chair  
at the dining table's end  
just because he drove away

Up here,  
we create a new tradition  
we start fresh, we're still a family  
nothing broken fills this space

Up here,  
we're above the old-time memories  
how we once looked as a family  
a new beginning now emerges

Up here.



## GOODYEAR GURU

By Lorelei Kay

My doctor says I'm shrinking.  
Alarming, the measuring stick agrees.  
But here inside, where a lifetime of  
memories reside,  
I'm quite the same I've been for ump  
teen years.

So where on this round earth, could  
an inch and a half of me have disap  
peared?

Did particles wear away as I paced  
down the halls  
on dark sleepless nights with babes in  
my arms?

Or drop off while walking my daughters  
to school?

Could I have lost more of me as we  
traipsed  
through large malls in search of *the*  
dress  
for each high school prom?

Did I wear farther down as I hiked  
mountain trails,  
or line danced on high-polished floors?  
Could increments have ground away  
as I pruned and plucked red roses from  
the garden patch I tend near my front  
door?  
Perhaps if I would climb a lofty mountain  
top,  
a Guru there would whisper in my ear,  
and say, "You're One Big Ring of  
Tread—  
like a Goodyear tire rolling through the  
years,  
leaving parts of you, bit by bit, behind.  
The farther you go, the more miles you  
rove,  
the more of you wears thin."

If so—are there footpaths I've imprinted,  
with the tread pattern called my life,  
weaving through my twists and turns of  
days  
for me to check to tell, if I am wearing  
well?



## UNDERCURRENT

By Rusty LaGrange

Dark and dank  
the under tank  
swirled and  
moaned in half-light.

Forbidden zone;  
I went alone  
drawn by fear  
and delight.

It was not a well  
or a view of hell

but a dungeon  
born of slime.  
At the edge  
of gray stone  
I stood **alone** –  
as turbid lips devoured me.  
Yet as a child possessed  
I must confess  
I reside in  
its undercurrent.



# Old Joshua

*By Lorelei Kay*

Old Joshua tree, you lift wild limbs  
as a shield from the heat of the sun,  
still as a statue, standing in sand,  
named after Joshua of old.

Wild jack rabbits scamper and jump  
round your shaggy brown bark,  
scorpions crawl up and down your  
bent spine  
and lurk in your odd-jutting arms.

Your quills offer refuge to lizards and  
wrens  
and snakes slither past those cruel  
ends.  
Yet just yesterday your sharp swords  
brought death  
to thousands who stained the land  
red.

You marched around Jericho day  
after day  
raising your bugles high.  
You gave the command,  
the walls tumbled down, then  
your troops slaughtered all those in  
side.

You smote all the country, all of the  
hills,  
with the edge of your mighty swords,  
slaying soldiers and mothers  
and  
babes in their beds, and kings, even  
thirty and one.

Joshua, recall how you lifted your eyes and  
exclaimed, “Look—the sun’s standing still!”  
The light in the heavens refused to go out  
as it witnessed such bloodshed below.

Now you’re alone, epic Joshua tree,  
grown old and smitten with time.  
A lone silhouette with bent twisted limbs  
against a red flaming sky.

No mighty armies can you command,  
no promised land can you seek.  
Only branches braced high  
cross a hot searing sun  
to block scorching memories.

Do you lift prickly arms high up in praise  
for the heated battles you’ve known?  
Or to beg forgiveness for the carnage you’ve  
wrought,  
and seek peace to quench your parched  
soul?





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

## Writing a Series

I recently finished the fourth book in my series, *Godsend*, and am now working on book number five. There will be six books in the series. Here are some tips I've picked up during the process.

### Make Sure You Want to Spend Time with Your Characters

It was never my intention to write a series. *Godsend* was a one-book project. But I fell in love with the characters. They became like friends. I felt their pain and shared in their victories. Their story wasn't finished. I longed to see them grow and respond to new challenges. I wanted to explore how they overcame personal deficiencies and new relationship complications.

### The Arc of the Story

The next thing I had to grapple with was the overall arc of the story. In a series like *Harry Potter*, J. K. Rowling has a long arc in her series: the final battle between Harry and Voldemort. We see Voldemort becoming more substantial and dangerous throughout, while we also see Harry and his friends grow stronger and deepen their loyalty to one another.

In my *Godsend* series, the arc is Satan and his forces taking over the world and storming heaven to unseat God. The books begin with my main character, Alex, being called by God to join in the spiritual battle. He grows over the course of the books and gathers a team around him. Meanwhile, Satan and his demons gather their own forces.

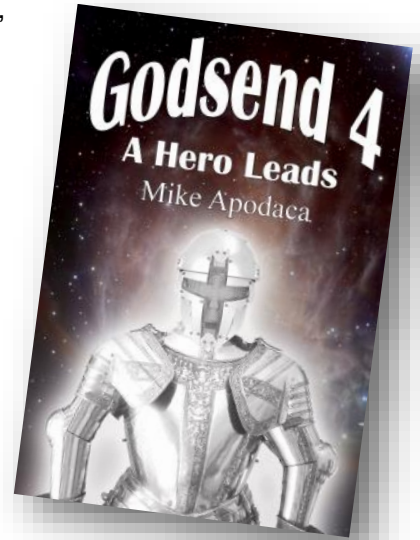
### Surprises!

The trick to writing a series is to keep it engaging. It's easy to fall into a rut and to write the same story over and over. To keep your readers involved, there must be exciting new experiences for your characters. I do this in *Godsend* with new settings, new

interesting characters, and new challenges.

### Do the Twist

Another way to keep your reader engaged is to add twists to the story. Have characters who aren't what they seem. Have situations that have been completely misread by the characters—and also by the reader. There've been many great twists in popular stories. One of my favorites is in the *Wizard of Oz* series where, in the second book, *The Marvelous Land of Oz*, we discover in the end that a character is not at all what we thought they were. You can even do a twist where the whole of reality is not what it seems—like in *The Matrix*. Creating twists really keeps your readers on board.



### Have a Reason for Writing

Writing is hard. It requires discipline and focus and many dedicated hours. To keep yourself producing, you need to have a big and profound purpose. You need a message. In my series, my goal was to encourage young people to become warriors for God, to fight the battles in their own personal lives as well as those in the world around them. Find what you care about and write about it.

In the end, writing a series is both hard and satisfying. It will stretch you. The best part is to hear people ask, "When is the next one coming out?"

~~ M.A. ~~

Do you have a writing insight that you can share? Send it to Mike A. and use this email:

MrDaca.ma@gmail.com

# GARGANTUANS

*BY RUSTY LA GRANGE*

Among gargantuans in granite form  
blood-brown, varnished by sand and  
storm,  
squat defiantly along a sandstone edge  
where mortar-made clusters of cacti  
wedge.

Forever in shadows, stand in spite,  
declare these western wards in dimming  
light.

Their secrets hold unwritten tomes,  
secure in their niches of jumbled stones.

Shadows flit across their bronzed faces;  
crevices adorned in filigree laces; and,  
hidden within timeless cobblestone walls  
are the echoes, the cries, the thunderous  
calls.

Heroes, surviving a dangerous land,  
find shelter, a home in their weathered  
command.

Beaten by decades, wind-carved and de  
faced  
yet stronger in union with nature's em  
brace.

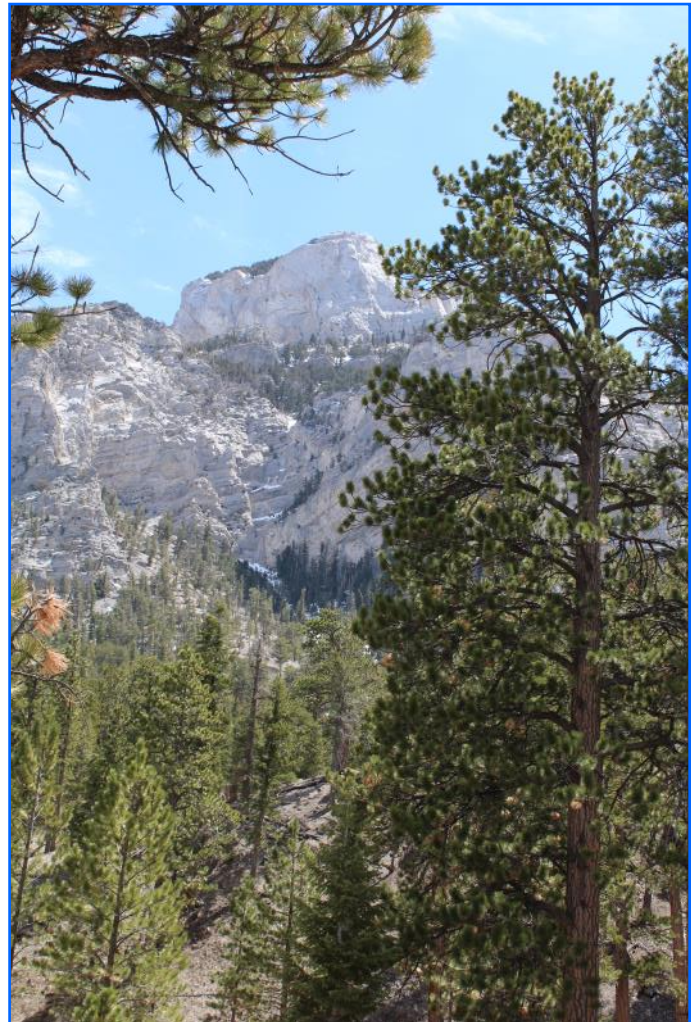
Never more than a pile of stones; a jumble  
of rocks,  
as scarred and stained as children's blocks.  
Broad-shouldered barons eternally sit—  
the aftermath of a mason's fit.



## MOTHER NATURE

*By Sara Metcalf Leach*

The day is beautiful with yellow flowers  
but cool enough to don a coat.  
The apple trees long finished with their work  
rest casually and unconcernedly in respite.  
The sky bares its dark load  
in case those who bear blessings  
have forgotten whence they came.



*Photo credit: Rusty LaGrange*

## Scholastic Alliance Selects Writing Groups to Read During Competition

The nationally known Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are highly competitive for high school students, where \$10,000 scholarships are earned through 29 genres including short story, fashion design, photography, memoir, printmaking, poetry, and novel writing—as well as a variety of sponsored award scholarships.

The panel selects nonprofit groups as readers—ours was selected several years ago—and offers \$2500 gratuity for us to promote education in our branch. Dwight Norris and Jenny Margotta, are the



**Norris**

working committee to manage the entries given to our readers. Each reader is given many entries to read and score in early January. Those are then submitted to the panel.



**Margotta**

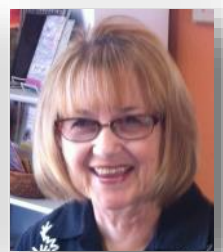
## Dorothy C. Blakeley Memoir Project Being Revised



**Isbill**



**Apodaca**



**Thompson**

The committee is currently reviewing the well received program and updating it. Bob will be collecting the history of its early promotion to high schools' English departments.

Lesson plans will be reassessed by Mary, who will then write a textbook intended to be a thorough guide to replicate the program. The potential is easily relatable and can be available to public and private schools to independently perpetuate the program.

Mike Apodaca and Mary Thompson are retired school teachers and administrators eager to start.

### Grandma's Butter

By Peg Ross Pawlak

I grew up on margarine.  
I don't remember why.  
Mom thought it was better  
and, at that time, in the fifties,  
she was always trying new stuff.

Margarine was what we  
put on baked potatoes  
unless they were for dinner—  
in that case, she served them  
with thick cream of chicken soup.

But at Grandma's house  
we had butter with our toast and jam.  
It was always in the ice box  
and, she would slice it with a knife  
mashing dabs of butter  
into tasty, yummy toast.  
I'd smell like butter all day long.

I guess you know there's no  
margarine hiding inside my fridge.  
I'm a butter girl.

### As the Crow Flies

By Peg Pawlak

That old crow is out there again  
Doing his caw and looking for bread  
I leave him a slice now and then  
I guess he's like a friend

It was joyful to see him today  
Somehow it made me feel brighter  
hearing and watching him play  
with a slice of rye I left

He prefers hamburger buns  
but beggars should not be choosy  
He is and tells me so  
with his clicks and cries

Yes, that old crow  
said hello just now  
sitting there in the Joshua tree  
feelings of peace somehow



# Rusty LaGrange Wins Jack London Award

Rusty LaGrange was selected as this year's High Desert Branch recipient of the Jack London Award.

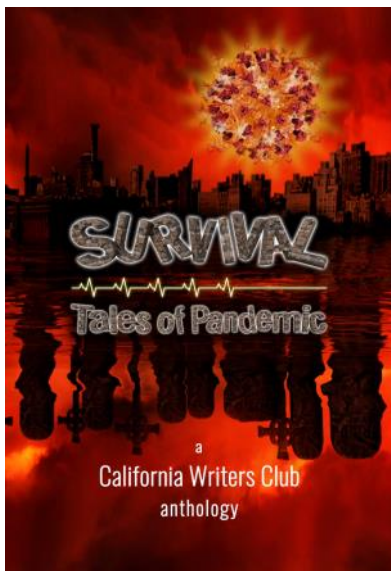
Her drive and dedication to service for the branch, and her willingness to support many outreach programs, has been evident over the years.

Rusty has edited the branch's newsletter, *The Inkslinger*, for ten years, producing an exceptionally informative and attractive circular, setting the bar high for those who follow in her steps. She is also an involved member of Poemsmiths, a segment of poets in the HDCWC, and helped promote the return of the Adult Poetry Division at San Bernardino County Fair. Rusty was a member of the team of HDCWC writers who taught the writing workshops for inmates of the Federal Correction Complex in Victorville, California.

She is also the current editor of CWC's statewide digital news magazine, *The Bulletin*. As an author, she is published and working on new projects. Her other activities include Lucerne Valley Museum board, travelling with a Kid's "Touch It" museum, and enjoying retirement with Jeffrey, her husband of 40 years. They have one adult daughter and four granddaughters in Lucerne Valley.



**Barbara "Rusty" LaGrange**



Grab our latest anthology. Check out Amazon or ask Mike Raff if books are still available directly from him.

## Jack London Award Winners From HDCWC Since 1993

- 1993 Ruth Theodos
- 1995 J 'Amy Pacheco
- 1997 Carol Bachofner
- 1998 Wilma Willis Gore
- 1999 Liz Pinto
- 2003 George Gracyk
- 2009 Robert Isbill
- 2011 Carol Warren
- 2013 Roberta Smith
- 2015 Dwight Norris
- 2017 Jenny Margotta
- 2019 Mary Langer Thompson
- 2021 Rusty LaGrange

## Jack London Stamp News for 2021:

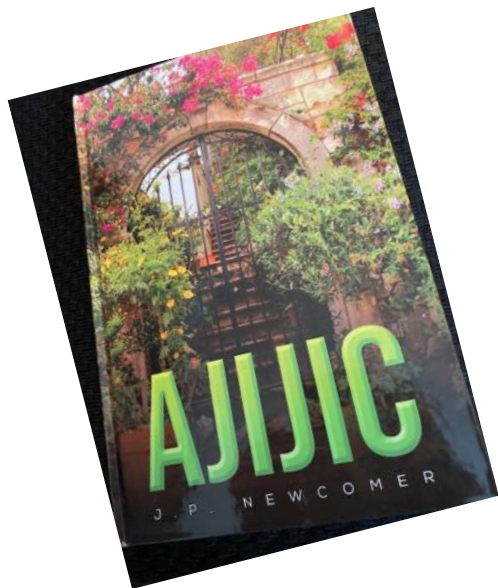


May 03, 1988 · London is pictured on the 25¢ "Great Americans" stamp. Issued between 1980 and 1999, the "Great Americans" definitive series features 63 designs, making it the largest set of face-different regular-issue stamps in the 20th century.





## Author Accolades



### *Here's a peek inside:*

Katherine's infertility and failed marriage lead her to Mexico in search of a child. She becomes entangled with Carlos, an unscrupulous and inept black-market baby broker, and forms a close relationship with James and Brent, the gay couple who live next door.

When James' seventeen-year-old daughter, Stephanie, who is only a few years younger than her father's lover, arrives for a visit, things get complicated. Stephanie resents Brent and blames him for the divorce of her parents. When her open hostility toward Brent threatens to alienate her father, however, she settles upon a different strategy: seduction.

This is a novel that explores family bonds, triangular relationships, LGBTQ issues and improbable outcomes.

### *A new novel by Jeanne Newcomer*

J.P. Newcomer is a writer of poetry and fiction whose work has appeared in numerous literary magazines. Her additional publications include *Poems of My Father*, a compilation of her father's poetry, and *Interface*, a science-fiction novel, both of which are available on Amazon. She is a licensed clinical social worker with a private practice in supervision and psychotherapy. Originally from Boston, she currently resides in Southern California and is a lover of art, music, friends, family, and adventure. She has lived and traveled extensively in Mexico and encourages her readers to visit the town of Ajijic.



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## Events Ahead>

### APRIL & MAY ACTIVITIES

April 6                      Board Meeting  
April 10                    HDCWC regular mtg  
April 20                    ACT II Poetry  
April 20                    World Book deadline

May 4                      Board Meeting  
May 8                      HDCWC regular mtg  
May 18                    Speakers Bureau  
6pm



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### BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

*Just One ...*

April 22                      *Therese Moore*

If you would like to join the rest of our members enjoying a little recognition for another year shared with writing friends, be sure to update your birthday date. We use our local branch's MRMS database.

Go to [www.hdcwc.com](http://www.hdcwc.com) then from the menu go to "Links for Club Members" and click on MRMS. If you don't remember your sign-in name, ask for help from Bob Isbill, Jenny Margotta, or Michael Raff.  
~~ the editor

#### REMINDER:

Renew your dues early and you'll gain extra benefits.

**Pay Early and be the First!**

See our May Issue for more details.

**Benefits are very valuable.**

**Don't miss out!**

#### WE HAVE A YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Here's the link to the channel:

[https:// www.youtube.com/channel/UC28XLtEK5oBNq5gW2Zy1ssq](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC28XLtEK5oBNq5gW2Zy1ssq)

*Managed by Joan Rudder-Ward*

## Member Services

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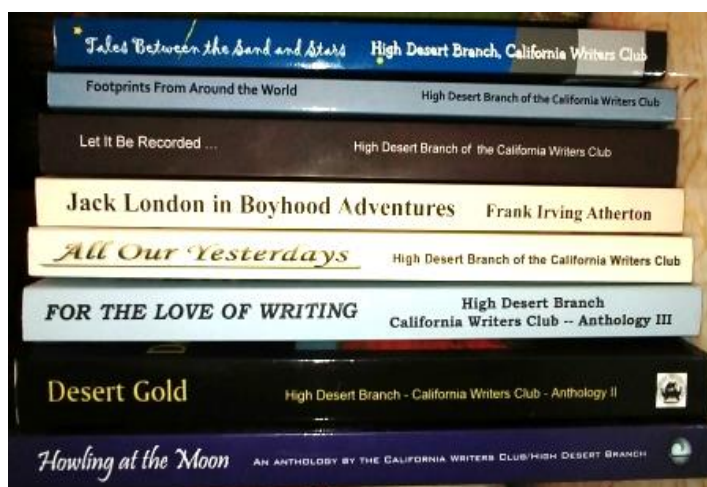


References:

Mary Langer Thompson: (@Mary Langer Thomp, Twitter)

Elizabeth Pye: (epye.com)

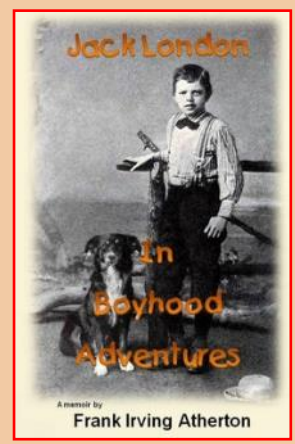
Marilyn King: <http://www.marilynking.net>



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## Notes From the Editor



Rusty LaGrange

*Editor of the  
CWC's  
The Bulletin*

*Hey, everyone. I need some "me" time and it's time to pull the plug. So I want every one of you to think of a short story, a joke, a poem, and even an article of an interesting topic related to the craft we all love. Send it in.*

*Offering will help our next editor or committee hit the ground running for May's issue with a pantry full of content. Thanx. My last issue is April.*

*April's issue is in celebration of Poetry Month. Show me whacha ya got.*

Submitting to *The Inkslinger* is easy. Use Microsoft Word, single-spaced, 11-point Arial font, please. The email address for submissions is MrDaca.ma@gmail. Articles and stories between 200 to 700 words are accepted. Photos, poetry, and drawings are always welcome. Please avoid sending items that were embedded in other media. Call me to discuss an article or idea, 760-985-7107.

**Submit May items by April 23.**

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