



# The INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC

*Inspiring a Community of Writers*

*Sail On*

August 2020



## Shorter For the Better

The simple concept of writing short stories to keep your mind limber while you're working on a novel, is where Jeffrey Somers found his mark. Loaded with short stories and novellas on his website, he subscribes to staying busy.

A novel takes time to create and then produce, so waiting for the one project to finish while committing to several short ones, is not a novel idea, but it works for many.

Joining us for this Saturday in our Zoom Room, Somers will expand on his idea and offer a Q&A session afterwards.



*Guest Speaker*

*Jeffrey Somers*

## Happy 30th!

And we don't look a day over 29!!

Are we going to have an awesome catered affair or not?

Time will tell, so keep reading your email and this newsletter so you'll know how we will celebrate our branch birthday!

*More details coming!*

SAVE THIS  
DATE  
OCT. 3RD

Look for your email invitation, and if you already are registered on Zoom, click on the link and you can pop right in. Meeting starts at 10 am.

“I'm the author of Writing Without Rules, the Avery Cates series, The Ustari Cycle, Lifers, and Chum (among many other books) and numerous short stories. I do a lot of freelance writing (hire me!). I also play guitar, drink a lot of whiskey, and am a plague upon my house.”

Taking a quick cruise around his website is an adventure. Go to: [www.jeffreysomers.com](http://www.jeffreysomers.com) and check it out. He also blogs, writes a newsletter and stars in his own podcasts.



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

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



**President**

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**Webmaster**

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## ***I Want More Time to Write***

### **Repeating Again: Repeating the Call for Writers:**

It's been loads of fun for the last ... what? ... **10 YEARS???**

Yup. I'm in my 10th year now creating insider articles, producing 12– 20 pages an issue, and sharing in the news we all want to know about.

But if I had some members who could help me out, then the process of producing *The Inkslinger* wouldn't tie me down so much.

I'm a writer, too. I have my first book out — *A Microphone is Not the Muzzle of a Gun: The Art of Interviewing*. I have three other projects in the works, and my retirement plan to create a commercial online magazine.

### **So, I'm not bailing.**

Here's what I could use: **a committed proofreader** (not just those great friends I call on speed dial hoping they can proof), **a submissions collector assistant** that can capture, convert to jpg, and reduce photos for print, and **three regular column writers** (like Jenny now, Mary DeSantis and Angie Horn, and Karen Ohta, and Diane Neil and others who have helped over the years) who can meet deadlines with an article in rotation 3 or 4 times a year.

Hey, I can even create a **Staff Box** and give you a title!!

So, what do you think?

Do you have skills you've been hiding, hoping no one will call on you? A secret calling to be on staff of a newspaper (ok, I'm not that big, but it's a stepping stone), willing to learn some new skills that can help advance your marketing?

**PLEASE** Think about it and let me know:

Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com

*Let's Continue Our Vision in 2020.*

*~~ Rusty, editor.*



*Stories to stop your heart...but not your spirit.*



**Dwight Norris**  
**from the**  
**President**

## The Importance of Stories

When I was a young preacher back in the early eighties, our congregation would occasionally be privileged to receive guests. If they filled out a visitor's card, I would get to know them a little better. One such guest was a man named A. J. Iler.

"Jud," as he was known was an engineer and a writer. Both of these interests captured my attention. I was preparing to preach a sermon on *Noah's Ark*, and Jud, being an engineer of no small skill, prepared a scale model of what he believed Noah's ark to be about. In his rendition, it was not a toy fit for a bathtub with a couple of long giraffes' necks protruding out the top, but a barge that would manage the onslaught of a driven flood.

He wrote two books on the subject with proper documentation and modeling. The scale model rested on a stand he constructed in the lobby of the church, sitting on a supporting foundation which stood about four feet long. Removable cut-outs showed what the interior of the ark must have looked like to accommodate the animals.

He presented me with two books he had written about his family—one a biography of his father entitled *Carey W. Iler* and another about his entire family going back several generations called *Leaves of Trivia*. The physical representation of his books was primitive by today's standards, but they were labors of love and were written because Jud loved his family and was proud of them. He told of how his grandparents came across the sea and landed at Ellis Island and how they made their way in a new land, working hard and proud of what they accomplished. He thought if no one wrote their story, no one would know or remember it. And he thought it was too important to leave it unspoken.

I happened to think of my grandfather and how special a life he lived, and I realized that Jud Iler was right. If no one wrote down his story, in a generation or two no one would even know who he was. I could not let that happen. At least the family should have a record of his life. And then there was Sandy Armistead, the man I met at El Pollo Loco—

going in for some chicken and coming out with a story.

So what makes a person's story so important? It's about a person! A human being! It's about their needs and desires. What they thought about. How they interacted with others. How they overcame obstacles that stood in their way. Their courage and determination. How they fought to make a life for their families. A young person could read a story and say, "Wow, my grandfather did that?"

Stories are important not only because they are about people, but because they affect people today! They can affect us! They show us what is possible, and that we are worthy of what others have sacrificed and did for us. We are enriched by those who have gone before, have guided us, and have sacrificed for our well-being. If no one takes the time and effort to write the stories, how will we understand? Stories are part of our rich heritage and should be preserved!



Family tradition and the new themes. The original matryoshka set by Zvyozdochkin and Malyutin in 1892.

*The Story-teller Doll represents the crucial role of oral tradition and tribal story-telling in not just the Pueblo tribes, but in Native American culture as a whole.*







**Mike Apodaca**

**from the  
Vice President**

## Priming the Pump

### A Metaphor

There are two large bodies of water running through Israel—the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. One is teeming with life. One is dead. The Sea of Galilee is prominent in the Bible. It's where Peter and others fished. It supplied the food for many cities and villages. Then there's the Dead Sea. It definitely lives up to its name. There's almost no life whatsoever in this unusual lake. When I swam in the Dead Sea, I was able to literally sit up in the water and not sink, the water is so saturated with minerals.

The strange thing is that both the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea are on the same water system, connected by the Jordan River. So why is one filled with life and the other filled with death?

The Sea of Galilee is fed by a series of springs and by the Jordan River which begins in Mount Herman. The river flows in at the North and flows out in the South, leaving the sea to form the Jordan River.

The Jordan flows the length of Israel and ends at the Dead Sea. There the journey ends. The water sits. It rapidly evaporates in the desert heat, leaving behind all the minerals the water has picked up on its journey across the land. With time, this buildup of minerals have made the lake uninhabitable.

Think about this in terms of our writing. In order for our writing to be alive, we need to have a steady flow of inspirational and instructional materials flowing in as well as a stream of materials flowing out.

Leaving either out will result in a stalled, dead writing life.

### The Inward Flow

What kinds of things inspire us to write? I'm sure this is different for different people and each of us will have to find what materials will help us generate new ideas.

**Reading:** It wasn't that long ago that our club had Gabriela Pereira do a seminar for us on writing. I'll never forget what she said about reading. She writes, 'While books may be our passion, we often need to retrain ourselves to read like writers. Reading for pleasure is wonderful, and it certainly has its place. Reading with purpose is different: It is reading in a way that serves our writing. It's not just about finding out what happens in the story; it's about learning how the writer pulls it off.' *Diy MFA*, by Gabriela Pereira, pg. 19.

Pereira also suggests that you read many books about the craft of writing (like her wonderful book). I'm always reading books on writing. They are essential.

**Movies:** I like watching movies. Now I pay special attention to the story structure of movies. I look for character development. I look for which scenes are put where and why. I listen to dialogue, often using the subtitles. I dissect the story and try to learn how it works.

**Conversations:** Some of the best ideas have come about through conversation. When we talk with intelligent people, we often come across an idea that needs to be fleshed out and shared with others.

Whatever helps you fill your inspirational reservoir, do it daily.

### The Outward Flow

Once we've filled our creative resources, it's time to pour out with writing. Try to write every day. Write short stories, articles, non-fiction books, novels, etc. I sometimes find myself on social media responding to posts or posting my own ideas. I also have a blog (Godsendbook.com) where I write inspirational essays for the Christian high schoolers that I work with at my church.

Writing is an inflow/outflow process. Remember Galilee. To keep the writing going, we need to prime the pump.



# MANAGING YOUR WRITING CAREER

BY RUSTY LA GRANGE



**I've been speaking about communication among writers, friends, and others**

Partly it's up to you to continue contact with those you need for support, accountability, career moves, and even newsy news. Can you really believe everything on the Internet? While my view on news reporting is a bit jaded with over 15 years in the biz, I find that news from the Internet takes on a life of its own if we let it.

I like to avoid the news when the politics get overwhelming—no matter the topic. Desert dwellers have a more specific and remote lifestyle compared to other parts of the country. I believe we're privileged to have more space out here than many suburbanites and city dwellers do. We seem less stressed.

So it seems that we have to adjust more to keep our connections in place. And then there's the Zoom and Skype tools that are readily available to anyone with a computer. A tool connecting you to a pool of writing friends seems so obvious to me, and yet, only a handful of members here attend Zoom Rooms by invitation.

As you take advantage of CWC Zoom Rooms available to each of us across the state, there will be a learning curve to attain. Free or paid sessions will attract a wider variety of writers. You might even extend new friendships through a Zoom Room. The following is a Zoom Room Etiquette primer.

**A**fter you've entered the Zoom Room, make sure your microphone is muted. Why? A member's live microphone on their computer will pick up nearby noises, such as a loud television, any phone ring tones, fretful dog barks, kitchen clatter, clock chimes. etc.

Remember, you control your own screen setting. These controls are in the upper right corner. "Gallery View" displays all attendees encased in his/her own screen shot. "Speaker View" allots the largest box to whomever is speaking on their live mic. If you want to be seen, click on the red line on the camera icon. And there you are, a member of the Gallery.

After the speaker's presentation, there'll be a short question and answer session. How? The "chat" button at the base of your screen, when clicked on, signals the speaker that you have a question. But please refrain using this command to chat with pals during the presentation. Members of the Gallery might note your remarks and join the conversation, ignoring the speaker's speech. When you mute yourself sometimes the Speaker can do it as well, so check that function. Just wave your hand or leave a chat note to ask for unmuting.

If you need to leave the meeting early, simply click on the "leave" button in the lower right corner of your screen. Presto, you're home again.

If you know someone who's not a CWC member, but who wants to enter a special event or workshop meeting, please pass their contact information on to your designated Membership Chair, then make certain your guest receives an invitation to your Zoom Room.

Below are links to a few YouTube tutorials for Zoom meetings. These websites are for informational purposes and are not endorsements.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIPcDnfkNuA>

If you have a Zoom account, please check out the video tutorials on your Zoom homepage.

Have fun learning to Zoom! ~~ Karen Gorback

(Reprinted with permission from San Fernando Valley branch)



**Jenny Margotta**

from an

**EDITOR'S DESK**

## When is blue not blue?

**R**aise your hand if you remember your first box of Crayola crayons. Eight colors: red, blue, green, yellow, orange, white, brown, and black. Then you “graduated” to a box with 16 colors. I definitely remember my first box of 64 crayons, complete with a built-in sharpener in the box. Crayola currently makes a box of 120.

I have read that most humans are able to distinguish several million different colors. Excepting those who are color blind—most commonly men, by the way. A standard 24-bit color display can display up to 16,777,216 colors. Imagine trying to name nearly 17 million colors. And a 32-bit display can show 4 billion. That’s billion—with a B.

Software programs such as PhotoShop identify colors using a hexadecimal code to distinguish color possibilities. A hexadecimal code is a 6-digit letter/number code with each 2 digits representing the amount of red, green, and blue in the color. For instance, the code for navy blue is 000080, mauve is defined as E0B0FF, white is FFFFFFFF, and black is 000000. Of course, not all 16 million codes are identified by name.

Wikipedia lists 955 color names, starting with absolute zero—a blue somewhat similar to the blue on a Pepsi can—and ending with *zomp*, a turquoise green. There are 52 names just for white, including cake batter, latte froth, pacific pearl, and whitewash. One small slice of a color palette in the blue range includes azure blue, celeste, aqua, ocean blue, mid-night blue, royal blue, cadet blue, sky blue, turquoise, light turquoise, pale turquoise, NYPD blue, police strobe, air force blue, navy blue, and presidential blue. DMC, one of the most popular brands of embroidery floss, makes it a little simpler. They only have 489 colors.

By now you might be asking, “So what? Why should I care about all those colors?”

Well, just as that childhood box of 64 crayons allowed you to have a greater range of details in your drawings than you had with only 8 crayons, being aware of a wide range of colors allows you to “paint” a picture in your readers’ minds using words.

I distinctly remember a college paper I had to write on a 4-line poem about a little red wagon sitting in the green grass behind a white picket fence under the blue sky. You can picture that scene in your mind, I’m sure. But what shade of red was the wagon? And could the sky have been the bleached blue of a hot summer day?

Don’t be afraid to be creative with your colors when you write. I’m not suggesting you go crazy. I think we’d all agree that reading something like, “The alizarin crimson wagon sat in the viridian grass behind the ceramic-colored fence under the glaucous sky” would be too much.

On the other hand, however, don’t limit yourself to an 8-color box of mental crayons either. Be creative, have fun with your colors. It will definitely add to your descriptive efforts.

## WORD OF THE MONTH:

chiaroscuro: *chiar·oscu·ro* | \ kē-,är-ə-lskyū(r)-(l)ō  
[Noun]

**1 :** pictorial representation in terms of light and shade without regard to color

**2a :** the arrangement or treatment of light and dark parts in a pictorial work of art The artist uses chiaroscuro to create the perception of depth in a two-dimensional work.

**2b :** the interplay or contrast of dissimilar qualities (as of mood or character)

**3 :** a 16th century woodcut technique involving the use of several blocks to print different tones of the same color also **:** a print made by this technique

**4 :** the interplay of light and shadow on or as if on a surface: a spotlight revealing a chiaroscuro of ridges and craters on a mountainside

**5 :** the quality of being veiled or partly in shadow





## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### All HDCWC Members:

An important message from the CWC Lit Review producer, Fred Dodsworth. His message is below:

Here's an opportunity to have your photography published in the *Literary Review Magazine*, if selected by Fred. There is no charge to enter. Please read his message below:

I'm Fred Dodsworth, the CWC rep from the Berkeley chapter and I volunteered to produce this year's *Literary Review Magazine*.

I'm not the person making the initial editorial selection, I'm the person making the publication look great. So great you're going to want a copy or two to give to your family and friends.

Just so you know I'm not pulling your leg, I'm an award-winning art director with many decades of experience producing ads, books, newspapers, lit anthologies, and more.

That's where you come in: I'm looking for art photos and art from our CWC members, which I will curate and utilize as possible. I'm not just looking for professional photos. I'm looking for images that speak to you.

If you have anything in your files that is at least 1 megabyte in size, in either color or black and white, images you would be happy to see in our publication, please email it to me.

There are no restrictions on what you might think of as 'photos and art,' as it's my job as designer to make the best decisions for the best places... I really don't care what you send, just so long as you like it.

I'll not be using everything. I will be looking for images that catch the eye, or look stunning, or speak to the viewer.

If I don't get anything, I have thousands of photos in my files and our President Donna has a pal, a professional, who will allow us to use her stuff as well.

Everything should be sent to [fdodsworth@comcast.net](mailto:fdodsworth@comcast.net) with subject CWC ART...

I'm looking forward to getting the Lit Review on the boards quickly so time is of the essence, anything you can get to me promptly will be curated and greatly appreciated. ~~ **Fred Dodsworth**

**Remember to include your name, email, phone number and CWC Branch.**

## Zoom Room News



Okay, it's a reality. Across many of our branches statewide, the use of Zoom and Skype meeting rooms will help our membership stay connected.

And even though some members are trying to avoid it or haven't learned to use it yet, the longer the Corona Virus dismantles our branch environment, the more we will need to build and adjust to using it.

Several branches have embraced the technology, and like Redwood Writers with nearly 300 members, they are offering their workshops to all CWC members in good standing.

You register online at their website and pay a nominal fee to help offset their guest speaker. You receive an email with instructions, then jump into a Zoom Room at the date and time.

My first time with their Zoom meeting was a poetry event; the second was a "Less is More & More is More" workshop session July 18th. Although events are scheduled more often than *The Inkslinger* can be sent out, we will attempt to do more email announcements.



We have invited Sarai Phegley to speak about journaling in one of our auxiliary meetings via Zoom. Her presentation should be in late August or early September.

### **How Journaling Releases Stress**

"Never become a single mom, it's one of the hardest things you'll ever do," she says.

"During the previous five years, I had gotten married, had a baby, lost my mother to cancer, bought a home, became divorced, changed location, and switched jobs twice. Life was being life and flowing, and I was dizzy with all the changing directions.

I began journaling as a way of transforming the chaos I felt. I needed simplicity. I needed to see clearly. I needed to remember who I was."



## News Continues

The journal became a space where I could explore my deep nature of thoughts, feelings, intricacies, and dynamics.

While journaling, I can be still and listen. It has a way of slowing me down and making me honest, raw, and completely vulnerable.

If you're a writer, writer's block becomes less frequent. Meeting with a blank page each time you journal gives you an opportunity to find new and different ways of turning a blank page into your creation.

So, sit with yourself today, with a pen and a piece of paper. Welcome the adventure of journaling. Listen to yourself in the same way you would listen to a bird singing, with the deeper part of you, where surrender takes you. You will be surprised over and over.

~~ Sarai Phegley



## Indie Authors Have a "David" to Fight "Goliath" Book Sellers

**Bookshop.com**, an ecommerce startup intended to help independent bookstores assert themselves online, has the tech giant in its sights, according to news from *Wired Magazine* online.

While I've been working on a smaller regional Bookshelf idea for our local authors, this company is aiming for the giants. I'm not endorsing this company, but watch it do battle against Amazon.

It claims to be fighting for a better way to boost indie support and sales, affiliate sales with 30% commissions on a friendlier platform. Let's watch it.



## Coming This Fall Our Latest Anthology

It's getting closer to completion. Our collection of stories is now in the judges' hands. Steve Marin and Jenny Margotta have seen the entries. Competition is strong for the three top stories to receive cash prizes.

Authors who win will have the option of sharing it with their branch or donating it to their charity of choice.

The awesome cover was created by Mary DeSantis.

~~ editor

## Pandemic or Not, We Still Host Salons

All salons will continue in virtual mode via Zoom Rooms, and Lorelei Kay hasn't forgotten that her job to manage salons will be slightly different.

Salon hosts can register with her, learn how to invite members to a Zoom Room, and need to manage their meetings virtually.

In fact, members have been seriously thinking how flexible a Zoom session has become for them. We can expand our topics and range to include more friends without rearranging furniture and spending gas to get there.

Have an idea for a salon?

Just call or email Lorelei at [lorelaikay7@gmail.com](mailto:lorelaikay7@gmail.com), or find her on Facebook.



## CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY

AUG	3	ROBERTA SMITH
AUG	6	ROBERT ISBILL
AUG	8	JERRY LENTZ
AUG	8	SUZANNE BRUMBAUGH
AUG	10	MARY DESANTIS
AUG	21	JENNY MARGOTTA
AUG	26	ELIZABETH PYE
AUG	30	FREDI GOLD

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 then check your Benefits Handbook or ask for help from Bob Isbill, [Risbill@aol.com](mailto:Risbill@aol.com). ~~ the editor



# Let's Get to Know ...

*by Rusty LaGrange*

He was happy in Barstow for the last few years. A small, quiet city with a dry climate suited him and his ailing back. The Barstow Veterans Home provided the care and comfort he needed. It's 200-room facility now 20+ years old needed some renovations, then 40 residents were transferred suddenly to Chula Vista.

"They said it was for two weeks, but you know you can never really trust the government to keep their word, right?" Joe said, in his recent phone conversation with me from his new digs in the upscale city near the ocean.

Joe didn't mind the change, but with his bad back and the high humidity, well, the desert is better. He's happy to be a member of HDCWC, making new friends, able to share his love of poetry, however he is also concerned that being removed from our desert district that he wouldn't be able to continue his membership.

I assured him that other members living out of state have continued their memberships and can receive email blasts and our publications. He was grateful for that. Being connected to the outside takes on a higher importance now more than ever.

The ocean smells in the morning air often make him think of the Korean War. He joined the Air Force but stayed on the ground as a radio controller assigned to the airmen squads leaving the tarmac.

"I wasn't any flier, no tail gunner, no bombardier, no hero, just the guy sending current weather, wind, and important messages to the squads. I never saw any action," he chuckled, "unless you count the bar-room brawl in Tokyo."

Even over the phone you could hear how that event went. I found we have a lot in common: California stories with his brother and other close relatives up near Stanford University, I was born up there; his interest in amateur radio that he couldn't afford to buy, and I've had my license since 1993; and, of course, poetry. His creative side perked up when he

## For What It's Worth

"Challenges make life interesting.  
Overcoming them makes life  
meaningful."  
- Mark Twain

## Joseph Sims

read about our Poemsmiths "Mondo in the Condo" challenge. You might be reading one of his soon.

There's a lot to listen to and he has time to share stories, too. In the meantime, Joseph Sims is eager to share his latest submission:

### The Cuban Cigar

If you want an adventure  
to knock you ajar  
light up and smoke  
a Cuban cigar.

They may be illegal  
and cost more than a car  
but there's nothing quite like  
a Cuban cigar.

The first one I puffed  
in a land away far  
was with my son, Marco,  
in his neighborhood bar.

The sweet smell of smoke  
was like a Renoir.  
We struggled and choked  
on our Cuban cigar.

Ah, time, thou dost fly  
like a twinkling star,  
but I'll never forget  
that Cuban cigar!

I doubt he can smoke in the building. For now, he's in temporary care due to a fall from his motorized scooter. He injured his back again and is in physical therapy sessions to keep him mobile. So, Joe would love getting some surface mail, a phone call, or email to pass the time.

You can send mail to him at CalVet Home – Chula Vista, 700 E. Naples Court #B411, Chula Vista, CA 91911. His email is [josesims985@gmail.com](mailto:josesims985@gmail.com). His phone: 760.957.6242. And, by the way, did I mention, he loves to tell stories?



**GOLDEN ORANGE FRIEND**  
*by fumi-tome ohta*

Golden orange monarch  
breathes life into her wings  
slowly, gracefully  
open, close, open close  
drying them  
giving strength.  
The honeysuckle air  
makes her smile  
then fledged into the summer light  
happiness and joy like sparklers  
on a Fourth of July.  
Youthful kitty sees and plays  
with golden orange friend  
a silent symphony at play.  
Fluttering, darting,  
batting, waving  
then, things go terribly wrong.  
Golden Orange mangled,  
broken, wings torn to shreds.  
unable to flutter, life slowly,  
very slowly, begins to ebb, then  
gently, silently, fades away.  
Kitty lays besides golden orange  
she waits, she pines  
to play again with golden orange  
friend.



**THE FOURTH OF JULY 2020**

*by Diane Neil*

This has been a difficult year for all of us. The corona pandemic has taken a weary toll, and just when we thought things were getting better, unspeakable crimes and political squabbling became the new norm. Indeed, I have friends who refuse to watch the news.

The 4th of July was a magical night for Duncan and me. We live out in the open desert, and we were glad to learn we could watch so many fireworks displays. We took chairs out to our long driveway at dusk. Just as we were placing them, a more spectacular event occurred. The full moon was rising in the east, and a glorious sunset was painting the western sky red.

The fireworks were wonderful. A panorama of brilliant fire bursts kept us swiveling our necks to keep them all in focus. Loud pops and bangs behind us and the odor of ozone told us that neighbors were having their own illegal fireworks parties.

But long after the fireworks were over, we sat outside watching the full moon traverse across the sky. Man's accomplishments are amazing, but they are no match for those of Mother Nature. Her message of hope and peace give us comfort for the days ahead. She keeps us in her eternal loving embrace.



**I Vote for Saxon**

*by Mary Langer Thompson*

*Not the Anglos, of course,  
who suggested Suffragettes were catty  
so demeaned both women and kitties,  
insinuating my sisters were all crazy cat  
ladies.*

*Not the Anglos, of course,  
who were propagandists who dressed fe-  
lines  
in hats, and shawls, and let them wear  
the pants  
to show how silly we all were.*

*Not the Anglos, of course,  
who force fed women on hunger strikes  
holding them down while inserting tubes,  
previously done to only the insane.*

*Not the Anglos, of course,  
who feared we were tom cats  
who would steal their jobs  
and keep them home doing laundry.*

*But Saxon, black kitty from Alabama  
who turned the tables on those Anglos  
and got adopted by two Suffragists  
and traveled the USA with them.*

*You don't want to close them in—  
neither cats nor women.*

*So I vote for Saxon,  
the cat who purr-sisted.*



## Point of View ~~

### Found on Facebook

### COVID-19 Humor or How Can You be Funny at a Time like This?

They call it "Gallows' Humor when your mind goes to dark twisted thoughts. So we're into our fifth month of trying to defeat COVID-19. These words made me laugh (needed that!) but there's a lot of truth mixed in to consider. . .

1. So let me get this straight, there's no cure for a virus that can be killed by sanitizer and hand soap?
2. Is it too early to put up the Christmas tree yet? I have run out of things to do.
3. When this virus thing is over with, I still want some of you to stay away from me.
4. If these last months have taught us anything, it's that stupidity travels faster than any virus on the planet, particularly among politicians and bureaucrats.
5. Just wait a second – so what you're telling me is that my chance of surviving all this is directly linked to the common sense of others?  
You're kidding, right?
6. People are scared of getting fined or arrested for congregating in crowds, as if catching a deadly disease and dying a horrible death wasn't enough of a deterrent.
7. If you believe all this will end and we will get back to normal just because we reopen everything, raise your hand. Now slap yourself with it.
8. Another Saturday night in the house and I just realized the trash goes out more than I do.

9. Whoever decided a liquor store is more essential than a hair salon is obviously a bald-headed alcoholic.

10. Remember when you were little and all your underwear had the days of the week on them? Those would be helpful right now.

11. The spread of Covid-19 is based on two factors:

How dense the population is and

How dense the population is.

12. Remember all those times when you wished the weekend would last forever? Well, wish granted. Happy now?

13. It may take a village to raise a child, but I swear it's going to take a whole vineyard to home school one.

14. Did a big load of pajamas so I would have enough clean work clothes for this week.

As for me...

#### Rusty LaGrange:

I don't chime in very often on Facebook but this was worth reading and chuckling... I live in a remote part of the High Desert surround by new weed farms so the air is strong here. Pretty soon I won't care if I go out or what day it is...



**Opportunity knocks.  
Misfortune barges in uninvited.**





## Events Ahead > Book Fairs & more

### August & Sept. Activities

Aug. 4	HDCWC Board meeting
Aug. 8	HDCWC regular meeting (virtual meetings are in ZOOM format & dates may change)
Sept 8	HDCWC Board meeting
Sept 12	HDCWC regular meeting
Sept 29	Pay Your Dues deadline

Use PayPal for paying your dues



Remember we now  
offer PayPal as a  
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*WE HAVE A YOUTUBE CHANNEL*

Here's the link to the channel:

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UC28XLtEK5oBNq5gW2Zy1ssg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC28XLtEK5oBNq5gW2Zy1ssg)

Managed by Joan Rudder-Ward

### Time to Pay Your Dues

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## Member Services

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Text: (760) 596-8334

Email: angelahornblog@gmail.com



#### References:

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

Elizabeth Pye: (epye.com)

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

Do you provide a service that could benefit other writers?  
Send a JPEG file of your business card or ad to [Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com](mailto:Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com).  
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### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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**CWC High Desert Chapter.**

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

**Election of Officers will be postponed and ballots will be cast by email. The slate stands as is.**



Remember we now offer PayPal as a payment method for dues and purchases.

### Editor



Rusty LaGrange

*Editor of the  
CWC's  
The Bulletin*

next issue is mid-August

### Notes From the Editor

*Our board is making every effort to keep your interest in writing, promoting events coming soon, and tools to keep you engaged with the creative minds of your members. The best you can do now is try learning how to enter a Zoom Room. It may not be great but it works for now. Be sure to read The Final Word on the back of this issue of The Bulletin coming out later this month.*

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

**Submit Sept. items by Aug. 23; Submit Oct. items by Sept. 23**

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