



The INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC
Inspiring a Community of Writers

Sail On

March 2020

HOW A CRITIQUE GROUP WORKS & STRENGTHENS YOUR SKILLS

Members of the High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club (HDCWC) are scheduled to share a demonstration of how the club's critique groups work on Saturday, March 14. HDCWC members belonging to the mixed genre critique group, who will be doing the demonstration, are Laura Lagasse, Robin Celaya, Mike Apodaca, and Anita Holmes.

HDCWC has several critique groups consisting of writers who get together in private homes to evaluate and constructively criticize the works of fellow members.

Our meeting will be held at Jess Ranch Community Church 11537 Apple Valley Road in Apple Valley at its regular time from 10 am to noon. Remember that the public is always invited to attend, and admission is free. Children under 18 are welcome but must attend with their parent or guardian.



2020 SB County Fair Theme: "Party Like an Animal!"

Many of our members demonstrate a variety of talents as well as writing skills. Our ability to support the poetry contests at the Fair comes with the commitment to enter high quality items, offer monetary support through our non-profit organization, and to elevate the poetry genre in our communities. Several years ago, we began making a donation toward the Adult Poetry contest. This helped to offer more cash awards with ribbons for top entries and gain more poets across the High Desert to submit their poems. Guidelines this year have combined Adult and Children categories.

Now in our third year, we have again supported the Adult Poetry division. Are you ready to choose your best? Enter now. **Entries close:** April 10, 2020. Details for submissions and registration are on the website at: <https://www.sbcfair.com>. Contest booklets will be available at our next meeting.

Poetry Contest Guidelines: ♦ Two entries per person in this contest. ♦ Must have each page in a clear page protector, clipped together.

Division 16—Poetry Contest Classes (no separated divisions for Children/Adult)

1. Diamante; 2. Free Verse; 3. Haiku; 4. Sonnet; 5. Verse; 6. Any other, describe

There's also the many food, craft, and fine arts categories to consider. Each year we have members who enjoy entering these divisions. Good luck in advance and be sure to share your wins and entry photos with us here. We love to see and share our little victories.



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

Dwight Norris
hdcwcpresidentdnorris@gmail.com

Vice President

Mike Apodaca
MrDaca.ma@gmail.com

Secretary

Joan Rudder-Ward
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Treasurer

Jenny Margotta
Jennymargotta@mail.com

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Roberta Smith
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Gary Layton to Speak at Barstow Senior Center



MEET THE AUTHOR

Gary Layton

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

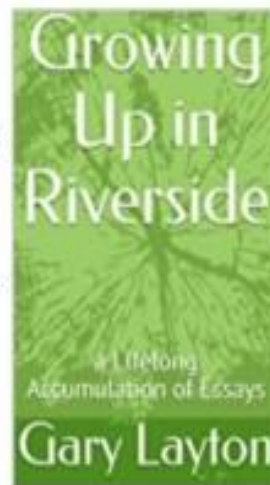
10 am

At the Barstow Senior Center
555 Melissa Ave. Barstow, CA

"Growing up in Riverside" is the autobiographical story of two young boys born into poor dysfunctional families, growing up in Riverside, California in the 40's and 50's and their struggle to live a normal childhood.

Their enthusiasm, spirit of adventure and entrepreneurship helped them survive and grow up to be successful professionals. This book tells of their adventures, troubles and triumphs from childhood through their adolescent years and into adulthood.

Includes 10 pages of pictures illustrating their stories.



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



Jenny Margotta

from an

EDITOR'S DESK

Inspiration

My morning routine goes something like this: wake up, reluctantly climb out of bed, get dressed, pour myself a diet soda (sorry, coffee drinkers), sit down at the computer. Then I need to jumpstart my brain before I can actually attempt to be productive. One of the ways I do that is to search for quotes that pertain to my life or my writing and editing.

Here are three of my favorites—at least for today. They may change tomorrow:

“If you don’t have time to read, you don’t have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that.”
~Stephen King

I am always amazed when I talk to writers who tell me they don’t read much. I even had one guest at a program I conducted get very combative when I said how important reading is for a writer. If you don’t think reading is important, why in the world are you writing? Who’s going to read it?

“Any book without a mistake in it has had too much money spent on it.”

~William Collins (18th century English poet)

I love this one. We all strive for perfection, especially editors. After all, isn’t that why writers pay editors—to perfect their work? But as we all know, it’s nearly impossible—if not absolutely impossible—to end up with zero mistakes.

Case in point: I’m currently reading *Alert* by James Patterson. *New York Times* best-selling author, big name publisher, there can’t be any mistakes in his books. Right? Wrong.

The hero, Michael Bennett, has just landed at JFK and has been notified that his grandfather is missing. “I finally went through some sliding doors into the cold, grim predawn street. Above the curbside taxi stand, rain pelted off a fading rusted sign from maybe the eighties-era Koch administration.” (*bottom of page 19*) Turn the page to the first paragraph on page 20. “I was stuck in my taxi on the 59th Street Bridge staring at the towers of Man-

hattan in the honking suicide evening rush-hour traffic when Brooklyn called me back.”

Anyone notice the problem? “Actually,” says the keen-eyed editor. “There are two problems.”

1) How can it be a *predawn* street when he gets *into* the taxi and then he’s suddenly stuck in “*evening* rush-hour traffic?”

2) Missing commas. The missing comma after “Bridge” indicates the bridge was staring. It wasn’t, of course. Michael was staring. And multiple adjectives generally need a comma or two for clarification. The preferred/correct punctuation for this sentence is: “I was stuck in my taxi on the 59th Street Bridge, staring at the towers of Manhattan in the honking, suicide, evening rush-hour traffic, when Brooklyn called me back.”

“No passion in the world is equal to the passion to alter someone else’s draft.” ~ H. G. Wells

I take great pride in the novels and cookbook I have authored and co-authored, and as time allows, I’ve started on my next novel. But I think I am even more proud of my work as an editor. I love knowing that I’ve taken a really good story and made it even better. That’s what I strive to do with every book I edit.

Word of the Month:

Trickier this time. Pick the best word in this example:

Jason loved working in the _____ thrift store. He never knew when he’d find a treasure in the bursting racks of merchandise.

- A. widdershins;
- B. taradiddle
- C. hugger-mugger
- D. bumpershoot

The answer is C. When used as an adjective, Bing’s Online Dictionary defines “hugger-mugger” as “confused; disorderly.” EX: a spirit of careless frivolity where all was hugger-mugger. SYNONYMS: disorderly, confused, disorganized, chaotic, muddled, haphazard.



Windows Wizardry

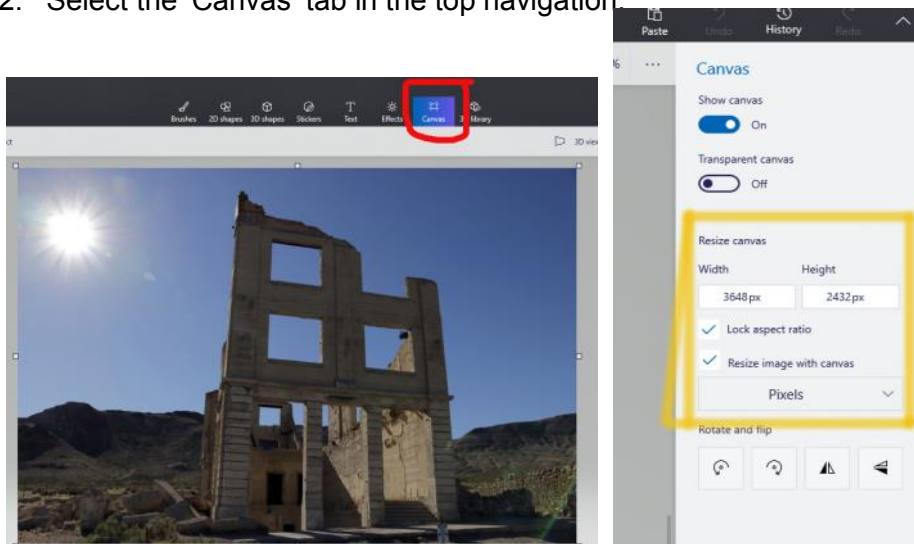
Tech Advice for the Novice

by Joan Rudder-Ward

How to reduce an image in Windows Paint 3D

Here's an easy way to reduce an image using software you probably already have.

1. Open the image to be reduced in Paint 3D. On my Windows 10 system, Paint 3D is in Windows Accessories.
2. Select the 'Canvas' tab in the top navigation



To the right there opens a window that says "Resize" which shows the current dimensions of the image

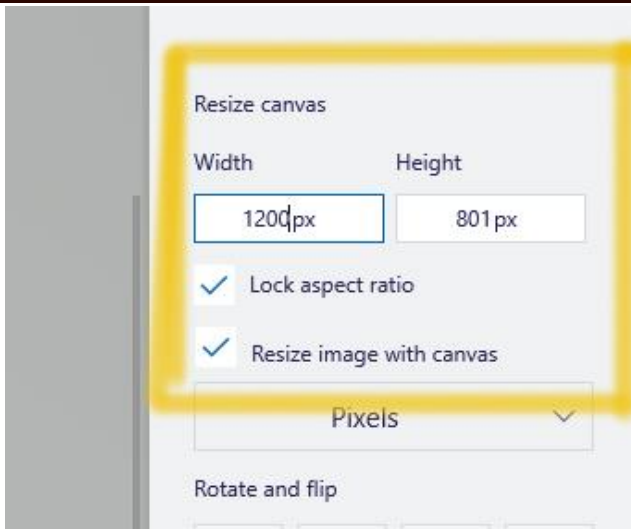
In this example our width is 3648 px and height 2432px.

The boxes for 'Lock aspect ratio' and 'resize image with canvas' should be checked. The locked aspect ratio keeps the image the same proportions regardless of the changes in width and height.

3. Change the 'width' dimensions to the pixels you want and once you hit enter, the height will change proportionally. In this example, I changed the width to 1200px which is a good size for a newsletter photo, or even to email. There are differing opinions on what is ideal, but most 'experts' agree the width should be no less than 600 px.

To Save

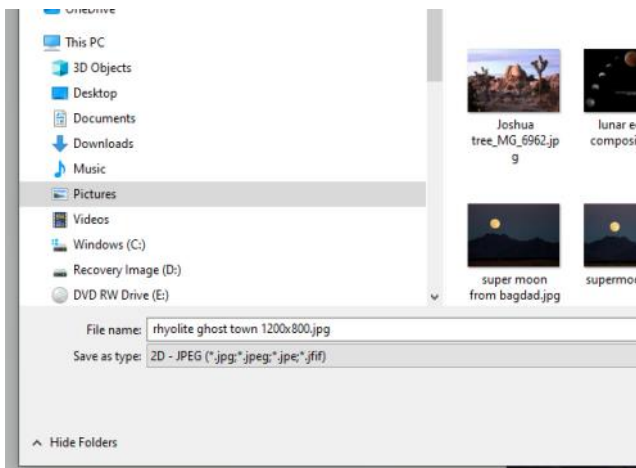
Continued next page



Select 'menu' in the top left corner

Select 'save as' file format 'image'

Change the file number slightly. I usually keep the name of image and add the new dimensions in the file name so I can quickly select the image with the dimensions needed.



And there you have it!

An image you can easily attach to an email message and not receive an error message!



OUR OWN YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Here's the link to the channel:

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

Managed by Joan Rudder-Ward



A Grapefruit Tree & Me

by
fumi-tome
ohta

I haven't walked around Los Angeles since 1995-96 where I worked at a senior complex. Seeing the complex in the near distance was nostalgic. And across the brick landscape was another memory, a citrus tree. When I was employed at the senior complex, it was said that the citrus tree was over a 100 years old. I think there might have been two citrus trees sitting majestically on a side street and one or both trees would be moved from the side street to where it is now to a plaza where they would be given better care.

I walked up to the grapefruit tree full of memories of a time when I used to sit under this tree on my breaks years ago taking in the ambiance of people enjoying the plaza, the breeze that whirled and danced full of joy and happiness. I would see little sprigs of growth peeking from the trunk at soil level then to look up to see young translucent leaves waving to me and everyone around a 'hello' and at certain times of the year there were softball sized grapefruits bouncing up, down, up down. Now, decades later, I stand before her pursing my lips together eyes and heart breaking at what I see before me. I remembered standing

under her branches years ago which looked fuller, healthier....happier. Now, the bark of her trunk looks like many "someones" have been savagely tearing away layers of her trunk, or is it that her bark is giving way by itself through time. I was saddened to see so many knobs on her trunk. I thought to myself, are those knobs where her branches used to be?

I touched her bark; I thought I felt her stiffen and shutter as if ashamed, as if feeling so torn at what she's become. I was crying inside as I touched her, to remember our times together, to say, "I'm sorry." These circumstances beyond our control that brought us to this point in time as we see each other, to see what time has ravaged, no matter what, together, now, the memories of yesterday here again, maybe one last time.



GET YOUR FAIRS IN ORDER

SBCo Fair Contest Open March Through April 10th

Competitive Exhibits Schedule of Events Friday, April 10, 2020 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Last day to turn in your entry forms into office and/or online. All entry forms will be accepted from March 2020 until April 10, 2020 at 4 p.m. with the exception of Agriculture/ Horticulture and Floriculture. Sunday, April 26, 2020 & Monday, April 27, 2020 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Entries received: Preserved Foods, Home Arts, Ceramics & Plaster craft, all Crafts, Wood Carving, Miniatures, Models, Collections, Fine Art, Photography and all Youth & 4-H Sunday, May 3, 2020 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More extensive details for Craft and Homemade Goods can be found on the Fair website.

—Alaska USA Building Monday, June 1, 2020 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. All exhibits released

2020 Fair Theme: "Party Like an Animal!" Entries close: April 10, 2020

<https://www.sbcfair.com/p/getconnected/exhibits>



Sharing ideas is Great.
Sharing Germs, not so much.
Please stay home if you're not well.

SALONS: OPEN CALL FOR NEW TOPICS AT YOUR HOME

Have you opened your home to members who love discussions on the craft of writing? Anything goes for topics of interest.

A salon is hosted by a member either at their home or a public place that is comfortable for a small group, usually not more than 10.

You design the topic and time, whether you have refreshments and the limit of attendees. If there are costs involved a small stipend can be given by the branch with prior notice to Lorelei Kay, our Salons coordinator.

Some salons have triggered more interest and evolved into a new critique group. For better management, the salon may only be attended by members in good standing. No guests or children are allowed

Sign up with Lorelei at (loreleikay7@gmail.com) and give *The Inklinger* some lead time to promote it, and you too can host a salon.

**TIME FOR
A LAUGH**



What's in a Name?

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, then doesn't follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?

Another Gem

If Fed EX and UPS ever merged, would they call it: Fed Up?

What Was His Come-on Line at the Bar?

by Lorelei Kay



Amorous high skill set
"Diego" sexy tortoise
Answered duty's call

Saved entire breed
By swinging for his
species
Romancing reptile

One hundred years old
On Galapagos Island
Lusty libido

Busy half century
Eight hundred plus descendants
Promiscuous run

Loads of mass mating
Fifty years frenzied orgies
Population boom

Huge hard-shelled heart throb
Prolifically sexual
Not so cold-blooded

Everything still works
His posterity proves it
Even neck retracts

Hefty hunk of male
Through philandering abroad
Returning back home

To Española
But he's still not retiring
Probably smiling

Whether speed of deed
Or fertile of the turtle,
Diego's our guy!



Stories that will stop your heart ... but not your spirit.

Events Ahead > Book Fairs & more

MAR. — APR. ACTIVITIES

- Feb. 4 HDCWC Board meeting
- Feb. 6 Black History Read-In 5-7 pm at Hesperia Library. Music and refreshments.
- Feb. 8 HDCWC regular meeting
- Feb. 29 Lit Rev. Deadline
- Mar. 8 International Women's Day
- Mar. 10 HDCWC Board meeting
- Mar. 14 HDCWC regular meeting

2020 SBC Fair Hours

Day	Date	Fair Opens At
Saturday	May 23rd	Noon
Sunday	May 24th	Noon
Monday	May 25th	Noon
Tuesday	May 26th	Closed
Wednesday	May 27th	Closed
Thursday	May 28th	4:00pm
Friday	May 29th	4:00pm
Saturday	May 30th	Noon
Sunday	May 31st	Noon

Critique Groups Revamped

Michael Raff and Linda Boruff are now our new critique co-chairs for 2020. They'll be checking with members for feedback.

Our March general meeting will be (so far) an interactive look at critiquing methods, topics, and how to manage a new group.

Plenty of room for fledgling critiquers to explore Memoir, Children's, Poetry, Non-Fiction, Screen Writing, and Young Authors ages 10-18.

Only members in good standing may participate in a critique group, usually hosted in a member's home.



Have You Purchased Yours Yet?

On The Lighter Side: Our Newest Branch Anthology



Available on Amazon and during select branch meetings

A total of forty-one works from twenty-two HDCWC authors are combined in this collection. Don't be surprised if one of the stories makes you laugh out loud, or if you find yourself inspired to write a story or poem of your own.



Order extra copies of our HDCWC anthologies for your bookshelf, your gifts, as a Senior Center donation. Titles can be found on Amazon.com Pre-orders can be delivered during our regular meetings.

Editor



Rusty LaGrange

Editor of the CWC's The Bulletin

next issue is mid-March

Notes From the Editor

I realize that many members enjoy poetry—either as a crafter of poems, or a reader—so each time April comes around, I always encourage everyone to either try their hand at a new poem form, pick up a poetry book collection, or just give it a try. Long gone are the school teachers who insisted on rhyme. It's time to try experimenting with the poetry genes in all of us. Start with a limerick: "There once was a shy desert boy; who ached to be Roseanna's joy; but the more he would aim; for authorship fame; the less she would love him as coy." Ah, I rate this one a 6 out of 10. Let your poetry gene free!

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. Articles and stories between 300 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 April 2020 items by Mar. 23, 2020
Submit Mar. 2020 items by Feb. 23, 2020