



# INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC SAIL ON

Inspiring a Community of Writers

MAY 2016

## POINT OF VIEW

### COINCIDENCE IN WRITING — *Naw!!*

Coincidence can unexpectedly bring people together. It can also separate people. It can peak conflict and spin action off in a different direction. We've all experienced coincidence in our lives.

In writing, coincidence can have the same effects. It can surprise the reader, throwing characters together or tearing them apart. It can bring truths to light or cast them into the dark. It can put a spin on conflict that is a total surprise.

Writing instructors frown on coincidence as a device for drama. *Unbelievable! They say. Not realistic! Distracting.*

So on this wet and dreary day outside of Killarney, Ireland, my little group toured the Ross Castle, a whitewashed remnant replete with murder rooms and arrow chutes—little chambers designed to capture invaders who'd breached the castle boundaries and douse them with boiling water and pierce them with arrows shot at close range. The castle was built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and after trudging up and down the stone spiral staircase and viewing the bedrooms and dining room, each of us was grateful to enjoy the comforts of our own 21<sup>st</sup> century.

After the tour we retreated to a pub for lunch and I downed one of the several Guinneses many of you asked me to imbibe on your behalf. I must say, however, that had I drunk one for each of you who asked for my representation in a pub, I would not have remembered much of my journey.

Seven of us sat at the pushed together tables while we enjoyed lunch and a brew. A single table sat off from ours and accommodated a married couple. I noticed the woman heard something that tickled her ear in our conversation and she leaned in to hear more. Eventually, she revealed that she'd

*Continued on Page 2*

### Irregular Meeting at the Home of Hazel Stearns



Our regularly scheduled HDCWC general meeting for May will not be held at Jess Ranch Community Church. Meet this time only at Hazel Stearns' home. We ask that you call to RSVP and get directions to her home. You can contact Loralie Kay through her email for more information.

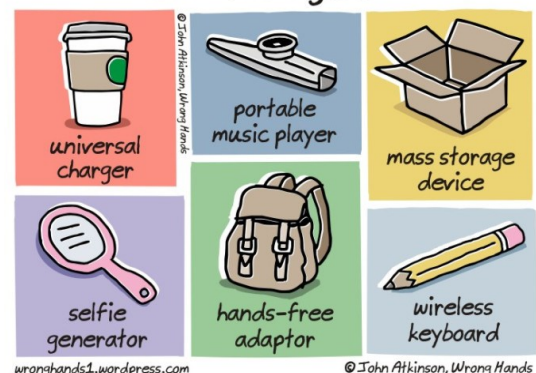
Email: [LoralieKay@aol.com](mailto:LoralieKay@aol.com)

This meeting  
is for members only

We also ask that you carpool as much as possible since there is limited parking at her Hesperia home. Our meeting will be a leisurely visit among colleagues in several rooms and social time. We'll meet from 10-noon as usual.

June's meeting will resume at Jess Ranch Community Church.

#### low-tech gifts



[wronghands1.wordpress.com](http://wronghands1.wordpress.com)

© John Atkinson, Wrong Hands

**Continued from Page 1**

heard the name of a small town in California—Bridgeport, it was—where she used to live and her mother still does.

“Where do you live now?” one of us asked.

“Oh, you’ve probably never heard of it,” she said. “Apple Valley, California.”

We exchanged information at their table. They wanted to know roughly where I lived in Apple Valley and I told them—near Delaware and Yucca Loma. I asked them the same question.

“Near Highway 18 and Flathead Road,” she said.

About a mile and a half from my house. You travel six thousand miles from home to meet one of your neighbors. So my thought about coincidence is that it happens, it’s not far-fetched, it’s not even uncommon. So don’t avoid writing about it. It’s part of life.

*Did that really happen?* you think. I couldn’t have made it up. It would’ve been too big a coincidence. It takes real life to make that kind of stuff happen! But maybe you should limit each novel to one major coincidence. More believable that way!



## HDCWC Announces 2016 Election Slate

The HDCWC Nominating Committee announced the upcoming slate of officers eligible and willing to stand for election at the general membership meeting on June 11 at the Jess Ranch Community Church in Apple Valley. The election of officers will be determined at that time by those members present and voting.

The members standing for election are as follows:

**President Dwight Norris**

**Vice President Michael Raff**

**Secretary Naomi Ward**

**Treasurer Jenny Margotta**

Member-at-Large and other positions are co-terminus with the expiration of the term of the current president, and will be appointed by the president after the June 11 election.

If you would like to stand for election, please notify Bob Isbill, Linda Boruff or Mary Langer Thompson of the Nominating Committee.

Other eligible members in good standing are able to be nominated at the June 11 meeting with or without notice to the Nominating Committee, but anyone nominated must be present to declare willingness to serve out the term, or have that willingness in writing in order to run for election.

## CWC Central Board Openings, Two Officers Needed

The CWC Central Board will be holding its elections in July 2016 in Oakland. They need someone to stand for the positions of Secretary and Treasurer. If any HDCWC member is qualified and willing to stand for election and serve in one of these offices, please notify the Central Board Representative, Bob Isbill via email at [risbill@aol.com](mailto:risbill@aol.com) or phone (760)221-6367.

The person filling either of those positions by election would automatically become the HDCWC Central Board Representative, and serve in the capacity of one of those positions.

The requirement of the Central Board Representative is to be able to use computer Internet correspondence and participation, and to be willing to travel to Oakland on dates that the CWC holds its meetings, and to be the liaison between the Branch and the Central Board.

**Your  
Vote  
Counts**





## What You Missed

If you could sum it up in one phrase, Pamela Samuels-Young is following the advice of all writing programs — write what you know. She not only exercised her dream for a novelist lifestyle, but in learning how to be an attorney she was able to tap into that knowledge to become a thriller novelist with a wicked insight.

***“I’m waiting for Oprah to call me.”***

To be prolific in writing you must “eat, drink, and sleep your novel.” She notes that her time at work was never compromised so she found ways to write. “Use positive thinking when you’re showering, while you’re walking, when you’re shopping, sitting in the doctor’s waiting room. Take that time to steal traits of passers-by.”

Pamela suggests that every writer must be prepared for that bit of inspiration by jotting down notes in a binder or notepad at all times. Keep a folder of resources clipped from newspapers and magazines. Use these to prompt you at home to stay on course. Then, select the optimal time for your brain. Are you an early riser? Take advantage of your families quiet time. Are you a night owl? Promote your own quiet time after the family is asleep.

Set goals that you can meet. Make a pact with yourself to make these commitments to write — then stick to it. Believe in your dream!



**Pamela Samuels-Young**



***Photos & Story by  
Rusty LaGrange***



**“I’m waiting for Oprah to call me.”**



**Pamela Samuels-Young with friend, Darlene**

So while you’re waiting for Oprah to call you:

1. Be consistent with your goals by planning your writing time.
2. Carve out a personal time block each day.
3. Write down your commitment as a contract to yourself.
4. Commit to yourself. Don’t allow everyone in your life to take you off track. All it takes is one phone call, one knock at the door, one look into a thesaurus, and you’ll fall down the rabbit hole.
5. Discipline and belief will create that final product. It will have been worth the time invested. It can be done.



## CHECK HERE FOR THE LATEST SALON EVENTS, BOOK SIGNINGS OR HOST YOUR OWN

WHAT'S A SALON?



### Appreciating Poetry in Salon



A Poetry Appreciation Salon held on April 11 drew club members together at the home of Mary Ruth Hughes. Co-hosted by Mary Langer Thompson and Loralie Kay, the salon featured an endearing film featuring young poetry readers. Afterwards, Mary Thompson, our resident California Senior Poet Laureate for 2012, lead a lively discussion about why some poems endure. Also attending and enjoying the friendship, brownies, and caramel corn, were Liz Pye, Linda Boruff, and June Langer, and not pictured, Loralie Kay.

### A Strident Call For Writers to Get Out of Their Homes for a Creative Recharge

by Holly Robinson of The Huffington Post.com

*Leave home. I don't care if you borrow a friend's empty kitchen while she's away for the weekend, sign up for a writing retreat, or rent a motel room, but find a way to get out of your house. Your family will survive and you will come to embrace this time, making the almighty leap between caretaker and woman writer easier.*

HighDesertBlogging.com recently hosted a 3-day writing retreat in Lucerne Valley's Lazy Lizard Ranch, and by Monday, many of us reported feeling pumped up.

### Two Mixed Genre Critiques

#### Seats Are Available

Anita Holmes is hosting two critique groups. Mid-week Critique, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. And Weekend Critique, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information, please contact Anita Holmes.  
mailto:pennedbyanita@outlook.com

### Planning a Writers' Salon at Your Home or a Local Café?

Let Loralie Kay help you. She's our Salons Coordinator with some great ideas. Email her at  
LoralieKay@aol.com

### Networking For HDCWC

Become a volunteer Ambassador with the Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce. Lunch meetings are held on third Wednesdays beginning at 11:15 am.

Contact Anita Holmes for more info: 760-954-3329 or  
pennedbyanita@outlook.com

### SHARE THE DATE

### On Our New Online Calendar

We now have an online calendar of HDCWC related Events! Book signing? Salon? Workshop? Post the dates in advance. Contact Webmaster Roberta Smith to enter events.

Check it out!

Keep Up With What's Going On at the HDCWC  
<http://www.hdcwc.com/calendar.html>

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# More Celebration of National Poetry Month

Why stop a Good Thing? We continue poetry sharing right through May!

## THE BOX

*by Rusty LaGrange*

The image is quite clear.  
To grasp and hold on tight.  
a ragged cuddle dog  
to get me through the night.

I hear my child's fear.  
Her whimpers in the night.  
a doll with yarn of gold  
to get her through the fright.

We huddle round a box  
and open with delight.  
to see once more our tears  
appear in memory's light..

We grasp and hug our toys  
and give them one more squeeze  
before we shut the lid  
and release our histories.

## After the Affair

*by Jeanne Newcomer*

The archeology of love  
is fraught with unearthed bones and funerary tem-  
ples and blocks of stone  
buried in some far off Saharan rift.  
Can you feel the drift of sand sifting in that ancient  
crypt?

Excavation of such a site  
requires much care and oversight  
so not to scavenge the inscribed stone and brittle  
bone.

In this sun court of the ancients  
one must learn the art of patience.

This colonnaded hall of stone, where gods once  
reigned,

is ringed in memory and regret.

Now, sorrow and silence guard this land.

My footsteps trace a quick retreat across the shift-  
ing sand.

Excavation?

Restoration?

Perhaps there is an afterlife.





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# Dear Kiddo

*by fumi-tome ohta*

[A letter from a mother who is a 'weekend warrior', a member of the US Army Reserves telling her daughter that her unit's on standby alert with possible and immediate activation. A letter that conveys one of the stark realities of her chosen career as she waits for the dreaded phone call from her unit telling her to drop everything and report for duty immediately and there would be no time to say goodbye.]

Dear Kiddo:

I don't know where to begin or even say to you all that I'm feeling tonight. You're so young and maybe you won't understand what is going on or all that I'm saying to you but, first off, I wanted to tell you I love you very much.

Honey, I wanted to tell you that today the sergeants assembled all of us into the field. With a solemn face and voice to match, he stood before us to tell us we were officially On Alert for possible and immediate activation into a war zone in the Middle East. I will never forget those eight little words that almost knocked me senseless. His words were so powerful and deadly it made us all tremble where we stood, bringing moisture to our eyes:

***Go home and get your affairs in order.***

What does this mean? Honey, first off, I wanted you to be taken care of in case I had to leave suddenly, in case there was no time to say goodbye. I asked you whom you wanted to live with in case something happened to me. I don't think you grasped the magnitude of my question. You probably thought you were going on an overnight stay when you said you wanted to live with aunty and uncle.

I can imagine you hating this letter, hating me for leaving without saying goodbye, for not hugging each other with all our might one last time, a forever kiss, and a mixing of tears. Just the thought of you hating me, no honey, that's too much. Please don't hate me.

Kiddo, I'm scared and I'm worried for you and me. I'm sitting here wanting to tell you so many things. Things I would never have thought about because they were things I took for granted because I thought we would always be together. Now, I don't know about today or tomorrow because I'll be going to a place I don't know if I'll be coming back. What a strange thing to say. Of course, if you go someplace, you always come back. I wish it were as simple as that.

I was thinking of you and Mother's Day and how you would always be making a Mother's Day card for me. I wanted you to know that I looked forward to that card every year. I remember one year you used your lunch money to buy me a flower at school, it was one of the hottest days of the year and when I came to pick you up at Happy Day Camp, you held out a wilted long-stemmed rose that you kept close to you all day, a thoughtful, thorn-filled gift thrust into my hand, a gift just for me.

"Happy Mother's Day!" Remember how you used to ask me, "How much do you love me? 1 through 10."

I don't think there's a number high enough to measure how much I love you or how much you mean to me. Oh, yes, I know. It's the sideways figure 8. Infinity.

"What number is that?!" you said.

Tonight, I know one thing. I'll never take for granted being able to hold you or to kiss you goodnight.

Dear Kiddo,

I love you.

Love, *Mom*



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## Follow Up on World Book Night 2016

### *Finding Readers at the Homeless Shelter*

A total of 23 books were distributed outside the homeless shelter on Amargosa in Victorville this year. This was a special World Book Night because not only was it commemorating Cervantes' birth, but it was the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shakespeare's birth.

Thank you to the following High Desert California Writers Club authors:

#### Member Contributions

- Evelyn Blocker:      *Life is Basically Tragic, But Not Mine* (signed)  
                              *Angel and Stories from the Heart* (signed)
- Renee Foss:          *Leaving Life Today? Tomorrow? Or Yesterday?* (signed)  
                              *We Are Many: Is It Up Or Down From Here?* (signed)  
                              *Pre-Yata Feast: Part One* (signed)  
                              *Pre-Yata Feast: Part Two* (signed)
- Dwight Norris:      *Johnny McCarthy: A Coal Miner's Son* (signed)  
                              *My Name is Inferno* (signed)  
                              *The Gentleman Host* (signed)
- Mary Langer Thompson: *Poems in Water* (signed)
- Lorelei:                *From Mormon to Mermaid* (signed)
- Diane Neil, Ed.:      *Jack London in boyhood Adventures* (signed by editor)
- J. P. Newcomer:      *Interface* (signed)
- Francis Smith Savage: *...and now The Journey Continues* (signed)
- Greta L. Smith:      *Once Upon a Time in Sweden* (signed)
- Hazel Stearns:        *Shaping Kate*
- Rita Wells:            *Janie Plants a Tree* (2 copies, signed)

#### Voluntarily Given by Club Presenters/Speakers

- Bonnie Barnett:      *Bobo's Daughter*
- Pamela Samuels Young: *Anybody's Daughter* (signed)  
                              *Buying Time* (signed)  
                              *Lawful Deception* (signed)  
                              *Murder on the Down Low* (signed)

Special thanks to Miss Toni, Supervisor, and Marisol L. Dubois, Assistant Manager of the Homeless Shelter in Victorville, California.



*"The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor."*

—Vince Lombardi

# Congratulations Class of 2016

*by fumi-tome ohta*

You've achieved another milestone in your life.

In your circle of family and friends,  
no one is prouder of your accomplishment than I.

Continue to learn

continue to make a difference  
in your life and  
in the lives of others.

And as you travel this road less traveled

I present to you this model plane.

Not just a mere model plane, a symbol of the road,  
a road you will travel alone  
making plans,  
making dreams,  
fulfilling goals.

The road ahead is not an easy one.

As you put this plane together piece by piece,  
this wood is balsa wood, it is fragile.

Please take care much as you take care of your life  
Each piece fits in a certain way,  
in a certain slot,  
each piece has a purpose,  
no matter how inconsequential it may seem.

When you put it together

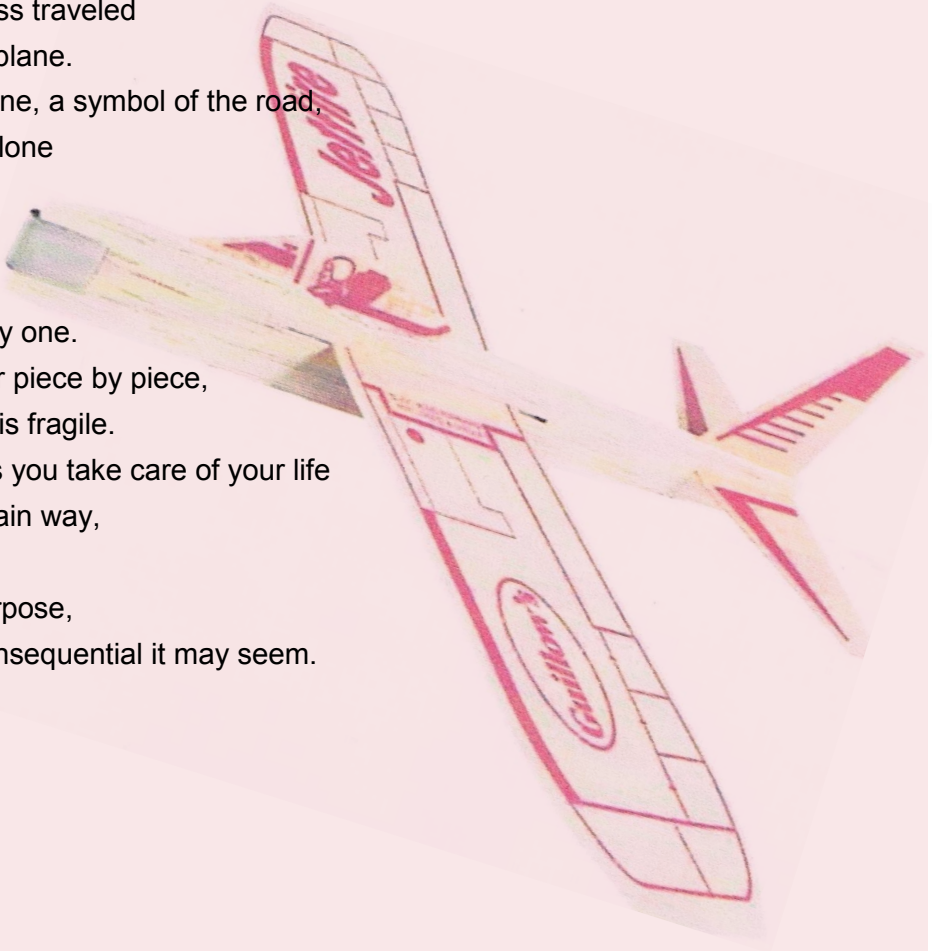
it will fly as you will fly.

Up into the sky above.

You will fly with eagles.

American Eagles.

I salute you !





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EDITOR'S NOTE: The following personal essay is brought to you for consideration. Defining specific genres that we all can make significant contributions through, as well as utilizing a shorter format like an essay, is encouraging for both new and experienced writers. This author was found through the Internet and her networking with SPAWN and other online writing communities. (Printed with permission)

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# Swerve

By Brenda Miller

I'm sorry about that time I ran over a piece of wood in the road. A pound of marijuana in the trunk and a faulty brake light—any minute the cops might have pulled us over, so you were edgy already, and then I ran over that piece of stray lumber without even slowing down. *Thunk, thunk*, and then the wood spun behind us on the road. Your dark face dimmed even darker, and you didn't yell at first, only turned to look out the window, and I made the second mistake: *What's wrong?* That's when you exploded. *You're so careless, you don't even think, what if there had been a nail in that damn thing*, you yelled, your face so twisted now, and ugly. *And I'm always the one that has to fix it whenever something breaks.*

*I'm sorry*, I said, and I said it again, and we continued on our way through the desert, in the dark of night, with the contraband you had put in our trunk, with the brake light you hadn't fixed blinking on and off, me driving because you were too drunk, or too tired, or too depressed, and we traveled for miles into our future, where eventually I would apologize for the eggs being overcooked, and for the price of light bulbs, and for the way the sun blared through our trailer windows and made everything too bright, and I would apologize when I had the music on and when I had it off, I'd say sorry for being in the bathroom, and sorry for crying, and sorry for laughing, I would apologize, finally, for simply being alive, and even now I'm sorry I didn't swerve, I didn't get out of the way.



"Swerve" is included in Brenda Miller's newest collection of essays, *An Earlier Life*, published in April 2016 by Ovenbird Books. Available at Amazon in both print and kindle editions: [http://www.amazon.com/Earlier-Life-Brenda-Miller/dp/1940906016/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1462238462&sr=8-1&keywords=an+earlier+life](http://www.amazon.com/Earlier-Life-Brenda-Miller/dp/1940906016/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1462238462&sr=8-1&keywords=an+earlier+life)



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## Ramp Up Your Creative Style with a New Look at Alternative Forms

No matter what you write, it's good practice to occasionally dip your pen into other creative ink-lings. It keeps your skills sharp and your writing fresh. Plus it's nice to take a break from writing the same thing all the time. Rather than always using memoir, novels, and short stories to help keep the Muses exercised, consider the alternate forms that haven't been published here in awhile. Minute mysteries, short-short stories under 500 words, the 55-word challenge, and Flash Fiction from 300 -1,000 words, and novella at 17,500 and 40,000 words are examples. Google the website WritingForward.com and look around the Internet for new ideas. They may inspire you.

## How Can a Writer Make Money Blogging?



***A blogger's column  
by Angie Horn***

Writers make terrific bloggers. That is, when they put their mind to it. Once writers see the opportunities available to them through blogging to boost their writing business, they're off and running.

Writers who are waiting to blog treat their writing business like they're in their car sitting at a red traffic light. "Well, I'll go when the light turns green (when I'm told it's time to start blogging)."

You're driving the car and know that you are required to sit at that light until it turns green. You don't have any control over when the light turns red, yellow, or green. But you DO have control over when to start blogging or who decides whether you should blog or not.

I think many writers think it's a waste of time to blog and that they don't think blogging is writing. Blogging IS writing. It's just a different form of writing. It's writing online.

### **Why should you blog?**

The bottom line is because you want to make more money. You want more people to buy your books. The continuous exposure in blogging will help your readers become more aware of you.

### **What should you blog about?**

Blog/write about your books, of course. But let people see who you are, what you are willing to show the public. For instance, publish pictures of you and your spouse, you and your dog, or you and writer friends in a critique group, etc. Do a weekly writing exercise on your blog. Be creative.

You have what it takes to be a blogger. You decide when the light turns green. Just go for it!

***Happy Blogging ~~ Angie***

*Angie Horn is a blogging coach and author.*

*Contact her at [hdblogging@gmail.com](mailto:hdblogging@gmail.com).*

## ***~~ The Bulletin ~~ Put Your Offer in Their Hands***

***Deadline for advertising submissions for the August issue is Friday, July 29, 2016. Capacity for advertising will be determined by the Editor-in-Chief. In case we receive more ads than can be accommodated, submitters will be notified of their option to reserve space in the next issue.***

**Check or money order made  
payable to:**

**CWC Central Treasury**

for submitted ads

must be mailed to:

**HDCWC**

**The Bulletin**

**Marketing Department**

**20258 Hwy 18 STE 430 PMB 281**

**Apple Valley, CA 92307**

**High Desert Branch  
of California Writers Club  
PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT**

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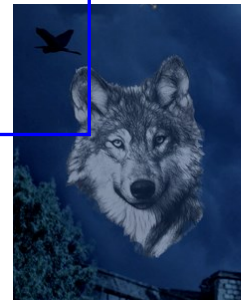
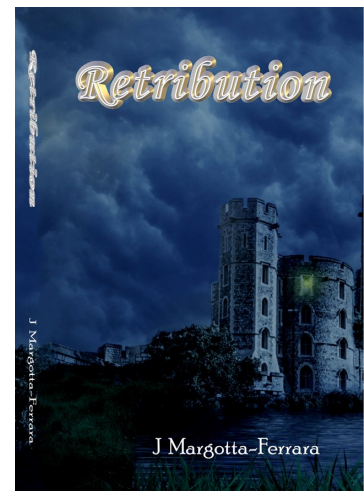
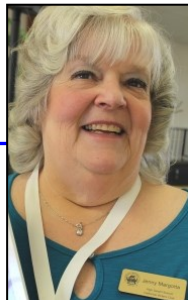
## Jenny Margotta Publishes First Fantasy

After years of working on edited manuscripts for the membership and others, Jenny Margotta has a new book out. *Retribution* is a fantasy adventure set in early medieval Europe and was co-authored by Jenny and her late husband, John, and extensively revised by her after his death.

It is available on Amazon.com for \$7.75 plus tax and shipping or in person with the author for \$7.00. The gripping conclusion in her two-part series, *Resolution*, is scheduled for publication in December of 2016. See *Retribution* and other books by selected members of HDCWC on the website, [www.writerslairus.com](http://www.writerslairus.com).

For those of you who may not know, Jenny is also the featured author mid-May for the online magazine, *Heard Herd*. If you read her book, be sure to give her a review.

<http://www.heardnotherd.com/>



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## Oakland City Commends Jack London's Memories and CWC Booth, May 4th

Members of the Oakland northern branch were part of the celebration of Older Americans Month in the park where many of our early authors took part in benefits and celebrations at the turn of the 1900s. Thanks to Annalee Allen, a booth was shared during Jack London Legacy Celebration 2016 at Oakland City Hall. They will have more items before the May 22nd Oakland Book Festival.

Meanwhile Cecelia's book and the Atherton book published by the CA Writers Club High Desert Branch are in excellent spots. Recognition was given to members who published books appropriate to celebrate Jack London.





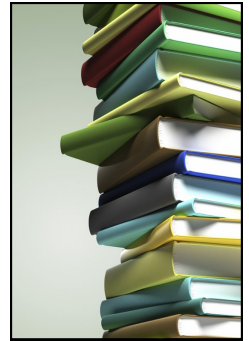
# Book Fairs Galore: follow up

## Barnes & Noble Book Fair



Jeanne Newcomer beams with excitement as she mans her first booth at Barnes & Noble during the Book Fair week where donations were generated for CWC through a designated number code during the week of April 23-30.

Beginning on this page you will see just how many authors use book fair events to maximize their marketing and exposure to the public. Are you selling your books? Or storing them in your garage?



## Spring Book Fair Sponsored by Nevermore Enterprises & HDCWC Offers New Marketing Strategies for Authors



**Marilyn King**



**Madeline Gornell**

Authors set up their booths during the week long event. Children cluster around a booth where their purchases become donations of percentage sales sponsored by Barnes & Noble Book stores nationally.





**Loralie Kay**



**Davida Siwisa James**



**Our volunteer,  
Christian  
Schultz, age 16,  
an ROTC student from Oak  
Hills High  
School**



**Evelyn Blocker**



**Joyce and Michael Raff, I think  
Nevermore Enterprises**



**Rusty LaGrange, representing club anthologies**





**Mary Langer Thompson & Evelyn Blocker**

More book vendors fill the hall  
at Jess Ranch Community Church



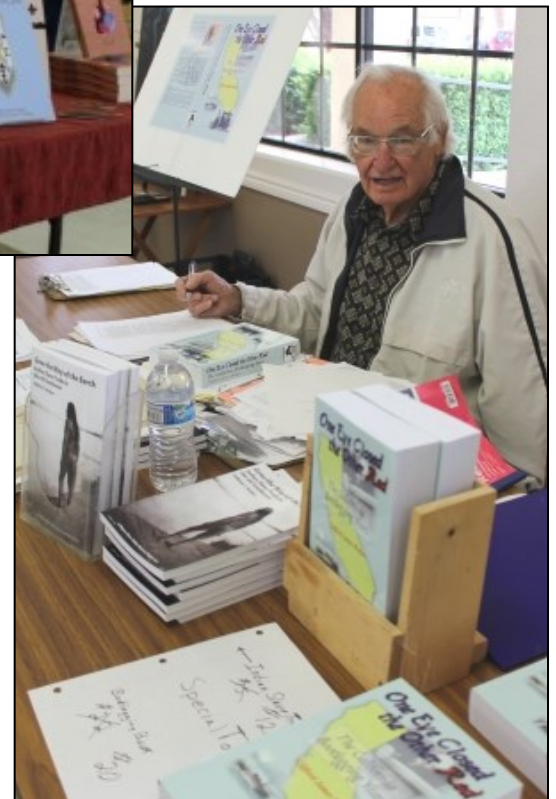
**Ivan Summers & Bobi Sullivan**



**Mummy & Mary Ruth Hughes**



**Photos on this page by Rusty LaGrange**

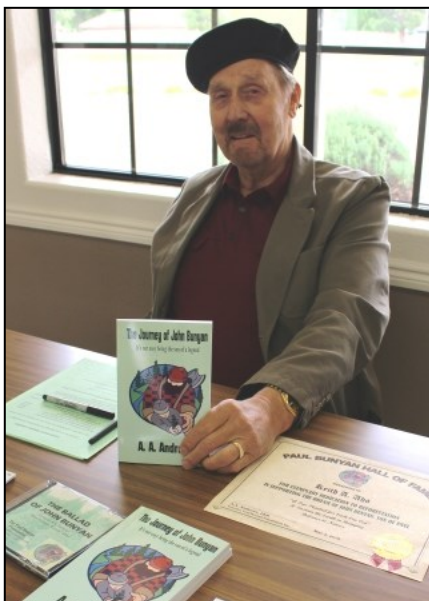


**Cliff Walker**





**Ann Miner, Freddie Gold in back & Cliff Walker    Susan Bird**



**Al Andrews**

### Spring Book Fair

A special thanks to the authors who provided photographs contributed through our share folder on Google Drive.

While not everyone is represented here, we are grateful for the clearing weather, modest turnout throughout the day, and a venue that provided a showcase for our deserving authors.



**Barbara Parrish**



**Roberta Smith & a ghoulish sister**



**Rita Wells**

# The Selective Bookworm -- a Confession

All my life my favored activity has been to have my nose in a book. Even before I could read, I searched for the mysteries of what kept my father and grandfather turning pages in magazines and newspapers. What was in those little black squiggles that made them laugh or share a passage with Mama, Grandma, or -- unnoticed and reaching for the crumbs -- me?

I halfway taught myself to read by looking at the comics and puzzling out what characters were saying or doing. I was more than an eager student. My first grade teacher was delighted to have such a perfect little learner among the squirming boys and chattering girls. Although I earned a reputation as teacher's pet, no one knew how much I was starving not for attention but for knowledge. Once I got my nose in a book, I hardly got it out. My mother was hard-pressed to pry me from my reading to set the table, fold clothes, or tend to my siblings.

Where did all that reading go? Fast forward to the old lady I am now. Somehow I've made it through the lumps and bumps of adolescence, school, jobs, two marriages, motherhood, grandmotherhood and great-grandmotherhood.

Where am I now? In my heart of hearts, I'm still twelve and sneaking off to read a book.

But I've become a bit wiser with age. My dimming eyes and faltering mind are no longer content with crumbs of newspapers and magazines. Even the books I once devoured are getting a critical evaluation. "Are you worth reading?" I ask them. "Will you delight me and leave me better than I was?"

I used to plow through books from start to finish, no matter how dull, boring, or stupid. No more! A friend recently gave me *Go Set a Watchman*, Harper Lee's long-awaited prequel to *To Kill a Mockingbird*. I read the first chapter and put it down. It didn't pass my litmus test and left me cold.

Roaming through my unread stash of books, I picked up *The Paris Wife*, a novel about Ernest Hemingway's first wife, Hadley, by Paula McLain. Although Hemingway was not my favorite writer, I loved this book and could hardly put it down.

Here's a quotation from Chapter 3, shortly after the couple met:

*It was a sheer pleasure to walk the chilly Chicago sidewalks with Ernest at my side, talking and talking, his cheeks flushed, his eyes beaming...*

*"You know what I think about now?"*

*I shook my head.*

*"Silkworms. I spent a night in San Pedro Norello, a village on the front. Horney was there -- that's where I met him -- and our cots were set up on the floor of this building, right? It was a silkworm factory. They were up*

by Diane Neil



*over our heads, in the eaves, chewing away in racks full of mulberry leaves. That's the only thing we could hear. No shell fire, no nothing. It was terrible."*

*"I've never thought of silkworms that way. Maybe I've never thought of silkworms at all, but I can hear them now, the way you did."*

*"Sometimes when I can't sleep, I think I hear them chewing. I have to get up and turn the lights on and look at the ceiling."*

*"Are they ever there?" I smiled, trying to lighten the mood.*

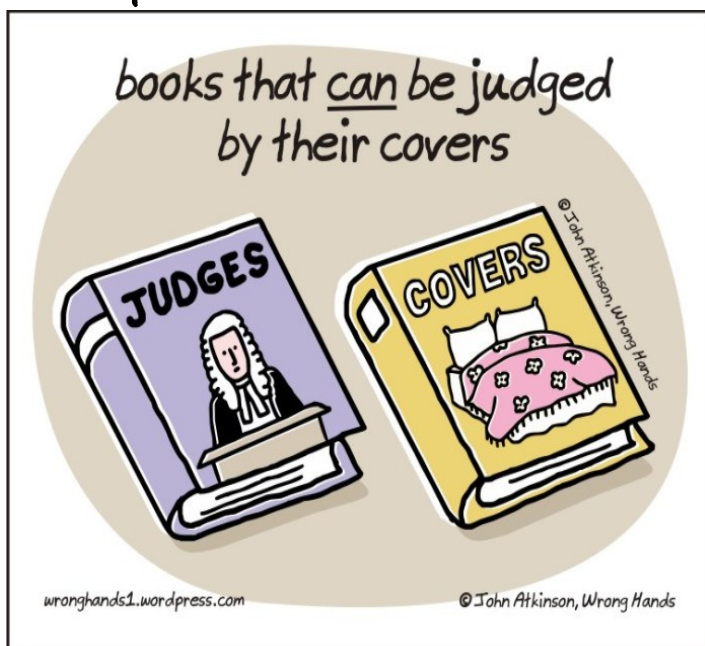
*"Not yet."*

Now there's writing that speaks to me. Insomniac that I am, I often get up at night, have a cup of tea, and wander about the house, usually ending up playing solitaire with real cards. What do I hear? The wind blows mightily at times, and I hear it whooshing through the trees. Sometimes I get my nose in a book. If anyone is listening, they won't hear silkworms chewing mulberry leaves. But they might hear a bookworm rustling turning pages and devouring another book.

But it better be a good one, or out it goes.



## Wrong Hands





# Author's Accolade



HDCWC Member Lorelei Kay

## Publishes Award-Winning Memoir

Lorelei Kay, a long-time Hesperia resident, announces the publication of her award-winning memoir *From Mormon to Mermaid: One Woman's Voyage from Oppression to Freedom*. Published by Dog Ear Publishing, it garnered an Award of Literary Excellence by the publisher.

Books bestowed the Dog Ear Award of Literary Excellence have the award logo on their covers. Winners are determined by the company's editorial team. The managing editor, editorial services manager, and the publisher review its recommendations.

Stephanie Seifer-Stringham, managing editor at Dog Ear, loved the memoir. "It is a deep look at what it's like to be a woman in the Mormon Church," she wrote. "The author shares her story with humor, affection, irony, and grace. She describes her journey frankly and touchingly. This is definitely an enlightening look into Mormonism and its unique peculiarities."

Lorelei will be autographing copies of her award-winning memoir at Barnes & Noble in Victorville on Saturday, May 21, from 1 to 3 pm.

Growing up in a devout Mormon family in Salt Lake City left an indelible mark on Lorelei, who was named after a mermaid. Raised on stories of pioneer ancestors who crossed the plains in search of religious freedom, she never wavered in her faith.

As she details in *From Mormon to Mermaid: One Woman's Voyage from Oppression to Freedom*, Lorelei always said yes to the many callings her bishops extended. While delving into the Book of Mormon and church history in order to teach it to others, however, she discovered insurmountable inconsistencies. The doctrinal foundation on which she had based her life started to crumble.

Lorelei is no stranger to writing, having been editor of her high school paper and attended Brigham Young University on a Journalism scholarship. She's working on a poetry collection as well as a new novel. As an active member of the High Desert branch of the California Writers Club, Lorelei is also a published poet and has her book ready for fairs this summer.



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## Up Coming Authors' Events for Book Sales:

### Hesperia Days at the Lake & Hook Park's High Desert Book Fair

Check with Hesperia's web site for the latest news about their annual weekend at the Hesperia Lakes venue Sept. 17 & 18. Always a large turnout, shady booth zones, potential buyers who look for local talent, book signing available if you man a booth with HDCWC or rent your own booth. Great fun and an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors!

If you self-publish be sure to have plenty on hand to sell.

HDCWC will promote anthologies and author titles if you wish us to display them. Contact Bob Isbill for booth rates per "unattended author."

Mark your calendar for October 1st. Insider news is that Davida Siwisa James has secured an agreement with Victorville City to have her non-profit's book fair share a section with the Hook Park event.

Davida foresees a similar layout and matching booth décor that makes LA Times Book Fair so appealing.

HDCWC has made tentative arrangements to be the favored authors to secure booths. Booths can also be shared with author members of CWC to make them less expensive for new authors.

More news coming...



# Anthology Round Up, news & views

Our DCB student anthology — *Let It Be Recorded* — is now available on Amazon.com in Kindle format for only \$3.99.



"Let It Be Recorded..."

A Lifetime of Memories by Students

~~ Anthologies For Sale

\$11.95 at meeting,

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Now on Kindle: \$3.99



We're looking for shops or bookstores that will sell and display our Jack London book — *Boyhood Adventures*. If you have an idea or have visited London-themed shops promoting his books, let our President know. HDCWCpresidentnorris@gmail.com.

The more venues we have scattered around California and other states, the more researchers and collectors will have access to this fascinating prime resource memoir.

## A Reminder for Advertising Opportunities Available in *The Bulletin*

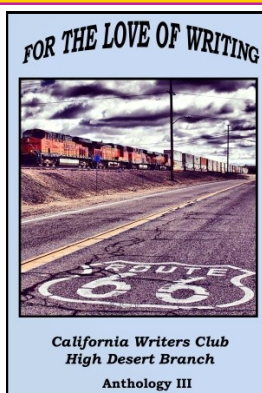
### Promote to Nearly 2,000 Readers

The next 2016 issue of the new electronic CWC *Bulletin* will be coming out in August. The next deadline for submitting advertising is July 29, 2016.

This is a way for CWC members, authors, and guest speakers to reach a large targeted audience of writers in a state-wide publication that goes out to nearly 2,000 writers.

The cost is very reasonable: Just \$35 for a 2x3.5 business card size ad; a 3x5 Index Card size for just \$60, and a 5x7 for \$90. Full details can be obtained by visiting <http://calwriters.org/advertising-in-the-bulletin/> PayPal is now available, too.

If you have a book or writing service to promote, hesitate no longer! *The Bulletin* is an extraordinary way to get the word out to others with an interest in writing, publishing, and marketing.



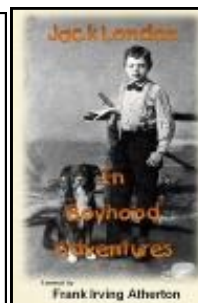
## 2015 CWC Anthology Second Order Planned

Get Your Orders in for our 2015 Anthology you've been waiting for — 53 Top-Notch entries of our Branch's best authors.

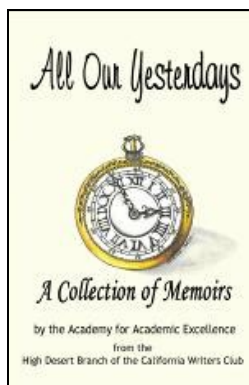
Makes Great Gifts!

**JACK LONDON IN BOYHOOD ADVENTURES** — A famous California boy and his pal who find life full of serious & frivolous days of summer in early Oakland.

HDCWC proudly presents the first printing of this treasure now available for only \$13.35 at Amazon; Barnes & Noble \$13.08



[www.jacklondoninboyhoodadventures.com](http://www.jacklondoninboyhoodadventures.com).



The latest student-created anthology through the Dorothy C. Blakely project, which focuses on the selection of interviews of senior citizens, is now available.

HDCWC is the publisher with sponsors and support of donations, and a grant from CWC Central Board.

[Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) for \$11.99

## Notices



**High Desert Blogging**  
A Community About High Desert Living  
**Angie Horn**  
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For 3 months  
*Your ads help pay our expenses*

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For 3 months  
*Your ads help pay our expenses*

Highlight ONE Book Cover  
**Only \$10**  
For 3 months  
Web site URL included  
(write a synopsis  
for *Inkslinger* pages inside)

## Editor



[RustyLaGrange23@gmail.com](mailto:RustyLaGrange23@gmail.com)

## Notes From the Editor ---

Why does the Spring/Summer switch seem to be broken. Folks are complaining about allergies, unable to sleep at night, sniffing and choking every time it blows. Sandstorms blocking roads, forcing traffic delays. Maybe this is a good time to share your frustrations through creative thought. Ten extra minutes in your car could produce a poem or short story idea. Keep a note pad or journal with you at all times, then send me your creations.

As always, submissions to *The Inkslinger* should be Arial font, 11pt. with single spacing, please. My email address for submissions is: [RustyLaGrange23@gmail.com](mailto:RustyLaGrange23@gmail.com). Try to aim for articles and stories between 300 to 600 words. Photos, poetry, and graphics are also welcome. Have a new book? Let me know for your book highlight.

June's deadline: May 23rd. July's deadline: June 23rd.

~~~ *Rusty LaGrange*

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