



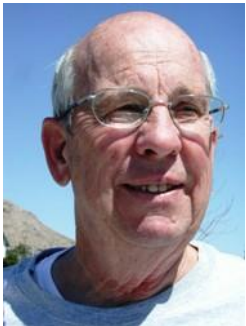
INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC

SAIL ON

Vol. 26, No.13, April

The California Writer's Club (CWC) shall foster professionalism in writing, promote networking of writers with the writing community, mentor new writers, and provide the literary support for writers and the writing community as is appropriate through education and leadership



The
President's

P O V

Bob Isbill

Lions do not purr. The largest purring cat is a cougar. Dolphins are the only other beings aside from human beings who engage in sex for pleasure. I learned those facts from watching the Animal Planet channel.

When approaching a car ahead of you that has stopped for a traffic signal, what is the proper distance to keep between you and that vehicle? I learned the answer to that in traffic school.

Those are questions I had never really concerned myself to ask about, but the answers were pretty interesting to me. Do you know the proper distance to allow between you and the next stopped vehicle? You do? Oh, you went to traffic school, too, huh?

I like the answer because, like many questions asked by other writers, one response does not fit all. For example, what time of day is best to write? How long should you write? How many words or pages should you produce? How many hours a week? (Writers Boot Camp, for example, says if you are not writing ten hours a week, you're not serious. But that's just an opinion.)

To me, a more important question to ask yourself is, are you studying your craft?

Have you determined that you are a writer, and that's your passion, and therefore you should be engaged in doing just that? Fine. You're right. However, the exciting thing about writing is that you never really know it all. Yes, you can study and study and put off writing until you think you at some point will know it all, so there's a negative side to studying your craft – too much.

Take screenplays as an example. If you do any investigation at all about the art of writing movies, you'll hear from those who seem to know what they are talking about that at least 95% are not worth reading beyond page one. That opinion comes mostly from people who have spent a lot of time as professional script readers.

I remember Paul Newman's answer to the question, "Do you think you'll ever make another movie with Robert Redford?"

His response: "I might if I found a good script."

Gregory Peck also opined that there just was a tremendous lack of good scripts. It really seems to be an ongoing problem in the industry.

Of course, there's the argument that movie makers are just interested making tons of money. Producers greedily keep filming re-makes of titles that worked once, and looking for sequels that could be blockbusters just for the currency motivation.

But good movies still somehow get made. ("The King's Speech", "Social Network", "Temple Grandin", "The Kids Are All Right", "Secretariat" and others.)

There may be exceptions, but it's mostly due to those artists knowing their craft. And writing movies is a craft.

That's also true of writing novels, short stories, stage plays and poetry.

Attending a CWC meeting once a month is certainly a good place to begin, because that's what our speakers talk about. But aside from that (not to make it a one-size-fits-all answer) how much time do you spend with the nuts and bolts of actually learning your craft?

By the way, if you didn't know the answer to the question above, the distance recommended by the DMV to keep between you and the vehicle stopped in front of you is this: You should, when stopped behind them, be able to see where their rear tires meet the road.

You see? If you're sitting short in the seat, you will be further back, and if you sit tall, you're going to be a bit closer. The DMV suggests this distance because if the vehicle in front of you has a problem moving, you should be able to pull around them and keep on going to your destination. And if you are too far back, you are liable to impede the flow of traffic behind you.

That's very subjective, but think about it. It works.

HD CWC ANTHOLOGY 5-STAR REVIEW

We began our "Howling at the Moon" anthology project on February 14, 2010 with the opening invitation to send in entries. The book, in its final form, was completed and delivered on February 28, 2011. One year and 14 days. The result? A first review on Amazon.com shows reader Briana Isaac gave us a 5 Star *rating*:

"As a resident of the High Desert I was curious to see what my local authors produced. I was not let down! This book has a wonderful mix of stories, styles and ideas. It includes writings that are funny, poignant, heart-wrenching, and above all, entertaining!

"It's one of those books you carry with you throughout the day, and when you have a free moment, you open it up to a random page and you will find what you read is guaranteed good stuff!

"I recommend this fabulous book to anyone, young and old alike!"

Thanks to all of you writers who contributed, to George Gracyk, Editor, and to our proofreaders Anne B. Fowler and Judi Isbill for their skills and contributions to making the book such a beautiful product. Recognition goes also to Carol Warren, Mary Thompson, and Roberta Smith for additional editing oversight. Our appreciation goes to Marilyn Ramirez and Mary Scott for the very creative idea of the special member edition stamp, and to Mary for her follow-through in getting the stamp designed and made.

It was a tremendous journey for many of us in this publishing effort, and so much was learned. Trails never before taken by any of us were blazed, hurdles and obstacles overcome, and things were found out to do in a more efficient way next time around.

Once again, this is an example of how membership and active participation in the HDCWC lends itself to our own individual personal development.

Our thanks to Outskirts Press for the production of a first class volume. The cover photo (taken by George Gracyk in his back yard) has been the source of many great comments. We are very proud of our first anthology in 17 years. If you haven't forwarded our email announcement to your friends and relatives, please let them know about this wonderful book. We believe its beauty and literary value is worth every penny of the \$15.95 retail price! (Eligible for free shipping on Amazon.com) Now that you've had a chance to read the entire collection and see what it contains, I am sure each of you can proudly recommend it.

The HD CWC will get a royalty from each book sold at retail, so thank you for helping us market and sell your book!

Thanks go to each of you for your patience and understanding in the process, and congratulations to each contributor on being a part of this project!

WE WELCOME TO HDCWC:

*Anthony J Enriquez (no period after the J, he says)
Linda J. Smith, Leo Du Lac, John McAlister, and
Stephanie Stever.*

We hope you enjoy and benefit from your membership! Write on!!!

***INTO THE BREACH**: When at the last moment we learned our scheduled speaker for March was in a Ridgecrest hospital, the Board came together and prepared an impromptu, informational program. It was well received. Thanks to each of you*

HINTS FROM OUR LEADERS 3.12.11

By Frances Smith Savage

Saturday March 12, 2011, the HDCWC listened to our members as they stood and introduced themselves. The talent in our club is beyond measure, and we are grateful to those who share their knowledge and experience with us.

Bob Isbill, President of our High Desert branch of the CWC spoke of his lifelong love as he attempted to understand what makes a good movie, screenplay or story. He said he wanted to learn the development of a good story, and he has found so much help here at the Writers Club, much more than he expected.

Bob has a great love for our club, and especially those who step up to help in every situation. Over the past couple of years our club grew, and much of that growth is attributed to Bob's ability as VP and Publicity Chairman. In the Introduction of the club's anthology *Howling at the Moon* Bob gave credit to others. He included Carol Warren as Past President; Anne Fowler as Treasurer and Membership Chair; and Naomi Ward, Secretary, and Newsletter Editor of the *Inkslinger*. Needless to say, it takes teamwork for a successful club, and the tremendous growth of our High Desert branch is proof positive.

Bob encouraged everyone to check out the club's website. It changes periodically due to the efforts of Mary Scott who has included many subjects necessary for writers' quest to be published. Mary arranged the "Meet the Authors" meetings recently held in Apple Valley, and the one coming up April 2 at the Hesperia Library.

Anne Fowler, the Treasurer of our club will soon retire from that position. Saturday she shared many of her conquests including her first experience as a writer as others inspected her work. She found that it was not necessary to have the lines spaced four inches apart. Another editor hearing her work after the third paragraph the editor's eyes glazed over.



Her first experience at HDCWC she met Ruth Theodos, the founder of the High Desert branch of the CWC. Anne then joined a critique group, and one thing she learned that the things you know about others might not understand. Anne is so full of knowledge that there is not enough room here to cover it all, but if you check out HDCWC's website, click on Meet the Authors, then click on Anne B. Fowler's name,

you will see a short list of her many accomplishments. Don't pass up the chance to see her Video *Omar the Camel*, and you like I will be highly impressed.

Curt James, our Vice-President not only introduces our speaker each month, but maintains the sound system. He cautioned us about the growing problems of being hacked. "It's not your fault, but it is your responsibility to take care of it." He said, and asked "How many are on Facebook?" Several responded. "Be cautious when someone wants to be your friend or send you a heart. If you accept the application, you are opening yourself up, and they can come in and farm your information."



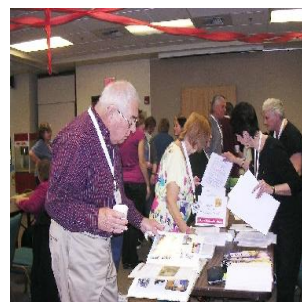
Curt said, "If I turn you down as a friend, it is just good security awareness. If someone says 'look at this for me' DON'T." He said, "Being out in the network is the same as driving in L.A. As long as you play on Facebook, you run the risk. If you open or download the attachment, it's too late. It's grabbed your address book, and information."

Curt then gave us hints that will be helpful when we try to bring back a lost moment. "If you hit a dry spell, or you have a weekend to write, how do you get your brain prepared to get back into the creative mode?" He suggests that we use our senses to recapture the moment. He likes to have some music on in the background that is relative to what he is writing. "Play the music in your car when you know you are going to return to your writing. Listen to what the music tells you and associate it to your writing. Then you can go back anytime you replay the music."

He suggested that we use smell in the same way, candles, incense, sun tan lotion, fruit or flowers. "The nose is the most associated with memory."

(Photo of C. James by Marilyn

Ramirez)



George Gracyk looks at Branch History scrapbooks by M. Ramirez. Vic McCain-Buzzelli & Bonnie Souleles exchange ideas while Fran Savage autographs a copy of the Anthology for Linda Cooper.

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HD CWC 2nd BOOK READING AND SIGNING EVENT

Several members of the High Desert Branch of the CWC will read excerpts from their works and be available for book signing at the Hesperia Library on Saturday morning, April 2, 2011. The event is scheduled 10 a.m. to noon.

Authors Evelyn Blocker, John Kizziar, Holly La Pat (aka Sierra Donovan), Mary D. Scott, Frances Smith Savage, Denny Stanz, Vic McCain-Buzzelli, Madeline Gornell, and Aleta Custer will participate.

Don't miss this event! Great reading and great gift idea. Be sure to come out and support our published authors and help by distributing advertising flyers which are available as a "pdf" file on our www.hdcwc.org Events Page.

GETTING THE WORD OUT TO THE COMMUNITY IS A CONTINUING EFFORT

To all HD CWC members:

We will be coming to you, our members, from time to time to help get the word out of programs presented by our branch. Remember the first time you heard about our club and how happy it made you to discover a group of other writers with the same goals and desires?

Help make that happen for others! We are requesting that you print out copies of the flyer which is available on the Events Page of our website www.hdcwd.org as a "pdf" file, and put them in places you go who will cooperate with YOU and post or distribute our flyer

Believe me when I say that **attendance at these events does make a difference** to those people who continue to provide FREE places for our club to do the things that help people in the craft of writing to study the art, and to market and promote their works!

Our second Book Signing and Reading Event will be coordinated by Mary D. Scott, author of *Spirit Driven Events*.

There are two ways you can contribute to the success of this event:

- (1) distribute just a few flyers to places you go (beauty shops, churches, independent stores, etc)
- (2) attend the event on Saturday, April 2, 2011 at the Hesperia Library from 10 a.m. to noon and support our published member-authors when they read and sign their books!

Thanks in advance for your help!



Young Kevin Morse helps his Grandfather, Bob Isbill with the Anthology distribution. Here he's excited to give HDCWC Charter Member, Marguerite Sowaal her copies, the dedication tribute of which was penned by Ms Sowaal. No wonder the smiles are so big

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NEWS FROM, ABOUT, AND FOR OUR MEMBERS

I am published now; I have a novella so far on bn.com and amazon.com. No print editions until I get rich.
The name of it is *Window to the Soul*.
Thanks for your help,
Tom (Kier)

Madeline (M.M.) Gornell's latest novel, *Reticence of Ravens*, has been chosen as a finalist for The Eric Hoffer Award (fiction), the da Vinci Eye (cover art), and the Montaigne Medal (most thought provoking book). "Win or lose, I'm so honored to be a finalist!"

BE A FRIEND,
TELL A FRIEND
ABOUT HDCWC -

Don't forget! Norm Goyer is waiting for your desert picture(s) to put on the HD CWC Website!

It's up to you, now, send me your news items - let's keep this page going with your own good news!

Hello Bob, I'm a fellow CWC editor. I publish *In Focus*, the newsletter of the West Valley. I just took a half hour from my morning correspondence to read all through your *Ink Slinger*.**** You have many talented writers in your branch and you edit with good sense.**** I liked every story from your tale of the young Xmas salesman to the story of the lost world of color. I hope you mention to your members that I was quite entertained reading their creative work.
CATHY HIGHCOVE

OKAY, YOU THINK THAT IF IT'S ON THE WEBSITE, THAT'S ALL THERE IS? DO CONSIDER THAT WHEN THE WEBSITE MAKES ITS PERIODIC CHANGES, WHEN THE ETHER ARCHIVES FADE, THERE WILL BE A HARD COPY OF THE RECORD OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENT STILL AVAILABLE IN THE HISTORY ANNALS OF HDCWC AS LONG AS THERE IS A BRANCH! HARD COPY, FOLKS! EACH TYPE OF RECORD HAS ITS PLACE IN THE SCHEME OF OUR BRANCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS. DROP THE INKSLINGER AN E-MAIL. WE APPRECIATE YOUR TRIUMPHS AND WANT TO ADD OUR KUDOS TO YOUR STASH OF GOOD WISHES. THOUGH WE HAVE TO ADMIT, THE WEBSITE IS THE FASTEST WAY TO SPREAD THE NEWS – WE'RE TWO PARTS OF A WHOLE.....

Mary Langer Thompson won third place for her poem, "Lemon Power" (in our anthology) and Honorable Mention for her memoir, "Herbie's American Story" in the American Pen Women (Nob Hill branch in San Francisco) "Soul-Making" Contest. She will read at the main branch of the San Francisco library, Sunday, March 20th, with a reception to follow.
She thanks the members of her critique group for their comments and suggestions on "Herbie's American Story": Roberta Smith, Suzanne Holbrook Brumbaugh, Willard Brumbaugh, Evelyn Blocker, Curt James, Harold Meza, Winnie Rueff, Denny Stanz and Marilyn Ramirez.



FEDERAL PRISON WORKSHOPS?

On March 8, 2011, some members of the HD CWC Board met with the Assistant Supervisor of Education at the Federal Prison System located near the communities of Adelanto and Victorville.

The reason we had come together was because we received an inquiry from her about the possibility of sharing our writing knowledge and skills to reach out to certain interested inmates to develop their composition skills.

There may be some interested inmates in writing fiction or non-fiction, poetry, novels and screenplays. If enough HD CWC members were willing to make themselves available on a periodic basis, we would conduct an informational meeting. This initial gathering would be with a rather large group of inmates to let them know who the HD CWC is, and what we are about.

From that group, our contact person would discern who was interested, eligible and qualified to meet with us in sessions of twenty to thirty participants.

These lectures, workshops, classes or seminars would be conducted inside the Medium-High Security prison by one, sometimes two or three of our members. The bulk of these classes would require no more than that because of the detailed security built into the program.

We are presently engaged in an exploratory and information gathering mode with the educational contact, and we are letting you know for two reasons:

- 1) We would like to know if there is a sufficient number of qualified members who would like to participate and
- 2) We would solicit your counsel on this, and your opinion.

If we have substantial input that we could adopt such an outreach, we would arrange for another meeting with our contact person so that you could attend and ask your own questions before committing to anything.

We had a sign-up sheet at the March 12 meeting; however, if there are others interested, please write to let me know to risbill@aol.com with the heading FEDERAL PRISONS.

KERN WRITERS' FESTIVAL IN TEHACHAPI AUGUST 6, 2011

Lucinda Sue Crosby has notified us that the Tehachapi Heritage League will be sponsoring a Book Festival on Saturday, August 6, 2011 in Tehachapi.

They will start the morning hosting a Literary Character's Breakfast with a costume contest for the kids, plus actors from TCT portraying authors or literary characters.

Book sales by guest authors will start at 11:00 am and go until 4:00 pm. Throughout the day writers will be invited to read from their work in the Museum garden.

There will also be a full schedule of free speakers, workshops and panel discussions. Patricia Fry of SPAWN will be one of the speakers.

Tables and canopies will be provided for selling authors at a small fee of \$15 for a half table and \$25 for a full table.

There will be a writing contest for school kids with the winner announced during the festival, and several other draws.

Starting at 5:00 pm that evening is a separate Wine and Food Festival that will take place on the next block, so the party can keep going. We believe the draw will produce a good turnout for both events.

If you are interested in participating in this fun Event, then please respond back to May Scott of the HD CWC (who is coordinating this event through our branch) with the above information. Car pools are being considered for the Event.

1. Name
2. Mailing Address
3. Email Address
4. Table size interest (\$15 for a half table and \$25 for a full table)

For more information, email Mary Scott:

Mary_Scott@spiritdrivenevents.com

A NEW PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

The California Writers Club will launch the publication of a literary review late this spring and thereafter three issues a year—spring, fall, and winter. Our magazine-style publication—think *New Yorker* but yet to be named—will host writing from members through a blind selection process, and include fiction, nonfiction and poetry. Unique graphics and photography may also sneak in on a limited basis. Your co-editors, Joyce Krieg of Central Coast Branch and former *CWC Bulletin* editor, and Dave LaRoche of South Bay, solicit your work for inclusion—published or fresh from your vivid imaginations, and of course sent with this single-use rights.

The *CWC Lit-Review* (working title) will be mailed out to all members in hard copy and, in time, made available for non-member subscription. We intend a prestigious publication, both shining light on the included authors and bringing cachet to the club. You will want to be included.

Submission requirements and deadline dates will be repeated in each issue and apply to the next. For our first issue the following applies:

- Submissions in email attachment, MSWord, doc or rtf format, space and one-half with one inch margins, New Times Roman 12pt—no tabs or special formatting.
- Maximum length is 2500 words; fiction, 1500; nonfiction, and 700; poetry. These may be adjusted in future issues
- All work must be error free and “camera ready;” and must include a separate cover sheet with author’s name, email address, number of words, and title. The remaining pages to be free of all ID except title: Upper right and page number: lower center.
- Submissions for the first issue must be emailed not later than April 15
- Include in your transmittal email the statement, “I own and convey the right to publish this work (name it) one time in the CWC Lit-Review.”

Our first issue, will include the rules for a Name-the-Lit-Review Contest—and identify a prize for the member whose name is chosen.

We are excited about this venture, another value in club membership, and have aspirations that will see the review on shelves in bookstores and in e-

distribution. Of course you are a big part of it, so join in and have fun. Send your work, limit 2 on a given submission, to Dave Larches dalaroche@comcast.net by April 15, then sit back and watch our *CWC Lit-Review* grow.

Joyce and Dave, co-editors

HAVE A NICE DAY

By James Elstad

I was bound and determined that no one would find out where my bride and I were going spend our wedding night. My friends have played many jokes on me, to be fair I’ve played many a joke on them. This is different, this is my wedding night.

One month ago I made arrangements with three hotels at different resorts. I even paid a week in advance for each one. What I didn’t tell anyone was that we weren’t going to stay at any of them.

After the reception I drove north for forty miles before we stopped for dinner. “Honeybunch,” I said, “we’re not going to any of the resorts I told you about.”

“What! I was counting on going to Cancun or Jamaica.” She said with a frown.

“Don’t worry, we’re going to Cancun for our second week, the first week is just us at an isolated mountain cabin. Nobody knows about it, it’ll take us another three hours to get there. This place is so far out of the way there’s no way George, John, or Corky will ever interfere with our time together.” I slid my hand onto her thigh and gently squeezed it. “I’m so glad we waited aren’t you?”

She grinned and leaned her head on my shoulder.

It was 2:00 am when we pulled up to the cabin. Everything was ready for us all we had to do was unload the car and get ready for bed. This was the moment we’d been waiting for, and it lived up to all expectations.

Imagine our surprise when at 4:00 am, Corky, my best man, crawled out from under the bed carrying a tape recorder.

“Have a nice day guys.” Then he left.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR EMAIL HAS BEEN HIJACKED?

By Curt James, V.P., CWC High Desert Branch

So you're minding your own business, starting your day just like every other day and sit down to your computer with a cup of coffee and log on to check your email. Suddenly you realize that you have a lot more emails in your inbox and you realize that the subject lines all seem a little angry. "Stop sending me SPAM", "You have infected my computer", "Have you lost your mind?"

Now you're panicking. You know for a fact that you didn't send emails to all those people and you definitely hate SPAM as much as the next person. What happened?

The truth is you have been hacked. There are lots of different types of Viruses on the web today; some can be truly horrific while others are just merely an annoying nuisance. In this case what you have can be a little of both.

The first thing to remember is that it's not your fault. A typical "botnet" travels the web collecting data, in this case email addresses. These addresses can come from a variety of locations. From personal address books to large commercial websites that require an email address to open an account.

Once the virus/code has been loaded with a certain number of addresses it then sends out emails from one of the names listed in the cue. If the email is opened then the virus immediately grabs all of the email addresses in the persons address book and begins the process all over again. The email subject line can really be anything. Something as innocuous as "Hey I need you to look at this" to "Lets hook up tonight for some serious passion". The problem is that it's coming (you think) from someone you know.

I recently had an experience where I received an email from a friend who I knew to be a very devout church going lady who was mortified to hear that I had received an email from her giving me tips on how to seriously increase my sexual prowess. And while I certainly appreciated the effort, I immediately knew that she had been hacked and notified her at once.
What Can You Do?

The truth is that there is very little that you can do. Once your email has been compromised there is no getting it back. So, just as I instructed my friend, the first thing is to send out a blanket email to everyone in your address book, or at the

very least, respond to those who sent you the angry emails and explain that your account has been hacked. Next, and this is the tough part, you probably want to consider deleting that email account and creating another. This can be a pain, especially with the number of locations that may have your email address. Electronic bill pay, Facebook, etc. (Sometimes it is as simple as just logging on and changing the email address). Then begin the process of letting everyone know that you have a new email address. (This definitely includes the CWC!)

Will that fix the problem for good? Unfortunately no! There is always the possibility that it could happen again. As long as you are receiving emails from people you know, then you run the risk of being hit by it again. There are various security software solutions available that can cut the likelihood of getting hit by this. The most important in my opinion is to avoid the "all-in-one" solutions. An example of this would be someone who uses a Microsoft Operating System, with a Microsoft Email application (Outlook) and then uses Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE). Think of it as one key fits all the locks. Once you get through the front door the rest of the rooms are pieces of cake. I would tell my Students (I taught Computer Science at a couple of Colleges) that it is best to mix things up. Use a third party browser like FireFox, Opera, and Google Chrome. These all use different codes than Microsoft and consequently "one key" no longer fits all. If you have a router at home, be sure to set up a Firewall that can help to deter different types of Hacking attacks. You may also wish to look into other products such as "Anti-Spyware" and absolutely have an Anti-Virus program installed on your computer and be sure to update it regularly.

Because our critique groups regularly send submittals to each other, we have an increased risk of passing something along to our fellow members. It is important to scan all attachments before downloading them because you never know what you are going to get!

If at the close of business, each evening, I myself can understand what I've written, I feel the day hasn't been totally wasted.

S.J. Perelman (1904-1979)

(Debbie Weltin is one of our newest members. This is her first offering to the "Inkslinger". Thank you, Debbie)

WHAT CAN I DO?

By Debbie Weltin

While donating my platelets and plasma at the High Desert Donor Center I had a moment of clarity. I don't often have these moments of clarity, but I feel the need to share those thoughts with others. That clarity allowed me to delve deeply into my own soul, once again, and ask what I'm doing to make a difference in the world. How can I give back more than I have taken? How can I leave something of myself to others?

I am torn between my life goals and the world which is crying for help. I find this is beyond my comprehension. The path of choice is not clear. The world is spinning at phenomenal speeds and I can't help but hear the desperate cries so far beyond my reach. Prior to this point in my life I chose to stay working for a company until I could retire. I built up my savings and worked hard for self-fulfillment. I connected more with the positive and had a strong belief that all would happen for the best. I've always believed that out of the worst of circumstances something wonderful transpires. I believed when one door closes another opens. Perhaps a bit Pollyanna, however, it is the way I've thought. It wasn't always easy to maintain this train of thought.

Now I have gone beyond the age of retirement and I feel there is much more of which I need to pay attention. The world is so full of negativity I usually choose to not deal with it at all, rather struggle within my own world and make the best of things. I believe now is the time to be more cognizant of what is actually happening around the world that affects each and every one of us. The world is deteriorating in the hands of terrorists, disease, and pestilence. Is the world out of control? Is there anything I can do about it? How can I make a difference? I know I cannot effect mass change, but perhaps I can effect change within me? And who will that help? What dent have I made? What is my legacy?

What about the children around the world who are hungry and suffering? How can this be rectified? Is this a collective fault of individuals with thoughts of personal success and goals that ignore the needs of the masses? Shall I bury my head in the comforts of ignorance and denial or shall I heed the cries of brethren afar?

I know change must happen and I cannot hang on to ways of the past and expect all to be well. I must open my eyes, my ears, and my heart. How can I make a difference? I must make a difference! I feel it within the very fiber of my being. But, I can't save the world by myself. I can't lay my healing hands on an entire populace and create benevolent hearts. I can, however, pray....and I do. Yet the world seems to be worse day by day.

Where is my faith? Where is my belief that I am here for a reason? Be quiet and eliminate the noise in my head. In the depths of my silence I hear the cries for help. I hear the small voices asking to be healed. As I become deeply silent I know what I must do. I know any change has to begin with me. I have to change my thoughts and direction of purpose. I cannot begin to help anyone else until I can help myself and balance who I am between my mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual being. This may seem so simplistic, but it has to start from within. That is all I am able to change. I think if I can make the change within myself I may be able to effect change within someone else. From one change many changes can be made.

Believing we all have a common universal and spiritual bond I choose to make peace with myself. I forgive myself for my inadequacies and my failures. I accept who I am with a purpose. I will choose to accept all people for their character and not their exterior. I choose to smile instead of being angry. I choose tolerance, forgiveness, and sharing. I believe we can make a difference one step at a time. One person affects another and they affect another and so on and so on. The concept of paying it forward is no little step but a large step towards visualizing the change for the better. As each change is made another change is made easier. I choose to influence the world in a positive manner to effect change. We cannot destroy the monsters of the world but we can eliminate the negative powers that each and every one of us possesses. We can build on our positive powers with the help of a higher power; however you conceive it to be. We must strive towards peace by finding it within ourselves. Everything begins with me. I can no longer deny this. I can make a difference. I will make a difference.

(Tell a friend: Now is a good time – price break – to join HD CWC. Contact Bob Isbill or Roberta Smith (760) 240-4822)

WHO'S IN CHARGE?

By Linda Bowden

Who's in charge of this line,
This line of metal heaps one after another?
Who's in charge of this line,
Crawling endlessly through time?

It's enough to make a person scream,
As the clock ticks so slowly the minutes stick.
It's enough to make a person scream,
With delight each time she moves a lick.

Who's in charge of this line?
Why can't the one in the front move forward?
Who's in charge of this line?
The car behind you wants to know.

So hurry up and move forward,
Hurry up and ease the crowd.
For this line is getting longer,
And my patience, well it's gone!



The Ride

By Linda Bowden

We were on the road again. It was not enough that the car was hot, and the wind blew in like something from the devil but my mother looked at the countryside as if she were in a place of pure bliss. Her first words out of her mouth, as I crooped one eye open were, "Isn't it beautiful?" "Beautiful, I thought, what's beautiful about sand, scrub brush and a lot of nothing?" "What's beautiful about relentless heat, no air conditioning and an annoying sister, who was always getting car sick and throwing up on my side of the floor boards?"

I couldn't wait to get to Missouri. At least there you could see trees, red dirt and have the love of family surrounding you. At least there I would have the freedom to stretch my legs, sleep in a bed and run around and play with my cousins. Here, riding in the car I was subject to my mother's Pollyanna attitude and her relentless love of the desert. "Ugh, desert, what was it good for anyways I thought? Bugs, heat and not a thing worth looking at, just scrub brush and Joshua trees. My goodness we were only to somewhere named, Albuquerque. Where was Albuquerque and why were all those women sitting on the side of the road dressed in velvet skirts, when the temperature was well in the triple digits?" My thoughts raced and I dreamed of ice cream,

a bath and a bed to sleep in. Not that I would get a bath when we reached grandma's house. They didn't even have inside plumbing, yes, no bathroom facilities, an outhouse and a washtub. I didn't care; at least I got to see my grandma and grandpa.

There was something about visiting grandma and grandpa, something magical, full of surprises. New experiences my mom would call them because we were city girls and going to my grandparent's house was a vacation from city. They lived on a rural farm in Missouri, no inside plumbing, not even running water. We had to draw water from the cistern and baths were a weekly, not daily adventure. If you got there on Tuesday, you might have to wait until Saturday to get a bath, after all people bathed before church on Sunday. Yeah, we washed up every day in a basin, but that's comparable to a hospital bath, not a very clean feeling.

"Where are we?" I asked mom. "New Mexico," mom answered, "we're still a long way away." I hated when she said that, but that was her way of saying, "Stop asking." No matter how many times she said it and in how many different ways she said it, one of us would ask again. Later, on trips with my own children, I would think back to the numerous times I bugged her and I then think to myself; "Yes, you are getting paid back for your childhood annoyances." Hours went by; as the car lulled me to sleepiness I wondered if we'd every stop again for the bathroom, or maybe something to eat. "We'll stop when we need gas," said Dad, answering another question from my sister. I wondered how many times we would ask before we got there and how many times our parents would answer that question. One more time, two more times, a thousand times, who knew, it just depended on how many more hours would pass before we reached our destination. I could tell that my father's matter of fact tone would be ignored if my mother, who was driving decided to stop. She was all about enjoying the ride and he was all about getting there, single focused a one track mind. Oh yeah she had spied the Indian Reservation Store sign. We were stopping, even if we didn't need gas. My dad sighed but he knew it wouldn't do any good because my mom had already pulled in. Somehow I knew, I was about to get that ice cream!

"If my doctor told me I had only six minutes to live, I wouldn't brood. I'd type a little faster." - Isaac Asimov



Jack London 2011 Awardee, Carol Warren

Nominations for the prestigious Jack London Award recipient were opened to the general membership, and the following six women were suggested for the honor: Ann Heimback, Anne Fowler, Carol Warren, Emily Pomeroy, Fran Savage and Naomi Ward.

These marvelous members were nominated for the award for exceptional service to the California Writers Club. It is not a writing award, and not a popularity contest, but recognition for doing an outstanding job of service to our organization.

The selection committee met for this difficult and challenging decision. All those nominated deserve a huge thank you from the club and especially from our branch.

We are proud and pleased to announce that the 2011 Jack London recipient is Carol Warren, our State Representative and immediate past president. Thank you, Carol, from the HD CWC for your dedication, spirit of volunteerism, and your inspiring and positive attitude that just keeps on giving!

Congratulations to Carol Warren and to all the nominees. We treasure each of you, and we thank you for being there for us.

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IMPORTANT! LIT REVIEW --- THIS JUST IN...

Re: Authors who have submitted their work to the CWC Literary Review.

First: apologies to all who have submitted their work to the new CWC Literary Review; second the reason for apology:

During a computer failure and rebuild, software intending to backup data failed to do so and all contacts and files related to the new literary review, were lost. While, I am able to regenerate most through accessing those who have been on the other end of some distributions, the submissions and authors ID are not retrievable.

So I am requesting that you send out an email blast (forwarding this is adequate) to inform those 12 or so that have submitted to resubmit to dalaroche@comcast.net and I thank you all profusely – of course, the same guidelines apply. This is certainly a shotgun approach, but I know no other way to proceed.

Also, to those who have volunteered to be selection editors, please re-identify yourselves.

Dave LaRoche

SPECIAL PANEL ON APRIL 9TH

The High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club will present a panel of some of their published authors discussing their publishing experiences and what, if anything, they would do differently now. The program will be held at the Apple Valley Library from 10 a.m. to 12:15 on Saturday, April 9, 2011. Authors Denny Stanz, Holly La Pat, John Kizziar, Madeline Gornell, Melanie Hanson, Norm Goyer, Roberta Smith, and Vic McCain-Buzzelli will participate.

The second half of the agenda will be "Creating an Elevator Pitch to Sell Your Story" presented by HD CWC president Bob Isbill.

HOLLY LA PAT ON ROMANCE

Remember the Special Romance Writing Workshop Saturday, March 26, 2011 at the **Hesperia Library** from 10 a.m. to noon.

Holly La Pat, aka Sierra Donovan will let us in on the secrets of developing romantic stories!

Sierra Donovan has two published romance novels, *Love on the Air* and *Meg's Confession* available on amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com as well as many other published works. Check out her bio and background on the Events page of our website, www.hdcwc.org.

From Tisa Garrison and Congratulations!

I was intending to brag about getting on Google with my article. I should have sent out the search URL instead of the page URL, which can't be accessed from email. Sorry. I'm still learning. However, I just got my first (small) paycheck as a journalist-in-training. Yippee

Here is what I meant to send, the search URL: <http://www.bing.com/search?q=mike+mazalic+band&form=CPDTRDF&pc=CPDTRDF&src=IE-SearchBox>

I'm confident you will get more goofy stuff from me as struggle to I figure it all out. Thanks, everyone, for being there as I fumble through.

Tisa

HD CWC ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE

In accordance with the HD CWC Bylaws, this is notification that a nominating committee has been formed to nominate a slate of officers to run for election

The election for our branch will be held at the June 9, 2011 general membership meeting and the voting shall be done by those present and voting at that meeting.

Nominations from the floor will be accepted at that time as long as the nominee has been informed and has agreed to his/her nomination. In the event that two people run for the same office, the election will be done by written ballot.

The chair person for the nominating committee is Anne B. Fowler. If interested in a position, please contact her or Mary Scott.

GREAT PROGRAMS COMING SOON!

Please check our www.hdcwc.org for events scheduled.

May 14, 2011 at the Apple Valley Library:

Dr. Thelma T. Reyna has been writing for over 30 years. Her short stories, poems, and nonfiction have been published in literary journals, anthologies, textbooks, and regional media. Her new book, *The Heavens Weep for Us and Other Stories* (Outskirts Press, 2009), is a collection of 12 stories set mostly in California, Texas, and Chicago. Her stories deal with the losses, large and small, that we all experience and how we bravely reinvent ourselves to give meaning to life in the face of such hardship.

June 4, 2011 at the Hesperia Library

Mary Langer Thompson, our member and award winning poet, doing a poetry workshop from 10 a.m. to noon.

June 11, 2011 at the Apple Valley Library

Member and author Morgan Gavin on Sci-Fi and how he published his novel.

10-MINUTE TIPS AND TECHNIQUES WANTED

Do you have a writing or marketing tip that you would be willing to share? Can you do it in just ten minutes or less?

At the HD CWC, we have a backup plan in case we have some extra time or if our scheduled speaker does not show up. It's called 10-Minute Tips & Techniques. We ask that everyone have a tip that they could share with our group if called upon to do so. The only requirements are (1) they are 10 minutes or less and (2) they are techniques that you have learned, in any way that you believe would be useful for other writers to know. Think about it!

Let Bob Isbill know if you're ready and willing!