



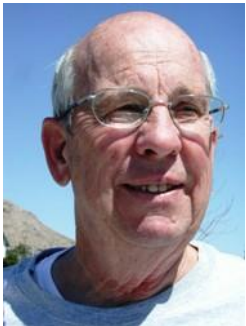
INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC

SAIL ON

August

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

People tell me all the time that they feel a buzz of excitement in our branch of the California Writers Club.

There's good reason why the High Desert Branch is growing so rapidly. It's a combination of things. We have a lot to offer other writers with our Mission Statement. That's a good roadmap to follow, and it has worked.

For the last 30 months, we've provided to local writers something to come to HD CWC meetings for instead of focusing on just trying to get *more* members. Of course, by doing so, we have gained an enormous amount of new people. And with that gathering, we've enriched our club with new talent, original ideas, and fresh energy.

The critique groups are developing a life of their own, evolving into what they will become under the leadership of Mary Thompson and Roberta Smith. Other involved members are also helping to shape and grow this vital and popular segment of our list of attractions.

Mary Scott, author of "Spirit Driven Events", has shepherded Book Reading & Signing Meet the Authors Events, helping to publicize and provide exposition to

our authors in public forums, and has coordinated panels of interest for publishing and marketing their works. She has also been extremely helpful on the www.hdcwc.org website. Currently, Mary is working on another publicity and book-selling plan called "Authors' Alley" with more information on that coming up soon.

The planning committee for our "Howl at the Moon" 2011 conference has put together a great writers' event for October 1, 2011, and registrations are coming in at a good pace. The committee includes Ann Heimback, Hazel Stearns, Angie Horn, Mary Langer-Thompson, Carol Warren, Bob Isbill, Naomi Ward, Rusty La Grange, Holly LaPat, Thomas Kier, Jenny Margotta, Marilyn Ramirez, and Barbara Parish.

Extracurricular meetings at the Hesperia Library have been ongoing, and successful in raising community awareness of the Summer Reading Program of the library, and of the existence and activity of our branch.

Our Readers' Panel goes on, and provides a service unique to HD CWC members. If you have not heard about it, the purpose of the Readers' Panel is to determine whether the Reader liked the material, if he or she would recommend it to a friend, if it was interesting, boring or fascinating. Grammar and spelling are secondary. Any HD CWC member can be a Reader. Only HD CWC members are eligible to request a Readers' Panel. All information and forms are available on our web site as a sub-page under Critique.

We are now also on **Facebook**. Search for California Writers Club, High Desert Branch. We want this to be another communication tool to keep our members informed and give more publicity to our club and our members in accordance with our Mission Statement.

Additional week-end seminars are in the process of being made available in early 2012 with such experienced instructors as Nina Amir.

As we begin another fiscal year, it's time to renew your membership for another year of extraordinary value, or, if you have not yet joined, get on board and come along.

Come on! Be a writer.

BRANCH MEMBERS TO OFFER TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS ON MARKETING AT THE AUGUST MEETING

The High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club will have a special Authors Panel – How to Market Your Book. This Event will greatly benefit writers who have written a book, are currently writing a book, are planning to write a book, or are in the stages of planning their marketing strategy. The program will consist of a panel of some of our published authors (Mary D. Scott, Denny Stanz, Madeline M. Gornell, and Mary Ruth Hughes) with offerings of their experiences and the devising of your own marketing plan. So mark your calendars and don't miss this one time event.

The Authors Panel presentation will be held on Saturday, August 13, 2011 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Apple Valley Library Community Room in Apple Valley.

Come enjoy the friendliest cup of coffee in town. For more information, visit www.hdcwc.org or phone 760.221.6367.

THE HIGH DESERT FARMERS MARKET

AT VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE –

AUTHORS' ALLEY EVENT

Details:

- The spaces are 10' x 10', and will cost \$15 per space. However, if two Authors share a space for whatever reason, then it will cost each Author \$15 for the one space. It is not the High Desert Farmers Market Policy to allow space sharing, but they said if we have Authors that want to

share a space, then each Author will have to pay \$15 each for the one space.

- The space fees are to be paid on the day of the Event. The Farmers Market people will provide each space with a payment envelope at around 8:30 am. At around 10 am, they pick up your payment envelopes; and soon after that, they come by your space and give you a receipt for your payment.
- ALL Authors must supply their own:
 - Pop Up Canopy
 - Tables
 - Chairs
 - 40lb Sand Bags
 - Whatever else you need for your space, they provide ONLY the space.
 - All of these items are a must for any Author in most future Events.
- ALL Authors must have their own Sellers Permit, which I am going to assume you already have. If you don't, let me know and I will tell you how to quickly and easily get one.
- The Farmers Market is from 8 am until Noon, EVERY Thursday
- The space setup starts at 6:30am; you can pull your vehicle up to your space, unload, then go park your vehicle elsewhere. You must be setup and ready by 8:00 am sharp. You can start to tear down your space at Noon, and have to be completely done and off the property by 2 pm sharp.
- Authors do not have to commit to participating every Thursday, but will need to let me know by the Monday prior to the Thursday they want to participate in.
- Both the HD CWC and the Farmers Market will be publicizing our Authors Alley. Please plan on attending more than once to give the publicity and word of mouth time to spread.

Contact Mary Scott at:

Mary_Scott@spiritdrivenevents.com if you want to participate or if you have any other questions.

PATRICIA FRY
AT THE JULY MEETING

By Frances Smith Savage

"I enjoy being in the company of writers, we all understand the compassion and the challenges. That's why we gather. How many of you are published authors, have a book in the works or would like to be a successful author?" Patricia Fry caught our attention as she questioned us about our desires to be successful authors.

She continued her interesting talk about writing and publishing and the huge difference between the craft of writing and the transition into publishing. She loves self publishing, and even started her own publishing company in 1983 and has produced a lot of her books on her own.

In 1978 she had a great idea for a book and decided to write it. After nine months, "Yours could be years" she said, "You emerge from your writing and go around as you try to get it published. You don't think about publishing until you have written something. We go online, the first publishing option that comes up is IUniverse or Authorhouse, and it sounds so easy. Actually there is nothing wrong going that route, but first read Mark Lavin's *The Fine Print of Self-Publishing*. IUniverse and Authorhouse pay for the privilege of being first in line. So be careful."

She has a very long list of her books and articles that have been published over the years, some self published, and others have been picked up by publishers. "If you really want a publisher, there are 100's of small and medium size publishers looking for really good books." She stressed that we need to promote our own books, and if you find a publisher, the first thing they will want to know is how you will market your product.

She joined Toastmasters and learned to speak, and suggested that we do the same. Now she has no problem getting up in front of crowd no matter the size, "My legs never wobble," she said. "Your job is to convince the publisher that you can and will promote your books. People say I'm going to do this or that, and that's blowing in the wind. You have to prove it. You really need to know your audience and where they are, and how to approach them. I'm going to put my books in bookstores doesn't work anymore. There are almost one million books produced every year, and now they are counting e-books.

"Out of 800,000 books printed each year, Barnes & Noble can only carry 150,000 titles. You

must have something to back your claims up. Over 70% of all books fail, probably higher now, but you need to know the criteria for failure, it's when the author quits promoting.

"You have to keep an open mind. The two secrets to success and the first one is for you to study the publishing industry. We all come out of our writing room without any knowledge of the publishing industry. What kind of publisher do you want? Some books will do better if you are the publisher, the publisher of record. Brain freeze! Bottom line you need to understand the way they work and don't grab the first one that comes along. Know your options, know your choices, and there are rewards; you need to understand all of that.

"Second, write an online book proposal because more and more the publisher wants proposals and the concept of your book. Then question what else is out there for my book? Is there a market for it? Who do you feel the audience is?"

She told a story about a man in St. Louis who came up to her and said, "No one is interested in my book." She asked the man what his book was about. He said, "This is proof that there is no god." He wanted to change people who felt just like himself. She suggested that he change his approach and seek agnostics, preachers, military chaplains. Those people were his audience and were anxious to read his book.

She teaches online subjects, edits books and the costs depend on the length of the book or subject matter. Every book needs someone to go over it, to edit it, to check for grammar and punctuation. She said she writes non-fiction, because she doesn't want to be a liar. Not a good line to finish this article since many in our club write fiction. She actually wasn't denigrating those of us who write fiction because she wants to write a novel sometimes in the future. We left that day with many ideas how we can improve our approach to writing and publishing.

Are you remembering to share your local Desert Beauty photos with Norm Goyer for use in our on-line projects? During summer's heat, it's neat to be outdoors in the evening to watch the hills change color. Capture the moment and send it on to Norm.



(Dr Reyna was our guest speaker in May and has continued to stay in touch with HDCWC.)

2011 Women in Business Awards:

12th Annual Legislative Update & Awards

Luncheon

Thelma T. Reyna

“Most Inspirational Award”

Pasadena author and small business owner, Dr. Thelma T. Reyna, was awarded the “Most Inspirational Award” in the 12th Annual Women in Business Awards program sponsored by state legislators Carol Liu, Anthony Portantino, and Mike Gatto. She was recognized for her achievements as an author and small business owner.

Thelma is the national award-winning author of two books: *The Heavens Weep for Us and Other Stories*, which has received four national honors; and *Breath & Bone*, a poetry chapbook, which also won national recognition.

She is the owner of The Writing Pros, a writing consultancy based in Pasadena. Dr. Reyna is an editor, ghost writer, and book reviewer in her company. She also writes two literary blogs and is a guest blogger on a third.

Her award was spurred by her life story, which began in South Texas as one of nine children. Due to family circumstances, her father had dropped out of junior high school, and her mother left high school before graduating. Her maternal grandparents, who helped raise Thelma, never attended school. She grew up in an environment lacking books and facing economic challenges. Despite this, Thelma was the first in her family to attend college and earned four university degrees with honors, including a Ph.D. from UCLA. Before retiring to write books and start a business, she served for 34 years as a public school teacher and administrator.

She is currently an adjunct professor at California State University, Los Angeles. Thelma has recently completed two other books and plans to publish them soon. Her websites are www.ThelmaReyna.com and www.TheWritingPros.com.

(Member Kier offers warning of scam being used to lure writers! Take heed!)

WARNING ABOUT “HONOR”

by Thomas Kier

I received an official-looking letter in the mail about being honored for my accomplishments in the business world and an intent to appoint me as a biographical candidate representing Apple Valley, CA. This company wanted to include me in their executive and professional listings, and all I had to do was go to a website designed just for me, including my name in the URL, and answer a series of questions. Best of all, it was FREE! The name of the company is **Cambridge Who’s Who**.

Confused about exactly what accomplishments they were referring to, I decided to do a little research on the web. There is a lot of information about this company, which apparently has undergone multiple name changes, including Empire Executive and Professional Registry, Manchester Who’s Who, and Metropolitan Who’s Who. The latest mentor listed for the company’s “members” is Donald Trump, according to Wikipedia.

Every source with information about them, including Absolute Write, Writer Beware, and Predators and Editors warns against giving them any information, as that info will be sold. Bloggers who have posted warnings against this company have received notices of pending lawsuits and requests (threats) to withdraw any negative publicity. All complaints also mention that what is stated in writing as “free” turns into a fee of anywhere from \$108 to over \$1,000 when you talk to them on the phone, and they absolutely refuse to use Paypal. A few years ago, Cambridge attempted to sue “Ripoff Report” and the Better Business Bureau.

One of the things I found out in reading through the postings was that people seemed to receive a “hit” from this company soon after subscribing to Writer’s Digest. I have no reason to think that Writer’s Digest is anything but a worthy help to honest writers, but if their mailing lists have been compromised, it is all the more reason to be cautious of every wolf in sheep’s clothing.

I could use the publicity as much as any of you, but in this case the price is much too high. My

paper shredder looks hungry; time to give it a snack!

Congratulations, Mary!

**HDCWC MEMBER ANN HEIMBACK NOW HAS
HER OWN COLUMN IN THE LOCAL
NEWSPAPER**

I couldn't be more pleased or excited! I just learned that I will be writing a column on Parkinson's Disease for the "Victor Valley Daily Press", twice a month. This will make what Burt and I experienced worth while, and get the word out to others: What it is, what to expect, and where to find information. Maybe more people will come to our support group meetings, as well. This is so important to me.

I just had to share with the world!

(Congratulations, Ann!)

The announcement of the closing of Borders Bookstore has sent shock waves throughout the reading and writing communities. E-mails poured in as our own members expressed their frustration and anger at this move, and speculated about what would be next. Walden Books is gone, Pickwick is gone, and numerous small businesses dealing with books have folded. While we recognize we don't have the power to force a corporation to maintain a business which would operate at a loss, the breadth and depth of our own HDCWC members' response to this news was amazing and shows we're paying attention and can come together in a concerted manner when the chips are down!

FROM MARY D SCOTT Comes the great news that her book, *Spirit Driven Events* was reviewed on the OWN website on July 23, and her happy comment was: "aha...finally on the Oprah OWN website!

Click on the link below to watch the video and see the related information!

http://myown.oprah.com/community/library/video_detail.html?entity_id=203459259&media_id=2

**START OF THE "NEW YEAR" FOR BRANCH -
MEMBERS LAUDED FOR PAST SERVICE**

As is traditional at the July meeting, each year, the new Board of Directors is introduced, and this year was no exception. Incumbents Bob Isbill, President, and Naomi Ward, Secretary, were re-elected to their respective positions. We have a new Vice President Freddi Gold and Treasurer Jenny Margotta.

Board of Directors Chairpersons Roberta Smith (Membership), Carol Warren (State Representative and Hospitality), Marilyn Ramirez (Historian) and Mary Langer Thompson, Member at Large, were reappointed to their previous positions. Mary Thompson and Roberta Smith continue to share the co-chair of the critique groups.

In addition, Bob Isbill presented recognition honors to retiring Treasurer Anne Bancroft Fowler for her outstanding service to the High Desert Branch in the offices of Treasurer and Membership Chairperson. Anne has been an integral part of this branch's success with her long-term devotion to the club, her energetic dedication to her offices and for the integrity with which she has served our branch and the California Writers Club.

Naomi (N.C.) Ward stepped into the vacant office of Secretary, temporarily held by Bob Isbill, and took over the editorship of our newsletter which at that time was being published once every other month. She has amazed members of the board with her rapidity and accuracy in compiling minutes of our meetings and getting them to us punctually each and every month. She has lit the fires under the membership in soliciting (read "demanding") story product for her "pantry" so successfully that the *Inkslinger* is now a monthly publication admired and respected throughout the state.

Congratulations to you, Anne, and to you, Naomi for your contributions and your efforts over the last several years.

You both have left your everlasting mark of quality for us to build upon. Thank you.

When you put down the good things you ought to have done, and leave out the bad things you did do – that’s a memoir. - - - Will Rogers



HEARD AT
HESPERIA
LIBRARY/HD
CWC
SUMMER
PROGRAM

James Brown, educator, novelist, and award winning writer, spoke during the Hesperia Library Summer Reading Program which is sponsored by the HD CWC. Brown, author of *The Los Angeles Diaries* read from his latest memoir, *This River*.

He addressed audience questions regarding writing methods, editors and publishers.

(Just as an aside, one of our founding members, Evelyn Blocker, chose to join us for the major portion of Brown’s program. Nothing unusual about that, but it was Evelyn’s 92nd Birthday! ! And Belated Happy Birthday wishes, Evelyn....)

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TREASURER – *Jenny Margotta*
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HOME RUN

Winners at the drawing on July 9th of the free baseball tickets to Stater Brothers Stadium to see the Mavericks pounce Stockton and enjoy the fireworks as well were: Ann Heimback, Virginia and Bob Hall, Carol Warren, Suzanne and Willard Brumbaugh and Bob Isbill.

Thank you for the tickets, US Bank!

We’re sure to enjoy the evening and boost our HD CWC when we’re publicized on the scoreboard!

WHITE LIE

By Carol Warren

This happened when I was about seven or eight years old and my brother was two or three. It was a lovely summer day and I was playing in our fenced back yard. I was having plenty of fun all by myself, when my mother hollered out the back door that I was to keep an eye on my little brother so she could get the kitchen floor scrubbed. (she always scrubbed on her hands and knees until she was in her late 70's- no mops or Swiffer Jets for her.) I always complained when I had to "babysit" for Johnny and this was no exception.

Then I had a brain storm and turned the garden hose on him and then went to tattle to Mom that he had wet his pants and had to come in and get changed.

The only problem was that "eagle eyes Mom" had seen what I did out the kitchen window. When the kitchen floor was dry, I was the one sent to my room and little Johnny got to have a dish of ice cream.

Isn't it funny the stories we still remember from our childhood; which is a verry long time ago!

KEEP THE PANTRY FULL
WRITE – WRITE - WRITE

FONT – Arial 11 point
LINE SPACING – Single
WORDS – Less than 800

POETRY NEEDED
CHAPTERS WELCOME IF
THEY MEET THE CRITERIA
PLEASE, DON'T LET THE
INKS/ INGER GO HUNGRY

LAST FLIGHT

by Thomas Kier

She fled. He followed.

She ran for her life this time, and they both knew it. Her heart pounded, her feet flew but slower now, her breath was short and hot in her throat. It was all too familiar, and she was tired. Always she had outrun him, the vampire that would find her from time to time, when she least expected.

He was swifter now, it seemed, haunting and chasing and menacing the very fabric of what she was, close behind, on one side then the other. Sometimes it seemed she was already surrounded. And that was what drew her strength from her and fed it directly to him. She could not win. It was no longer a choice.

The stitch in her side made her limp, and list to one side. Stars exploded before her eyes. She stumbled, but recovered and ran on. Now no faster than a walk, she trotted with her head down and arms hanging limp. Her breath caught raggedly in her throat, and a spasm of coughing shook her. She was spent.

Then he was there before her, welcoming arms thrown wide, all the passion and deception of the ages in his eyes and in his voice. There would be no refusing him. She felt it; he expected it. She looked in his eyes and knew.

She went gladly to him now, strength and youth suddenly renewed, and offered herself up to him. His protective cloak swirled closer about them as his head dropped and his teeth sought the secret places guarding her vitality.

"Ah, beauty, beauty, you are mine at last." His voice was comforting in her final hour.

She had but one question for him, and gasped it out before her spinning head took her under for the last time: "Who are you?"

His reply: "I am age." And he ended her.

THE SNICKER CHALLENGE

By Rebekah Koontz

At a hotel a couple weeks ago, my little brother and I decided that it was a nice enough day to go for a splash in the pool. This generally meant me thinking up clever ways to break the "no diving" rule without breaking the "no diving" rule and him wading about the stairs in the shallow end. This was when I thought up a little challenge.

Standing in the semi-middle of the pool, I balanced on one foot and pointed toward him with an outstretched arm. My goal was to mimic Michelangelo's painting where God and man's fingertips touch, or I just looked like an idiot; probably both. Still in this position, I told him that if he could touch my fingers, he'd win something.

A grin stretched across his face in seconds. "What will you give me?" He was already leaving the safety of his stairs and hopping to the middle of the pool. We ruled out my laptop, bedroom, and twenty bucks real quick. But he knew there was still something in it for him and made it to my fingers. I backed into the deep end a little farther and dared a second time. He won again. A look from mom warned me not to inch back anymore, so we ended the game and began going over what he could choose as a prize. Surprisingly, he picked something I baked, his one request being that it had to have cinnamon in it. Immediately, I thought: snicker doodles.

I wasn't very proud of my finished product though. It wasn't that they tasted horrible, but they had yellow spots in them, like the egg yoke wasn't mixed in properly. But my family assured me they were good. And they proved it, in a kind of strange way. Specifically, my brothers proved it – by locking me out of the house. I ran into the door with a thud. This wasn't the first time I had been mistakenly locked out, so I tried the side door. Locked also. That was peculiar. Squinting, I covered my eyes to see through the window.

Scrambling about the kitchen were two of my brothers. Each was shoving cookies in his face as fast as he could swallow and laughing hysterically between gulps like he was doing the naughtiest thing. Now, yellow chicken-pox cookies or no yellow chicken-pox cookies, I still put work into them. And not to have them gobbled down in five minutes! I banged on the window, threatening my brothers to let me in. That didn't do much. They still wouldn't unlock the door. But they paused in their cookie swallowing frenzied to wave.

I don't know how many cookies they ate, but by the time I found a way into the house, it was too late. There were only a couple of cookies left.

Brothers think they're so funny.

(From Mary Thompson we have a short course in Flash Fiction – what it is, what it does, and how to achieve the results.)

WHAT IS FLASH FICTION?

by Mary Langer Thompson

Flash Fiction, a short story with 1,000 words or fewer, is not a new genre. It is the "Short Short" with a new name. In many ways, it is freeing. It can end with ambiguity; loose ends are encouraged.

In "Narrative Calisthenics," (Poets and Writers, Nov.Dec., 2008) Bret Anthony Johnston emphasizes that a main character has to have a want. It can be as simple as a glass of water. The author suggests a short story can even be written in a group. Go around the room and have each person put the character through hell trying to achieve his or her goal. The leader should force a resolution somewhere toward the end of the circle of students.

I decided to see if this could work with a group of twenty seventh and eighth graders. Through collaboration, we came up with a changeable, flexible outline and then the story, "The Thirst." When we disagreed on what should happen, we voted on the best beginning, middle, and ending. We also voted on the title.

The main reaction of the students upon reading the final version was "Wow, we wrote this?"

If seventh and eighth graders can do this, so can we.

"THE THIRST"

It all started after seventh period, when all of a sudden Mary came over to talk to Michael and ask for the homework for math.

Mary said, "You have nice green eyes."

Michael turned red, and his mouth turned so dry that he couldn't talk. He couldn't even say, "Thank you." Michael just gave her the paper and left to get some water.

Michael ran to the drinking fountain. Mary ran after him.

"Michael, wait."

He pressed the button but the fountain didn't work.

"Aah." He screamed at the sky, his arms outstretched. "I'm so thirsty, and the darn water fountain isn't working."

"Watch your mouth, young man," said someone from around the corner.

Janitor Stephen came up to the fountain.

"It hasn't been working since yesterday. We made an announcement."

Mary came to Michael's defense before he could speak. "He wasn't here yesterday." Then she said to Michael, "Hey, why did you run?"

Michael was still speechless.

Janitor Stephen said, "I'll work on fixing this, but it may take a couple hours."

"Mary," Michael managed to blurt out with a hoarse voice, "I need to get home. I'll talk to you later. Really."

#

But first he ran to the snack bar. He asked for a drink, but they were all out. He continued to run home, aching for water, coke, anything.

"Gosh," he said when he discovered the water would not come out of the faucet. Then it dawned on him. Times were hard. His parents had not paid the water bill again this month.

"Is there any water anywhere?" Michael asked himself aloud. He grabbed two dollars from his wallet. On the way to the store he saw Mary again. She was walking home.

"Hey, Michael," she said.

"Oh, hey, Mary."

Mary asked, "Where are you going?"

"I um...I have to go do something. Catch you later."

"I guess," said Mary, but I wanted to ask if you wanted to go to...Bye." Her voice faded as Michael continued running to the store. When he arrived, it was closed.

Bang...it hit him. He should go to the nearby lake. He ran home once more to get his purifier.

Back at Big Bear Lake, he lowered the purifier into the water. But even run through the purifier, the water tasted terrible, and he was still thirsty.

#

Hearing music nearby, Michael drifted toward where the beat was coming from. If there's a party, he thought, he might be able to get something to drink. When he saw people dancing in the pavilion overlooking the lake, and coolers sitting about, he said to himself, "Thank Goodness." He strolled inside and tried to look like he belonged there. He casually lifted the lid on one of the coolers and picked out a coke, quickly. Then he heard a voice,

"Wow, you must be really thirsty."

The voice sounded familiar and when he turned, Coke in hand, he saw Mary. "Yes, I was. And am."

He flipped off the lid. Michael must have shaken the can because the liquid sprayed all over him and Mary. His first thought was to drop the can and run, but then he heard laughter. Mary was laughing so hard, she was holding her stomach with one hand and wiping the liquid off of her face with the other. He couldn't help himself. The laughter was contagious and he started to laugh, too.

A new song was beginning, and the couples on the dance floor were looking in their direction.

Mary said, "Would you like to dance, Michael?"

He took a huge drink of coke and set it down on a table. "I sure would," he said, taking her arm.

Mary looked up into his green eyes and let him lead her onto the dance floor.

**HERE WE GO WITH HAZEL STEARN
AND HER LOVE OF WORDS!**

I'm sure you will enjoy this. Here is one word in the English language that can be a noun, verb, adj, adv, prep.

UP

Read until the end ... you'll laugh.

This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is 'UP.' It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv], [prep], [adj], [n] or [v].

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car.

At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special.

And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP.

We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP,

look UP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions.

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, it soaks UP the earth. When it does not rain for awhile, things dry UP. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now . . . my time is UP!

Oh . . . one more thing: What is the first thing you do in the morning and the last thing you do at night?

U
P!

Did that one crack you UP?

Don't screw UP. Send this on to everyone you look UP in your address book . . . or not . . . it's UP to you.

Now I'll shut UP!

PLEASE REMEMBER – Dues are due! Send your check to HDCWC, 20258 HWY 18, STE 430-PMB 281, APPLE VALLEY, CA 92307

We welcome new members INGE STOTZ and BOBBY FARMER.

You are going to enjoy Inge's adventures as an international traveler! She's already submitting stories!

DISCLAIMER

All items in this newsletter are the opinions of the author(s) and do not in any way present the views or official position of CWC

A REMINDER

Be sure to check our website at hdcwc.org and now we are on Facebook. Keep in touch with the Branch activities thru these sites. And save the 2nd Saturday of each month for the Branch meeting.

Don't delay. Make reservations now for the HD CWC conference!

**"HOWL AT THE MOON"
WRITERS' CONFERENCE 2011**



Saturday, October 1, 2011 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

An all-day fest about the craft of writing!

Jennifer Grisanti, Linda Cowgill, Devorah Cutler-Rubenstein and Marilyn R. Atlas will entertain and enlighten you with their wit and wisdom in an outstanding presentation for all those who write or aspire to write. This Apple Valley event is sponsored by the High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club.

Limited seating! Act now! Early Bird Prices:

Only \$35 for members & FT Students until 9/1/2011

Just \$40 for non-members until 9/1/2011

FULL DETAILS AND REGISTRATION FORM www.hdcwc.org or phone 760.221.6367

This is going to be a really wonderful day for all writers held at the Lewis Center for Academic Excellence in Apple Valley on October 1st. Let's see you there.

Come on! Be a writer.

THE CWC LIT REVIEW STATUS

You might be wondering: *what is the status of this project?* And here it is: all reviews are in, the selection process algorithm is about to be applied. Of course we have a printer lined up and Joyce is working on style and form. Now, there has been a delay as some personal business of importance to me sort of jammed up the path for about a month; however, that jam has been broken and very soon I will proceed.. Thanks for your

patience, expect to hear more soon, and I wish you all good news.

Dave LaRoche

Publishing Pathways? What's That?

As chairperson of the Publishing Pathways Committee I've had a lot of questions about its purpose, role, and benefits to CWC members. So, here are my responses:

What is the purpose of the Publishing Pathways Committee?

The sole purpose of Publishing Pathways is to support CWC members in their effort to publish their writing.

How did the committee get started?

Publishing Pathways was the brainchild of Dave LaRoche. CWCNorCal embraced his plan to create a committee to implement his project. With the first meeting on May 27, 2010, the Publishing Pathways Committee was born.

How does Publishing Pathways support CWC members who want to publish their writing pieces?

The committee has created several support resources:

- Our website, maintained by a web team, is a primary source for up-to-date information about publishing.
- An Expert Speakers' list of people who have had personal experience in the publishing process.
- A Skills Bank consisting of individuals with expertise in adjunct aspects of publishing such as: creating platforms, marketing, query letter writing

How do I get help from the Publishing Pathways Committee?

The Publishing Pathways Committee has a team of trained Mentors whom branch members can consult about publishing. Most branches have from one to five mentors on our team. The Mentor Team is the heart of our program.

What does a mentor do?

The Publishing Pathways Mentor guides and encourages branch members who want to work through the maze of available publishing options. They provide information about publishing options, marketing, branding and platform building. Mentors do not join in the writing process, review, critique or edit writing pieces.

I don't know much about publishing, could I still become a mentor?

Absolutely. We would love to have you join our growing team of twenty-six mentors. Just let your branch president know you would like to be a Publishing Pathways Mentor. Your president will submit your name to the committee. We will provide you with a handbook and a video of our recent Mentor Orientation. In addition, we will provide support and up-to-date information on various publishing options through a couple of mentor meetings a year, frequent e-mails, and various networking opportunities with other mentors.

What should I do if I have more questions?

Ask your branch mentor. If you do not have a branch mentor, e-mail your questions to me: nancycurteman@yahoo.com

P.S. The HD CWC Branch Mentor is Jim Elstad.