



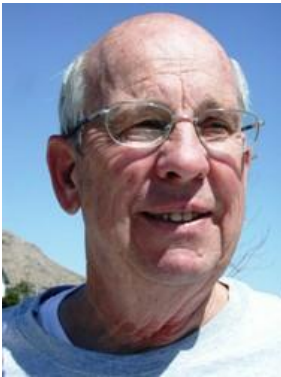
INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC

SAIL ON

November

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
POV
Bob Isbill

Crucifixion, first implemented by the Persians, was used as capital punishment during a window period of history for only seven hundred years. It was such an egregious form of killing that although used by the Romans for the execution of those they ruled, their governors recognized that any citizen of Rome must, by birthright, be spared this horrible, humiliating method of punishment.

As a Sunday school-going boy, for many years, I wondered why Jesus, in his last moments on the cross, “copped out” and said, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” I mean, he had already been beaten unmercifully, and suffered excruciating pain beyond imagination. Why “give up and give in” now?

However, the answer to that question evaded me as any part of my Christian education, and I never asked it, I suppose, because the thought seemed irreverent.

Others must have easily connected the dots, but not me. Much later on, I discovered that he was

crying out the 22nd Psalm that was written 1,000 years earlier to reveal (what we Christians believe to be) the fulfillment of prophecy.

In that “aha” moment, my erroneous thinking for all those years was turned 180 to give me a concept of what happened so different and new that it took my breath away.

All that time I had been wrong.

I’m not talking religion here, folks. I’m talking about those moments in our lives that are invaluable puzzle pieces we didn’t know were missing. We think we have the whole facts, the entire picture. Then we suddenly find that new part which gives us a startlingly fresh view of new enlightenment and truth.

And this is where I hope my point will be made about good story telling.

If you can craft a story with this element (such as in “The Usual Suspects” or “The Sixth Sense”) it makes us re-evaluate everything you have previously told us and led us to believe in your story world. In both those movies, just one last scene clarifies and changes what has been a misperception about what is really going on.

It’s jarring and it’s memorable.

I could have used a more secular example than one based on my faith, and taken less of a chance that some critics might say I am violating our non-religious and no political publishing policy.

No offense.

I just want to save that one for my novel.

BLOGS ARE STILL THE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM OF CHOICE FOR WRITERS

By Frances Smith Savage

We sat on the edge of our seats as Bill Belew took us on a ride we won't soon forget. Freddi Gold introduced our speaker Saturday, October 8, 2011 at the HDCWC meeting and he didn't stop to even take a breath until we paused to celebrate our 102 years of celebration with a birthday cake.

He warned us that one of the things that goes wrong is that he talks fast, and doesn't always finish his sentences because he already knows what he is going to say. We took notes as best we could and filled out the sheet he gave us with the heading: Blogging – Platform of Choice for Writers.

Then he gave us four reasons that, "people have taught, but never do." Writers want to be read; they want to be published; they want to be asked; and most importantly they want to be paid. "A blog will satisfy all of these issues." He said.

He has written a lifetime of articles, over 26,000 and all 150, 200 or 400 words. "It would take a whole lifetime to read them. Every second of every day someone is reading my articles. Ten different unrelated topics and up to 1,000,000 readers for each topic. More total views than the population of 90% of the world's countries. Blogs get read and you can do it too." Whew! He does talk fast, but interesting.

And he gets published, "The stupid things people do, took 9 months, 900 articles," he took the most popular and put them in his book.

He continued, "If you can't find an agent, a well trafficked blog brings them to you. Can't find a publisher? A well trafficked blog brings them to you. Can't find a speaking gig? Can't make a living as a writer? I know my readers and the demographic of my readers, 18-24 year old men and 25-34 year old men, college and graduate school men. So I'm not going to write a book about a teenager."

He has 22,475 active relevant e-mail addresses and he can communicate with his readers more with more than 140 characters. He writes on Facebook and everyone who is a friend gets his e-mails, he gets feedback, love or hate, "Just don't be indifferent to me. Without a blog Facebook becomes meaningless. Put link on Twitter to your blog." He says he can be found, and he gets paid. Advertisers pay him to be put on his blogs.

The biggest obstacles to getting starting, "What's your name going to be? Pick something that people can spell, use your own name, you can always change it. Use the name of your book. Where do I get good/reliable/cheap hosting?"

"Hosting is where your stuff is going. Rent out a space, you buy free, you get nothing. \$70.00 per year wwwbm2hosting.com GoDaddy \$8.00 domain, \$6.00 hosting call them up 24/7. Pick the most basic default template. Bloggers vs Wordpress vs typepad vs homemade – you don't need to pay \$1500 for WORDPRESS if you can type. WORDPRESS, the problem is solved."

He asked "What do I write about? You should choose a topic that you love to write about, you can build your own topics. Write what you are interested in, make sure it is timeless people will always want to know. Write about ways to overcome a habit or depressions – things that are timely. You have to have a lot to say about it and you should have over 1,000 things to say about it."

After our birthday cake, more timely advice: "If you're not using 'publish' you're not blogging; build your blog then put it into a book; Everything that doesn't fit in your book goes into your blog in one minute chunks; If you want to make money use WORDPRESS; Google uses Wordpress; Self hosted, pay \$8.88 domain name \$4.00 month; Copyrighted.



BLOGGING: What NOT To Do!

By Mary D. Scott

As you may know, I missed this past HDCWC meeting due to prior commitments. Our guest speaker, Bill Billew, spoke to the club about Bloggng and how to earn money by doing this, for that is what he does.

Ironically, since late Sunday evening, I have been receiving about 200+ comments via Email from my Blog per day... and they are all junk advertising comments! My Blog site automatically forwards all the incoming comments to my Email address. Now from Email I can do a delete all. That's fine, however, from the Blog site, itself, I can not. I have to go in manually and delete one by one of each of these messages and quite honestly I do not have such luxury of time. This too can happen to you. This is quite frustrating because if I don't delete them on a regular basis my Email and Blog site will actually seize (i.e. they will fill up my space

limitations and eventually bring my Blog and Email down on its knees...in essence it will no longer function).

This was probably done by an inexperienced person with good intentions, thinking they would secretly give my Blog site a boost. Either way I'm left holding the dust pan and broom. I'm the only one that can clean it up and for now I'm not quite sure how I can resolve the dilemma other than to shut down my Blog completely.

For the inexperienced Blogger, let me explain what has happened here:

1. There are many ways to blast someone's Blog address out into cyberspace (I went go into that), but when it gets blasted out there, it goes to places that create Blog address lists who sells these lists to companies (much like getting on an Email mailing list that people sell, but worse); then
2. These companies pay people to go to these Blog addresses and make comments on ALL of their Blog articles with their advertising junk; i.e. one of the ways Bloggers make money!
3. Then, the Blog owner receives an Email from their Blog administrator company (in my case, from WordPress) informing them that a comment was left for them to approve or disapprove. So, I not only receive via Email the Blog comment, but it is also in my Blog inbox as a "pending" comment until I address it. Hence, I have to delete the comment from two different places (from my Email inbox and my Blog inbox).

I hope this explains things better for you, since I know most of our Club members don't understand all the Ins and Outs of Blogging, and I would hate to see them accidentally do this to themselves or to others.

I would like to mention that my Email and Blog addresses are on our HDCWC website. I have had my Blog for over a year and a half without any problems such as this. It could have been obtained by almost anyone, but the timing of the meeting with my issue can not possibly be coincidental.

Food for Thought from John Kizziar—

-The University of Redlands prints books and they send them to The Book Craftsman in Mentone to get bound. It might be a little more pricey but you'll get them on time

HOWL AT THE MOON CONFERENCE

By Frances Smith Savage

The Howl at the Moon Conference Saturday October 1, 2011 was without doubt a success. Everyone seemed pleased with the speakers' knowledge and presentations. The breaks were timely, and lunch was enjoyable as we visited with friends and met new ones in the process.

The Lewis Center for Academic Excellence was an excellent choice for our conference this year and we were comfortable, a bit cool in the morning, and warmer in the afternoon, but the chairs were comfortable and all in all it was an enjoyable experience.

The speakers kept our attention and often drew the audience in and several stood and shared their own thoughts and experiences. We even got to write a very short paragraph after receiving three words from those sitting next to us. Several brave souls read what they had written and we must admit, if you didn't already know, that there are several writers in our group.

In this article, I will touch briefly on each speaker however I will go into more detail in future articles, and will leave that up to my boss, Naomi.

Holly LaPat introduced the first speaker Jennifer Grisanti whose topic was: Adding Fiction to Your Truth in Your Writing. Jennifer gave us a great deal of advice how we are to speak of our own experiences in our fiction. She said, "Create empathy, dive into your own emotional truth. What are some of your pivotal moments when your world was turned upside down? What drives you to succeed? This is where you'll find emotional truth for your story." Great advice but you'll have to keep reading the future *Inkslingers* to hear more.

Robert Kirk introduced Linda Cowgill and her theme was: The Emotional Pattern of Plot. She said, "Plotting – screenplay and novel plotting are important to both. Scripts need to be plotted in terms of action, exposition and emotion." Again we received advice from a professional, and her 3 requirements of drama will be included in future *Inkslingers*.

Vice President Freddi Gold made the introductions of Devorah Cutler-Rubenstein and Marilyn R. Atlas. They spoke in tandem, and it worked very well as first one explained, then the other. They spoke and their theme was: How to Avoid Clichés in Novels, Screenplays and Other Writing – Crafting Non-Stereotypical Characters That Sell. In their second segment, their theme

was: Mastering the Art of Pitching Novels, Books, Teleplays and Screenplays.

They covered many topics and one of the final ones CHA CHA CHA: Character, Challenge and Change.

Keep reading the *Inkslinger* for more as we listen to the professionals.

ANOTHER REVIEW OF OUR HATM CONFERENCE

Thanks to everyone for making our "Howl at the Moon" Writers' Conference 2011 such a success. According to the reviews, we had great overall ratings despite the room temperature--- too cold in the morning, too hot in the afternoon.

Favorites in the category of speakers varied (as did so many of the responses) but average ratings for all were above a 4 grade, mostly 5's. Food, for those who ordered from Maxwell's, had very good average ratings as did the venue of the Lewis Center.

Some thought the program was too long, some too short. Others would like to have had the microphone used throughout, which didn't happen in the afternoon sessions.

Some said too much emphasis on TV and screenwriting, but nearly all those saying so said there was great information provided for writers in general.

It was a success financially. We made money for our treasury and the Board voted unanimously to use some of that for our own PowerPoint Projector, which we now have, thanks to Dr. Robert Kirk's purchasing experience.

Thank you for being part of this experience and for participating in our major fundraiser for the High Desert Branch.

Bob Isbill
President/Publicity
www.hdcwc.org

FREDDI GOLD TO PRESENT THE NOVEMBER MEETING IN A UNIQUE FORMAT.

By Freddi Gold

A round table discussion is an excellent form of small group communication when the "club" is going to be a long term engagement. Roundtable discussions are extremely useful when it comes to learning, whether the learning be social, academic, related to hobbies or interests - such as writing.

During our November meeting we will offer this opportunity. We will break into smaller circles (groups) of 6-8 people for the first round for a set period of time. We'll discuss questions, stories, ideas, different experiences and examples of writing, the business of writing, contests, technological changes, writers block, first drafts, e-books, podcasts, sources for help, publishing, and similar areas. Then when the cowbell rings, everyone will break and move to another group of their choice. There are 10 different topics Each round will last about 15 minutes allowing you to participate in four or five topics. The facilitator in each group will over-see the flow of the interaction. It will be a fun and easy-going experience and a great opportunity to know your fellow club members a little better.



READERS' PANEL NEEDS MATERIAL

Know what \$25 buys?

At the HDCWC, it buys up to five members who will read up to 100,000 words of your manuscript.

Go to the HDCWC web page, hdcwc.org, and click on the "Critique" tab. Scroll down and click on "Click here for Readers' Panel information." The paragraph at the top of that page will explain the overall purpose of the Readers' Panel, and the links at the bottom of the page will take you to the required forms.

If you want to submit a manuscript, click on "Criteria to Submit."

If you want to be a reader, click on "Instructions to Readers."

If you don't have access to a computer, or you want the easy way out, the forms and information may be obtained at the monthly meetings from Hazel Stearns.

Emails may be sent to c21hazel@aol.com

SPECIAL MESSAGE

TO ALL HDCWC MEMBERS, GUESTS AND INTERESTED PARTIES:

The High Desert Branch of the CWC is in the process of organizing a 2-Day (all day) writing seminar on Saturday, April 28, 2012 and Sunday, April 29, 2012.

If there is sufficient interest expressed by our members by virtue of interest emails received, the HD CWC Board will lock in those dates with Nina Amir, professional writer and seminar leader.

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

The list of choices of what she is available to teach is available by clicking here.

The price range per day would be \$35, and a significant discount for those who want to attend both Saturday and Sunday-- perhaps \$55 for both days.

The classes would be held in the Victor Valley, exact location to be negotiated.

SPECIAL PRICE ARRANGEMENT FOR HDCWC MEMBERS ONLY:

IF you express interest, we are prepared to set up a payment schedule of 5 payments of 20% each month beginning in November so that it won't squeeze anybody. (Thank you, Jenny Margotta).

I need to know ASAP how many would be interested in doing such a thing in order for us to move forward on this, or to drop the idea.

This will probably be a rapid sell-out so if it comes about with HDCWC Board approval, those who respond to this email will be given first dibs!

Please look over the list as soon as you can, and respond to vvmediator@aol.com in this manner:

I am interested in Topic #2 and #5 (or whatever)

I would rather attend on Saturday

I would rather attend on Sunday

I would probably attend both Saturday and Sunday

OTHER COMMENTS:

My Name and Phone Number:

Bob Isbill
President/Publicity

Due to technical difficulties with this month's newsletter, we were unable to notify the membership of Tom Saunderson's memorial in sufficient time to be there.

Thanks to Roberta Smith and Jenny Margotta for their assistance on this issue!

We have some members interested in starting critique groups:

Norma Garcia would like to form a Women's Memoir Critique Group to meet on Thursday evenings. Please contact her at norma92392@yahoo.com

Dr. Reed Powell and Linda Bowden would like to form a critique group for a mixed genre to meet on Saturdays. Please contact Reed at drpowellav@yahoo.com or Linda at lnbowd@aol.com

HD CWC GIFT WRAPPING IN NOVEMBER

We have secured the date of Sunday, November 27, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Barnes & Noble Booksellers store in the Victor Valley Mall for those who would and could provide their gift wrapping talents to meet the public and advertise our Branch.

Please contact Bob Isbill at RIsbill@aol.com by November 15, if you are willing to participate in the gift wrapping project.

*Bob Isbill
President/Publicity*

WILL THE CWC ANSWER A PLEA FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE?

The California Writers Club has leveraged Jack

London's name for the better part of 100 years. The CWC began as informal gatherings of London and his friends. We cite these stellar origins constantly. Now California State Parks has initiated closure proceedings for Jack London State Park.

If we as writers have a voice, we might want to use it now. If we do, we stand to benefit right along with Jack.

This is because PR teaches one lesson above all others: People do not want you telling them what to be interested in. No. They want you to tell them more about what interests them already.

So here we have a unique opportunity. Published and unpublished members alike can attract an editor's eye, or a search engine, by writing about state park closures. The fact that California will shut down 70 state parks constitutes a hot topic. Submit an essay on the subject to a newspaper or magazine and you greatly improve your chances of acceptance.

At the same time, you get to wax eloquent about the CWC, and you come away with a publishing credit.

Arguably, we owe Jack London. Consider us one aspect of his legacy. We'd do well to champion the rest of it, including his ranch, cottage and yes, even his gravesite.

For more information, see <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/06/02/fall-of-the-wild/>, <http://jacklondonpark.com/> and http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=712. If you place an article, please let me know.

Good luck and sail on!
- Donna McCrohan Rosenthal, PR chair,



Proof reading a lost art? You judge....

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
See if that works any better than a fair trial!

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
Now that's taking things a bit far!

NEW ADVERTISING PROGRAM

We are beginning an advertising program. Members may advertise their book(s) or business in the Inkslinger. The business does NOT have to be writing related. Ads will appear beginning with the January 2012 issue.

Parameters:

Submit a standard sized business card (2-1/2 inches by 3 inches). No other size card or type of advertisement will be accepted at this time. Either mail a card to the club or give one to the advertising coordinator (Roberta Smith) at the club meeting along with payment.

The cost to advertise is \$10 per quarter.

The business card must be received no later than the 2nd Saturday of the month prior to the quarter.

Schedule is as follows:

<u>Submit by</u>	<u>Ad will appear</u>
December 10, 2011	January, February, March 2012
March 10, 2012	April, May, June 2012
June 9, 2012	July, August, September 2012
September 8, 2012	October, November, December 2012

Mailing Address:

HDCWC
20258 Hwy 18, Suite 430-PMB 28
Apple Valley, CA 92307
Attn: Advertising Coordinator
Please direct questions to Roberta Smith
cwrlsmith@verizon.net

HDCWC WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK,

by Mary D. Scott

Our club's mission statement, as taken from our Inkslinger: ***"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.”

Our club website has a “Meet the Authors” section where ALL of our published authors can have their very own web page. Having your own web page gets you more exposure.

I know we have more than 21 published authors, so why are you not contacting me to get your HDCWC Authors web page created and published? It is simple, just send me an email and request the template layout of required information that I need from you. You do not need to fill out the template per se, just provide ALL the required information and JPEG files via email. My email address is: Mary_Scott@spiritdrivenevents.com

In addition, our club is now on Facebook at the following address: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/California-Writers-Club-High-Desert-Branch/186933861362147> or simply do a Facebook search for “High Desert California Writers Club”. This is just yet another vehicle for our members to be able to reach out to each other. So, if you are on Facebook, then add our club as your Facebook friend and start networking and keeping in touch with what is going on.

Visit our club’s website at: <http://www.hdcwc.org> and keep yourself up to date on upcoming “Events” and “Tools for Authors”. If you have a tool to share with your fellow Authors, then send me the link and I will post it in the “Tools for Authors” section.

The HDCWC website and Facebook are in direct alignment with our mission statement.

Please keep in mind, the success of our club is in direct correlation to our member’s participation. I look forward to hearing from our published authors in the very near future.

NEED A SUBJECT FOR YOUR NEXT BOOK?

There’s a man in my neighborhood who was in a concentration camp during World War II. He tells some amazing tales.

He’s a short, wiry, Italian man who speaks with a thick accent. He has a bushy mustache,

twinkling eyes, and he uses a tall gnarly stick to stump around the block on his morning walks. He looks like the perfect image that’s been photoshopped for a wine label.

He’s a fascinating character—and a genuine survivor.

He’s also lonesome. He lives alone.

I couldn’t do justice to this story, but someone needs to write it. The timing is right with the Iranian president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, saying the Holocaust is a myth and calling for Israel to be wiped off the map.

If a HDCWC member is interested, please contact me: Hazel Stearns, c21hazel@aol.com. I’ll be glad to introduce you to this special man.



I know you think these cats are a Halloween gimmick, but they aren’t. They are to let you, the HDCWC member, know that trying to get you to cooperate is like trying to herd cats!

And I know some of you are thinking I’m pointing fingers – but I’m not. Somehow, I feel it’s my fault you can’t remember the simple basics of the INKSLINGER style sheet. It’s not a punitive device, it’s A) an exercise in self discipline, and B) a way to give some sense of harmony to the “picture” of the IS. You wouldn’t put Jackson Pollack and Thomas Kinkade side by side on the same canvas. I don’t like to see Arial and Times New Roman font side by side – Arial (Kinkade) is soft and neat while TNR (J. Pollack) is rough and “sticky” with its heavy serif design.

Out of all the submissions for this month’s issue (there were nearly 20 on the “news” side alone with nearly that many in the fiction/fun genre and you’ll not see them all, yet - No more than three or four were in style sheet. I spent nearly an hour trying to override a “fancy” format to put one of them into shape for you to read and couldn’t do a very good job of that. (Okay, you want a computer whiz, that’s up to you, but until one comes along to edit the IS, please, have mercy!)

Oddly enough, I find several responses from, “I didn’t see the ‘rules’ I don’t read the IS” to the assumption that being a very busy activist with a

minimum of time to spend on Branch activities, excuses one from the self discipline necessary to meet publishing requirements.. I'm disappointed, particularly with the attitude of "but it doesn't mean ME!!"

"Publishing requirements"?, you say. Okay. I know we're in an electronic age/surge and many of our members are self-published where they have no restraints. However, and particularly in the non-fiction genre, publications still accepting real, live, submissions, do have style sheets, and their editors don't have time to put it into their format before publishing. The submission is rejected.

One more time, I would outline the very simple steps to submitting your offerings to the *Inkslinger*. And, if it isn't done, no, I'll not return them, though I've been tempted, because you are sharing your time and talents with the rest of us in the form of personal treasure and I don't feel justified in denying anyone that venue

1 – Please go into your processor and ADJUST THE FORMAT to reflect ARIAL FONT 11.

2 – ADJUST your LINE SPACING TO 0 spaces to single line spacing.

3 – Please, no fancy paragraph or line spacing! I'll do the headlines, etc.

When you use the HD CWC "club" or "branch" referring to our writing group, please capitalize the words "Club" and "Branch."



HAVE A SAFE
AND HAPPY
HALLOWEEN



Now, in keeping with the season, let's start our contributors' section with our master of the macabre, Thomas Kier

NEW LIFE

Tom woke to close heat and a feeling of isolation, as if he was wrapped in cotton. Clogged sinuses, arid dryness in his throat, and the familiar dull headache told him it was his allergies--nothing new. First stop on this tour was some good clean water. But in this country, clean water wasn't always to be found. Which reminded him to check the GPS for his exact coordinates. Step across an invisible line here and even a little archaeologist would be in big trouble.

The light filtering in through his closed eyelids told him it was no longer night, but the time of day was beyond him. Stiff and sore were his world right now. When he made a pass at reaching for the water, the clock, anything, he found he couldn't move at all, and that's when he forced his eyes open. That's when the panic started.

His eyes *would* open with difficulty, but it was still hard to see through them. There was a film over his vision, a little thinner here, heavier over there. Tom thought of the cheap sunglasses he used to buy that didn't have an even coating of whatever they sprayed on to darken the plastic lenses. But why would he fall asleep with his shades on in the jungle?

He moved his head with difficulty, and the sudden retching from the harsh tickle in his throat made him squeeze his eyes shut again. He didn't see where he was at first, didn't see his shroud of white and the heavier bands of silk that held him at the wrists, ankles, and waist. If he had seen these things, he might have wondered what his neglectful mind had led him into while in a well-forgotten drunken stupor. His pounding head might believe it, except for the fact that there was no alcohol to be found in his effects.

When he was able to control his breathing again, the first thing Tom heard was a faint, incessant chittering sound that seemed to come from no particular direction. Slowly, breathing as softly as his starving lungs would permit, he opened his eyes to look around without moving any other muscles.

Leaning in close and watchful was a giant brown hairy face with two huge curving fangs protruding from a wide mouth. The top of the teeth were covered in stiff bristles of hair. Above were eyes, and eyes, and still more eyes. He knew this face! It would be easier to think if his head wasn't pounding so hard.

Suddenly he placed it: tarantula. *Theraphosa blondi* if he wasn't mistaken--goliath tarantula--which was fine, and relatively harmless as long as the spider didn't feel threatened. Just as Tom was relaxing a little, an inner voice suddenly warned him that he wasn't looking through any microscope. What he saw before him was life-size, which would make the fangs about a foot long! Still he forced himself to be calm. So far, it only looked interested--very interested.

Tom forced his eyes away from the spider's so he could take stock of his situation. He was vertical and still immobile, so he must assume he was the fly on the web. If only his head would stop hurting! There was not one drop of water on his tongue, and he suddenly noticed his mouth was wide open and stuck that way. It couldn't be lockjaw, he was caught up on his tetanus booster, as well as a thousand other shots. So his mouth must be stretched open and held by the spider's silk.

As Tom forced his eyes downward, head following suit only slightly, he could see his own desiccated legs and stomach, looking like a victim of extreme dehydration. Last night, he had been as healthy as any other American! He forced panic down once again and tried to think his way out of this predicament.

That was when he noticed the small lumps darting about just under his skin, all vaguely moving toward his head. In perfect denial, he raised his eyes back up toward the mother spider, who had turned her back on him and was preparing to shower him with fine hairs from her body. Tom understood that the itch in his throat produced by this attack would force him to vomit out her children, who had been sent inside to feed off his vital juices.

His mind descended fast into madness; the rest would be simple and unavoidable reflex anyway. Just before his eyes squeezed shut for good, Tom saw the unbroken line of baby tarantulas--new and wondrous life--marching down his body and the web and out into the world.

Ghost Story

By Linda Bowden

Amanda sat on the floor playing with her dolls. Grandma looked over at her first grandchild with a joy in her heart that could never be explained or captured in a single sentence. Linda had seen other phenomenon about this house she lived in. An eerie feeling at different times of the day and night, not to mention the dog would not even go in the bathroom of the house.

Linda sat on the sofa watching her granddaughter play with Barbie and then it happened. The hall door slammed loudly. Amanda looked over and said, "Hey who closed that?" Linda really couldn't explain it. There was no wind in the house. It was winter and all the windows and doors were closed. No one had entered or exited, the door just slammed.

It wasn't the first time something like this had happened in this house. It wasn't the last.

DESERT BUNNIES

by

Ann Miner Heimback

When I lived in Las Vegas and I was looking for a job, I discovered an opening in Caliente, a little town in Southeastern Nevada. I invited my friend, Lois, to ride along with me. Lois knew exactly how to get there, so she said, and since I didn't, I listened.

As we sped along, I saw a sign for Pahrump pointing that-a-way. That didn't seem right, and I questioned her. She insisted all was well. "It's okay, just keep going."

I did, and, eventually, we stopped to check directions, because it felt to me like we should be there by now. Lois went inside the gas station and came back with the information that we were on the right road.

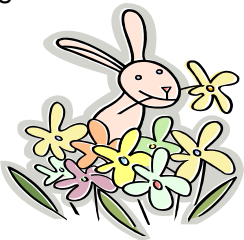
Soon it got closer and closer to my appointment time, and I grew more concerned. We were in the middle of what seemed like Nowhere, Nevada, with nothing but desert cottontails running around. We came upon a large motor home parked on the side of the road. I pulled over and asked if they had a map of Nevada. They did, and we discovered that we were on the exact opposite side of the state from Caliente. It would be impossible to be on time for the appointment.

Cell phones were not prevalent in 1995, and I hoped we would come upon civilization soon so I could call the little school to make amends. Mind you, it was all vast, open desert.

Then we saw it, a large sign, indicating an establishment, and lo and behold, there was a phone booth right in front of it.

But hark! A large, rather rapid-moving semi pulled into the place just before we got there, and I just knew that truck driver was stopping to make a call. But we were in luck, because he went on around to the back of the buildings, leaving the phone booth to us..

I jumped out of the car to phone my contact in Caliente. I apologized, and rescheduled for the following week. Lois had stayed in the car, and from her vantage point she had a view of the front door. She pointed out the little sign above the doorbell. It read, "Ring bell for pleasure." That is when I realized what the big sign on the road had read. We were at the Cottontail Ranch. And yes, I guess the truck driver did stop to "make a call."



THE NOBLE MANHATTAN

From George Gracyk

Note: This is an old family recipe taught to me by my Father-in-law Waldo Simon in 1954. The Gracyk clan refers to it simply as "the old family recipe!"

First of all, get to know a little about whisky and liquor in general. Manhattans being a cocktail, a mixed drink of several ingredients, requires not imagination but a practical approach. The basic ingredient is Bourbon or Rye whisky. Rye whisky is unknown west of the Mississippi, but is common lingo in the East and Northeastern Coastal regions. Even there, true Rye whisky is rare and virtually all whisky for some reason is called Rye. Therefore the common ingredient of our subject drink is Bourbon whisky, either a straight or blended variety.

Here, one should touch upon the concept of the proof value of the liquor. This can be misleading to the average person. Pure 100% liquor is 200

proof and in reality it requires a laboratory to achieve it. A liquor of 200 proof would be 100% pure grain alcohol. The highest proof I have ever seen on a bottle of liquor was 180 proof; that was a bottle of Jamaican Rum.

Next we come to straight and blended whiskies. Whisky usually comes as 80 proof or 100 proof, the 100 proof is often bonded and guaranteed as to proof and ageing as stated on the label. Again, even the 100 proof whiskies are 50% spring water! Blending is mixing several different whiskies along with neutral grain spirits to produce a smoother product than a straight whiskey. Blended whisky is preferred in cocktails for a smoother tasting drink.

Entire books and indeed even a thesis or two have been written about the blending of Scotch and/or Irish whisky. The current fad is for Single Malt Scotch Whisky. A Manhattan made with Scotch rather than Bourbon is renamed as a Rob Roy.

The next ingredient is Sweet Vermouth. It is a deep, dark color and often called Italian Vermouth. Dry Vermouth is a pale yellow color and often referred to as French Vermouth. It is an ingredient in preparing a Martini. Vermouths are fortified wines.

Next is Crème de Cacao, it comes in a clear or a dark chocolate color. The dark is preferred for this recipe. I have never found another Manhattan recipe with the mention of Crème de Cacao as an ingredient.

Finally, seemingly minor yet vital ingredients are Angostura Aromatic Bitters and a dash of Maraschino cherry juice.

MANHATTAN RECIPE –

1 Cup (8 ozs) straight or blended Whisky
½ Cup (4 ozs) Sweet Vermouth
¼ Cup (2 ozs) Crème de Cacao
EXACTLY 7 drops Angostura Bitters

No need to stir or shake, ingredients will blend in the mixing. Serve chilled in a cocktail glass or over ice in a low ball glass with one or two stemmed Maraschino cherries and a few drops of cherry juice. Enjoy!

P S. Don't drink and drive

A SIGH

By Linda Bowden

I believe a sigh is in order at the end of a busy day, when you make it home safely, when your children enter the door on time. Sometimes we need a sigh after a good cup of java, or a meal remembered true or otherwise. A sigh is something that gets us from one moment to the next, opens conversation and makes us feel a lot better. A sigh is a necessary part of the human language; it's the bridge between one sentence and the next, a thinking man's word.

(Here are a couple of interesting exercises from Rusty LaGrange. This must come under the heading of "fast thinking". Enjoy)

KEY IN HAND

FLASH FICTION using a starter idea
and eight minutes to complete
by Rusty LaGrange

Exercise: wake up with a key in your hand and figure out what to do next.

The sun slanted into my eyes through the tall window. The bars on three sides gave me my first clue that I had too much punch at the end of a fist. Can't recall who or why I was fighting. A brawl is a brawl on Saturday Night.

Then a whisper came from the window and a young voice called to me. "Henry, you awake?"

"What?"

"Henry, use the key."

"What?"

"I dropped the key in for you. Is it on the floor?"

She sounded frustrated with me so I looked around. "I don't see one... except for this one ... in my hand."

"Ahh... Henry, use the dang thing and git out. I have horses ready and the Sheriff is still down at the hotel for breakfast."

"Why am I leaving?"

"Cuz you're stupid. And they throw the key away for stupid people like you."

"I must be, cuz here's the key to prove it."

I used it and we rode off together. Don't recall which way but we rode fast.

end

(Note: Flash Fiction is a quick style-format usually less than 500 words ...sometimes under 1000 words. You must take the reader immediately into the scene and tone, and exit just as fast. In between, the narrative and/or dialogue must grip and hold on. There is no room for any excess verbiage. This example was completed in eight minutes during a writing exercise.)

MORT'S BILLIARD HALL

FLASH FICTION using a starter phrase
and eight minutes to complete
by Rusty LaGrange

I hustled everyone who came into Mort's Billiard Hall except... Murray who stood in the corner nearly every night and leaned a worn elbow on the bar. Murray knew everyone who walked in. Even if he hadn't seen you before, in just a few minutes he could put enough information together to write your bio.

Murray already eyed me at the billiard table. He knew my game and he was never the one to stand up against me or low enough to give pointers to the mark I was ready to skin for a 10-spot. Murray had done it all: beat the best, won the biggest purses, and even had an interview on TV nearly 20 years ago when he out-pocketed Harry Huckameyer in the biggest tourney of the season. It got him the notoriety he'd been craving.

Yeah, Murray knew Mort's Billiards like the back of his wrinkled hand. It was the only place he knew better than his two-room rental above the place. But now the only cue stick he owned was the white-and-red cane hanging on the rim of the polished bar.

End



Think Christmas/holiday season stories....

A New Start

By Linda Bowden

The day is new and the heart is free,
To climb aboard the love you see,
Can each day come and pass on through,
Without a heart that beats so true?

Our love is strong,
Lasting long,
Especially taught and knotted through,
A life that's woven me and you.

Keep steadfast on the path,
Of love and kindness you doth hath,
My love, my chosen one,
A tear does come.

I close my eyes and speak of you,
For thirty years I hold you true,
Though you left so long ago,
A mother's heart will never go.

(Hazel Stearns found this interesting observation and sent it to be shared with the membership.)

TEN WAYS TO KILL A CONVERSATION

1. Interrupt another's talk, step on his lines, or rush his thoughts.
2. Forget to use valuable tools such as paraphrasing to help others know you understand their views.
3. Let your mind wander from the conversation and make others repeat their lines.
4. Let loose a barrage of questions that make you appear pushy and demanding.
5. Give quick cliché ridden answers indicating that you don't really want to take the time to deal with another's troubles. Play the expert and show your arrogance by freely interpreting and diagnosing symptoms.

7. Hide key personal feelings needed for intimacy and distract others by revealing something less important.
8. Bore people with a deluge of irrelevant details or embarrass them with too much talk about personal matters.

9. Don't stop to comment on how a conversation is going even though it could repair broken messages and bring more openness to a dialogue.

10. Pretend that someone's bad advice sounds good or that an erroneous view seems valid.

CWC CHAPTER OFFICERS

President -Bob Isbill
(760)242-4148

risbill@aol.com

Vice President – Freddi Gold
(760)956-2727

docaurum@aol.com.

Treasurer – Jenny Margotta
(760)843-5448

Jennyj821@yahoo.com

Secretary – Naomi Ward
(760) 241-9642

naomiwc@verizon.net

Special thanks go to the "Howl at the Moon" Writers' Conference 2011 Planning Committee: Mary Thompson, Hazel Stearns, Marilyn Ramirez, Naomi Ward, Carol Warren, Barbara Parish, Rusty LaGrange, Thomas Kier, Holly LaPat, Ann Heimback, Angie Horn, Jenny Margotta and Fran Savage.

The following pages will give you a glimpse of the month's activities as captured by Marilyn Ramirez, Rusty La Grange and Anthony J Enrizeuz.

Also, there's an "oops apology" to Marilyn Ramirez for not giving her credit as co-creator of the gift baskets!

Disclaimer: All items in this newsletter are the opinions of the authors, and do not in any way reflect the views or official position of CWC.



OCTOBER started off with a bang as the HDCWC hosted the HATM 2011 Writers' Conference for an appreciative crowd at the Lewis Center. (l) Holly LaPat was local "assistant" to Jen Grisanta, the first guest speaker



Linda Cowgill from the Los Angeles Film School (r) kept the audience interested while she spoke and a buzz of appreciative comments in reaction when she was through.



Shown below are Devora Cutler-Rubenstein (l) and Marilyn R. Atlas who made a team presentation on a variety of subjects, not the least of which, the proper methods for the writer to approach the publisher! Pitching the product is an art and takes practice, we learned.

All of the guest speakers made their presentations clearly and often with humor as indicated by the smiling audience. Those with red lettered name tags (below r) were non-HDCWC members and there were many compliments on the Conference from them. Published works by members lining the front of the stage made an impressive display. We have nearly double the number of published authors than we had members 30 months ago. This was our second successful annual Conference, and kudos to the "Chief Promoter" Bob Isbill, High Desert CWC President.



Outstanding raffle baskets were made possible through the efforts of Hazel Stearns and very generous donations by a number of members and others.



...and that was just the first week of October!



**IT'S PARTY TIME!!
CWC IS 102
AND
HDCWC IS NOW
21 - OLD ENOUGH
TO "PARTY"**



**Membership Chairperson
Roberta Smith and
President Bob Isbill appear
to be happy about where
the Branch membership is
at this point.**



**VP Freddi Gold and
Mary Thompson were
generous hostesses
with plenty of cake
for everyone**



**And a
good time
was had
by both
white and
chocolate
cake
lovers**

