



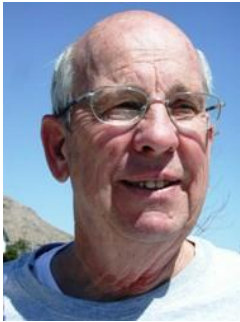
# INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC

SAIL ON

VOL 25. NO.8 - OCTOBER

**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**



Pres.  
Bob’s  
P O V

What an amazing event our writers’ conference was! We have had many emails of

congratulations, and the evaluations left by the attendees were very much on the positive side.

Was it perfect? No, but pretty darned close considering the work required, the absolute minimum initial budget, the diversity of people and personalities involved, and the final outcome.

I genuinely feel sorry for those who could not be there!

I have attended many, many writers’ conferences and can say without hesitation that our speakers were of the professional quality hoped for, but not always received, by those coming to an event.

We have so many people to thank, and I hope we’ve done that job. I saw so much of this: volunteers seeing something that needed to be done, and just doing it! That’s priceless.

I have a strong feeling that the quality of our “Howling at the Moon Anthology” will be as satisfactory an experience as the conference. We have had some bumps along the way, but that, too, is coming together very nicely.

I wish that we could give you a date to tell you that is when we will definitely get our first copies, but at this point we just cannot. We can

only tell you that we are proceeding in the right direction and in the right way and it will be worth waiting for.

The format of the galleys and the cover looks great! We believe you have a right to expect something first class and that, all along, has been our commitment—and not to just meet deadlines. Dates are secondary to quality.

When we can be more precise, we’ll share that with you. In the meantime, look forward to a volume to be proud of, and of course, be writing to submit something for the next one.

That is, just in case we want to do it again.

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# HATM WRITERS CONFERENCE A HOWLING SUCCESS

## A MEMBER REPORTS OUT

By Frances Smith Savage

For those in attendance Saturday, September 25, 2010 for our Conference, you know that the time was well spent including the food, the prizes, and especially the speakers. The first of the four speakers, **Glen Hirschberg** now teaches writing at Cal State San Bernardino. He was the keynote speaker at our October 2009 meeting, and once again he held our interest for a solid hour.



He told of a time when his dad came to hear him read, and just before he started his dad said to him, "Hey Glen, don't do that thing with your hands." The entire time while he read he was very aware of his hands. When he was finished, he asked his dad, "How'd I do? No hands right?" He soon found out that his hands did not fly all over; instead he held his hands behind his head the entire time. He told of many experiences as he tried to pursue his education, and many would have given up trying to become a writer if they had teachers like his. Teachers that thwarted his every attempt, but the most important lesson he learned once he became a teacher was to encourage his students.

His encouraging words to the HDCWC, "You will face decisions about what to keep, and what to let go." He spoke of the comments others made especially during his learning years, and even after he started writing in earnest. Once two teachers were discussing his book. He overheard one say, "The best three-hundred pages I've ever read about nothing." Later he approached the teacher and told him he heard what he said, and he

found out that the teacher never even completed the book.

His fifth book became his best seller, but no one knew where to put the book. A serial killer that was never caught gave him the idea. It was not about the killer, but about three ten year olds that lived during that time. He submitted it, and the publisher called and told him that he would accept the book *if* "You have the serial killer kill one of the kids." Hirschberg asked himself if he was standing on principle, or should he change his original idea? The answers to those questions set the book back about two years.

"You need to be honest with yourself, take positive feedback the same with the negative. But listen." He suggested three questions to always ask yourself.

#1 What is this trying to do?

#2 Does it do it well?

#3 Is what it's trying to do worth doing?

"Clear your head and ask yourself those questions. Regardless of the genre, he holds it to the same standard. "Do I believe it? Do I believe in the character? Is there a sentence that I want to remember? Does it make me laugh? Does it make me think? Great art should do all those things all the time. If it doesn't it isn't worth it. Learn to discern your own writing."

At the end of that hour, he took questions from the audience. All very informative and interesting, but he couldn't continue for the light shining from the back told him his time was up. Saturday was his wedding anniversary, but he stayed to talk to some of the audience, and hopefully sell some books.

Our second speaker, **Mike Foley**, is well known in the High Desert, and a Past President of the HDCWC. A writer, teacher, co-founder of the Big Bear Writers' Retreat, and author of over 750 published stories and articles. He teaches fiction and non-fiction at the University of California in Riverside.

When he was first starting out, he met with one of his instructors at Cal State, Long Beach. He

proudly handed his story to him, and the instructor promptly said, "I'm not going to read that. It's handwritten." Foley replied, "My writing is clear." Fast forward to the time when he was editor at a magazine, and received hand written articles, he understood his number one lesson. No editor will read those articles. The Red Flag to editors says "Amateur". No matter where you send your work you must at least appear professional.

"You don't want to do things that will kill your chances to be published." Some of the common mistakes writers make are:

#1 Overwriting/Lecture such as the *large shiny red nutritious apple*. So many adjectives, are not necessary to make the point. Nor is overwriting, filling a page-and-a half to describe a room.

#2 Formal Language. Since the 1950's and the advent of television, things move fast. Everyone speaks in a conversational way. Write as though you are telling a story to a friend. Don't use formal language, keep it simple.

#3 Dull openings. Fiction or non-fiction where nothing happens. Don't describe in a static way. There should be movement in the opening. Wind blowing, voices or sounds in the distance, or dialog. "Any opening that conjures up emotions is good, and it must lead to something."

#4 Viewpoint Shifting. A Red Flag. This is the biggest problem writers have. You might read Mike's viewpoint, and all of a sudden you change to another person. Keep every scene in the story on one viewpoint. The exception is romance novels.

#5 Tense Shifting. Most authors write in past tense. Be consistent. Changing the tense is another Red Flag, and screams "amateur".

The next five suggestions are regarding marketing our work.

#6 Avoid lengthy Query Letters/Synopsis. The query letter should be one page. One to three pages for synopsis. Keep them short.

#7 Avoid Art or Stickers. Happy faces or a hand drawn dragon with the letter within. Those things are not professional. Again they are Red Flags.

#8 Avoid Insults. "Your last issue wasn't very good. You need writers to improve the quality." Or, "I never read your magazine, and/or you'll be a fool to turn this down."

#9 Name Dropping. "Harrison Ford is a good friend of mine." Did he read your book? He doesn't belong in your marketing documents unless you have plans to interview the person, i.e. for a biography.

#10 Don't Discuss Payment or Fees. "I will not accept anything less than \$25,000." Chances

are killed, and for larger markets you will probably need an agent.



Foley continued giving us ideas as he answered questions. "There are many ways to sell your writings, not just one way. A Writers' Conference is one good way. Someone else asked about quoting other writers, what is legal? He suggested "CA Lawyers for Arts" online. Cheap consultation is approximately \$35.00. Must always give credit to the author. Stay away from song lyrics. Song titles are not copyrighted. You can use the same title as others, but the lyrics of songs are protected, and are very expensive. They can cost thousands. Another question regarding the quality of paper. "Not too heavy, 20 or 24 pound bond would be fine. Use more of a linen stock than copy paper for query letters.

Foley's Big Bear Writers' Retreat will not be held this year because they are looking for a new location. Possibly next year either in the spring or fall they will resume the retreat.

The third speaker of the day was **Alton Gansky**, a Christian author with over thirty published books. Gansky recently spoke at HDCWC and more visitors than regular members attended that meeting. The well-known writer holds a B.A. and M.A. in Biblical studies.

He got right to the point, and our interest was riveted. "Publishing has taken a beating with our economy. All of the departments have been cut to the bone, and in today's market you need to be flexible. Whether you like it or not, the E-bay reader is here to stay, and good or bad, publishing is changing." Gansky sees the trend, and he does a lot of editing. "When they fire everyone, they need editors.

"The publishers don't have a clue what to do with this. What kind of dollars will they pay an



author for a \$4.50 book? They're confused. Then do we as authors give away our electronic rights? If the advance is there, they can skywrite it if they want. Magazine articles will be read on I-pads, Kindle, or a half dozen other readers out there.

"Others not signing print contracts will sell their books online on their own. A great many people are bypassing the publisher. The Vanity Press no longer carries a stigma as it has in the past. POD, print on demand, has changed self-publishing. Now POD is more reasonable, and more profitable. They now edit, design covers hard or soft, and numerous other options to help the author. All for a price of course."

He warned of publishers who have been brought to their knees. Because of this, some are putting out wacky contracts. "If you're not careful a publisher will sign you for life. Beware! Get a good agent, but a good agent is an oxymoron, and they are hard to find. Many agents are confused too, and some are no longer agents.

"Publishers want you to think they know what they're doing. They don't. It's a toss of the dice. The only way they know best sellers is if the author's previous book was a best seller. If publishers knew what would sell best do you think they would publish anything else?"

Authors who can do marketing are needed. "Go into your work with your eyes open. Books are being bought and printed. People are making their living by writing and publishing. That's what you can hope for, but it does no good to be in the dark. Look at your options. When a writer doesn't write, he gets depressed. So what will you do? Keep writing! Don't lose the love of writing. Don't be discouraged." Gansky gave us his full permission to quit writing as long as we start again tomorrow.

Mistakes writers make: "We are our own worst enemy. If you write good stuff, editors will stop what they are doing and read your stuff. You must love the craft. Do you sweat the words if

they're not quite right? Study the best writers, and learn."

The fourth speaker **John Moffett** brought us into the world of reality television shows. Moffett started his career in the swimming pool. He made the U.S. Olympic Team and for those who remember, the Olympics were to be held in Russia, but that was the year Russia invaded Afghanistan. The United States boycotted the Olympics, and the teams were taken to the white House to receive the Congressional Gold Medal Award.

His first gig was "The World of Valor" for the Discovery Channel in 1992. He wrote an episode, and then was hired to write again and again. He doesn't even like to write, and doesn't consider himself a writer, but people kept hiring him to write. "Thinking about what to write is different than writing." he said.



"Non-fiction is reactionary by nature. You are reacting to the story already shot in the field. They don't begin to write until everything is shot. Voice over moves things along. Editing is the primary tool for television. Instead of months executing a script for crime shows, etc. reality shows take three 5-10 minute small bits of the story that are then sent to the writer and editor to collaborate and fight over their personal views to win out. The Producer keeps track of how the story is told."

There is a wide appeal for reality television, and they are reasonably inexpensive. Conspiracy theories for 9/11 left the vacuum and television was ripe for realty shows. The first "Amazing Race" was scrapped until later. When 9/11 happened, they scheduled it the next night. Now after seven seasons and three Emmy Awards, it is still going strong.

Creating a show is a stacking of moments. All of those moments have to add up to a satisfying story. They wrote the script for the entire story from

top to bottom before it went to the final draft in the editing field.

He went on to explain lineal editing. Although he handed out charts, and explained the process it was all above my comprehension.

His new show "Auction Kings" will premier on the Discovery Channel October 26, 2010 at 10:00 p.m. It will air right after "Dirty Jobs" for one-half hour. He said he has no control over the ending of the story.

"Everybody who got into this business has stories to tell how it all happened. They are all different." Moffett left us with a new respect for reality television.

His grandmother is Evelyn Blocker, HDCWC's most distinguished member.

### YOUR EDITOR COMMENTS

I rarely add my two cents to any work appearing in the *Inkslinger* so please bear with me while I break my own rule as I add some words of appreciation to the volunteers who made the Conference flow so sweetly. Not only members were involved but there was tremendous "spousal support" from non-members. Food and drink was supervised and coordinated by Judi Isbill and daughter Alicia, Pres. Bob's family. Stan Gowetski, Bob Ramirez (photographer/videographer) and Dick Savage were among the work crews who participated set up, and, in a mind boggling operation that was done almost before it started, restored the room to Park use. I know there were other spouses and partners in and out as needed but I didn't react in time to put down names - my fault but they know who they are and how very much their efforts are appreciated. The volunteers from the Club working with Elizabeth Paine and Ann Heimback, both of whom were seeming inexhaustible fountains of great ideas and delightful execution, created a fun ambience, that sparked the mood of ongoing excitement and good will, providing a great stage for our speakers. And what a charge to see members' book titles displayed. Thanks, Dottie Gowetski! Kudos of all kinds go to Fran Savage who, with her laptop ablaze, kept an ongoing report of the speaker's comments and provided the lead article in this issue. I know/hope I speak for the membership when I say "Thank you

***Members of the HDCWC are saddened to learn of the passing of June Cline, our good friend at Hesperia Library. June was excited about our programs, very helpful in implementing them and always positive about new plans. Her encouragement, good nature, and great ideas will be sorely missed by all of us.***  
***RIP, Dear Friend***



### 9/11 SPEAKER TODD ANTON

by Frances (Fran) Smith Savage

"I am only a teacher!" And what a teacher he must be. He teaches U.S. History to 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Phelan. He doesn't only rely on books in his class room, but he teaches living breathing history. He made us all want to go back to Junior High as long as we could be in his class.

He made us remember that "Freedom is not Free, and it takes a lot more than a rope to keep the flag on that pole." On this special day as we recalled that day of 9/11/2001 he brought our freedom home to us in special ways, and I for one fought tears during his entire speech.

Seven generations of his family lived in Southern California. Todd attended school in Yucaipa, and his father was Sheriff in Yucaipa. He was the youngest of five children with a famous sister, Susan Anton. He said he was "an oops baby." When he was young in school, his dog brought his lunch to him.

In 1946 his father came home from World War II and landed in New Jersey. He loved baseball, and wanted to see a professional team play. There were three teams located in New York City at that time, and he chose the New York Dodgers. He remained a Dodger fan for the rest of his life.

When the team moved to Los Angeles he went to many games with his youngest son Todd by his side. During those long rides Todd's father opened up about his war years, but many of his experiences he refused to divulge to his son. Inquisitive Anton found friends of his father to interview, and one of those friends told him that his father saved his life. Then the reunion, and after sixty years the two did not have to be introduced. They hugged for a good ten minutes.

His brothers served in Vietnam, and hearing the

stories from his father he had an affinity with veterans. He watched war movies with his father and brothers who said, "They got it all wrong." He wanted to know The truth especially those who also had solid careers in professional sports.

He had a great desire to interview veterans from World War I to the NFL players serving in Afghanistan today. He wanted to write about their experiences. Eventually he interviewed over 5,000 vets including some who served in the Japanese and German military. He spends from one to three hours with each vet finding out what it meant to each one to serve.

He arranged for his students to share a meal with The vets once each month, and encouraged them to discuss the vets days of service. He found that kids asked the hard questions, ones he would never ask. In one instance a quadriplegic was being fed by his nurse when they suggested that a student could feed the man. The student asked, "Did you kill anyone?" Then "Dude, how did you get crippled?"

The man replied that he had been shot down eight times, the last time he lost the use of his arms and legs.

"You must not have been a very good pilot." The vet laughed, and his nurse said later it was the first time she heard him laugh in over ten years.

He sent a message to Jill, "I die a free man, thank you." He died soon after.

Anton records all of his interviews, he lets his students watch the CD's and when a kid who hates to read wants to know more, he gives him the written story. He didn't start out to be an author, "I'm just a teacher."

He said more than once. His first book, "No Greater Love: Live Stories of the Men Who Saved Baseball" took five years to write and rewrite. His second book: "When Baseball Went To War" took only him seven months to write.

He continued to give us advice, "When you do things for the right reasons with conviction your dreams will be fulfilled. A dream is something you do, not something you achieve. Get out of bed, get behind that computer, and write."

His words came alive, and if you missed the 9/11 meeting you missed the best speaker so far this year. Check out his biography on Amazon.com

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### VOLUNTEERING IS FUN!

At least Anne Fowler, Roberta Smith and Suzanne Holbrook Brumbaugh look like they enjoyed the day!

### CWC-SBW Presents "Truth or Lie: Writing on the Cusp of Memoir and Fiction"

November 6, 9:30-3:30

The Lookout Restaurant, 605 Macara Ave.,  
Sunnyvale, CA 94085

Registration at 9:30; workshop begins promptly at 10; continental breakfast and lunch included.

Early Bird (before October 25, 2010): CWC members \$35; Non-members \$45.

From October 25 and at the door: CWC members \$45; Non-members \$55.

Students with ID, anytime \$25.

Register and pay by credit card (Paypal) at

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

Most writers draw from personal experience whether they cast the story as memoir or fiction. During "Truth or Lie: Writing on the Cusp of Memoir and Fiction," Linda Joy Myers, Ph.D., MFT, will focus on how to find your stories and memories and teach you about fictional tools, such as plot, scenes, dialogue, and the narrative arc. In this hands-on workshop you will find the timeline and turning points, themes and characters, and fictional tools that help you to begin and develop the ideas for your memoir or your fiction.

Linda is the president and founder of the National Association of Memoir Writers, an instructor at Writers Digest, and the author of *The Power of Memoir—How to Write Your Healing Story*, and the award winning memoir *Don't Call Me Mother*.

[www.namw.org](http://www.namw.org)

For more information, contact: Nina Amir, SBW Workshop Coordinator, at 408-353-1943

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### GOOD NEWS FROM MEMBER MARY SCOTT

Well, after months of pulling my hair out with the publisher. the print version of my book is FINALLY now available on my website at [www.spiritdrivenevents.com](http://www.spiritdrivenevents.com) so, tell a friend, or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5, etc



## ALL HALLOWS EVE

By Tom Kier

On a special night in October,  
As a bloated and orange moon  
Soars low over barren hills,  
Face obscured by scrim of silver-white clouds  
Run children, giggling, panting, costumed,  
In an eternal search for candy  
Or maybe a scare more potent than last year's  
Or just a little harmless mischief.

I watch from my front porch in darkness.  
I have no treats or trimmings;  
I cannot be bothered on this night.  
I wait for the growing power  
Often thousand people who believe less each year  
To reach a crescendo  
Which I can use for my purpose,  
Which is a little darker than they would want to  
know.  
I wait, I hope for a productive night.  
I take their copper fear  
Which has built up within them for a year;  
This is the raw material of my forgings.  
And being so drained on this night of climax  
Allows them to continue in what they call  
Their normal lives.

I am not the Reaper  
Though I harvest what is grown in nightmares.  
I am not the Dark Man  
Though I live always in the shadows.  
I have no true name  
Though I answer to the call of fear.  
You may see me  
At the moment your terror flees you;  
I have need of it.  
What you have gladly cast off  
Becomes beauty under my hands  
Though it may frighten you just a little.

Come, take a walk with me.  
I will show you my smelter and my workshop.  
Is it not something to bring a tear  
To even the most seasoned artisan?  
You know, I have a lot of work these days  
And you seem to favor what you see.  
No, don't turn around.  
You must go through it; you must be worthy.  
Do not hesitate; I will walk with you.  
I too was once scared to death.  
Now I have no fear.  
Come, let us work together.  
It only hurts until it stops hurting.  
There is beauty to behold.

## TRUE CONFESSIONS OF A HAS-BEEN

### NEVER-WAS

By Diane Neil

I used to strive and climb,  
Cross T's, dot I's, and find a rhyme  
Beyond all reason and out of time.

I once sought Fame on bended knees.  
With no shame I aimed to please!  
But I have learned to take my ease.

I've come upon a better way  
to write and think and have my say.  
I now live happier day by day.

I used to scribble with all my might,  
begging others to like what I write.  
But now at last I've seen the light.

No longer will I ever compete  
Don't blog, Facebook, Twitter or tweet.  
Life has become so very sweet.

I write for me;  
it's fun and free.  
My heroine is Harper Lee.

### THE END OF LOVE

My heart is yours until

the end of our loving day

I know that our hearts will

fall apart in the end but

our love will always will go

on but our dreams will still go on

and never end

By Alyssa Schultz

*(Does this go without saying?)*

"Writers should avoid cliches like the plague."  
Dwight Norris

## **THE WOODEN SPOON**

By James Elstad

Six year old Pietra looked at the broken plate on the floor. "Uh ooh, I'm in big trouble now, mommy will be home soon. What am I gonna do?" Her blond pony tail swished back and forth as she looked around the kitchen.

She rushed over to the refrigerator and grabbed the dustpan and broom. "If I sweep it up, maybe she won't notice." When Martha came home five minutes later Pietra was outside playing with her dolls. As soon as she saw her mother's car she ran to the back yard.

Martha opened the car door, "Pietra, where are you? Come and help with the groceries." She pulled two bags and went in the door. "Where is that girl? She usually comes right away. PIETRA! I don't want to call you again. Finish unloading the car."

That night after dinner Martha looked around the table at her husband and their five children. Everyone but Pietra knew that at six years of age she was the only one who would be motivated by the threat of a spanking. "Now that we've finished with dinner I want to have a family meeting." She paused and looked at the children. "When I came home from shopping I found my large serving plate in the trash. I know who broke it and tried to hide the evidence."

Everyone at the table looked at Pietra, who had her downcast eyes glued to her plate.

"I couldn't find the wooden spoon so I could discuss the plate with the guilty child. Its six-thirty now, the dishes will be done by seven. I had better see the wooden spoon back on its hook or else I'll give two extra swats before that child goes to bed. Is that understood?"

The older children answered right away. Pietra's small voice was the last, "Yes, Mama."

At seven-thirty as Martha prepared for bed she looked in the kitchen and saw the wooden spoon on the hook and smiled, "it seems she learned a lesson today, that's punishment enough," she thought.

## **WINTER IS COMING!**

By Ann Heimback

On the first day of October, I pulled on my warm, fluffy robe, slid into my cozy slippers and schlepped out to the living room. I was about to turn on the fireplace to take the Fall chill out of the air when I noticed the temperature on the indoor thermometer. It was 70 degrees! Well, it had been a hot summer.

October in the high desert is the most beautiful, rewarding month of the year for me. Cool nights, warm days, clear skies. Perfect for working outside. Time to harvest for Fall. Time to plant for Spring. Soon the roses must be pruned.

But for now, for today, I will sit on the swing in the sunshine and watch the bunnies nibble on the melon rinds I left on "their" rock.

I will close my eyes and listen while birds fuss over breakfast and crack open the sunflower seeds in the feeders.

And I will praise God for the wonder of it all. It is the Fall of my life, too. Much is behind me, but there's so much more ahead. I am warmed by the thoughts of all that My Father has bestowed upon me. And excited for what He has placed before me.

Winter is coming, and I am ready for it.

*(To our Inkslinger readers, I hope you have this little essay in your hands by early October to give you a lovely start to winter . nw)*



"Why do writers write? Because it isn't there." - Thomas Berger, author of Little Big Man)

"Write a non-fiction book, and be prepared for the legion of readers who are going to doubt your every fact. But write a novel, and get ready for the world to assume every word is true." - Barbara Kingsolver

*(And the one probably closest to the truth:*

"What an author likes to write most is his signature on the back of a cheque." - Brendan Francis



*(In keeping with the oncoming holiday, let's close this edition of the Inkslinger with a chapter from Mary Scott's book – it's fitting for the season and after the hustle and bustle of the HATM project, we need something different to relax us..*

## **SPIRIT DRIVEN EVENTS – FASCINATING AND ENLIGHTENING TRUE STORIES.**

### **Chapter 3 - Spirit Driven Event #2 – M&M's – by Mary D. Scott**

In November of 1992, Bob and I were married in Disneyland, on the Mark Twain boat ride. We were soul mates and had the perfect marriage. I came home from work and would laugh when I saw him vacuuming to the music. Then he would pause every now and then to take M&M peanuts out of his pants pocket and popped them into his mouth. Then he continued with the vacuuming. When he realized I saw him, he would get this sheepish grin on his face--- as if he were busted--- then he would laugh and greet me with a kiss. What can I say? He was addicted to M&M peanuts!

In 1999, Bob started to get ill. It took two years for the doctors to figure out what was wrong with him. When they finally did, it was devastating to both of us. Bob was diagnosed with a Progressive Degenerative Neurological Disease called Multiple System Atrophy (MSA). I took care of him 24/7 for the next 5 years until he passed away in July of 2004. When Bob died, a huge part of me died too.

Near the end of May 2007, my brother, Bill emailed me about an incident he had at his Chicago home with the huge bag of M&M peanuts he had purchased from Sam's Club. He had placed the

bag of M&M's in the center of his kitchen counter, and was planning to take them to work. He was alone in his Chicago house when this incident had happened. Sometime during the night, he heard something fall. He did not get up to see what it was. In the morning he went into the kitchen to find the huge bag of M&M's on the floor. He said there was no physical way that could have happened! When we talked on the phone about it, I asked him if they were M&M peanuts. He replied, "Yes, they were". I laughed and told him Bob loved M&M peanuts and was trying to get into the bag. I told him to put some M&M's for him in a bowl and to tell Bob to help himself. He wouldn't do it. He was too "chicken".

On June 4th, I bought a small bag of M&M peanuts from a casino gift shop and put them in a small bowl in my office. I counted the M&M's, placed the empty M&M package on top of the bowl, and wrote Bob a note telling him I heard he wanted some M&M peanuts and to go ahead and help himself. On June 6th, when I was sitting in my office, getting ready to leave, I saw the empty M&M package lift up into the air, go to the left, then be placed down onto my desk! I was anxiously waiting to see if an M&M peanut would come out of the bowl and up into the air, but it didn't. I was about a foot or less away from the bowl of M&M's when this happened, and it was so cool! I wish I had known Bob was going to do that, because I would have liked to capture him on video again. I knew Bob had been moving things in the house, but never had I actually seen him do it until now.

I put the empty M&M package back on top of the bowl of M&M's. Two days later, when I went into my office to get ready to leave, I found the M&M package on my desk again. This time I didn't see him do it. After that, there was no more activity with the M&M package. Bob had told my friend, Jude, to throw out the M&M's when she comes to my house on July 12th. On Friday, July 13th, during the message circle at the Spiritualist Church, the medium, Kim, also had mentioned something about the M&M's and Bob. She told me to throw them out, that he couldn't eat them. He just wanted me to know he was there. So, on July 14th, I threw away the M&M's. Every time I see a bag of M&M peanuts, I think of Bob, and smile.

## OUR OCTOBER 9, 2010 GUEST SPEAKER

World War II Aviation Naval veteran and former editor of ten international aviation publications, Norm Goyer will speak to the High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club on Saturday, October 9, 2010, in the Apple Valley Library Community Room at 10:00 a.m.

Goyer, author of more than 500 published articles and 200 cover photos, won the Golden Mic award for his coverage of the Kennedy airplane crash in 1999, and has twice won Best TV Commercial, Northeast Division. At age 84, he writes two columns a week for Internet newsletters.

Norm Goyer was actor, consultant and pilot in five Hollywood aviation films.

Don't miss this expert in the fields of writing, editing and publishing.



Holly LaPat AKA Sierra Donovan



Marilyn Ramirez

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## RANDOM "HOWL AT THE MOON" SHOTS

(Courtesy of Bob Ramirez)



Evelyn Blocker and daughter, Judy Whale

Even though we are about to swing into the Holiday Season please don't forget our Pantry needs sustenance every month of the year! Surely, if you attended the Conference, you will be ready to roll up your sleeves, flex your fingers, and harvest more crops for the Pantry! The more variety and genres the better – right? Here's wishing you happy and productive writing!