

*Writers
of the*

PURPLE SAGE

Newsletter of the Ridge Writers

East Sierra Branch, California Writers Club

November 2022



JENNIFER CRITTENDEN BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Hot on the heels of her extremely successful summer, program we've lured publisher/author Jennifer Crittenden back to Ridge Writers to address a new subject, this time "Beyond the Book:" websites, blogging, audio versions, publishing others, consulting, and podcasts." She'll speak on Thursday evening, November 3, 6:30 pm in the meeting room of Ridgecrest Presbyterian Church, 633 W. Las Flores, Ridgecrest, CA. Admission free. Masks requested.

Crittenden has written three books, *The Discreet Guide for Executive Women; You, Not I;* and *The Mammoth Letters*. Her company, Whistling Rabbit Press, has published four. She

maintains three websites devoted to various aspects of her business and writing and publishing.

A devoted life-long reader, she says, "I fooled around a bit with writing in my teens and twenties. After I stopped working full-time, I returned to writing with a vengeance. I worked in corporate America so I wrote my fair share of emails, strategic plans, government and shareholder reports, and thinly disguised requests for money. Most business writing is awful, so I tried to do my part to generate clean, precise prose in a messy world."

In tandem with this worthy goal through Whistling Rabbit, she plans and produces the Eastern Sierra Book Festival in Mammoth Lakes. We hope to see you when she comes to visit Ridgecrest and Ridge Writers.

IRIS HATTERSLEY: FROM FED TO LADY OF LETTERS

Report on the September Meeting written by Donna Rosenthal



Author Patricia Reid (later Iris Patricia Reid Hattersley) has strong ties to the Ridgecrest area. Born in Needles, NV, she started here in 1946 when her dad took a job at China Lake. She had her children here as well, and her mother, a nurse, became her delivery room nurse and saw Pat's babies before Pat did. Pat and her family moved to Europe for two years, then returned to California where, in El Segundo while with U.S. Missile Systems, she saw an advertisement seeking women to serve as U.S. marshals. She applied, landed a position, met and married fellow marshal Larry Hattersely, and has chronicled her experiences in her book *Lucky Thirteen: Memoir of One of the First Female U.S. Deputy Marshals*.

Mark Your Calendar...

November 3 – Jennifer Crittenden – "Beyond the Book: websites, blogging, audio versions, publishing others, consulting, podcasts"

December 1 – Member Holiday Party

January 5 — Kate Blake, CEO of STEMdelivered.org (sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics programs through workshops, publications, videos, blogs, games and contests)

She enthralled us with her Ridge Writers presentation on October 6, recounting her varied duties in this country and abroad that included chasing down convicts who escaped from federal prison, protecting good guys as well as bad under witness protection, ensuring that sequestered jurors did not see or hear news pertinent to their cases, escorting Sandra Good of the Manson Gang to a trial, and dealing with mob figures ("who can be devious, manipulative, difficult, and would try to get you into trouble"). Among many daunting challenges, she guarded Joe "DR" ("DR" for Death Row) Gonzalez three weeks on, three weeks off, seven days a week; and she toughed things out with male coworkers who resisted having a female colleague.

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Jaunts



How often do you explore your own backyard? When you live somewhere day in and day out, you tend to fall into a pattern of local travel. You have your favorite stops and stores, and a routine is ingrained into your life. We don't always get the chance to divert from the routine and explore the changes your own community makes. And these changes can be fresh bursts of inspiration you didn't even know you wanted.

I've got—surprise, surprise—a story to share. One of my many jobs as a theatrical publicist is putting up posters for upcoming shows. This means going around town with a bottle of water, a tape dispenser, and a pack of posters to ask locals businesses and venues to help promote our latest show. These jaunts around Ridgecrest are good chances for me to touch base with local shop owners, see what's out there, and make plans for things in the future. After all, I'm a writer. My eyes are always open for new ideas. Usually, my crazy schedule doesn't always mean all of Ridgecrest's opportunities are open at the time I take these jaunts, but on the day I went out to put up posters for *Tête-à-Tête*, my 1920's Paris play opening October 29 in Lone Pine, it seemed as if every building was open for visitors. The Historic USO Building, Maturango Museum, China Lake Museum, the library, all the businesses on Balsam and Ridgecrest Blvd., and so on. All of Ridgecrest was open that day, and I got to explore the city and find out fresh new elements in places I hadn't visited in a while.

I hadn't had the pleasure of going inside the China Lake Museum until that day, which was a treat. I saw that the library had added an exciting new Maker Space (new for me at least) where all sorts of creators can work on their projects should they need specialized equipment such as Cricut machines, sewing machines, a recording studio, and more. I thought it was such a neat use of space to allow the library more wonderful resources for people who visit it. I looked around the expanded gift shop at the USO Building. I got to visit the new Desert Brew coffee shop on Balsam, which has a super cute mural on the back wall. I love these jaunts because they give me a chance to reconnect with the city and find out new and exciting developments. I encourage all of us to get out there in our own towns and see what's new. It's inspiring!

Weird Weekend 2022

Thank you everyone who came out to support Weird Weekend 2022, and a huge thank you Member-at-Large Monica Dwyer for designing, organizing, and managing the festivities this year. Congratulations to Madeleine Smith for winning the Campfire Story Competition. Thank you to members Julie Bradford, Janis Kunz, and Daniel Stallings for volunteering as judges. And a HUGE thank you to Ashley and Moe's Music for allowing Ridge Writers to use their store for an amazing and gracious venue!

Ridge Writers Leaders

President – Daniel Stallings
Vice President – Janis Kunz
Secretary – Donna McCrohan Rosenthal
Treasurer – Andrew Sound
Member at Large – Monica Dwyer
Historian – Maryann Butterfield
Newsletter Editor – Daniel Stallings
Programs & Publicity – Donna McCrohan Rosenthal
State Rep – Donna McCrohan Rosenthal
Youth Coordinator – Janis Kunz
Webmaster – Julianne Black

To reach any of these leaders, use ridgewriters@yahoo.com.

Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RidgeWriters and our website CWC-ridgewriters.org.

SoCal Writers Showcase



The southern region of the California Writers Club maintains the “zine”-format socialwritersshowcase.com, containing monthly content from members, ranging from fiction, nonfiction/essays, and memoir, to poetry, interviews, discussion on writers' life, the craft, and news.

The Writers of the Purple Sage is the monthly newsletter of the Ridge Writers, East Sierra Branch of the 109-year-old California Writer Club. Except where otherwise stated, all articles in this publication may be printed without special permission in newsletters of branches of the California Writers Club and in the State Bulletin, subject to the following conditions:

- The author's name and original publication credit must be printed with the text.
- The text must be printed in its entirety, without additions or changes.
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Contact the editor by mail at P.O. Box 484, Ridgecrest, CA 93556 or by email, ridgewriters@yahoo.com. **SPECIAL NOTICE:** Photographs for publicity and newsletter uses are taken at all Ridge Writers events. By entering the venue, members and guests are granting permission that their likenesses may be used for publicity purposes.

When her husband transferred to Interpol and Washington, D.C., she took a post as a special agent for the U.S. Department of Defense. She retired in 1993 and Larry followed suit shortly after. Then they directed their talents to volunteer projects, and she decided to write her memoir to leave a history for her children.

Pat joined Anthem Sun City Writers Group in Henderson, NV, signed up for UNLV courses availing herself of free tuition for students 65 years and older, pursued a master's degree in literature and discovered a summer program at Oxford University and enrolled in it in 1917, then again in 1919, studying Jane Austen in depth. She has “survived some major mishaps” in her life but with rarely a dull moment and she continues to energize herself with *hmmm-haven't-done-that-before-why-not?* adventures on the horizon.

She remains in touch with her friends from the long-ago Ridgcrest days, has begun work on a novel, and promises to visit Ridge Writers again when he has news on that front.



MAKER SPACE IN OUR LIBRARY

Libraries are repositories of a wealth of information and human knowledge and safe havens for getting work done. And, as referenced in this issue's President's Message, our Ridgcrest Branch of the Kern County Library has added a new Maker Space where creators of all kinds can have access to printers, Cricut machines, sewing machines, and more to create their masterpieces. Check it out!

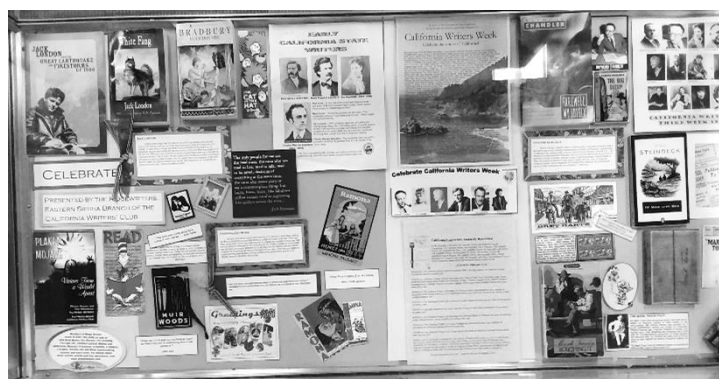
Our Jack London Award Winners

We're proud of the Ridge Writers who have won the Jack London Award, the highest recognition each branch of CWC can give outstanding members.

The award was presented annually until 2005, and subsequently only once every two years.

Maryann Butterfield 1997
Casey Wilson 1998
Rlee Peters 1999
Judy Dutcher 2000
Curt Danhauser 2001
Judy Martin 2002
Donna McCrohan Rosenthal 2003
Holly Dworken Cooley 2004
Liz Babcock 2005
Allison Aubin 2007
Steve Wersan 2009*
Margaret Luebs 2013
Daniel Stallings 2015
Julianne DiBlasi Black 2017
John Anderson 2019
Andrew Sound 2021

*With a special Charmian London Award to Fran Wersan



California Writers Week Display at Kern County Library, Ridgcrest Branch

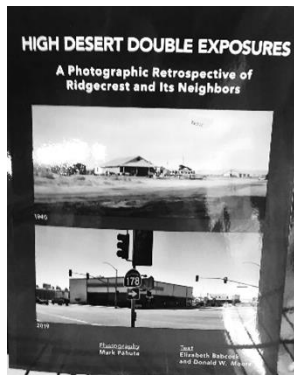
Before October fully wraps up, be sure to check out the California Writers display in honor of California Writers Week that Donna created for the Ridgcrest Branch Library. Great work, Donna!

Dickens Tea Returns!

Ridge Writers is preparing to bring back the Dickens Tea, our popular teatime celebration of Charles Dickens and the Victorian holiday traditions we still practice. Over delicious holiday tea and treats, the event will feature festive and interactive activities with a literary or Dickensian twist. The festivities will include our annual advanced reader copy and holiday craft and cookbook white elephant book exchange, a Yuletide craft, and a holiday finery costume contest for our guests. The whole event will conclude with a theatrical Dickens holiday reading. Guests are welcome to dress in their holiday or Victorian best to ring in the holiday season in true Dickensian style. The Dickens Tea is on Saturday, December 3, 2022, at 2 p.m. at The Heritage Clubhouse. Tickets are \$20 each and will be available soon at Red Rock Books.



Mrs. Cratchit from 2019's Dickens Tea



Member Liz Babcock contributed text to this new book, *High Desert Double Exposures: A Photographic Retrospective of Ridgecrest and Its Neighbors*, with photographs by Mark Pahuta now on sale at Red Rock Books.

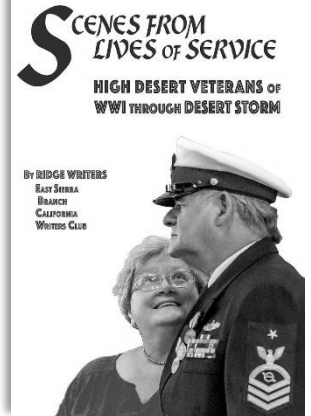
Ridge Writers does not endorse any contest, conference or publishing opportunity that appears in our newsletter. We merely collect and share news of opportunities for our membership. Member discretion advised.

The East Sierra Branch (Ridge Writers) is the California Writers Club branch serving the eastern part of Kern County. Over the mountains on the west side of the county is our Bakersfield-based sister branch, Writers of Kern.



RIDGECREST PETROGLYPH FESTIVAL 2022

Ridge Writers is pleased to have a presence at the annual Ridgecrest Petroglyph Festival on Friday and Saturday, November 5 and 6, 2022. We're going to have a booth at the street fair next to LeRoy Jackson Park. We'll be sharing club literature and selling books. Stop by to help us at the booth or visit and say hello. Any and all help in set-up, tear down, or watching the booth helps out tremendously. Come join us for the Petroglyph Festival this year!



Cover Photo by Laura Austin

Our book featuring stories of High Desert veterans, *Scenes from Lives of Service*, is on sale at Red Rock Books and through mail order. To order through mail, send a letter and check to Ridge Writers, PO Box 484, Ridgecrest, CA, 93556; buyer should state name, mailing address, number of copies wanted, and enclose a check for \$32.50 each. Ridge Writers members can buy the book for \$25 each.

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