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## Autumn Excitement!

It promises to be an exciting **autumn** . . . in an already exciting year!



Though we do have some gorgeous golden leaves as September offers its first hints of the new season, it's exceptionally warm, and we're handling some challenges in the Rocky Mountains, where I'm spending this month. First, the skies were hung with an unfamiliar haze as smoke continued to drift toward us from the awful fires in California, the Pacific Northwest, and Canada. Second, many of our homes were seriously damaged by an August hail storm that brought fist-sized ice balls rocketing through windows, skylights, and smashing through roof tiles, not to mention trashing hundreds of cars. However, our losses seem almost minor, compared with damages caused by the fires, hurricanes, and various other disasters related to global warming. So, rather than complain, we're grateful, we help where we can, and we send our good thoughts to all.

We did have a most extraordinary summer, with travels, family-and-friend visits, performances, writing, book awards, and special times, some of which I'll describe in this newsletter.

Meanwhile, a special promotion starts today. A new novella in the *Milford-Haven* saga is close to publication. A new audio will shortly debut. And I'm preparing to perform on koto (Japanese harp) in *Watermill* in October. Life is rich, demanding, and yes, exciting. Here's the latest news!

## New Awards for "When Otters Play"

Oh my goodness . . . so very thrilled, honored, humbled, and encouraged that my *When Otters Play* has now won four book awards! The wins have generated some nice press, too. Here is a sample of a recent posting that hit about a hundred markets nationally titled "See Otters: Playful Friends or Harmful Predators":



[\\* Digital Journal](#)

The **American Fiction Award** took my breath away. The category my book won was Women's Lit, a favorite, as it reaches directly to my core readers.

The **Global E-Book Award** is the most recent, and is a particular thrill because the award's founder, the late great Dan Foynter, was an early mentor and made a huge difference to indie authors over his remarkable career. He had three previous Global E-Book Awards -- a Nomination for *When Hammers Dream* and two Sileens for *When Whales Watch* and *When an Angel's On a Rope*. And now . . . a **Gold!**

As I'd shared in my Summer newsletter, *Otters* also won a **Realist (Silver) International Book Award**. This one always means so much to me because of my international schooling in Tokyo and ongoing friendships with schoolmates who hail from forty different countries.

And to balance that wide reach, it was a special joy to win in my home town, capturing the **Gold** at the **Los Angeles Book Festival Book Awards**, in the Regional Literature category!

*When Otters Play* is available in both paperback, and ebook formats. This engaging story features a sea otter mom and her pup -- possibly the cutest creatures in the ocean. When I visited the Monterey Bay Aquarium and worked with their director of the Sea Otter Rescue program, I fell in love with these creatures, and wanted to take one of the pups home. Instead, I put his right at the heart of the story, where he gets to exhaust my readers as much as he enchanted me. Here are ebook buy links, which also lead easily to print editions:

[\\* Amazon Kindle](#)  
[\\* Barnes & Noble Book](#)  
[\\* Rakuten Kobo](#)

## Special Promo for Sea Otter Awareness Week

In case you prefer a .pdf download, rather than an E-Book, *When Otters Play* will be **FREE** for one week in honor of Sea Otters Awareness Week September 24 - 30. Starting today!



Give yourself a treat and read a terrific adventure tale, or give this captivating little book as a gift.

Here's the [Special Download Page](#). Enjoy!

## October - InD Scribe

A very favorite annual event right down the street from my place in L.A., is the ebullient, effervescent **InD Scribe Author Con and Book Festival**, and I'm excited and honored to be in this year's line-up.



InD Scribe-Con and Book Festival offers first class workshops, tea, interactive panels, balls and parties where everyone can dress up (or not) and spend time with their favorite celebrities in the writing world, luncheons and one-on-one opportunities with both authors and industry professionals.

I'm presenting at two workshops and a fabulous book signing. If you love romance, costumes, parties, and all things book-ish, this is the place for you. Hope you can attend!

- \* Friday October 8th 4:30-5:20pm - Author Platform & Branding**  
Mara Purl & Roalynn Anderson
- \* Saturday October 8th 10:00-10:50am - *Stay the Course Be With You* - Mara Purl**
- \* Saturday October 8th 1:30 - 3:30pm **BOOK SIGNING** with prizes galore**
- \* What - InD Scribe Author Con & Book Festival**
- \* When - October 4-5-6**
- \* Where - Burbank Marriott Convention Center**
- \* Tickets - [www.inDScribe.com](http://www.inDScribe.com)**

## October - Colorado Authors League

One of Colorado's major author organizations is the Colorado Authors' League in Denver. So delighted they've invited me to give their keynote address this October.



Book Awards can be very helpful to authors. From an external perspective, they help a book get noticed in the "noisy" world of publishing where between 600,000 and 1,000,000 books are released every year.

From an internal perspective, awards help to encourage us by confirming our writing is clear, engaging, and is making a difference in the lives of our readers.

Because I've now won more than thirty-five book awards, C.A.L. asked me to share some recommendations. But they also asked that I tell some stories. What fun! I do have some funny things that have happened along the way to receiving some of my awards.

- \* When - Saturday October 13th 9:00 am - 12 Noon**
- \* Where - Virginia Village Library Conference Room, 1900 S. Dulles Street, Denver, CO**

## October - Watermill in New York

The iconic Jerome Robbins ballet "Watermill", for which I'm one of the original musicians, is coming back for another revival! I play koto, working with a small ensemble of fantastic musicians who also specialize in Asian instruments.



Though through the decades we've always performed at the New York State Theatre at Lincoln Center, the home of the ballet company, this time we'll be performing at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, which will be an honor, and a new challenge.

- \* What - Watermill, a modern ballet**
- \* When - October 24, 25, 26, 27th**
- \* Where - Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York**
- \* Info & Tickets - [BAM website](#)**

## November - Subtext for Sisters in Crime

One of my favorite organizations is Sisters in Crime, a fabulous group of authors who focus on mystery. There are many chapters, and the one I belong to is, of course, the Central Coast. I admire many fellow members for their fantastic writing.



So I'll be great fun to speak to these peers about a favorite subject: sub-text. This is where the gems are hidden. Readers get to dig them out. Writers get to hide them. So we'll have a good, practical session, but we'll have a lot of fun with it too.

- \* What - November Program**
- \* When - Saturday, November 17th 10:30am - 12 Noon**
- \* Where - Ripomo Library, 919 W. Raffitt Street, Ripomo, CA**

## December - When Angels Paint

The holidays are very special in *Milford-Haven*. It's a time when angels visit. Angels in Milford-Haven aren't so much heavenly entities as they are spiritual intuitions that guide, or even nudge, sometimes in very unexpected directions!



The first holiday novella was **When an Angel's On a Rope**. (You can get your copy [here](#) if you haven't yet read it.) Astronomer Cornelius Smith goes mountain climbing on a sunny winter day in the Angeles Crest, high above Los Angeles, but gets caught in a sudden winter storm. He has quite an adventure! And it's based on a real experience a friend and I shared, though not in winter. (You can read my blog about the real experience [here](#).)

What you and other readers don't know yet, is that while Cornelius is having his harrowing adventure on the mountains, artist Miranda Jones is also experiencing something strange in her studio. So just in time for the holidays, you'll be able to get "the rest of the story" by reading the companion novella, **When Angels Paint**.

## December - Holiday Author Tea Party on Facebook

As most of you know, I love tea parties! I host special Chai-Tea Parties at locations across the country. (You can see photos and invites from my previous tea parties on my Pinterest Chai-Tea Page.)



But I also love participating with fellow authors to create joint tea party events. One of my favorite authors is Tanny Groce, with whom I've had great fun doing Facebook tea parties. How does it work? At the date and time below, use the link to join us. We take turns answering questions, having lively discussions, and offering special prizes! You'll get gifts from me, and from each of us. And you'll get to meet Tanny and three other marvelous Women's Fiction authors! Great way to kick-off your holiday season!

- \* What - Facebook Holiday Tea Party**
- \* When - December 1, 2018 4:00 - 9:00 pm Pacific**
- \* Where - [Facebook Event Page](#)**

## Last August - a Triumph Despite Adversity

Following our great success with a marvelous production of **Becoming Julia Morgan** last autumn about the remarkable architect, our director Linda Wilson and I have been approached by several other organizations that also own Julia Morgan buildings, about presenting the play at their facilities.



**Chapel of the Chimes** in Oakland, California, invited us to perform in early August. It's a heavenly beautiful site, the entire middle portion of which Julia designed over a period of 25 years, while she was also overseeing construction of the Hearst Castle. Julia was the second of three architects on this project, and her unmistakable hand is visible in the grace, functionality and even whimsy of what otherwise be a sobering location.

We worked with a great team of people to create not only a series of Staged Readings, but also VIP receptions to include my talk on Sacred Geometry, a tour of the extraordinary property, and book signings. Word! Needless to say, we were very excited, and we worked like crazy on all our preparations.

One of the team members was a PR expert who arranged an interview with Martin Shopp, a well-known journalist with California Magazine. His interview of me was one of the best conversations I'd ever had and the piece was scheduled for the following week. Then the press release was posted and picked up by 200 outlets in the Bay Area and about 2,000 nationally. Of course, tickets began to sell at a higher rate.

One of the most exciting calls was from the DM Productions team, who decided to bring their professional video equipment to shoot some scenes, interview the cast and feature us on their syndicate TV show. Doug Collins, expert cameraman and producer, and DM Collins, talk-show host and professional interviewer were now on their way from Reno.

Then a VERY strange thing happened. With no notice, and with just days to go before opening, the General Manager of Chapel of the Chimes canceled the performances. (This was contrary to the wishes of the staff member who had originally invited us.) All arrangements were already made by then. We spent a few hours trying to rescue and restore, shocked we hadn't been consulted. Then Linda Wilson and I switched gears. Could anything be saved of the months of work?

We realized that if we still went and were able to capture video and stills of scenes from the play at this extraordinary Julia Morgan site, we'd have something of value for all future marketing efforts. Would Doug and DM agree? They did, instantly. Would our still photographer Dennis Eamon Young agree? He did, immediately. So Linda and I crunched numbers. We had to release some cast members, cancel special tours that had been arranged for us at other Julia Morgan sites Antelope and Berkeley City Club, reduce the number of hotel rooms, restructure transportation, cancel rented rehearsal spaces, and change many other plans. But . . . we did.

After getting a new contract signed, we drove to Oakland, loaded in our costumes, set pieces, and equipment, and began shooting video of the scenes we'd chosen in the gorgeous spaces we'd designated. Then we moved to the Chapel to perform five remaining scenes before our audience. A triumph! The audience who still came enjoyed a free performance and still hope to see the full production. We so appreciated their being there! And now we're editing video. So . . . stay tuned! We're working on future productions and love this play more than ever! Persistence was the day after all.

The final blessing of this endeavor is that our beloved playwright, Belinda Taylor, was impressed by our determination to create a mosaic from the lessons we'd been handed. Sadly, she passed away just a few days later. We're truly honored that we did the last performance of her play in her lifetime. And we have her enthusiastic permission to continue with ongoing productions. **Thank you, dear brilliant Belinda.**

## Last August - the Last Author You Extravaganza

What a joy and an gift it has been to attend this fantastic annual event in Denver! Friend, mentor, and **Author W Author You** founder **Judith Briles** created this event several years ago so that Serious Authors could have breakthroughs in creating and marketing our work. We always found great synergy and inspiration at this remarkable events, from which we always returned with notebook full of new techniques and brains full of new ideas. I loved being a speaker, and serving on the board, and never stopped learning valuable things.



This year Judith to give us higher altitude both literally and figuratively. We met in the delightful alpine town of Breckenridge, a gateway to Rocky Mountain ski areas located at 9, 608 feet.

As always, I connected with favorite and noteworthy colleagues like Amy Collins, Kathy Marks, John Kramer, Kelly Johnson, Daniel Hall, and several others. And I had great conversations and sessions with clients new and established, all while my husband enjoyed some of the best mountain biking in the country. Truly we ended on a HIGH note, and we all look forward to seeing what our Amazing Judith creates next!

## My Heart is Grateful . . .

. . . for the RESILIENCE, PERSISTENCE, and CREATIVITY of my colleagues in both my authoring and my performing communities. The core group who are now the Milford-Haven Novels have proven their worth and we're planning new projects: Linda Wilson, Dan Murry, Christopher Law, David Rosenblatt, and Shar Hallman.



I'm also grateful for the generosity of those who support creative enterprise, turning these projects into partnerships that spark growth, innovation, and progress. DM and Doug Collins for innovative marketing and great videos; Dennis Eamon Young for beautiful photography; Victoria Zackheim for emergency housing and moral support; Verena and Joe Von Engel for their cottage which continues to be our home-base in SLO.

I'm grateful for the challenges of this year that are requiring I "cross-train" in writing, acting, and music, as well as new levels of entrepreneurship.

After "Watermill" in New York, my husband and I will have fun reassembling our home after the repairs and renovations, and we're looking forward to relaxing holidays. Next up from Milford-Haven will be **When Angels Paint**, a beautiful and surprising Novella for the Holidays. And early next year, another new novella, and a new novel. As you can see, I'll be busy!

Thank you, as always, dear readers for being with me on the journey of the Milford-Haven saga and beyond.

As always, love and gratitude, **from my heart to yours!**