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v.1.2

MEJ NEWSLETTER

There is nothing to writing. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and bleed.

George Bernard Shaw



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A dark, atmospheric image of a landscape with a large, gnarled tree in the foreground and a misty or smoky background.

PECULIAR ACTIVITIES
A HENRY IKE PIERCE NOVEL
COMING THIS FALL

Check out the book trailer on the homepage of my website: mejbookslc.com

Please note that all pictures used in the video are mine or purchased through available resources.

Peculiar Activities update

Things are moving forward with the manuscript. The Wild Rose Press has been great to work with, especially Crimson Rose Editor Ally Robertson a/k/a [Alicia Dean](#). [Blood and Breakfast](#) is the latest of her novels I've read. There are many others on her website ... [check it out](#).

Besides the anticipation of having a novel published, it will be interesting to go through the process of creating a finished product for release to the public. Many steps occur, and we are just getting started.

A guess, for now, would be a release date of late summer or early fall. More to come!

Writing Classes-- It is not only the writing.

Enrolling in classes as an adult can be educational (as intended), it should be fun (or why do it?), and it offers an opportunity to meet new friends (or new enemies, depending on your demeanor). A writing class provides all these, plus offering skills for new authors and feedback for experienced authors. In particular, The Joy of Writing, offered by [Maria Polson Veres](#) at the Francis Tuttle Career Center, I believe was one of those accidental things intended to happen. Maria was less an instructor than a facilitator between experienced and new writers in various genres, including poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. Other participants:

[Nicki Rycroft](#) is a talented lady, period. Writing or painting ... I'm not sure which is better. There is much to see [here](#). Nicki offered me her time and energy to read a first draft (a very rough first draft in some places) of an untitled manuscript now called Peculiar Activities. Nicki's insight and suggestions regarding logic issues, flow of the story, characterizations—all these were invaluable and allowed me to move forward with better second, third, and fourth drafts. I'm grateful to have met Nicki.

And speaking of talent, Nicki's mother, [Judith Rycroft](#), was also a student in our class. I admired her ability to write something in class that was so smooth, polished, and professional, sometimes in a matter of minutes. Judith published a collection of poetry in a 2019 book called [Colored Leaves](#). As noted on the Amazon page, "Rycroft's poetry looks at a world she shares and truly perceives." Judith's book won Best Book of Poetry in the 2020 writing contest sponsored by the [Oklahoma Writers Federation](#).

[Carolyn B. Leonard](#) has a wealth of nonfiction work, including [To Israel, With Love](#), and her latest, [The First Hundred Years](#). Carolyn honored me with the opportunity to review and suggest changes to *The First Hundred Years* manuscript before it was published. It is a fascinating look at the United States at each decennial census from 1790 to 1890. Carolyn is also an experienced genealogist and speaker.

Another classmate, Anastacia Jones, offers a collection of spoken word poems called [Unapologetic Therapy Sessions](#). [Veronica Peck](#) always made us smile and now is a speaker with Stonecroft.

I appreciate you all.