

INK SPOTS

*The Newsletter of the Fremont Area Writers, A part of the California
Writer's Club*

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Visit us at <http://cwc-fremontareawriters.org>

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PURPOSE: For the purpose of providing a forum of educating both members and the public in the craft of writing and in marketing their works. This is served by the monthly public meetings, workshops, and seminars, which are open to all writers and the general public, and is conducted for the purpose of educating writers of all levels of expertise.

WORKSHOP TRIPLE PLAY!

On Saturday, September 24, Fremont Area Writers will present not one...not two...but three mini-workshops in one morning! All for the bargain price of only \$25.

Topics:

“My Point of View on Point of View” – by
Geraldine Solon

“10 Ways to get an Audience for Your Writing”
– by **Art Carey**

“The Volcano Method of Self-Editing” – by
Carol Hall

Place: Room 204 at DeVry University, 6600
Dumbarton Circle, in Fremont. Time: 9 a.m.
to noon

OPEN MIC FOR WRITERS

Open Mic nights for writers, presented by Fremont Area Writers, are held every third Thursdays at Paddy's Coffee Shop at 3900 Smith Street in Union City. Readings are given from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Aspiring writers get 5-10 minutes to read portions of their work to a live audience. Open Mic sessions are free and open to the public.

ART SHOW

New Park Mall has an empty store downstairs by Sears. They are having “Cultural Events” there. FAW Member **Jan Small** will be showing her art there during the month of November. She would like to invite everyone to come down. The mall will have a reception for her art show on Friday, November 4, 2011, 6 pm – 8 pm. You are all invited.

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FAW'S COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Myrla Raymundo's next project on the Fremont Area Writers' Community Involvement is a visit to Merrill Gardens, an assisted living facility, in Fremont. This will be on the third week of October.

Community Involvement is a great way to help out our fellow citizens and improve the community. This is also a good way to let the community know about the Fremont Area Writers. We need members to participate by reading their writings to the residents of the facility.

**ANTHOLOGY WEST WIND
CENTENNIAL**

The Anthology West Wind Centennial books are still on sale at our regular membership meetings. Edited by Kelly A. Harrison, this book is a collection of stories, essays, and poems by the California Writers Club.

CWC published its first anthology, *West Winds*, in 1914, which was the year after the club officially incorporated with the State of California, but only five years after its members began meeting in Oakland as the California Writers Club. In keeping with the tradition established by our founders, this book that we are selling is our fifth West Winds anthology.

AUTHORS BOOK TABLE

Carol Hall, Chairperson of the Authors Book Table, welcomes the authors during General Membership meetings. The first four authors could place their books on the long table with prices on them. Each author is allowed to say something about their books.

The Authors Book Table will continue every General Membership meeting. If you are a published author, please bring your books in for sale.

.DONATION DRAWINGS

Every general membership meeting, **Carol Hall**, chairperson of the Donation Drawings, conducts the donation drawings. There are so many lovely

prizes to win by buying your tickets for only one dollar for 5 tickets.

Be sure to buy your tickets when you come to the meeting.



BANNED BOOKS WEEK

“Psst...”

Be careful what you are reading. It may be on the “no-no” list.

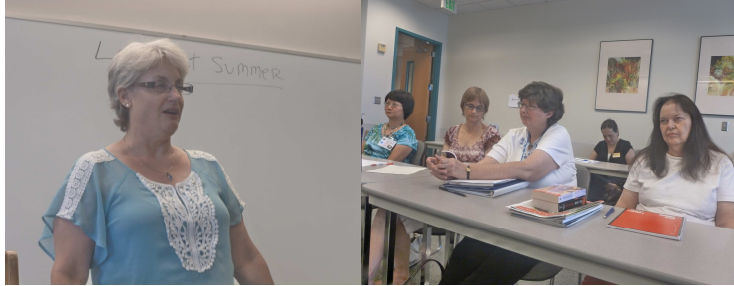
September 24 – October 1 is Banned Books Week and Fremont Area Writers got a head start on marking it at a recent Open Mic. Members read from books that have fallen afoul of censors and would be censors. Some of the books are on various lists of the top 100 books of the 20th century.

Leading off at the read-in at Paddy’s Coffee Shop in Union City last September 15 was FAW’s President Richard Scott with his Ginsberg’s “Howl” followed by Shirley Scott, wife of Richard Scott. She read from Ray Bradbury’s “Fahrenheit 451,” a fitting choice since the book deals with book burning in the future.

Other books and their readers: Mark Twain’s “Huckleberry Finn,” Bob Garfinkle, California Writers Club President; Jack London’s “Call of the Wild,” Art Carey; Helen Bannerman’s “The story of Little Black Sambo,” and D.H. Lawrence’s “Lady Chatterley’s Lover,” Suzanne Ortt and FAW Secretary Myrla Raymundo.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF AUGUST 2011

Catherine Ann Clemett was the featured speaker. She talked about her two books “Anna, Grandmother of Jesus” and “Anna, the voice of Magdalenes.” The members enjoyed her talk.



Catherine Ann Clemett

FAULT ZONE
Stepping Up To The Edge
Short Story Contest

An anthology of short stories will be published January 2012 by the San Francisco and Peninsula Branch of the California Writers Club. We encourage you to submit your stories to our 2nd annual contest. Your piece should relate to the anthology’s theme in someway. Interpret as you wish and have fun. We can’t wait to see it.

Send to: California Writers Contest Fault Zone Contest P.O. Box 853 Belmont, CA 94002-0853. Fee for entry is \$15 payable to CWC.

First Price is \$300 and publication in Fault Zone, second prize is \$100 and third prize is \$50.

Postmark deadline is September 30, 2011.

Previously published work will be considered. Novel excerpts must stand on their own. Word Count is 2,500

Entries will be read blind. Do not put your name anywhere on the manuscript. Put your title on every page of your manuscript, along with page numbers.

Include two 3 X 5 cards with your contact information. You must have an email address or we will disqualify the entry.

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MARK COKER WORKSHOP
Produce, Distribute and Sell your EBook

South Bay Writers presents a workshop by **Mark Coker**,
“How to get in on the EBook Revolution.”

October 29, 8:30 – 2:00, Lookout Restaurant, 605 Macara Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94085
CW Member - \$55, Non member - \$65 - Breakfast and lunch included.

FREMONT AREA WRITERS
A Part of the California Writers Club

President – Richard Scott
Vice President – Dawn Armstrong
Secretary – Myrla Raymundo
Treasurer – Geraldine Solon



Richard Scott,



Dawn Armstrong



Myrla Raymundo



Geraldine Solon

CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB



Bob Garfinkle, President, California Writers Club

At the heart of California Writers Club are the activities of our 18 branches. All meet on a monthly basis, usually with a guest speaker who informs, educates and entertains on topics relating to writing or the writing life.

Our branches reach out to adults and youth in our respective communities. Partnering with local schools and libraries, and through participation in local events, we foster reading, writing, and a deep appreciation for the written word.

Our members represent a wide variety of interests: novelists, memoirists, poets, journalists, technical writers, and much more. Our levels range from authors with multiple book contracts at major New York houses to “Gosh, I’ve always wanted to write.” Regardless of your niche or level of expertise, there’s a place for you at California Writers Club and a branch near you.

FAW CHAIRPERSONS

Carol Hall runs the Donation Drawing and the Author's Table.

Nancy Curteman serves as the Central Board Representative and Hospitality Chair as well.

Art Carey serves as our Public Relations Chair.

Ken Weiss manages our Book Exchange.

PRESIDENT' MESSAGE

By Richard Scott

How Do You Grow a Club Branch?

We've come a long way since Fremont Area Writers was established. We've seen physical growth, and had to move to a larger venue.

We've seen some of our members sell books, and even have movies made of their novels.

We've added features like the *Donation Drawing*, and were inspired by another branch to add sound gear to make our meetings more professional.

We've begun to interact with the community in a way that both serves the cities we live in, and helps make FAW more visible.

We've had some great speakers, and we've put on some fascinating workshops. ...and lately we've gained some new members.

Our branch serves us in many ways. We meet twice a month to share our selves, and perhaps our work, with each other. We exchange ideas, we get inspired, and sometimes we inspire others.

We have good people, we treat each other with respect, and we're there to lend a hand when we can.

But is that enough? Good, yes, but good enough?

What, I wonder, could we do to improve our branch? How could we grow from 15 to 20 attendees at each general meeting? How could we increase our presence at our Open Mic night from 10 to perhaps 20 people?

How can we grow?

There is no magic formula. No wand to wave, no spell to speak. Growing our club will take the effort of each and every one of us.

It is simple, really. I'd wager that the members of FAW aren't the only writers, illustrators, agents, publishers, bloggers and such that *you* know. I'd bet there are friends who write who you have never invited to one of our meetings.

Every day we talk to people out in the world, some of whom are writers, or want to be writers.

And that's the thing, right there. It has been said that everyone has a book in them. And most people you know *do* write. Perhaps they don't write stories, poems or novels... but they write letters, emails, blogs, business reports, and more. ...and I promise you that anyone who writes anything, on a regular basis has thought about writing that book.

Their problem, usually, is not knowing how to start.

That's where you and I come in. We are Fremont Area Writers, and we DO KNOW how to start. We know how to develop our craft. We know how to give solid and useful criticism. We know how to write.

Don't you think it's time we share what we know with our friends and acquaintances?

Do your branch and yourself a favor... No! Do your friends a favor. Invite them to join us. Invite them to sit in and see what we're about. Your invitation may be just the thing they were dreaming about, what they've been waiting for all their lives.



FAW REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING

FAW SPEAKERS 2011

Don't miss out on our outstanding speakers on our monthly membership meetings.

- September – FAW Workshops
- October – Robin Lysne
- November – Jennifer Sanders



From Pulpits to Pizza A Story of the Niles Antique & Flea Market

By Evelyn LaTorre

Want to purchase a genuine church pulpit for only \$100? A giant dragonfly plant ornament for \$1.25 or maybe you are hungry for a pizza. All were available at the Niles Antique & Flea Market. Add to the official 600 vendors the hundreds of residents whose houses coughed out their used contents and you have the makings of a very entertaining and educational late August weekend. Our yard sale, two blocks away from Main St., was part of the action. From late Friday to 4 p.m. on Sunday, my sister, Teri, who is moving, my 89-year-old mother, who moved out of her house after 40 years, and I, who cleaned out my garage, played salesmen.

The behavior of homo sapiens at a flea market is enough to warrant a doctoral dissertation. The women, and a few of the men, headed first to our pile of mismatched and broken jewelry. A look of satisfaction spread over a woman's face when she found an earring's lost mate or a man found an overlooked trinket of value—like a silver and turquoise peace pendant. The seekers were content even if the lovingly united items were not purchased! Rummaging through a box of purses often produced the same calm meditation.

The hunter-gatherer instinct was alive and well among the buyers who came. The hunters, strong of step and steady of gaze, bounded into the yard with purpose. They were on the prowl for a specific object that would make their day. If they couldn't sight their item among the seven tables piled high with jewelry, house wares, books and Christmas and cowboy themed things or the driveway full of furniture, they were quickly off to the next hunting ground.

The most seasoned garage sale aficionados came with their "cages on wheels;" those wire box-shaped shopping carts that can carry everything including the kitchen sink. If they spied something interesting they were immediately on their cell phones telling a friend or spouse about "the massage table you've been looking for," or "the trundle bed we need for the boys." Some had walkie-talkies to direct their hunting and gathering companions to the yard sale.

Others came with wagons or baskets carrying either their children or their newly acquired wares, or both. A surprising number whisked in on motorized wheel chairs. After the first one we widened the distance between tables so our wares were "wheelchair and stroller accessible."

Most shoppers were methodical: they wound slowly down our driveway, examining the bookshelves, admiring a \$1,000 hutch, and then selecting the most unusual of the products.

“Who would ever buy this cream-colored polyester bed ruffle?” I remarked to my sister. The next hour someone was overjoyed to pay 50 cents for it. Five different sized picture mattes, two of which won me a grand and a first prize in 2002 when they framed two of my “New York after 9/11” photographs in a local photo contest, now garnered me a prize of 50 cents each. A crude little wooden mailbox, hand-crafted by my deceased father to dispense rolls of postage stamps, sold to the tune of 25 cents and the remark of, “Oh, isn’t that cute!”

On the other end of the value scale, after overhearing customers’ remarks about how retro were our mother’s set of aqua-colored dishes, Teri checked out their value at one of the antique shops. The price for the set went from \$50 to \$200! They sold to a couple of young ladies for \$100. We supposed they recognized their value but were going sell them on e-Bay but Mom was delighted they liked them.

There was the little girl who shyly placed the ten cents in my hand for a tiny onyx turtle and happily skipped away and the older schoolgirl who bargained fifty cents off the price of a two inch pack of binder paper. “We’ll lower the price only if you promise to get your written assignments in on time and with grades of A,” I told her, much to the amusement of her mother. The mother did me one better. “She’ll share it with those who don’t have enough paper,” she said.

My sister discussed trips to the Black Hills of South Dakota with a man wearing a black t-shirt with the white letters, “Mt. Rushmore” on it. The woman who bought my white furry alpaca hat spoke with me in Spanish at length about her country of Peru. A lady pointed out that Teri had shorted herself a dollar on the sale of a handmade purse. A young man insisted on paying me 25 instead of the 10 cents marked for a pair of earrings his female companion wanted. I think he wanted to impress his girlfriend with what a big spender he was.

When I looked around at what others were selling I was amazed at the variety: everything from food and drink to a church that was selling its wooden preacher’s pulpit. Though I was more interested in the food, the pulpit was intriguing because of the story I imagined was behind it.

As the weekend came to a close we learned the following: Most buyers at the Niles Antique and Flea Market are friendly, polite and honest. Buyers are more attracted to junk if it is displayed on tables but they will bend down for a box of purses. If the prices are marked and very low, there is little time and energy spent in haggling. Books on crafts sell better than books on abnormal psychology. Never think any is itemed too useless to sell; everything is of value to someone. Personally ushering one’s personal belongings on to more caring and appreciative homes is the ultimate high of recycling. And if you needed a church pulpit, sorry, it’s sold, but you can still get a pizza.

LOVE

By Myrla Raymundo

I am sitting here, my thoughts circling around the theme LOVE.

I want to write about love – about being a human being, about the feelings and emotions within me, about the feelings and emotions I project, about being a woman, about being a wife, about being a mother, about being a friend.

I want to write about moments I regard as gifts, perfect moments or worst moments. I had experienced all kinds of emotions – love, hope, anger, jealousy, rage, and sadness.

I'm a person who refuses to be still. I'm a person who hopes for something different every time. No success satisfies me, no happiness hushes me. All the time, I am trying to change myself.

Some mornings I decide to leave love. I'm tired of being the meek and the humble. I'm tired of being quiet. Sometimes I like to explode and emit all the other emotions bottling in me. So I shout and I explode with rage, fury, jealousy and indifference. After a while, they all leave me and I'll be quiet again.

I live, rejoice, grieve, become furious and yet there is something within me that refuses to leave. There is always that LOVE in my heart that will always stay intact and will always be there.

It is a faint voice within me full of yearning, full of emotions, full of love, telling me....give out this love. You're full of love. Share it with others.

I don't want to heed it because I know, listening to this faint voice; I can sit and find peace. With this peace, I can live with my family, with my friends, with my community.

LOVE, I know, conquers all the other emotions in me. I will continue to listen to this faint voice with me. I will continue to LOVE.

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD



Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Managing Editor

Myrla Raymundo and Jay Swartz, Editorial Board, welcome you to the September 2011 issue of the Ink Spots. It contains the latest FAW news and tidbits, poems, prose, essays and articles written by our members.

Ink Spots is issued monthly and is distributed to FAW members at the club general meeting every month.

It is also emailed to those with email addresses.

Submit your articles in Word format (.doc) and one or two pages maximum.

Send your submissions to: ligfinio.raymundo@sbcglobal.net.

FAW CALENDAR

BOARD MEETING -Second Thursday of the month 7:00 pm-8:30 pm – De Vry University, Fremont.

OPEN MIC - Third Thursday of the month –7-9 pm – Paddy’s Coffee Shop, Union City

FREMONT AREA WRITERS REGULAR MEETING - Fourth Saturday of the month, 2-4 pm, DeVry University, Fremont

