

# ***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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**MISSION STATEMENT:** 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.



Congratulations to the Fremont Area Writers FY2014-2015 Officers – President Shirley Scott, Vice-President Erika Anderson-Bolden, Secretary Cherilyn Jose and Treasurer Joyce Cortez.



**Flowers to you all!**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



As we enter a new year with new officers, I want to thank our Past President Carol Hall. She worked tirelessly to give us a great year. I have a pair of large shoes to fill.

Geraldine Solon, in her role of Vice President, provided the club with a year of great speakers. Joyce Cortez and Cherylyn Jose continue in their roles respectively of Secretary and Treasurer providing meeting minutes and monthly financial reports.

The club has been fortunate to have a core of volunteers who have generously given their time since the club was founded. Myrla Raymundo publishes the Ink Spots with the assistance of Joyce Hornblower. Art Carey handles all the publicity. Bob Garfinkle monitors membership. Nancy Curteman runs Hospitality at the meetings, the Phone Outreach Committee and the Refreshment's Volunteer List. Tony Pino took on the responsibility for Open Mic. Jan Small spearheaded a successful book signing in December. Bruce Hasse manages our book exchange. Volunteers run the programs that make our club successful. I ask you to please consider volunteering for your club.

The first annual FAW Retreat was held Saturday, July 12 at Fremont Bank's Community Conference Room. The ideas and suggestions put forth by participants should provide members with interesting and productive meetings. We'll share these plans with you and ask for your input. I look forward to an exciting year of new achievements by our members.

**Shirley Scott**



## **FAW Board Retreat July 12, 2014**

### **FAW Board Retreat Focuses on Club Goals**

On Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, six FAW board members met for several hours at the Fremont Bank Brookvale Board Room on Decoto Road in Fremont. Our new president, Shirley Scott, facilitated the meeting. Goals were discussed in six different areas:

#### **Membership:**

- Provide a place to help members reach their writing and publishing goals. This will be accomplished through speakers, genre groups/critique groups, workshops, and other special programs.
- Increase membership by 10% per year and broaden our demographics. One way this will be done is by strengthening our electronic presence.
- Encourage an increase in the number of volunteers in the club. We will appoint a Volunteers Coordinator. A Volunteers Appreciation Dinner is planned.

#### **Programs:**

- Set up structured genre groups starting with the August 2014 meeting.
- Encourage critique groups to form out of the General Meeting genre groups.

- Support National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) which takes place in November. After the month is over, we will celebrate those who met their writing goals.
- Hold an Agents and Producers Day. Volunteers will be needed to organize this event.
- Standardize the General Meeting Agenda starting in August.
- Hold a writers workshop once a year targeting a specific genre or topic.
- Suggestion Box. Make available a form for suggestions from the membership.

### **Publicity:**

- Find a website gatekeeper.
- Find a Facebook administrator.
- Encourage members to submit news on their writing and publishing accomplishments, articles and stories to the newsletter.

### **Finances:**

We currently have a healthy bank account to fund the programs we presently have. If we want to provide more and different programs, the budget will have to be increased. Additional funding may be obtained through fundraisers. Suggestions need to be made for how to go about this.

### **Community Outreach:**

With an increase in the number of volunteers, we can host writing contests, speak to college students, and do other types of outreach.

### **Social Gatherings:**

**Besides** the annual Holiday Party and CWC Picnic, ask for suggestions on what the membership would be interested in doing.

**Carol Hall**



## Fremont Area Writers

Writers Helping Writers



### Meet the Authors: Book Signing & Open Mic



Saturday, August 16th, will be Authors Afternoon at Fremont Public Library's Main Branch. More than fifteen Bay Area writers will be on hand to read selections from their works to the public at an Open Mic, to sell autographed copies of their books, and to chat with readers.

Books will be available for sale in a variety of genres such as mystery, thriller, humor, religion, art, science, history, poetry, and memoir.

The event will be held from 1-4 p.m. in the Fukaya Room, the big meeting room to the right, inside the library's entrance.

Featured authors include: Jan Small, Robert Davis, Geraldine Solon, Doris Nickolaidis, Marjorie Johnson, Nancy Curteman, Helen Vanderberg, Rachelle Ayala, Danielle Burnette, Tony Pino, Elena Martina, Penelope Cole, Padma Shandas and more.

Fremont Area Writers is a branch of the California Writers Club. For more information, contact Shirley Scott, President, at 510-791-8639 or view the website at [www.cwc-fremontareawriters.org](http://www.cwc-fremontareawriters.org).



**Saturday, August 16th, 1-4 p.m.**  
**Fukaya Room, Fremont Main Library, 2400 Stevenson Blvd, Fremont**



**Keeping Readers Reading**  
**Author Susan Lakin**  
**Saturday, Aug. 23, 2014 2-4 p.m.**

How do you keep readers eager to see more of what you've written?

Easy! Make it memorable.

Susan Lakin, novelist and writing coach, makes a return visit to Fremont Area Writers on Saturday, Aug. 23, to show how to do just that. Her topic: "Creating Unforgettable Scenes That Really Cook."

She is the author of fourteen novels – six contemporary, seven in the fantasy/sci-fi genre, and one in historical Western romance. Her most recent book, due out this summer, is the historical western romance "Colorado Hope" written under the pen name of Charlene Whitman. It is the second book in The Front Range Series.

In a busy year so far, she has also written "Say What? The Fiction Writer's Handy Guide to Grammar, Punctuation, and Word Usage." The book is available in print and ebook format.

Lakin spoke to Fremont Area Writers in 2012, offering tips on how to use cinematic techniques in writing.

**Workshop: *Sizzling Scenes: Creating Unforgettable Scenes That Really Cook:***

This lighthearted workshop fills a need for writers of all levels to explore the various ways scenes can be constructed and the elements needed to make a scene sizzle. Good writers are like good cooks—using a variety of ingredients and spices, simmering until boiling, and leaving a surprise twist or lingering aftertaste to keep the reader wanting to come back to the table for seconds. We will look at the three major components of a scene—the beginning, middle, and end - and judge, at random, excerpts from best-selling novels to evaluate what works and doesn't work in their scene construction. Bon Appetite!

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**Susanne Lakin** (C. S. Lakin, author name) works professionally as a copyeditor and writing coach, and is a member of numerous editing and writing groups. She also guest blogs on the top writing blogs, such as Writers' Digest and Jane Friedman, and teaches workshops and runs or participates in critique teams around the country. Her writing background and experience includes her having penned fourteen novels, nine of which she has contracted to publishers in the last three years. Her relational drama *Someone to Blame* won the 2009 Zondervan First Novel Contest at Mount Hermon Writers' Conference and earned her a publishing contract and five-figure advance. She currently has a seven-book fantasy series for adults with AMG/Living Ink Publishers. The first six installments are already in print. Her new release, *Colorado Promise* (under the pen name Charlene Whitman) hit best-seller lists in Historic Western Romance in its first month.

Her blog Live Write Thrive won the top ten blogs for writers in 2012 and 2013 by Write to Done (out of more than 1,100 blog nominations) and provides year-long instruction for novelists with exciting, fresh courses in weekly posts. She has also compiled her first two courses into nonfiction books (soon to be in print and ebook): *Writing the Heart of Your Story* and *Shoot Your Novel: Cinematic Secrets to Supercharge Your Story*. Her book *Say What?: A Fiction Writer's Handy Guide to Grammar, Punctuation, and Word Usage* released in February 2014 and remains at the top of the Amazon charts for writing reference books in grammar and editing.

Susanne comes from a background of screenwriters. She grew up reading scripts and working on TV series development with her mother, an award-winning screen writer and television producer. She was also influenced by her stepfather, a TV director and producer, and her brother, a TV producer and screenwriter. The rich influence of script structure influences her novels, and she utilizes many screenwriting techniques to construct scenes. Both workshops delve into the secret of how to "show, don't tell." These workshops can be adjusted for lengths of one hour to three hours.

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING – May 24, 2014**

**Speaker: Elena Martina  
Southern  
Overcoming Roadblocks in  
Writing**





**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING June 28, 2014**



**Speaker: Rick Acker**

Rick Acker talked about The Suspense Writer's Toolbox.

**The attendees:**



Nancy Curteman conducted the FAW Election of Officers for FY2014-2015.

## WRITERS AND POETS OPEN MIC



**Tony Pino**, the Open Mic Chairperson, leads the group. Open Mic is held monthly at Suju's Coffee Meeting Room, 3602 Thornton Ave., Fremont. Writers attend and read their articles and books to the audience.

Next meeting: August 25, 2014  
Monday. 7-9PM

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**Nancy Curteman** – Central Board Representative, Hospitality, and Telephone Outreach



**Art Carey**-Public Relations



**Bruce Haase** takes care of our Book Exchange. He urges everyone to bring books to our regular meetings.



### AUTHORS BOOK TABLE

**Carol Hall** is the Chairperson of the Authors Book Table. It is a free service of the Fremont Area Writers. Two long tables are set up at each regular meeting with enough space for eight separate titles.

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

September 27, 2014 Lori Anzini  
How to write a memoir  
Oct 25, 2014 - Ann Weir  
Nov 22, 2014 – Bonnie Keas  
How to write about aging

## FROM THE EDITOR



**Myrla Raymundo** welcomes you to our August 2014 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's general meeting every month. It is also emailed to those with email addresses.

Ink Spots welcomes you to write articles and submit them to this Editor at [raymundomyrla@gmail.com](mailto:raymundomyrla@gmail.com).



## PAST JACK LONDON AWARDEES Fremont Area Writers



**2009 – Robert Garfinkle**

**2011 – Myrla Raymundo**

**2013 – Carol Hall**

**2015 -- ????????**

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### FAW'S COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

**Myrla Raymundo** is Chair of the Fremont Area Writers' Community Involvement. 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 our club.

**FREMONT AREA WRITERS  
OFFICERS**



President– **Shirley Scott**



Vice President – **Erika Anderson-  
Bolden**



Secretary – **Joyce Cortez**



Treasurer – **Cherilyn Jose**



**Robert (Bob) Garfinkle** –  
Past President, California Writers Club

**FREMONT AREA WRITERS  
CHAIRPERSONS**

**Carol Hall** - Donation Drawing and  
Authors Table

**Nancy Curteman** – Central  
Board Representative, Hospitality &  
Telephone Outreach

**Tony Pino** – Open MIC

**Art Carey** – Public Relations

**Bruce Haase** – Book Exchange

**Myrla Raymundo** - Editor

**Joyce Hornblower** – Assistant Editor

**CALENDAR**

**BOARD MEETING** – Fourth Saturday of the  
month 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm – DeVry University,  
Fremont.

**OPEN MIC** – Fourth Monday of the month  
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

**FREMONT AREA WRITERS REGULAR  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING** – Fourth Saturday  
of the month, 2:00 pm -4:00 pm, DeVry  
University, Fremont



## FAW WRITERS CORNER

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**Tony Pino** is working with a publicist to expand interest in his book, *A Hidden River*. Tony has been invited to be a guest reader in Berkeley on October 6 at the request of Poetry Express. The venue will be the restaurant, Himalayan Flavors. He will also be reading at the Fremont Library Book Signing on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

This summer he visited Alaska, Kansas, and El Salvador and he will be flying to Germany in late July.

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**Myrla Raymundo** (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) was one of the Mighty 4 Day Foundation Appreciation Awardees at the Mighty 4 Day Event at the Old Alvarado Park in Union City.

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**Erika Anderson-Bolden** released her debut novel, *The Spanish Club*, under the pen name of Danielle Burnette in July. In this coming-of-age novel, 17-year-old Brianna Garrett discovers she is adopted on the eve of her class trip to Mexico. Against a backdrop of cultural treasures—and overzealous World Cup fans—Brianna fights for her best friend, her first love and the truth of her own emerging identity.

Erika’s short story, “The Runners”, was recently published in the Spring 2014 edition of *The Binnacle*, the literary journal of the University of Maine at Machias.

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**34 Ways to Draw and Paint a Cat**  
**By Jan Small**



One day my art students needed some more supplies. After art class, we all went down to Michael’s art Supply store. I found a beautiful little sketch book, filled with 34 sheets of heavy watercolor paper. It was on sale for \$2.49. I felt compelled to buy it, not knowing what I’d do with it.

Back in my studio, I noticed a small ceramic cat I had purchased a few months prior sitting on the table. I decided to photograph the cat and trace it onto each sheet in the sketch book.

I challenged my creativity by seeing how many different ways I could draw and paint the cat. A book (I have the book if anyone is interested to see) is the result. The pages of cats are organized just as I drew them. I’d finish one, then wait for the inspiration for the next one. Even after I finished the book, inspiration kept coming.

I have added a section at the end of the cats that tells the title of each cat and any explanation I felt might be necessary. Also added at the end of the book are 2 cats waiting for you the reader to create.

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**Tish Davidson** is under contract to OTTN Publishing to write two school library books, one on Southern New England and the other on the Atlantic Coast. She is also working with the Reading Development Institute in San Francisco to develop supplemental texts that align with the Common Core curriculum.

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