



INK SPOTS



*The Newsletter of the Fremont Area Writers,
A branch of the California Writers Club
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Visit us at <http://cwc-fremontareawriters.org>*

VOL. 29, February 2014

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 are conducted for the purpose of educating writers of all levels of expertise.



Hi Everyone,

A big thank you to all my readers who voted for me in the Preditors & Editors Readers Poll. I'm thrilled to announce that because you took the time to vote for me, my novel, ***Murder Casts a Spell***, came in number one in the Mystery category. I'm having a great time working on my next Lysi Weston mystery set in Paris. I hope to have it published before the end of the year.

Thank you again,

Nancy Curtteman

Art Carey has published his first story for kids, "The Day It Rained Cats and Dogs." It appears in *Guardian Angel Kids* in a themed edition based upon weather. The story has yet to be archived.

Tish Davidson has been chosen by the American Society of Authors and Journalists as one of three judges to select the best Memoir/Lifestyle book published in 2013 by an ASJA member. Judging is based on:

- A fresh approach or new angle on an old story
- Subject worthy of book-length treatment
- Clarity of writing
- Precision in the use of language
- Organization and flow of ideas

ASJA, founded in 1948, is a professional association for nonfiction writers. Awards will be presented at the annual ASJA conference in New York City in April.

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**January 25, 2014 Speaker
Cynthia Sue Larson**



Topic: Social Media Tips for Authors

The Attendees:





Fremont Area Writers

Writers Helping Writers



Transforming Novels into Screenplays: How to See Your Story on Television or in a Film



Sure, writing a novel is satisfying. But wouldn't it be great to see the story on television or in a film?

Fremont Area Writers' next speaker, Mary Pyefinch, has some suggestions for doing that. She'll discuss how to move characters from print to script on

Saturday, February 22.

She is a published non-fiction author and screenwriter who started writing at the age of seven. Her favorite film genres are mysteries and thrillers.

To find out more about Mary, see her LinkedIn Profile:

<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/dir/Mary/Pyefinch>

Writers and Poets Open Mic!

When: 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Monday, February 24th

Where:
Newpark Mall, Newark
In front of the former
Target Store, across from
the elevator, first floor

Saturday, Feb. 22, 2-4 p.m.
DeVry University, Room 120
6600 Dumbarton Circle
Fremont, CA

Fremont Area Writers is a branch of the
1,700-member California Writers Club.

Carol Hall, President
cahall@rocketmail.com
cwc-fremontareawriters.org



Author Martha Engber

"In-Depth Character & Plot Development for Fiction and Nonfiction"

Martha Engber

Back by popular demand!!

Early Bird Price (by 3.16):

CWC member \$45 Non-member \$55

Students (18-25 with ID)

Sleepy Bird Price (after 3.16):

CWC member \$57 Non-member \$67

Walk-Ins At Door:

CWC Member \$63 Non-member \$73

South Bay Writers

Spring Writers Workshop

March 30, 2014, Sunday

Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue,
San Jose

8:30 am (registration) to 4:00 pm (close)
Continental Breakfast & Lunch

SOUTH BAY WRITERS HOST NEW NIGHT

GRAMMAR DIVA ARLENE MILLER HONES OUR LITERARY GRAMMAR SKILLS IN FEBRUARY.

South Bay Writers is meeting on a new night. The club will now meet the 2nd Monday of every month beginning in February. We're still at Harry's Hofbrau at 390 Saratoga Avenue from 6 pm – 9 pm, but the new night is less noisy and less crowded in the cafeteria line. On Feb. 10, author Arlene Miller, aka "The Grammar Diva", will help us sharpen our grammar skills. She will review the latest rules in grammar, as well as outline the primary grammar differences in fiction and nonfiction writing. Sharpen your No. 2 pencil! We'll be taking a grammar quiz to test our knowledge. Cost is \$15 (including \$10 for meal.) www.southbaywriters.com

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**FAW Vice-President Geraldine Solon
reports:**



**The following are the General
Membership Meeting speakers for the
following months:**

February 22, 2013 – **Mary Pyefinch** –
Transforming Novels Into Screenplays

March 22, 2013 – **Nancy Curteman** –
How to Add Tension to a Story

AUTHORS BOOK TABLE

Carol Hall is the Chairperson of the Authors Book Table. It is a free service of the Fremont Area Writers. A table is set up at each regular meeting, enough space for eight separate titles.

BOOK EXCHANGE

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

WRITERS AND POETS OPEN MIC



Tony Pino, the Open Mic Chairperson, leads the group.

Open Mic will be held in February at NewPark Mall in Newark in front of the former Target Store, across from the elevator, first floor at 7:00 pm. Writers attend and read their articles and books to an audience.

Next meeting: Monday,
February 24, 2014

FREMONT AREA WRITERS OFFICERS



President– **Carol Hall**



Vice President – **Geraldine Solon**



Secretary – **Joyce Cortez**



Acting Treasurer – **Cherilyn Jose**



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

FREMONT AREA WRITERS CHAIRPERSONS

Carol Hall –Authors Table

Nancy Curteman – Central Board
Representative, Hospitality & Telephone
Outreach

Tony Pino – Open Mic

Art Carey – Public Relations

Bruce Haase – Book Exchange

CALENDAR

BOARD MEETING – Fourth Saturday of the
month 12:45 pm – 1:45 p.m. – DeVry
University, Fremont

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

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sally Ember

Joyce Hornblower

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Carol Hall

Did you have difficulty finding a seat at the January meeting? That's a good thing.

Fremont Area Writers is growing. We have 55 members, many of them new. That means there are lots more opportunities to meet people and share interests in writing. Want to make it easier? Here's how:

1. Wear your nametag and add a colored dot that shows your writing interest. The dots are available at meetings. (Fiction-blue; nonfiction-pink; memoir-yellow, poetry-green, and scriptwriting-orange. Multiple interests? Use several dots.
2. Provide a photo (mug shots please) and one-paragraph bio for display on our Members page on the Fremont Area Writers website. Send a jpeg of the photo and a Word document of the bio to Art Carey at accarey2@gmail.com or bring

them to the next meeting. We'll scan and return them.

3. Join the genre groups at breakout sessions. Suggest a topic for discussion. Cite a problem. Ask a question.

Fremont Area Writers is only as good as we make it. Join in.

FROM THE EDITOR



Myrla Raymundo welcomes you to our February 2014 issue of the Ink Spots.

It contains the latest FAW news and tidbits, poems, prose, essays and articles written by our members.

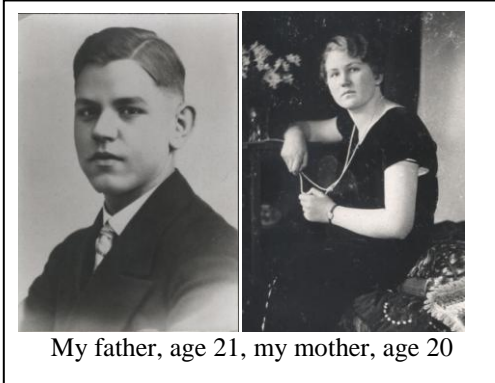
Ink Spots is issued monthly and is distributed to FAW members at the club's general meeting every month. It is also emailed to those with email addresses.

Ink Spots welcomes you to write articles and submit them to this Editor at raymundomyrla@gmail.com.

FAW WRITERS CORNER:

We invite FAW writers to submit their writing to our Newsletter.

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MY PARENTS' COURTSHIP

By Doris Nikolaidis

My mother and father met at an athletic club.

My father was an instructor and my mother was one of the students. My father was attracted to

the tall, lithe girl who would sing during breaks this enchanting song of “peace in one’s home.” He would sit and talk to her and listen to her stories of life on the farm. Her family was so different from his and he decided that he wanted a family like hers.

My father was slightly shorter than my mother but that did not deter him from wooing her. They were going to get married one day, he said to her. He was saving every penny he could hide from his mother so he could make a home with her. After a five-year courtship, my mother became pregnant and my father proposed to her, over the objections of his mother, who called my mother a whore, a girl without morals.

During my mother’s youth in the farm country, being pregnant before marriage was a “Scarlet Letter.” She told her mother about her pregnancy but she was more worried about the reaction her brothers and the neighbors would have to the news.

My grandmother was a very practical woman. Her first question was, “Is he going to marry you?” When my mother assured her that she and my father had gotten unofficially engaged that night, my grandmother told her not to worry about her brothers. She would take care of them if they opened their mouth. “My married sons did not buy the cat in the sack either,” she said.

In the farm country, where my mother grew up, farmers relied on cats to control the mouse population. When a litter of kittens was weaned, the farmer would put them into a sack and asked other farmers if they wanted to buy some kittens. Farmers insisted on keeping the kittens for a couple of days to ensure that they were good mouse hunters; hence the phrase “not buying a cat in the sack.” The expression was also used when a young couple got married and it was suspected that they had already had sex. “I am sure he did not buy the cat in the sack,” people whispered.

“But what about the neighbors?” my mother asked. “They will know when the baby is born that I was not a virgin when I got married.”

“Do you know what a virgin is, child? It is someone who lacked opportunity. Do not worry. Just be happy with your husband and make a good family.”

My grandmother accepted that girls in love would succumb after years of dating to the natural inclination to have sex with the man they loved. Her philosophy was that one should take life as it is and not as one would like it to be.

DO YOU HAVE TIME?



By Myrla Raymundo, MBA

Have you ever been approached many times in your life to do something and your immediate response was “I don’t have time”?

What is TIME?

In our daily lingo, time is a symbol of an old man with a long white beard, scythe in one hand and an hourglass in the other.

In the realistic world, time is the total number of hours that each one of us have. We can do anything with it. We can be frugal with it or we can let it run through our fingers.

Time is your greatest possession. No one can take that away from you. You can accomplish many things with it.

Time can also be a thief, who steals the youthful charm of a woman and the vigor and stamina of a man. Time robs us of our health and strips us of everything we have.

We also speak of time as a few moments communicating with the Lord and spending quality time with our spouse and children and friends.

We are given the time and must be considered a trust. What are we doing with it? Are we wasting it bit by bit, letting it slip through our fingers? Or are we treasuring it by using it to its maximum advantage and filling every minute of our lives with useful living?

Life is like a soap opera. There are billions of events happening every moment in our lives, each event contributing to the drama of life. What is the contribution we make? Time is all we have and the idea is not to save it, but to savor it.

You can find the time to do a lot of things and all the things you wish to do, if you will not keep this time, but if you will only savor every minute of it.

Go forth! Savor it! You'll love every minute of it.
