



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>

VOL 41, March 2015

MISSION STATEMENT: For the purpose of providing a forum for 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

FAW'S REGULAR FEBRUARY MEETING



Mark Coker, who founded Smarshwords in 2008, presented "An Introduction to Ebook Self-Publishing and Best Practices"

The attendees





Fremont Area Writers

Writers Helping Writers



I Can't Believe It—I Wrote a Book



Everyone has a story to tell. But too many people can't see past the obstacles in telling it.

That's the belief of Donna Marie Ferro, who is the next speaker for Fremont Area Writers on Saturday, March 28. Her topic: "I Can't Believe It—I Wrote a Book."

Ferro is the author of "Italy, the Embracing Circle: Il Circolo," published by Xlibris. The book grew out of her grandparents' stories and her trips to Liguria in Northern Italy. The trips became journeys of self-discovery that culminated in a memoir. In addition to adventures and misadventures, she tosses in Italian recipes, tips on packing, and a glossary of specialized words in Genovese.

You can find out more about her

at <http://www.broadwayworld.com/bwwbooks/article/Donna-Marie-Ferro-Releases-Autobiographical-Travel-Guide-20141007>

Donna Marie Ferro
"I Can't Believe It—I Wrote a Book"
Saturday, Mar. 28, 2-4 p.m.
DeVry University, Room 120
6600 Dumbarton Circle
Fremont, CA

Writers and Poets Open Mic!

When: 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Monday, March 23

Where:
Suju's Coffee
Meeting Room
3602 Thornton Ave.
Fremont

Fremont Area Writers is a branch of the 1,800-member California Writers Club.

Shirley Ferrante, President
510-791-8639
cwc-fremontareawriters.org



Art Carey reports.....

Two of Art Carey’s short stories are scheduled to appear in anthologies in April. The story of a high school girl who hides her homelessness will be in Main Street Rag’s “Creatures of Habitat.” A story about a man who learns about sympathy after being injured while bird watching is scheduled for “By the Bay,” published by Bay Area Library ePublishers.



Nancy Curteman's fifth mystery novel, "Murder on the Seine," is out. Published by Solstice, it is available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). She's currently working on her sixth Lysi Weston mystery, this one set in San Francisco.



In January, Carol Lee Hall placed as a semi-finalist in the Kairos Prize Screenplay Contest for her feature-length script *Mordecai: Based on the Biblical Book of Esther*.

In February, two of Hall's projects placed in the semi-finals of the Nashville Film Festival Screenplay Competition: *Donaldina: Based on True Events in the Life of Donaldina Cameron* in the Historical Feature category and *Mordecai* for Inspirational Feature. As a semi-finalist, Hall won a Silver Laminate Pass worth \$250 to the festival in April. If either of her scripts moves on to the finals, she will win another pass.

A writing workshop presented by the Fremont Area Writers...

Grow Your Great Character and Plot! A Workshop for Writers of Fiction and Nonfiction

led by Martha Engber, author of *Growing Great Characters* and *The Wind Thief*



Saturday, April 4, 2015

9 am to 3 pm

Fremont Community Church Conference Room
39700 Mission Boulevard, Fremont, CA 94538

Registration Information

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Are you a member of the California Writers Club? No Yes

If yes, what branch? Fremont Area Writers other:

Workshop Fee (includes lunch)

Before March 21st: FAW member - \$35 CWC member - \$40 Non-member - \$45

After March 21st: FAW member - \$45 CWC member - \$50 Non-member - \$55

Make checks payable to Fremont Area Writers.

Mail registration form and payment to P.O. Box 8132, Fremont, CA 94537.

Email rikadanie@hotmail.com with any questions.

Workshop capacity limited to 30 attendees.

President's Message



We had a very informative meeting Saturday, February 28, 2015. Forty Five members enjoyed Mark Coker from Smashwords sharing “Everything You Wanted to Know About Self-Publishing.”

We could not have these great meetings without the gracious work of your club's volunteers. To continue we need your help. Please, ask what you can do for your club.

FAW Members your club has 4 open volunteer positions.

1. MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

A. Duties:

1. Maintain the club membership roster
2. Collect dues, enter paid into the roster then give money to the Treasurer to deposit
3. Add new members to the MRMS data base
4. Promote the club

B. Perks:

1. Training by Past President and Club Founder Bob Garfinkle
- 2.

2. CENTRAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

The FAW Representative acts as a liaison between the Central Board and FAW.

A. Duties:

1. Attend 2 meetings a year
2. Report information from two Central Board meetings to the FAW Board
3. Report email updates received from the Central Board to the FAW Board

B. Perks:

1. Free lunch and cookie breaks at the two meetings

3. COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR

The FAW Community Outreach Coordinator acts as a liaison between FAW and the community.

A. Duties:

1. Initiate events within the community to promote reading
2. Chair the Young Writers Contest sponsored by FAW

B. Perks:

1. Networking with your community

4. PHONE OUTREACH COORDINATOR

The Phone Outreach Coordinator monitors the phone call meeting reminder volunteers

A. Duties:

1. Keep the FAW member phone list current
2. Confirm the call schedule with the phone call volunteers

B. Perks:

1. Happy FAW members not missing their meeting

If you have questions or an interest in one of these volunteer positions please contact me at

shirleyrscott@yahoo.com or Nancy Curteman, our Volunteer Coordinator, at curtemannancy@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE:

April 4, 2015 9 – 3 PM

FAW WORKSHOP:

GROW YOUR GREAT CHARACTER AND PLOT!

A WORKSHOP FOR WRITERS OF FICTION AND NON FICTION

LOCATION:

Fremont Community Church Conference Room 39700 Mission Boulevard, Fremont, CA 94538

Workshop Fee (includes lunch) Before March 21st: FAW member - \$35 CWC member - \$40 Non-member - \$45 After March 21st: FAW member - \$45 CWC member - \$50 Non-member - \$55

If you did not receive my email with the registration form, please contact me:

shirleyrscott@yahoo.com

Shirley Ferrante

FAW President

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.



Nancy Curteman—Hospitality



Art Carey-Public Relations

BOOK EXCHANGE



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



Carol Hall – FAW Facebook Coordinator

Shirley Ferrante 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, enough space for eight separate titles.



Agnes Chiqui Kirkhart
NorCal Representative

FROM THE EDITOR

InkSpots Newsletter



We are all writers and we can contribute to our Newsletter. Send your articles complete with photos via WORD attachment to this Editor Myrla Raymundo or to our Assistant Editor Joyce Hornblower.

I also announced a column “Member Spotlight” last two or three meetings. I haven’t received anything from the members.

We send our Newsletter to the different clubs and we want them to see how we are doing and what we are writing about.

Myrla Raymundo welcomes you to our March 2015 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.

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



Myrla busy on the computer.

EDITORIAL STAFF

- Myrla Raymundo, MBA –
Writer/Editor**
- Joyce Hornblower – Assistant Editor**

**FREMONT AREA WRITERS
OFFICERS**



President– **Shirley Ferrante**



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 – FAW Facebook
Coordinator

Shirley-Ferrante - Authors Table

Nancy Curteman – Hospitality

Agnes Kirkhart – Nor-Cal
Representative

Tony Pino – Open MIC

Art Carey – Public Relations

Bruce Haase – Book Exchange

Myrla Raymundo – Writer/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

FAWS WRITERS CORNER

City Mouse Wannabe

By Patricia van den Heuvel

I stood on the sidewalk waiting to cross the busy street and when I thought it was safe, I gingerly edged out into the crosswalk. "Just arrived have you?"

I looked around to see where the voice came from and was shocked and embarrassed to see that this sarcasm was directed at me. Yes, a smug, male driver was venting his frustration on me. Oh, he had every right to do so considering I was walking in front of his car and this was London's West End.

Was it that obvious that I was new to the big city, fresh from my quiet village in Ireland?

Yes it was. I didn't look chic, didn't wear my hair high and fancy, and didn't wear much makeup, at least not like those London girls with their eyes blackened with mascara and their cheeks devoid of color. But I wanted to look like them and little by little I made some changes.

"Did you see Laura Brennan home from England?"

"Yes, and she's wearing slacks and doesn't have her lovely rosy cheeks anymore."

In the eyes of the neighbors, Laura Brennan had gone to the dogs.

My parents said nothing about my new look at least not to me.

But it was the Saturday afternoon when I emerged from my bedroom ready to accompany them to town that my father broke his silence. With a look of disgust on his flushed face he blurted out

"Well Laura, I never thought you would stoop so low."

"Dad, it is only a silvery spray, it washes out."

"You're not going to let your Uncle Paddy see you like that."

Uncle Paddy was my father's brother and he owned a shop in town. Uncle Kit was my mother's brother and he also owned a shop in town. I was warned not to let either uncle see me looking like this because they would think I had gone to hell completely. And God forbid that I should bump into any of the nuns from my convent school because then they would be praying for her salvation.

But I hadn't gone to hell or anyplace near hell because you can take the girl out of the convent school but you can't take the convent school out of the girl. I may have looked the part and enjoyed the attention it got me but I was still the naive little girl from the country village.

So the silvery spray was washed out of my hair and the mascara was toned down at least until the end of my visit and my father was happy.

SAM

by Jan Salinas

Sam loves beer. Sam's my cat, a cat with a peculiar personality. He doesn't take any guff from anybody. He's a tom cat. He out-stares me and he out-stares Tux, his Great Dane brother. It's almost as if he defies anyone to irritate him, and uses his stare, along with his bold presence, to test those who pass before him.

Today, I gave him his usual sip of Heineken and with his scratchy tongue; he covered every inch of the bottle opening, not wasting a speck of those natural ingredients.

Sam is very attractive if you like cats. His strong, masculine jaw line and his strong broad body are as strong as his stare, daring those who are bravest to get to know him. His solid grey coloring is in contrast to his white paws adding to his beauty as he struts through the yard and positions himself wherever he wishes. His favorite place to lounge is under a catnip bush that shades the ground and cools the earth. Sam's beauty, however, lies mostly in his personality that demands attention.

He has always been "king of the castle" though his life has not been an easy road, and sports a few scars to prove it. Soon after his adoption from a deplorable animal shelter in East L.A., Sam once again became an outside cat in keeping with his tom cat personality.

It happened like this. From the very beginning, Sam knew who to favor and who to punish with his embarrassing primal acts in his new home. Showing preferences and dislikes to his newly adopted family in ways that would send any cat flying out the door, Sam left his scent in his new master's shoes creating a personality conflict with his new master. Almost immediately, he lost his in-house privileges and had to reinvent himself by following the mailman around the complex each day. They soon became best friends. Sam waited faithfully for Mr. Mailman as they went house-to-house, and the two bonded as they went through their daily routine. Sam also became guard of the yards, putting the fear of God into his four-legged neighbors as well as his human neighbors and earned himself a reputation of the "big, nasty, grey, guard beast."

Sam's next challenge came when he was relocated to the Bay Area, once again establishing his new domain by staring down those who passed. He dared, Tux, the Great Dane, to come just a little closer so that he can make it known who is boss and who gets the best seat in the house.

One day, Sam and I had a staring contest. Those eyes told me to give up because I wasn't going to win. "You know, I am the beastly king and I could tear you to pieces in an instant." Sam's pupils grew wide and daring, without a blink, without moving a muscle.

Sam does have a friendly streak and can warm up to a few of his favorite humans. It took a while but, as the years passed, he eventually positioned himself next to my pillow at bedtime and became an indoor cat. The transition from homelessness to king of the outdoors, to soft and fluffy warm bed suited Sam in his golden years. We grew very close and when I saw him so content on his blue pillow next to me, and heard his loud purr, I knew Sam, the beast, was tamed at last.

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