



# INK SPOTS

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

*Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Editor*

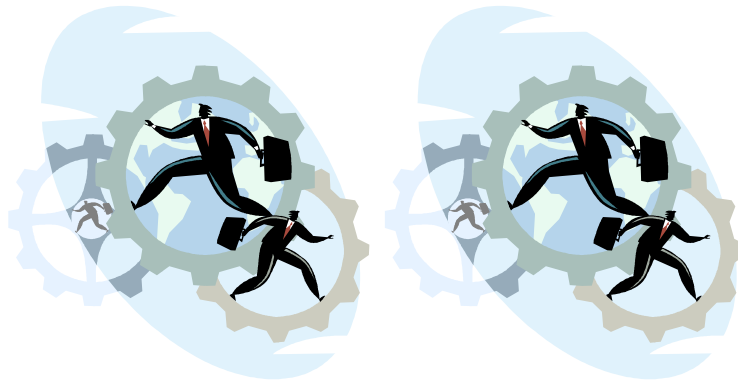
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*Visit us at <http://cwc-fremontareawriters.org>*

**VOL 32, May 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 is conducted for the purpose of educating writers of all levels of expertise.

## FAW Elections in June 2014



Go for it! Hurry and put in your papers! We need you!

The Fremont Area Writers Club (FAW) will be holding its elections at the June General Meeting for the 2014-2015 fiscal year beginning in July. Officers and duties include:

**President:** Provides overall vision and direction for the club. Oversees the General Meetings and Board Meetings. Appoints positions of leadership such as Publicity Chair, Newsletter Editor, etc. Resolves problems and conflicts in the club.

**Vice President:** Fills in when the President cannot fulfill his/her duties. Obtains speakers for the General Meetings.

**Secretary:** Takes notes at the Board Meetings and disseminates to the FAW Board. Handles correspondence for the club.

**Treasurer:** Takes meeting donations at each General Meeting. Handles bank deposits and checkbook. Sends financial reports to the CWC Central Board. Helps the FAW board formulate a yearly budget.

If you would like to run for office or have any questions, please contact the president, Carol Hall. More than one person can run for office.



# California Writers Club

## Officers and Appointees of the Central Board (2013-2014)

**President**  
David George  
Mt. Diablo

**Vice President**  
Margie Yee Webb  
Sacramento

**Secretary**  
Joyce Krieg  
Central Coast

**Treasurer**  
Sharon Svitak  
Tri-Valley

**Public Relations Director**  
Donna McCrohan Rosenthal  
East Sierra

**Member-At-Large**  
Ray Malus  
San Fernando Valley

**Policies and Procedures Chair**  
Dave LaRoche  
South Bay

**California Writers Club**

**GWC South**

**North Cal.**

**Central Coast**

**San Francisco Valley**

**East Coast**

**Orange County**

**Tri-Valley**

**Basins**

**Water of Eden**

**San Francisco Valley**

**East Coast**

**Orange County**

**Tri-Valley**

**Basins**

**Water of Eden**

**Central Board News****New Slate of Officers for 2014**

Compiled by Linda Brown

President David George, Mt. Diablo, became a dual member of the Mt. Diablo and Berkeley branches in 2004. In 2009, Mt. Diablo awarded him lifetime member status. Dave has held a number of board-level positions at both branches as well as the Central Board. Dave's writing career includes short stories, poems, and nonfiction. He explores the ironies found during his 30-year high-tech business career and his encounters with the wildlife of rural California. He has won writing awards, most recently First Place in the CWC-San Francisco/Peninsula's Jack London Annual Writing Contest. He is currently writing a novel based on his Irish ancestral roots and an anthology of modern fables about the natural world.

Vice-President Margie Yee Webb, Sacramento, is author/photographer of *Cat Mulan's Mindful Musings: Insight and Inspiration for a Wonderful Life* and Producer of *FEMME: Women Healing the World*. She has served as the CWC-CB's Vice President since July 2012 and has also served as the CB's Member At-Large. Margie is the CWC Sacramento Branch President. In 2011 the Sacramento branch recognized her ongoing contributions with their branch's Jack London Award for service. She enjoys connecting with CWC representatives from all branches to share successes and learn from each other. She also belongs to the Cat Writers' Association and the Women's National Book Association, San Francisco Chapter.

Secretary Joyce Krieg, Central Coast, is the author of the Shauna J. Bogart Talk Radio Mystery Series: *Murder Off Mike*, *Slip Cue*, and *Riding Gain*. (St. Martin's Minotaur). She joined the CWC in 2004 and currently leads CWC-NorCal. Joyce designed the new CWC banner and brochure. A former newspaper reporter, television announcer, radio reporter and newscaster, Joyce became promotion director for Sacramento's KFBK News/Talk 1530. This served her well when she started to write about a crime-fighting, mystery-solving talk-radio host. She currently lives in Pacific Grove, where she is a member of the Central Coast branch and is chief-of-staff to her cat, Topaz.

Treasurer Sharon Svitak, Tri-Valley Writers, has been a CWC member since 2009. She writes romance and is a member of the Romance Writers of America. Her published works include *Letters to Ethan*, *Joe's Story*; "A Book of Memories" (*Chicken Soup for the*

*Soul: Grieving and Recovery*); and "Medical Benefits" (*Voices of the Valley - Encore*). Sharon has held three positions at her branch and also serves as the CB's Membership Chair, producing statewide membership reports.

Member-At-Large Ray Malus, San Fernando Valley Branch, joined the CWC in 2009. He writes fiction, poetry, and essays, and published *Ashes In Yonkers*, *Stories You'd Give A Shit About—If I Was Famous*. Ray has served as branch webmaster and newsletter editor. Ray also designed and administers the Member Record Management System (MRMS), which saves volunteers lots of time and makes it easy to share contact information within the branches. He serves on the CWC-CB because he believes that our greatest strength lies in our statewide unity.

PR Director Donna McCrohan Rosenthal, East Sierra, has written for newspapers throughout California and several magazines, including *Redbook*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *Desert Companion*. She's authored over a dozen books on popular culture, including *The Honeymooners Companion: The Kramdens*. When she moved from New York, she transitioned to travel writing. She has appeared on *A&E Biography* and *Oprah*, and she has spoken at the Smithsonian Institution and the Museum of Television and Radio. Donna joined the East Sierra Branch CWC in 1998 where she been president, secretary, and program chair. At regional level, she chairs CWC-South ([www.socalwritersshowcase.com](http://www.socalwritersshowcase.com)). At the CWC state level, she serves as a representative on the Central Board. From 2009 to 2010, she oversaw the CWC Centennial.

Literary Review Editor Dave LaRoche, South Bay, has published many short stories and has just finished the first draft of a novel. Dave has represented the South Bay Branch at the Club's Central Board for six years and has spearheaded several changes, including using the Internet to conduct official business, which has greatly reduced costs. He currently serves as the CB's Standards and Policy Chair in addition to editing the annual CWC Literary Review. Until January, he administered the CB's electronic discussion forum. Dave founded and chaired NorCal, a regional association bent on furthering communication and activities among the twelve northern branches. Dave is VP of South Bay and has previously served as branch president and the editor of *WritersTalk*, the South Bay newsletter. Dave holds the CWC responsible for his writing enthusiasm and success, and a good cigar for his healthy longevity.

See page 9 for map showing all CWC branches.





# Fremont Area Writers



Writers Helping Writers

## Overcoming Roadblocks in Writing



Lagging on the last lap while writing a book? You may need a Writer Intervention.

Elena Martina, author of “Clinging to Deceit,” a novel published in 2012, has some suggestions for ways to beat procrastination, doubt, fear and other problems that bog down writers.

She'll discuss them at the next meeting of Fremont Area Writers on May 24.

Martina was a newspaper columnist in North Carolina and has written locally for the Tri-City Voice.

She is vice-president of the Women's National Book Association in San Francisco.

For more information about Elena go to <http://www.linkedin.com/in/elenamartina>

### Writers and Poets Open Mic!

**When:** 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
Monday, May 26th

**Where:**  
Newpark Mall, Newark  
BookSmart Bookstore,  
Second Floor near  
the elevator

**Saturday, May 24th, 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](mailto:cahall@rocketmail.com)  
[cwc-fremontareawriters.org](http://cwc-fremontareawriters.org)

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



### Geraldine Solon Author Biography

As an eight-year-old child, winning an essay writing contest was the happiest day of my life. My essay was featured in the school newspaper.

That's when I told myself I would be a writer when I grew up.

My father always bought us the latest books written by *Enid Blyton*, which inspired me to write. I wrote poetry and essays in notebooks and on paper napkins, which I've kept until this day.

As I grew older, I ventured in other directions and kept my writing on the back burner. Nevertheless, it was only in writing that I found true solace – where I felt oblivious to my

surroundings and connected to the deepest part of my soul.

I was born and raised in the Philippines by a Spanish Filipino mother and French Filipino father. My heritage has allowed me to embrace both Eastern and Western philosophies. I speak four languages and love dealing with people of different cultures.

Growing up in the Philippines taught me a lot of values – respect, kindness, love, sincerity, honesty, hospitality, loyalty and appreciation for the simple things in life. My goal is to include these values in the books I write.

In the Philippines, I had the opportunity to work as a contributing writer for a Philippine and London newspaper featuring articles about how people from different sectors achieve their goals in life. I moved to America in 2001 where I met and married my true love. I live in the San Francisco Bay Area with my husband, thirteen-year-old son and two dogs. I work for Stanford University

I tried other ventures as I searched for my true calling. My friends always teased me that I had a wild imagination and entertaining stories. I knew they

were right. That's when I picked up a pen and didn't stop writing until I completed 10,000 words. The words seemed to flow as the characters came to life. I felt renewed. I knew this was only the beginning of an exciting adventure.

In 2003, I wrote and self-published children's books. After writing these books, I felt a higher calling – writing love stories and women's issues.

In 2011, I released *Love Letters* which was followed by *Chocolicious* and *The Assignment* which are all best-selling novels.

In March 2014, I launched a marketing guidebook for authors entitled, *Authorpreneur in Pajamas*. I'll be releasing three novels this year, *The Lost Flower*, *Never Look Back* and *Mid-Life Crisis Diaries*. I'm also working on a screenplay.

I've always been a firm believer that love conquers all and that every woman's experience is a story in itself.

Life is a never-ending journey and my imagination and experiences have inspired me to write powerful stories.

Although my books are fiction, my goal is to offer compelling lessons about women, life and love.



The message I wish to offer my readers is that despite the many challenges we face in this world, we must have hope and faith.

Overall, it is love that binds us together.



**Flowers to a very talented member of the Fremont Area Writers Club!**

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**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING**

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



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

**May 24, 2014** - Elena M  
Martina – Alternative Ways to sell your  
books

**June 2014** – To be announced

**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, 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 is held monthly 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 the audience.

Next meeting: May 26, 2014  
Monday.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Carol Lee Hall**

I can't believe it's already May. Summer will be here before you know it. Besides picnics, fireworks, and baseball games, FAW elections are around the corner.

We will be voting for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. More than one person can run for each office.

People volunteer in non-profit organizations for many reasons. Helping others makes you feel good. You believe in the mission of the association. You think you have something to contribute. Your friend asked you to. All of these are good reasons.

Being active in your club not only helps the club run more efficiently, but it helps you as a writer get to know more people. You can expand your network by making friends. It also looks good on your writer's resume. When agents or editors see that you are active in a writers club, it shows you are a serious writer and you also have a platform for marketing your books.

A club like ours needs all sorts of people. Whether you are an introvert or

extrovert, newbie writer or veteran, young or old, Fremont Area Writers can be a better place with your help.

## FROM THE EDITOR



**Myrla Raymundo** welcomes you to our May 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 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).



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**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** - 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

**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:

*We invite FAW writers to submit their writings to our Newsletter.*

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### **THIS BRILLIANT MAN** **By Patricia van den Heuvel**



Life is so cruel sometimes.

I try not to wallow in self pity. I know my cross is light compared to some. But every once in a while I let my guard down and ask, why me? Why him? The evenings were the worst for him and consequently for me. Dinnertime was difficult. His cognitive skills seemed to fail him at this time of day. Sun downing I have heard it called. I made sure he didn't have too many dishes or food items in front of him or too many choices to make. I remember going through this phase with my children when they were toddlers but this was not a toddler; this was my husband of almost forty three years.

Who could have seen this coming? Not me! Dementia happens to other people, older people. It could never happen to a brilliant man like my husband. But it did, little by little by little. At first little things seemed odd, things not significant enough to worry about. "He's not as sharp as he used to be since he retired," was how I explained it. Or, "I don't have to think, I'm retired now," he would say when he didn't want to or couldn't make a decision. Comments he would make didn't always make sense but that's how it's always been with him, wasn't it? And so I accepted these subtle changes as part of the aging process. But then came the surgeries. First was the hip replacement, followed by back surgery, and finally the heart surgery. Each one seemed to zap millions of his brain cells.

This brilliant man, who at one time was a master of mechanics and electronics and could build furniture or decorate a house, now had difficulty assembling a child's toy, charging the battery of his car or hanging a picture on the wall. I stopped asking him to do these things and quietly had them done by someone else. I hoped he wouldn't notice. I avoided looking too far into the future, afraid of what I would see. I lived one day at a time.

What do I miss most? I miss the companionship. I miss being the passenger in the car. I miss his sense of humor; oh how I miss his sense of humor, the jokes, those funny lame jokes that often

irritated me, the practical jokes. I miss sharing bits of gossip with him, stories from the neighborhood. I miss the harmonica playing. I miss the retirement I thought we would have.

I miss all these things and so much more.

My husband didn't have to endure the indignities of this dreadful disease for too long. He passed away after a short illness and I realize he and I escaped much sorrow and heartache. I think the phrase 'bitter sweet' might be appropriate here.

But every once in a while, when I feel his absence or his presence, that old question returns “why him?”

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**FROM THE EDITOR**



**Myrla Raymundo, MBA**

With this issue, I am starting a MEMBER SPOTLIGHT, where I will feature our members. Please send me your stories or memoir and we will start the ball rolling. It can be a short or long story. Here's my short story:

I am very proud to say that I received an award from the California Senior Leaders Advocate and was awarded the prestigious Jack London Award.

