

INK SPOTS



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

Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Writer/Editor

E-mail raymundomyrla@gmail.com

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

Webmaster – Linda Lee Chernoff

VOL 51, February 2016

MISSION STATEMENT: Fremont Area Writers educates writers and the public by providing: a. Forums for educating members in the craft of writing and marketing their works and, b. Public meetings, workshops, and seminars open to all writers and the general public to facilitate educating writers of all levels of expertise.

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

Your World, Your Protagonist, Your Story

led by Shelley Bates, RITA Award® winning author and Christy Finalist



Saturday, March 5, 2016

9 am to 3 pm

DeVry University, 6600 Dumbarton Circle, Fremont, CA

Room 115

Registration Information

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Are you a California Writers Club member? ☐ No ☐ Yes

If yes, what branch? ☐ Fremont Area Writers ☐ other: _____

Workshop Fee (includes lunch)

Before February 20th: ☐ FAW member - \$35 ☐ CWC member - \$40 ☐ Non-member - \$45

After February 20th: ☐ FAW member - \$45 ☐ CWC member - \$50 ☐ Non-member - \$55

Make checks payable to Fremont Area Writers.
Mail registration form and payment to Fremont Area Writers, P.O. Box 47, Union City, CA 94587-0047.

Email Erika Anderson-Bolden at rikadanie@hotmail.com with any questions.

Workshop capacity limited to 25 attendees.

What to expect when you join Shelley Bates for “Your World, Your Protagonist, Your Story”...

In this all-day workshop, you’ll begin with the grand view—building the world your characters will inhabit. Then you’ll focus in on the community in which he or she will experience the events of your story, and lastly, construct an emotional journey in which the work you’ve done will both enhance and complicate the internal journey the character must take.

Building a setting is more than paragraphs of description of a rainy forest or the mean streets of the city. It’s how your character sees your story world and how it in turn reflects him. It’s how the environment influences and changes your character—and how your character changes her environment—during the events of the plot. You’ll talk about how to build a setting from the top down and from the inside out so that your world becomes as much a character as your people.

Next you’ll drill down a little to create communities populated by compelling secondary and tertiary characters. Best friends, buddies, exes, families, and coworkers create foils and contrasts for your main characters, push the plot’s emotional complexity, build the story towns your reader wants to come back to...and provide main characters for the next book.

Lastly, you’ll put the spotlight on your protagonist and his or her journey from inability to ability, from isolation to community, and even from solitude to love. Changes in the character’s internal landscape are as important as the external landscape in which he moves, and you’ll use your world and your community to force the internal change the character needs in order to survive the black moment and become a true hero.

About your workshop leader, Shelley Bates...

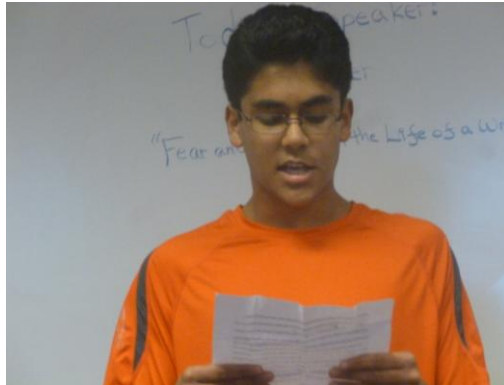
RITA Award® winning author and Christy finalist Shelley Bates wrote her first novel when she was 13. The literary publisher to whom it was sent rejected it, but he did say she knew how to tell a story. That was enough to keep her going through the rest of her adolescence, a career, a move to another country, an MFA in Writing Popular Fiction, and countless manuscript pages.

Shelley is the author of twenty-four novels published by Harlequin, Time/Warner, and Hachette Book Group, and several more published by Moonshell Books, Inc., her own independent press. She writes romance, paranormals, and the Magnificent Devices steampunk adventure series as Shelley Adina, and under the name Adina Senft, writes women’s fiction set in faith communities.

Shelley is a world traveler who loves to imagine what might have been. Between books, she loves playing the piano and Celtic harp, making period costumes, quilting, and spoiling her flock of rescued chickens.



The following are the results of the 10th Grade ESSAY WRITING CONTEST, sponsored by the Fremont Writers Club. The topic was "My Life in the East Bay." Liz Breshears coordinated the event.



First place and \$100 went to Ethan Mehta of Washington High School.



Second place (tie), and \$50 each, went to Alyanna Smith of John F. Kennedy High School and Keren Godwin of Fremont Christian High School.

Honorable Mention awards went to Ivanna C. Casulla and Jaylen Risinger-Esquibel, both of John F. Kennedy.

**From Donna
CWC P/R Directory
(Member East Sierra branch)**

Advertising Now Available In the CWC Literary Review

The Literary Review published by the California Writers Club with works of its membership will now be accepting writing-related paid advertising. Space is limited and will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. The Editor reserves the right to reject ads which may not be appropriate for the Literary Review.

The Literary Review has three columns ten inches in length. A one-column ad (two inches) by one inch would be one column inch, or \$40.00.

For ads larger than one column inch, an automatic discount is in place. The cost of a published ad of two or more column inches is \$25 per column inch. Therefore, a two column inch ad will be \$50.

To determine the cost for your ad, multiply the number of columns across by the number of inches down to find the number of column inches. For example, if the ad measures three columns across and four inches down, you would multiply three by four to find the ad takes up twelve column inches. For this twelve column-inch Literary Review ad, the cost would be \$300.00 (12 x \$25). A two column by two inch ad would equate to four column inches, or \$100.

All ads must be submitted **print-ready** in a jpeg file emailed to advertisingCWC@gmail.com, and also physically mailed as a hard copy with check or money order made out to CWC Central Treasury to:

HDCWC Advertising Department

20258 Hwy 18 Ste 430 PMB 281

Apple Valley, CA 92307

Two reminders and two items of note to share with your branch members.

- The CWC will have a booth at the 2016 San Francisco Writers Conference at the Mark Hopkins Hotel, Main Conference Thurs-Sun Feb 11-14, 2016. We're pleased to have a presence at this conference that mirrors the mission of own organization: to educate, encourage and support writers, help them build networks, and introduce them to writers, agents, publishers, and fellow creative spirits. The CWC is a full sponsor of the 2016 San Francisco Writers Conference. Thanks to the NorCal region for heading this up.
- We've made advertising available in the Literary Review. All ads submitted must be self-edited, print-ready, and will be published as received. Deadline for advertising submissions for the Spring (mid-February) issue is Friday, January 29, 2016; Summer (mid-August) deadline is Friday, July 29, 2016 and for the Winter (mid-November) issue the deadline is Friday, October 28, 2016. The Literary Review reserves the right to decline material deemed inappropriate at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief. All ads must be emailed as a jpg file to advertisingCWC@gmail.com. See further details on our website, calwriters.org.
- Two items have crossed our desk that we share with you to use or not at your discretion.
 - The California Historical Society (CHS) seeks submissions of book-length manuscripts that make an important contribution to both scholarship and to the greater community by deepening public understanding of some aspect of California history. The 2016 CHS Book Award carries a \$5,000 author advance for the winning manuscript and publication by CHS/Heyday, with an awards ceremony, promotion, and an author tour. Find more at <https://heydaybooks.com/chsbookaward/>. Deadline: May 1, 2016.
 - Submissions are open from January 15, 2016 to March 31, 2016 for The Masters Review Anthology. They are "looking for today's top emerging writers. Guidelines include: previously unpublished works of fiction and narrative nonfiction only, up to 7000 words, multiple submissions allowed, \$20 reading fee. Ten published authors will each receive a \$500 award, national publication, exposure to over 50 literary agencies. The book is published in the fall. See more at <https://mastersreview.com/anthology/>.

Belated Happy New Year,
Donna McCrohan Rosenthal
CWC Publicity and P/R Director
(East Sierra Branch)

FAW'S REGULAR JANUARY 23, 2016 MEETING



President Shirley Ferrante opened the meeting.

Jason Ridler talked about “Fear and Failure in the Life of the Writer.”

The attendees





Fremont Area Writers

The Centennial Branch
"Writers Helping Writers"



Unlocking the Child Magician Inside You



As a child, Elisa Kleven fashioned tiny make believe worlds in art and storytelling. Today, she still uses that imagination as a successful, self-taught artist who has created more than 30 intricate and layered picture books.

She'll discuss "Unlocking the Child Magician Inside You" at a meeting of Fremont Area Writers on Saturday, Feb. 27. With a focus on children's books, she'll explain how interactive drawing and story can break down the basics of fiction.

Kleven's books have received honors from the American Library Association, the School Library Journal, and the American Institute of Graphic Arts. Her works *The Paper Princess*, *Hooray, A Pinata!*, and the *Little Red Bird* have been adapted for children's theater productions in the United States and Europe.

You can find out more about her at www.elisakleven.com.

Elisa Kleven
"Unlocking the Child Magician
Inside You"
Saturday, February 27, 2-4 p.m.
DeVry University
6600 Dumbarton Circle
Fremont, CA

Writers and Poets Open Mic!

When: 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Monday, February 22

Where:

Suju's Coffee and Tea
3602 Thornton Ave.
Fremont

Fremont Area Writers is a branch of the
1,750-member California Writers Club.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Sorry FAW. We are late getting out the InkSpots. My bad. Instead of writing my Prez message, I chose to gaze out my kitchen window to watch a big, bright orange robin strutting on the fence and marvel at the fact my gray, long hair outdoor cat ignored what we all believe is his natural prey.

Back to business.

We had a great January meeting. It was a joy to welcome the young adult FAW writing contest winners and their parents. A beaming Ethan Mehta read his first place entry. A picture of the winners along with the winning essay is posted on the FAW website (<http://www.cwc-fremontareawriters.org/>). Thank you Liz Breshear for agreeing to be the chairperson for this project.

Jason Ridler returned to entertain and inform us on his subject “Fear and Failure in the Life of a Writer”.

Our Vice President Erika Anderson-Bolder has created a writer’s workshop scheduled for Saturday, March 5th at DeVry University. Sign up by February 20 and you will save \$10. Lunch is included. This FAW sponsored workshop features Shelley Bates as the moderator. Her topic “Your World, Your Protagonist, Your Story” promises to be interesting and informative. More details can be found on our FAW website.

Be sure to come to our February 27th FAW General Meeting at DeVry University, Room 115 to hear speaker Elisa Kleven speak on “Unlocking The Child Magician Inside You”.

Shirley Ferrante, FAW President

FREMONT AREA WRITERS OFFICERS



President– **Shirley Ferrante**



Treasurer – **Cherilyn Jose**



Vice President – **Erika Anderson-Bolden**



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

.....
**FREMONT AREA WRITERS
CHAIRPERSONS**



Secretary – **Joyce Cortez**

Tony Pino – Open MIC
Jay Swartz – Nor-Cal Representative
Andrew Halligan - Membership Chair
Art Carey – Public Relations
Nancy Curteman – Hospitality
Carol Hall – Facebook Coordinator
Bruce Haase – Book Exchange
Pat Van den Heuvel – Telephone Outreach
Coordinator
Liz Breshears – Community Outreach
Coordinator
Jan Small – Book Signing Coordinator
.....



Tony Pino, the Open Mic Chairperson, leads the group. Open Mic is held monthly at Suju's Coffee Meeting Room, 3602 Thornton Ave., Fremont.



Nancy Curteman—Hospitality



Jay Swartz
NorCal Representative



Carol Hall – FAW Facebook Coordinator



Andrew Halligan
Membership Chairperson

Bruce Haase –
Book Exchange & Authors Book Table



Bruce Haase urges everyone to bring books to our regular meetings. The Authors Book Table 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.



Art Carey – Public Relations



Pat Van den Heuvel
Telephone Outreach Coordinator



Liz Breshears
Community Outreach Coordinator



Jan Small, Book Signing Chairperson

**JACK LONDON AWARDEES FREMONT
AREA WRITERS**

2009 Robert Garfinkle
2011 Myrla Raymundo
2013 Carol Hall
2015 Art Carey

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



Myrla Raymundo, MBA-Writer/Editor

Ink Spots Newsletter



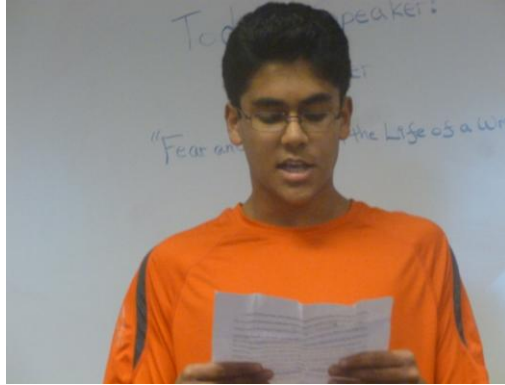
This Editor welcomes you to our February 2016 issue of the Ink Spots. It contains the latest FAW news and tidbits, poems, prose, essays and articles written by our members.

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.

FAWS WRITERS CORNER

My Life in the East Bay



By Ethan Mehta

First place Winner in the 10th Grade ESSAY WRITING CONTEST,
sponsored by the Fremont Writers Club.

I have lived my whole life in the East Bay near the town of Niles.

Every day, the familiar site of a massive undulating landscape of hills meets me wherever I turn. These hills have challenged me, as a member of the cross country team at Washington High School, to push myself with each incline and stride forward, even if the end is nowhere in sight. Yet, there is something more that comes from running the dusty trails for miles and miles; maybe it's the calming susurrus of the leaves and grasses and the angelic rays of dappled light that peek through the canopy of majestic oaks, or maybe it's the sight of the sunset over the bay from the hills. Certainly, it's the feeling of being sent back in time, to the East Bay of years and years past; I am the Ohlone hunter stalking the elusive deer, I am the Spanish conquistador bringing the first cattle to graze. Running on the hills, I see the urban sprawl climb up the slope of grass and chapped, dry dirt. As the years pass, new construction projects add tentacles of city that encroach upon the hills. I can't help but think about what waves the future will ride. This trichotomy of the past, present, and future makes me imagine the bay as it once was, the way it is today, and about what it will be like one day.

My life in the East Bay has always been intertwined with local nature. As a child, I remember hiking up Mission Peak - years before the large groups that ascend the peak today - seeing foxes and coyotes and having the sunset over the bay all to myself, while trying to find the perfect walking stick to offer my mother. It saddens me to see that, as more people move to the East Bay with its amazing technology companies and its alluring vistas, the doe and her fawns are forced to find new havens to make their homes. However, after doing volunteer work the past summers with composting and restoration at local projects, I am encouraged by the initiatives the people of my community and the East Bay support. My elementary school teachers taught me once that the Bald Eagle had been driven out of the Bay Area and the Grizzly Bear had been eradicated from its Californian habitat, but now I see signs of hope, change, and renewal.

Running on the alameda creek trail, I see a bald eagle-its sharp silhouette a symbol of a great future-complementing the blue sky with its dark pupils and unfaltering gaze. My life in the East Bay has been forever interconnected with the local nature which now also includes the hopeful restoration that I take part in and am blessed to witness.

The Forbidden Basement



By Doris Nikolaidis

I am so glad I found this rental on the internet. The huge house was located in a lovely neighborhood full of gardens and flowers. The room the landlord showed me was located on the first floor, next to the living room where he slept on a large couch. My room was small but clean, with a window to the garden.

The landlord was friendly enough although with his grizzled gray beard and unshaven face he looked slightly menacing. He said he had decided to rent the three bedrooms to make some extra income after his retirement. The larger upstairs bedroom was rented to a young lady and the second upstairs bedroom was rented to an elderly gentleman.

"You are welcome to use the kitchen," he said, "but the living room where I sleep and the basement are strictly off limits."

"I usually ride my bike to work," I replied. "Can I at least store it in the basement in winter when I am not using it?"

He glowered at me. "Did I not just tell you that the basement is off-limits!"

"What is in your basement that you can't even allow a tenant to access it," I asked.

"None of your business," he replied. "You can leave your bike in the foyer if it is okay with the other tenants."

I shrugged. "I'll just have to take it with me into my room and lean it against one of the walls if the other tenants object to it." He nodded grudgingly and returned to his room.

The first night in my new abode I was so exhausted from the move that I slept deeply but during the second night I heard some strange thumping noises that seemed to be coming from the basement. I decided to investigate. As quietly as possible, avoiding any creaky floor boards, I approached the stairs leading from the foyer to the basement. My heart pounded as I gingerly snug down the stairs. The thumping noises were reverberating from behind a door in the back of the basement. Maybe the landlord had a vicious large dog locked in the basement, a dog he

wanted to keep away from the tenants? But that would be cruel, I thought. Even a dog had to be taken for a walk once a day.

I tried to open the door but it was locked. There was a large key hanging on a nail next to the door. I carefully inserted it into the keyhole and turned the key. I could hear the lock disengage and slowly opened the door a crack. There was no dog! An old man was sitting on a chair, slumped over a large sack in front of him. He took out something that looked like a potato and threw it into a one of two bins located against the wall. The potato hit the wall before it fell into the bin. That explained the thumping noises that I had heard.

I opened the door all the way. The man looked up at me. His eyes were red and his face was bathed in sweat. In the back of the room was a simple cot covered by a pillow and a blanket. The man had a strong resemblance to my landlord. They must be related, I thought.

"Are you okay?" I asked him. He nodded and wiped the sweat off his face. "What are you doing down here in the basement?"

"My brother locked me in here and I am not allowed to go up to sleep in the living room with him until I finish my work," the old man replied.

"What work could you possibly do down here," I asked.

"I am supposed to sort these three sacks of potatoes into the bins," he answered pointing to two large wooden bins. The right one is for the large potatoes and the left one for the smaller potatoes."

I shook my head. "But that does not seem so hard. Why are you drenched in sweat?"

The old man sighed. "It is not the physical work. But the decisions, the decisions! What potato is a big one and what potato is a small one."

Myrla Raymundo, MBA
Writer/Editor
3107 San Ramon Ct.
Union City, CA 94587