



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>

Webmaster – Linda Lee Chernoff

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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.

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

Essay Contest Awards

Three sophomores from Fremont high schools have won awards and cash prizes in the 2015 Young Writers Essay Contest.

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

Second place (tie), and \$50 each, went to Aiyanna 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.

Essays included a description of the early morning beauty and wildlife found

along East Bay running trails and a series of short vignettes that came together as a student woke from a dream.

Essays were judged for content, organization, creativity and individuality, and grammar/punctuation.

“The Judges praised the creativity and diversity of content shown by this year’s entrants,” said Liz Breshears, contest coordinator.

The awards will be presented Jan. 23 at DeVry University at a meeting of the writing club.



BOOK SIGNING

The Fremont Area Writers Group held a Book Signing at the Union City Library, 34007 Alvarado-Niles Rd., Union City, CA 94587 on December 19, 2015.

Jan Small, Book signing Chairperson, coordinated the event.

The following are the activities at the event.



AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR TO SPEAK



Nancy Curteman will discuss her latest mystery

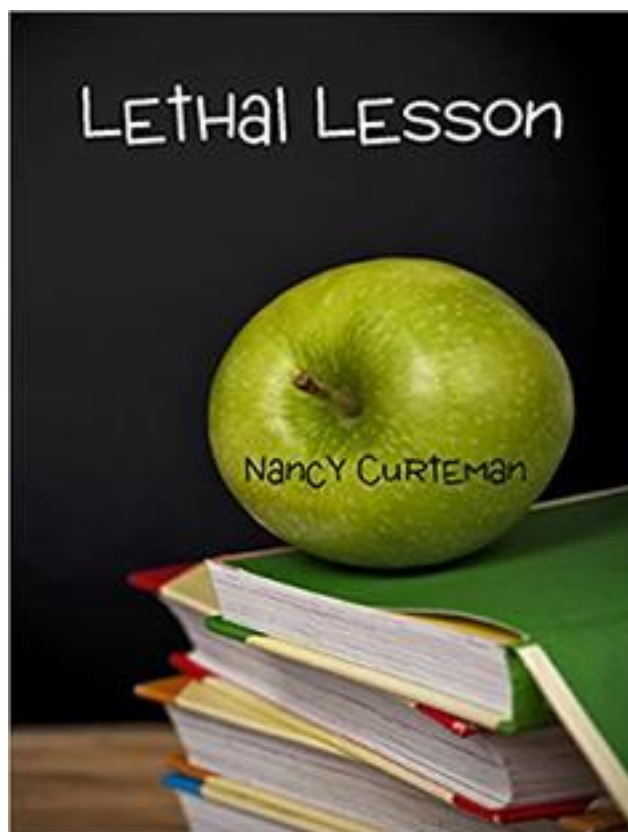
- Free recipes for foods mentioned in the book
- Free drawing for a copy of *Lethal Lesson*
- Polish cookies to nibble

Lethal Lesson

January 21, 2016
12:30 p.m.

Fukaya Room A
Fremont Main Library

2450 Stevenson Blvd
Fremont, California





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

*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 114

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.



IT'S A DEAL!



SAVE THE DATE!

MARCH 12, 2016 ~ 8AM - 4PM

HODEL'S LIBERTY HALL

5917 KNUDSEN DR. ~ BAKERSFIELD

WRITERS OF KERN
2016 SPRING CONFERENCE

FOUR SPEAKERS

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST, LUNCH BUFFET, & SNACKS INCLUDED

ANNE PERRY, BEST-SELLING AUTHOR

"PUT YOUR HEART ON THE PAGE"

VICTORIA ZACKHEIM, AUTHOR, ANTHOLOGIST

"WRITING & PUBLISHING YOUR PERSONAL ESSAY"

MATTHEW WOODMAN, POET, CSUB PROFESSOR

"POETRY, PERSONA, & PERSPECTIVE:

LETTING THE VOICE LEAD"

LOIS HENRY, COLUMNIST

THE BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN

"WRITE LIKE YOU MEAN IT"

EARLY REGISTRATION BEFORE FEBRUARY 20TH, 2016

SAVE!

\$50 ~ WOK AND CWC MEMBERS

\$75 ~ NON-MEMBERS

\$25 ~ FULL-TIME STUDENTS W/ID

AFTER FEBRUARY 20TH

\$95 ~ MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS

\$25 ~ FULL-TIME STUDENTS W/ID

REGISTER AT
WRITERSOFKERN.COM



CWC Sacramento Branch 2016 Short, Short Story Contest
To CWC Branch Presidents and Editors

The California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch is pleased to announce our 2016 Short, Short Story Writing Contest. Please share with your members and include in your branch newsletter if possible. Thanks!

CWC Sacramento 2016 Short, Short Story Writing Contest

The CWC Sacramento Branch 2016 Short, Short Story Writing Contest is open for submissions, which must be postmarked by **Friday, April 1, 2016**. The contest is open to all writers, the category is fiction and length is up to 750 words. For details on awards, entry fees, submissions and manuscripts, see <http://www.cwcsacramentowriters.org/>. **Questions?** Contact Contest Chair Jo Chandler at jochandler3@yahoo.com.

Note: attached flyer will be posted soon at <http://www.cwcsacramentowriters.org/>.

Margie Yee Webb -916 213 0798

President, California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch

"Serving the Greater Sacramento Region"

<http://www.CWCSacramentoWriters.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaWritersClubSacramento>

To all Presidents, Editors and Central Board Representatives:

Just a reminder that your branch article submissions for the February 2016 issue of The Bulletin must be received by January 29th. The place to send those stories and photos is RustyLaGrange23@gmail.com.

Presidents, would you please announce at your next meeting that advertising is available in The Bulletin, and the deadline is also January 29, 2016. All the information on how to obtain an ad is online at www.calwriters.org.

AND, advertising for the next issue of the Literary Review will be made available soon! Details will be announced in the February issue of The Bulletin, and watch www.calwriters.org for online information about that. Any questions about advertising can be directed to advertisingcwc@gmail.com.

Thanks for helping to spread the word to all our members about this new benefit!

Bob Isbill

FREMONT AREA WRITERS OFFICERS



President– **Shirley Ferrante**



Treasurer – **Cherilyn Jose**

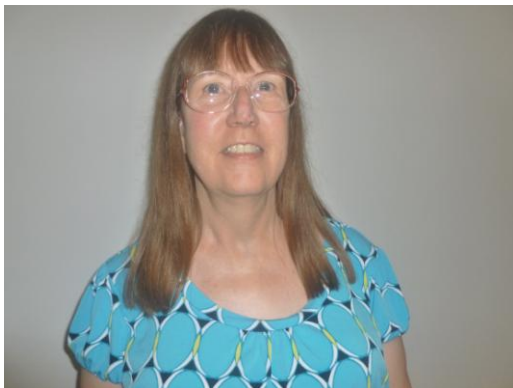


Vice President – **Erika Anderson-Bolden**



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

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**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
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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 January 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

CHRISTMAS MUSINGS



By Shirley Ferrante

Christmas, for me, has gradually changed over the years. Children have grown and accumulated in-laws, parents and relatives have passed Christmas Musings on, my extended family has spread all over the planet. I want the magic back.

I remember if the weather permitted, my dad and I would walk to pick up the Christmas tree from the local neighborhood lot on San Bruno Avenue. I can feel the tingling on my face reminiscent of those crisp, clear nights in San Francisco. If the weather didn't permit, my dad would drive us in the 55 olds. The tree was always a spray painted white Silver Tip Fir. I can still smell the distinctive paint smell. I liked the smell, I also like the smell of petrol. Go figure.

There was a reason our Christmas trees always had to be white. My dad and his cousin Paul had invented the revolving stand and four color spotlight wheel for Christmas Trees. Our trees always revolved and reflected yellow, blue, green and red respectively. My dad and his cousin Paul did sell quite a few of the units to local business but never did obtain a patent. They were reticent to go outside the family for help and since there were no patent attorneys in the family others benefited from their ingenuity. I am still very proud of my dad.

Christmas dinners were gastronomical feasts. My dad's parents lived on Potrero Hill in San Francisco. Grandma Ferrante's, although I called her Grandma San Francisco, specialty was homemade ravioli. I remember "helping". I watched as grandma rolled out the dough, spread out the filling, placed the top layer of dough then finished with this huge

rolling pin that had tiny squares to form the individual pies.
Then Grandma and my aunts would cover the beds in clean sheets, and set out the ravioli to air.

A week later, on Christmas Day, we ate those ravioli and other Italian treats. My cousins and I sat at the children's table. There was a lot of giggling. After dinner my cousins and I gained access to the roof through grandma's washroom. There is nothing like the sound of a houseful of Italians yelling to their kids to get off the roof. Now that I think about it, we were lucky one of us didn't go through the roof.

Other Christmases were spent with my mother's family in San Jose. Grandma Mazzurco, whom I called Grandma San Jose, canned her own tomato sauce, peaches, Italian olives and bourbon cherries, but her specialty was cannoli. I would spend the week before Christmas with her. I felt special when I helped her make the homemade sausage to be served Christmas Eve. Cannoli, the special Christmas dinner dessert, was fun to make. The shells were deep fried and made ahead of time. The filling was made the day before Christmas. Grandma would whip and whip the ricotta (Italian cottage cheese), until it was yummy creamy then fold in whip cream. The secret to perfect cannoli is to fill the shells just before serving.

Christmas day dinner would commence with grandma announcing, "*abudanza*". I can still hear her.

At Grandma San Jose's house, to my chagrin, I did something I am still a bit annoyed with at myself. I wanted a pair of roller skates for Christmas. You know the ones, metal, clamped onto your shoes and tightened with a key. Well, all the gifts were kept in one of the bedrooms in grandma's house. One afternoon, a couple days before Christmas, everyone was busy preparing food in the kitchen. What else? I found myself alone in the bedroom with the gifts. I just had to know if I was getting the skates. There was a shoebox shaped gift with my name. Yes, I peeked. I had never done that before or since. I really liked to be surprised, and I had spoiled it. And yet, now, it still feels like a bit of an adventure to me. I was such a goody two shoes most of the time.

After we moved to San Jose, and my grandmas were up in age, mom started to have Christmas dinners at our house. I remember waking up Christmas morning and my dad would have made this killer egg nog from scratch for us and any relatives who stopped by. I still have this picture in my mind of him sitting on the fireplace hearth in his pj's and bathrobe smiling a welcome.

Well, that's enough musing. It's time to feed my cat, dig out my Christmas recipes and prepare some magic for *my* grandchildren.

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