



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 44, June 2015

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.

FAW ELECTIONS IN JUNE 2015

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 2015-2016 fiscal year beginning in July 2015.

Officers and duties include:

President: Provides overall vision and direction for the club. Oversee 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, Shirley Ferrante. More than one person can run for office.



Fremont Area Writers

The Centennial Branch
"Writers Helping Writers"



How to Be a Kick Ass Writer: 10 Practices to Keep in Mind



Jenny Pritchett, author, editor, and teacher, thinks some people are born with the innate skills to be good writers.

Unfortunately, that doesn't apply to most of us. We have to work at it.

She'll provide her own list of ways to do that at a meeting of Fremont

Area Writers on Saturday, June 27. Her topic: "How to Be a Kick Ass Writer: 10 Practices to Keep in Mind."

Pritchett is the author of "At or Near the Surface," a collection of short fiction that received the Rubin Chapbook Award in 2008. Her work has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and published in "Boulevard, Southwest Review, Northwest Review, and Salt Hill."

She received a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing from San Francisco State University and teaches at the Writing Salon in San Francisco and Berkeley.

You can find out more about her at

<http://www.jennypritchett.com/index2.php#/home/>

Writers and Poets Open Mic!

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

Where:
Suju's Coffee
3602 Thornton Ave.
Fremont

Jenny Pritchett
"How to Be a Kick Ass Writer"
Saturday, June 27, 2-4 p.m.
DeVry University
6600 Dumbarton Circle
Fremont, CA

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

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

California Writers Club Annual Picnic



Please bring a side dish with extras to go around and your own liquid refreshments, but no hard liquor. Sodas, water, beer, and wine are okay.

If you'd like to participate in the Litcake Contest, decorate a cake, cookies, etc. with a literary theme.

Feel free to bring a short piece to read aloud at Open Mic.

The picnic is open to all CWC members and their guests.

Highlights

- Icebreaker Game
- Picnic Lunch
- Open Mic
- Litcake Contest
- Networking with Fellow Writers

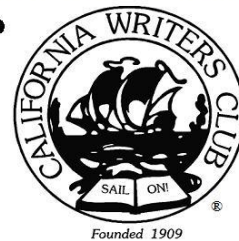
Joaquin Miller Park, Oakland, 94602

Fire Circle Picnic Area close to Joaquin Miller Road next to the Tot Lot near the Cascades Fountains

Contact person: Nancy Curteman 510-657-0608

Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Date: Saturday, July 25, 2015





The FAW writers will hold their Book Sales and Book Signing on July 18, 2015 at Fremont Library from 10 am – 4 pm.



On May 16th, **Nancy Curteman** presented to the Peninsula Branch of CWC in Belmont. Her topic was "How to Add Tension to Your Novel."



Art Carey has been selected as FAW's 2015 Jack London Awardee. The purpose of the award is to honor a branch member whose service to the CWC and/or a branch has been exemplary. Each branch selects one award recipient bi-annually. The award will be presented at a ceremony during the annual meeting of statewide representatives on July 26, 2015.



Fremont Area Writers

The Centennial Branch
"Writers Helping Writers"

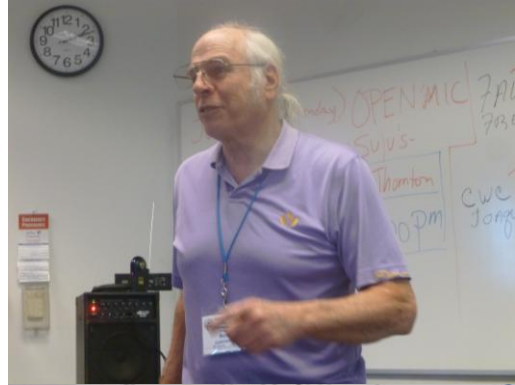


Twelve Reasons to Join Fremont Area Writers

1. Support and camaraderie of other writers—Fremont Area Writers has over 60 members.
2. Opportunity to hear professional speakers—Monthly meetings bring in experts from all fields—craft, publishing, tech, and more!
3. Inkspots Monthly Newsletter—submit stories and articles for a chance to be published.
4. Open Mic Monthly Gathering—share your work aloud in a comfortable and non-threatening environment.
5. Book Signing Events—Published authors can sell their books to the public.
6. Authors Table—Published authors can advertise and sell their works to other members.
7. FAW Website provides news on upcoming meetings, member bios, writers resources and links from published authors bios to their book selling platforms and author websites.
8. Free Book Table—Bring your used books to share with others and take some home for yourself.
9. Workshops on the writing craft—for newbies to seasoned pros.
10. Social gatherings like our Holiday Party in December and California Writers Club picnic in July.
11. Community Outreach events like writing contests and reading to seniors.
12. Statewide support from the California Writers Club, founded in 1909, to continue in the tradition of Jack London and friends, who believed that California creates talented writers.

Fremont Area Writers is a branch of the 1,900-member California Writers Club.
cwc-fremontareawriters.org

FAW'S REGULAR MAY 23, 2015
MEETING
Charlotte Robin Cook talked about
HOW TO FIND AN EDITOR



WRITERS AND POETS OPEN MIC



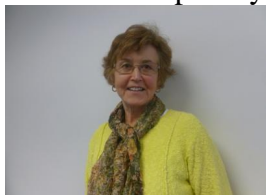
Tony Pino, the Open Mic Chairperson, leads the group. Open Mic is held monthly at Suju's Coffee Meeting Room, 3602 Thornton Ave., Fremont. Writers attend and read their articles and books to the audience.



Jay Swartz
NorCal Representative



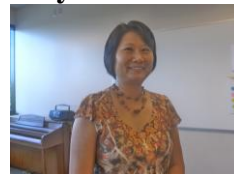
Nancy Curteman—Hospitality



Pat Van den Heuvel
Telephone Outreach Coordinator



Art Carey—Public Relations



Carol Hall – FAW Facebook
Coordinator
**BOOK EXCHANGE & AUTHORS BOOK
TABLE**



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



Liz Breshears
Community Outreach Coordinator



Jan Small, Book
Signing Chairperson

FROM THE EDITOR



Myrla Raymundo welcomes you to our June 2015 issue of the Ink Spots. It contains the latest FAW news and tidbits, poems, prose, essays and articles written by our members.

There is no July 2015 issue. The next issue is August 2015.

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.

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.

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 busy on the computer.

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 – Facebook Coordinator

Jay Swartz – Nor-Cal Representative

Nancy Curteman – Hospitality

Tony Pino – Open MIC

Art Carey – Public Relations

Bruce Haase – Book Exchange

Pat Van den Heuvel – Telephone
Outreach Coordinator

Liz Breshears – Community Outreach
Coordinator

Jan Small – Book Signing Coordinator

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

I Pledged Allegiance

by Patricia van den Heuvel



When my husband and I first came to the United States several decades ago, we never intended spending the rest of our lives here. This was just an exciting venture for a couple of newlyweds. We would stay a few years and then return to England, my husband's homeland, and settle down to family life in familiar surroundings. Our first year was spent in upstate New York but that first winter was enough or too much for my husband; he set his sights on a warmer climate. I quite enjoyed life up North but then I was the one who waited in the lobby where we both worked while he faced the blizzard and waded through the snow covered parking lot to search for our car amid a sea of white mounds.

In the Fall of the following year, we called it Autumn back then; we packed up our belongings in our '69 Chevrolet and headed for California, dilly dallying along the way. Three weeks later we arrived in the San Francisco Bay area. It was November; it was warm; there were endless blue skies; there were palm trees; there were smiling faces telling us to have a nice day. I waited for the winter that never came. This was culture shock. I hated it. I wanted to go home. I longed for the sound of rain splashing on the pavement, snowy rooftops, and a reason to wear my winter boots.

However, my husband had accepted a job in California so I was aware that I would have to bite the bullet for a few years or at the most until we had a couple of children. By the time our couple of children were born, the economy had taken a down turn back home and our return had to be postponed. But we would definitely return when it was time for our children to start school.

It is difficult to pinpoint the exact time I came to accept California as my home. Perhaps it was after a vacation in Southern California when both children got sick and I breathed a sigh of relief when we turned into our driveway and I heard myself say "home at last". It could have been the summer vacation I spent in Ireland, my homeland, with two energetic children and pregnant with my third when it rained non-stop for two weeks and I longed for some California sunshine and clear blue skies.

On hearing that I had applied for citizenship, friends would ask why I waited so long. Perhaps it was my husband's retirement looming on the horizon or the preparation of living trusts and other serious business that prompted us to make sure all our i's were dotted and our t's crossed and all loose ends tied up.

In the revered setting of the Masonic Auditorium in San Francisco on an early February morning, I tied up these loose ends. I pledged allegiance. I can finally vote, sit on a jury and fly my flag with pride on those special flag flying days.

Apart from enjoying one of the best climates in the world with its' endless blue skies and great scenery, I appreciate the ethnic and religious diversity that California has to offer. I am thankful that my children had the opportunity to grow up in an environment where one is applauded and admired for what one achieves through hard work, regardless of their beginning.

A question that is often posed when I return back home is "Could you come back home to live?" Too much life has been lived, too many seeds have been sown and taken root. Too many friendships have been nurtured from a casual greeting to an invitation to kick off your shoes and curl up on the couch. When I compare my early years in California when friends were scarce or non-existent to my life now which overflows with wonderful long term sincere friends, I realize I am home.

Do I feel different now that I am a naturalized citizen? Although I never did feel like an outsider before, deep down I have an extra warm feeling of belonging.

FROM IRELAND TO SAN FRANCISCO



By Andrew Halligan



My Mom and Dad

I am Andrew Halligan, a new member of the FAW Fremont Area Writers Group. My family came from Ireland originally. We are San Francisco-born natives for 3 generations. I am, of course,

part of the third generation. My name is Andrew and I am the third Andrew on my father's side. Andrew the first was born in the year 1900 in San Francisco. So, he and his family were very fortunate having arrived here in America many years before the Titanic embarked in 1912. The Titanic never made it. My family did!

My grandparents Andrew and Catherine were married in Mission Dolores in San Francisco around 1920. Fortunate again, they both survived the Earthquake of 1906. They had 4 children, Andrew (my father), my Uncles; John J. (Jack), James (who became Father Jim, a Catholic priest) and Lucy, my aunt, who lived in Marin most of her life. Their surname was Halligan, very Irish. The other side of my family's surname is Maguire, also very Irish. What a combination! All Irish and all from San Francisco, they all lived in different luxurious parts of San Francisco and Marin. It was truly a joy visiting them throughout our lives and hearing stories of more relatives who lived in the nicest parts of Ireland. I will always treasure the idea of visiting my relatives in Ireland and the US.

My father and mother were named Andrew and Beverly. They were both born in the 1920's, 1924 I believe. They were married in the summer of 1942 and my father served in WWII. I have a picture of them here, married only a few years at the time, and another picture of my mother taken in San Francisco when she was 3 years old.

Augustina

By Paul K Davis

Sometimes I feel like I need to go for a walk. I may walk a couple blocks in my neighborhood, or go to the store, or whatever. There are also more interesting walks available in Fremont, such as Quarry Lakes, or Coyote Hills, or the acme (literally), Mission Peak. My favorite, however, is Lake Elizabeth. A circuit takes about an hour. I must remember to take a water bottle with me.

Lake Elizabeth features a variety of wild life, especially water birds. Well, a thousand Canada Geese is hardly variety, but I also see ducks, sea gulls, etc. On one recent walk I saw a very unusual duck. A bit larger than the mallards it was associating with. Dark feathers. Holding its head pointed upward in a fashion more typical of geese. I wished I'd brought my camera.

A few days later I was car-pooling to choir practice. As usual we chatted about various things. A friend of ours was undergoing another round of chemo. Then our driver commented that, because of the chemo, our friend had been unable to go to Lake Elizabeth to see her favorite duck, whom she had named "Augustina". I asked, "what's this duck like?" The description really seemed to match the unusual one I had seen. They said it was an "Indian Runner Duck".

So, the next time I walked Lake Elizabeth, I made sure to take my camera. Sure enough, I saw that same duck again, and took several pictures. It didn't seem to mind a bit. I guess these creatures have gotten used to people with cameras. I went home and transferred the pictures to my computer, and then emailed them to my carpool friends and the friend doing chemo.

First I got back an email from the driver - "sure looks like Augustina to me." Then I waited hopefully. A few days later, sure enough, I got the confirming email. Yes, she said, that is Augustina.

I also found out how she got the name. This friend is German. She saw the duck and thought of the song "Oh, du lieber Augustin". At first she called it "Augustin", but then talked to a park ranger, who said, "birds are hard to sex, but this one is female based on the plumage for that species". No problem, now she's "Augustina".

Hattusa

By Paul K Davis

At last, I had made it to the place I had read about, dreamed about, for 30 years. Hattusa. The capital of the ancient Hittite empire. Here it was, before me. I only slowly realized I was wasting time that I could be using to record these ruins. Photo them from my perspective. Not the standard book images, which reduced the walls and gates to standard forms for comparison. Not the rows of only the bases of the ancient walls, but specially chosen shots which would give the wonderful feel of the place that my mind had conjured for so long.

Now I needed to choose one of the tourists traipsing around. Only a person in my photo could give the proper feeling. At the last minute my companion had been lured elsewhere. I surveyed the options. Not someone in a group. Not someone who looked hurried. Hopefully someone there to contemplate.

The first and second individuals I asked declined. That's alright. I had instantly realized they wouldn't do anyway. One had simply strayed from a group. The other was collecting material for a doctoral thesis. So I kept perusing the parade.

Hoping that the third time would be a charm, I asked again. Affirmative response. "Would you stand in the Lion Gate", I asked. "Sure", was the reply. "Not quite in the center", I said. "OK" was the response, "where, exactly, and with what expression on my face?"

Wonder of wonders. Much more cooperation than I had hoped for. Then I spoiled it. I asked, "what brings you here?" "I'm a judge." "What?" I said. "What brings a judge here?"

"The Hittites had one of the first law codes, written about the same time as Hammurabi. I want to see the place where those laws were written. Gets my own feeling for the law writing process."

I knew about that law code. It was very interesting. Had some modern features. In some ways more advanced than many of today's law codes. Slaves were inferior, but still had substantial rights. Fines for crimes against slaves were exactly half of fines against free person. You could almost say they were half free. Those laws also had some peculiar features.

As we were climbing up the citadel this judge then says, "steady me please, take my hand." I did it of course, but the hand hold was not just for stability, I could feel. We looked at each other. I started thinking of ways to bring my companion, left behind this morning, into the conversation, but I didn't want to spoil having the perfect model either.

"Already have some one?" I guess my mind could be read. But then, "Did you know the Hittite laws explicitly allowed two brothers to have the same woman?" Yes, I did, and I wished that wasn't the first

law to arise in the conversation. But then we sort of accepted each other.

We spent a great four hours there. The flirtatious judge and me, the proper photographer. As we parted, my thanks were profuse, and I received the perfect response: "Tell your companion they are so lucky to have you." What could I say? Well, "And I was so lucky to have you for my model for this day. May I have your email address - that is - to consult with you about use of these photos in my upcoming book."

"Certainly, and thanks again for a delightful time."

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