



# 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](mailto:raymundomyrla@gmail.com)*

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

**Webmaster – Linda Lee**

**VOL 62, March 2017**

**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.

## **PANEL OF LOCAL PUBLISHED AUTHORS**

For our March 25, 2017 meeting, there will be a panel of local published authors, who will answer your queries about writing and publishing. The panelists are published authors in the fields listed below.

**Tish Davidson** - Medical and Mysteries

**Bob Garfinkle** - Science

**Carol Hall** - Screen and Religion

**Nancy Curteman** - World Mysteries

## **BOOK SIGNING**

**Jan Small** scheduled the FAW Book Signing on the following dates:

Fremont Area Writers Group Book Signing

Saturday, May 13, 2017 10:00-4:00 pm

Round Table Pizza, Fremont

Saturday Dec. 2, 2017 1:00-4:00 pm

Fremont Main Library, Stevenson Blvd. Fremont

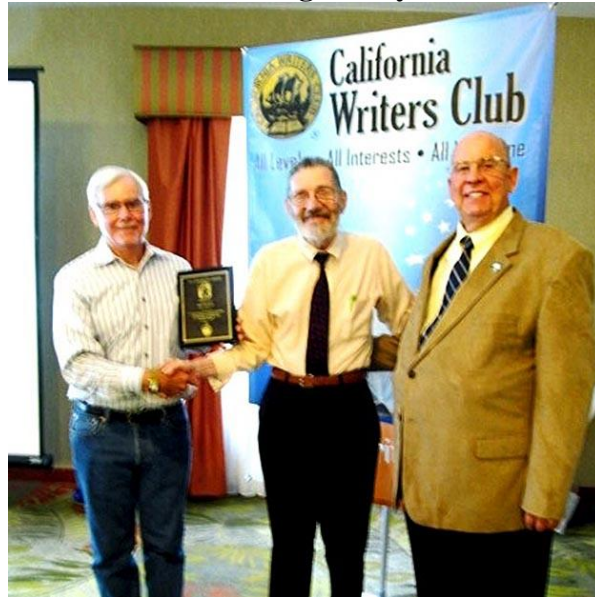
Authors arrive by 12:00 noon to set up and stay until 5:00 pm to clean up.

All interested please email Jan Small [jan@jansmall.com](mailto:jan@jansmall.com)

<<mailto:jan@jansmall.com>> to sign up.

## IN MEMORIAM

### CWC: Passing of Ray Malus



Ray (the guy in the middle) receiving the Ina Coolbrith Award last July 2016. The other men in the picture are left is CWC President Dave George and on the right is Bob Isbill. We will truly miss you Ray.

## KUDOS

**Tony Pino** was awarded the Honorable Mention with his “My Brother’s Rain” at the Love Poetry Celebration sponsored by Benicia Historical Museum and Benicia Public Library

One of **Art Carey's** short stories appears in the Another Dimension Anthology, Tales in the tradition of Twilight Zone and Night Gallery. It's published by Wily Writers.

\*\*\*\*\*

## FAW's OPEN MIC

**Tony Pino**, the Open Mic Chairperson, leads the group at Suju's Coffee Meeting Room, 3602 Thornton Ave., Fremont every fourth Monday of the month from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Please come and enjoy.

## General Membership Meeting February 25, 2017



**Margaret Lucke** gave some guidelines on “How to Master the Fine Art of Point of View” at the FAW’s General Membership Meeting last February 25, 2017.

These are the Fiction Writing Tips by Margaret Lucke:

1. Assign each scene its own POV (Point of View) character.
2. Keep the POV character ion character.
3. Show what your POV character experiences – and only that.
4. Limit the total number of POV Characters
5. When in doubt, try a different point of view.

### THJE ATTENDEES



## Conference Take-aways



**By Teresa Connelly**

Last February 16-19, 2017, I attended the San Francisco Writers Conference at the Mark Hopkins Hotel. It was a sold out event, with hundreds of “wannabe” authors as well as established publishers, authors, agents, editors and author coaches.

There were many interesting sessions, in fact, too many for one person to attend.

I took notes, so as to remember the bits and pieces of advice given. Following are those things that seemed most important.

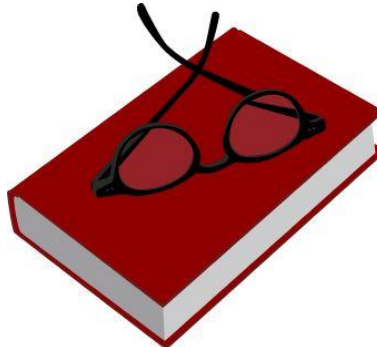
1. Creative nonfiction is now called narrative fiction. Memoir falls into this category. The nice thing about the title change is that it allows for the recalled essence of dialogue that most likely took place.
2. Book Club fiction is those pieces that inspire discussion and tends to appeal to women readers. Think JoJo Moyes. Commercial fiction is titles that appeal to a wide range of reader. Think *Gone Girl*.
3. In terms of what agents want to see and don't want to see, here are a few tips:
  - a. No prologues or epilogues for debut authors. They feel this is “a lazy way to jumpstart tension”
  - b. No first lines of dialogue.
  - c. Skip flashbacks altogether unless there is something about the memory that adds to the emotional history of a character.
4. Be careful about including diverse characters unless you are well informed about the particular group. For example, when including an African-American character, verify with a trusted source to make sure that you are not typecasting or stereotyping. Avoid writing in dialect unless you are very familiar with that dialect, and it is important to the essence of the story.
5. Within each scene, look at how the flow of time is reported. How much time has elapsed? But avoid terms such as “three days later”.

6. Within scene, also be aware of change. In each segment, there must be a starting place and then an ending place, and change must have occurred. There is external change, in which a character moves from one place to another. Internal change is the most powerful, as this lets the reader see how it impacts the character.
7. When editing, if nothing is happening in a scene, no forward movement, no choice-making or risk-taking, then delete.
8. Characters should behave in a logical way, unless strange behavior is part of the character's M.O. People come to story to see logical human behavior, verified with an underpinning of evidence. Must believe that the character is a living human being. People do stupid things all the time. Readers question what in their lives forced them to act that way.
9. Be watchful for the "dreaded middle", which is the part of a scene where things get too slow. When this happens in your work, cut the scene or condense it into another. Ask yourself if the scene needs dialogue or action. Make it fast and punchy to keep readers engaged. Introduce a new obstacle that must be surmounted.
10. Make sure there are no passive characters. Empower them by putting them in situations that force them to take action.
11. Avoid dreams, waking up and overheard conversations.
12. Your villain, whether it be a person or a force, needs to arrive early.
13. Create a history for each character before you write the first scene. Know who your character is, what he/she wants, what motivate him/her, and when confronted with a problem, does the character feel trapped or betrayed.
14. When writing an emotional scene, try to channel that emotion before beginning. Feel the anger or the hurt. Remember what falling in love feels like.

**I hope these tips help!**

\*\*\*\*\*

## IMMORTAL STORIES



Coming soon is the most inclusive anthology ever published before by the Fremont Area Writers Club. It contains the best-known works of the members of the Fremont Area Writers Club.

Compiled by FAW Writer and FAW Editor **Myrla Raymundo, MBA**

\*\*\*\*\*



**California Writers Club**  
**Report from January 29, 2017 Meeting**



**By Evelyn LaTorre, CWC Representative**

Forty Reports were sent by email, many required votes and some were for information. Below find the items of interest for FAW members. For general information from the **CWC Bulletin**, please go to [CWC.org](http://CWC.org).

- The San Joaquin Valley branch is CWC chapter #22. The group meets the second Saturday of the month in the community room of the library at the University of the Pacific. Their facebook page is SanJoaquinValleyWriters.
- CWC membership is now around 1800.
- A new issue of the CWC Literary Review will be published this fall. It will be edited professionally.
- The CWC Bulletin requests newsworthy articles and photos from members in California chapters. Submit to [rusty@rustylagrange.com](mailto:rusty@rustylagrange.com) Include "Bulletin" and the branch in the subject line. A headshot photo is requested if a byline is used. To read the Fall issue of the CWC Bulletin go to [Calwriters.org](http://Calwriters.org) and click on the dropdown menu under publications.
- Scam Alert. Some members have received suspicious emails from [president@calwriters.org](mailto:president@calwriters.org) or from a CWC branch officer. These are spam or phishing schemes and should be ignored. Treasurers should not respond to request or demands to send funds.
- The annual picnic usually held in Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland will most likely be suspended until someone volunteers to chair it. Fremont chapter had been in charge for several years.
- CWC will again host a booth at the annual Bay Area Book Festival in Berkeley on June 3 & 4. Those volunteers who sign up and can sell their books. Check with Chris, our NorCal rep for whom to contact to volunteer.

## ***MESSAGE FROM DONNA McCROHAN ROSENTHAL***

### **Subject: CWC member benefit**

**Hi branch newsletters,**

The CWC has arranged for an exciting member discount, approved by the Central Board at its January meeting:

CWC has arranged for its members a discount of more than 50% for the BookExpo New Title Showcase exhibit, June 1-4 at the Javits Convention Center in NYC. The New Title Showcase is an official exhibit of BookExpo. We are working with the Combined Book Exhibit who manages the New Title Showcase for BookExpo which is the major book industry event in the US. We are now able to offer CWC members a significant discount to display their books at this major event with either a print book, ebook or both. A print display will cost \$150 (published rate \$315); an ebook display at \$150 (published rate \$315); or a combo rate of \$210 (published rate \$525). The cost includes the physical display of your book with full cover showing, a fully searchable online catalog and database, and listing in the New Title Showcase print catalogue and/or ebook electronic display. To participate, members will register and pay directly with Combined Book Exhibit, [https://secure.combinedbook.com/cbe\\_reseller/cwc/](https://secure.combinedbook.com/cbe_reseller/cwc/).

The deadline for registration is May 13. CWC will not be involved in the transactions.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***



**Robert Garfinkle**

I see that it is my turn in the barrel (FAW Presidency) again. Not that I mind doing the job, but I would rather that other members of our branch would step forward and take a position of one of our officers. This is not a knock on any of the current office holders or committee chairs. I just like to see other people pitching in to make our branch the best it can be, which in turn helps all of us become better writers. Isn't that the goal of being a member of FAW?

We have our branch elections in June, but announce candidates at our May meeting. Please consider running for an office. Our current office holder will gladly teach you all you will need to know, so don't say, I cannot do that job, because I never have. Be adventurous.

We will have a panel discussion at our April meeting and we are still looking to have speakers for May and June. Knuti is hard at work lining up speakers.

See you on April 22, 2017.

Take care.

Bob Garfinkle, FAW President



**Presidents:** (A shared position this year)

**Carol Hall** -August, September, October

**Shirley Ferrante** - November, December, January, February

**Robert Garfinkle** -, March, April, May, June



**Knuti Van Hoven**  
Acting Vice President



Secretary – **Joyce Cortez**



Treasurer – **Cheryl Jose**

## **FREMONT AREA WRITERS OFFICERS**



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



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



**Andrew Halligan**  
**Membership Chairperson**



**Art Carey** –Signage



**Bruce Haase**  
Sound Equipment  
Book Exchange



**Carol Hall**  
Facebook Coord/Admin, Meetup, Flyers



**Jan Small**, Book Signing Chairperson



**Pat Van den Heuvel**  
Telephone Outreach Coordinator



**Liz Breshears**  
Community Outreach Coordinator



**Evelyn LaTorre**  
Central Board Representative



**Chris Dews**  
NorCal Representative

\*\*\*\*\*

## FREMONT AREA WRITERS CHAIRPERSONS

Book Exchange	Bruce Haase
Publicity	Knuti Van Hoven
Website Liaison	Knuti Van Hoven
Newsletter Liaison	Knuti Van Hoven
Signage	Art Carey
Membership	Andrew Halligan
Historian	Bob Garfinkle
Flyers	Carol Hall
Book Signings	Jan Small
Newsletter	Myrla Raymundo
Central Board Rep	Evelyn LaTorre
Open Mic	Tony Pino
Sound Equipment	Bruce Haase
Community Outreach	Liz Breshears
Facebook Coord/Admin	Carol Hall
Meetup	Carol Hall
Telephone Outreach	Pat Van den Heuvel

### Currently Need Volunteers:

Community Outreach ½ yr.  
Hospitality/Cookies, Welcome New  
Members, Volunteer Coordinator

.....

## 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 March 2017 issue of the Ink Spots. It contains the latest FAW news and tidbits, poems, prose, essays and articles written by our members. It also contains news from other clubs in the California Writers Club.

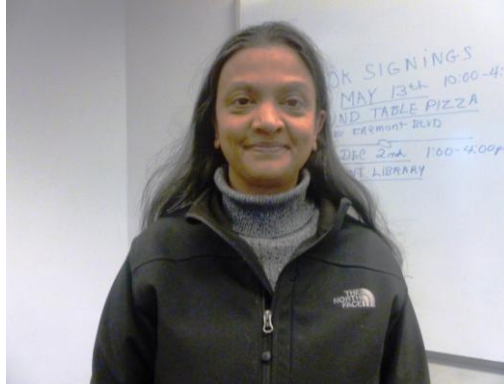
Ink Spots is issued monthly and is distributed to FAW members at the club general meeting every month. It is also emailed to those with email addresses.

Ink Spots welcomes you to write articles and submit them to this Editor at [myrlaraymundoback@gmail.com](mailto:myrlaraymundoback@gmail.com) or [raymundomyrla@gmail.com](mailto:raymundomyrla@gmail.com).

## ***FAWS WRITERS CORNER***

---

### Wait



**By Rekha Ramani**

patience is an extreme word,  
it can slowly kill you,  
like a savage ocean,  
waiting to swallow an orange river  
that meanders around meadows,  
letting Canadian geese,  
skim her shimmering face,  
enjoying the scratch of webbed feet,  
to reach this point of glee.  
your bed feels like a million nails,  
with your dour face taciturn,  
breath pausing in anguish,  
an ocean roars her mighty swell,  
the calm that you both seek  
in a game of Solitaire,  
while unbeknownst to you,  
waves play their keys on the song of surf,  
your smile drifts by on the raft of a breeze,  
stumbling twice in Paradise,  
a single communion of loss.  
Wait.



# My Favorite Aunt



by Evelyn LaTorre

Sue Kohl Koppinger, with her short black hair and a plump body, became my favorite aunt from



Matt, George, Leo, Sue  
Donald Koppinger

among my seven aunts and ten aunts-in-law. Sue and her husband George lived in the apartments above the Oliver/John Deere dealership they owned in New England, North Dakota. Sue's blue eyes twinkled and her tummy shook like a bowl full of jelly when she laughed, which she did often. She hugged us so tight it hurt. Besides affection, Sue gave us soft drinks, sweets, and gifts—more than we received at home in Ismay, Montana. My two younger sisters and I stayed with Sue for two weeks over several summers. Aunt Sue turned out to be a Summer Santa.

Sue was my father's older sister and lived in New England where her German parents, Frank and Barbara Kohl, had raised their five sons and two daughters—and where Daddy met Mama. In 1952, the North Dakota prairie town's population counted 950 inhabitants, about the same number as when I was born there in 1942. Of all my aunts and uncles, Aunt Sue, and New England provided fun—and love.

The major street through New England stretched for over a mile from the public school at one end to the Catholic school at the other. The gravel main street was twice as wide and three times as long as Ismay's. The false fronts of the Red Owl grocery, Von Drashek's Variety Store, the Farmer's Union Oil Station, and twenty other businesses looked down on both sides of the main street. The town sported one bar, the Golden West—three fewer than we had in my hometown.

Several summers, beginning when I was eight and my younger sisters, Charlene and Patricia, were six and five, we lived in Sue and George's second story, multi-room home. Sue's three boys, Leo, Mathew, and Donald were high school age or older, so almost raised. Sue probably missed having daughters of her own and wanted to try her hand at raising girls. With four girls and one boy in my family we had enough girls to lend Sue a few.

Mama sent us to Sue's on the condition that she enroll us in Catechism classes at St. Mary's School. So we packed newly sewn identical dresses Mama had made from flour sacks, along with jeans, belly-cooler tops, and sturdy shoes for the stay. No sandals for the hot summer. Daddy didn't believe in paying for the open spaces in sandals.

Daddy drove the seven in the family 127 miles from Ismay to New England in whatever old cramped car functioned at the time. Daddy's brother, Joe, lived on a farm a mile from New England and had three girls close to our ages. The folks stayed in New England for a night and a day to visit with Uncle Joe and Aunt Mary Kohl then returned home with my only brother and youngest sister. Sue drove to Joe's and picked up my sisters and me in her fancy, latest-model Buick.

Mornings, Sue served a breakfast of orange juice with an assortment of powdered and jelly donuts—food items we never had at home. Then, Charlene, Patricia, and I walked down New England’s main street past the Red Owl grocery and the Gardner and Zern department store, and entered St Mary’s, the big brick schoolhouse at the end of Main Street. Until lunch, we memorized prayers, studied our catechisms, and heard bible stories. At twelve-thirty we walked back past the grotto with the statue of the Blessed Virgin and assorted businesses. We arrived at the big glass window of the John Deere dealership and went in the side door. Our short legs climbed the steep flight of stairs and entered a long hallway. The hall led to the kitchen where a lunch of German potato salad with either hot dogs or hamburgers awaited our famished stomachs. Sue had often purchased a pie or cake for dessert which topped off our meal. We could have seconds, if we wanted. I always did.

Sue conducted the business of selling tractors, thrashers, cultivators, and manure spreaders from the downstairs showroom. We three girls worked next to her there afternoons playing office. To look official, I retrieved serious-looking papers from the trashcan and pretended I headed a real workplace. I’d write up a bill of sale for the kid’s tractor, stuff it in an envelope, and deliver it to one of my sisters in another room with a “Take care of this, please”. My paperwork looked even more official when Sue lent me her rubber “SOLD” stamp. I felt as important as my aunt. I especially loved the smell of the dealership.

Stacked behind a green and gold John Deere tractor stood tires whose rubber smell permeated the entire first floor. I breathed in the rubber aroma—an odor I love to this day. In between business transactions, I coveted the small blue and white bicycle in the window. Later, the bike appeared as a birthday present from Aunt Sue and my parents. Much could be gained from working at Sue’s.

So strenuous were our office-running activities that we had to take breaks for ice cream cones from the creamery across the street or cokes from the vending machine that stood in a corner of the showroom. I loved hearing the clunk-thud of the Coca-Cola bottle as it dropped down from inside the big red box. The coke would fizz as Donald, my fifteen-year-old cousin, pried off the top and handed me the cold, glass bottle. The sweet liquid tickled my nose as it meandered down my throat. Sue’s was the only place I ever drank cokes.

My aunt gave us clothes and toys when it wasn’t even Christmas. She bought shorts for us to wear but told us not to put them on when we went to Uncle Joe’s to visit our cousins. Joe and Mary’s three girls weren’t allowed to wear shorts. Sue bought fluffy pink and white formals for ten of us girls to wear on her store’s Fourth of July float. I was the Princess on the top and looked regal with a sparkling crown and a long, shiny, red, white, and blue stick in my hand. I felt special with my sisters, cousins, and friends seated on the two steps below me and hundreds of people waving and saying how pretty I looked.

Some evenings Aunt Sue would fry up pork chops to serve with macaroni and cheese—another dish we didn’t get enough of back home in Ismay. Or, we went to Uncle Joe’s farm to eat Aunt Mary’s hearty German cooking and play with our three girl cousins in their yard making mud pies and weed salad.

One night after a pork chop supper, Sue called us to look out her living room window. Down below I saw the grocery store across from our place engulfed in a raging fire. Red and yellow flames licked up as high as our house. The heat warmed my skin and lit the nighttime sky. The scene felt like noon on a hot July day. I sat by the window watching black figures, the size of plastic army men rush back and forth with garden hoses. In the morning I awoke to the smell of smoldering wood ashes and saw a blackened pile where the store had been.

No more ice cream from that store. Mom would be happy about that. She said we always returned from Aunt Sue’s ten pounds heavier than when we’d left. I always said that life was ten times more exciting at Aunt Sue’s than in Ismay.





**Matt, Donald, Leo Koppinger**



**Margaret Illich Koppinger  
Leo, Donald, and Matt Koppinger**



**Matt, Donald, and Leo Koppinger**



**Matt, Donald, George, and Leo Koppinger**



**Leo, Donald, and Matt Koppinger in New England, North Dakota**