



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 25, October 2013

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

September 28, 2013 Gen Membership Meeting



Linda Lee, web designer, trainer and Word Press Guru, was the guess speaker. She explained to the audience how to build a professional author website.





Book authors displaying their published books



AW Vice-President Geraldine Solon reports:

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

October 26, 2013 – **Jordan Rosenfield**
– Self-Editing for Fiction and Non-Fiction Writers

November 23, 2013 – **Scott Anderson** –
Literary Journalism

December 2013 – No meeting

January 25, 2014 – **Cynthia Sue Larson**
– Topic to be determined.





Fremont Area Writers

The Centennial Branch



Four Simple Strategies for Self-Editing and Revision



Who's your toughest editor?

You.

Or at least you should be. But killing your little darlings is easier in theory than in practice.

Fortunately, help is at hand from Jordan Rosenfeld, writing coach, editor and freelance journalist. She'll

be at the next meeting of Fremont Area Writers on Saturday, Oct. 26th, to talk about "Four Simple Strategies for Self-Editing and Revision" of fiction and nonfiction.

Rosenfeld will offer tips about sharpening and tightening prose, painless ways to cut and pare language, the difference between tinkering and transforming, and plot revision.

She is the author of *Forged in Grace*, a novel of psychological suspense. Her essays and articles have appeared in *Publisher's Weekly*, the *St. Petersburg Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Writer* and *Writer's Digest* magazines.

You can find out more about her at www.jordanrosenfeld.net.

Writers and Poets Open Mic!

When: 7:00-9:00 pm
Monday, October 28th

Where:
BookSmart

(Across from Macy's,
1st Floor)

Newpark Mall, Newark

Sat. October 26th 2-4 p.m.
DeVry University, Room 223
6600 Dumbarton Circle
Fremont, CA 94555

Fremont Area Writers is a branch of the
1,700-member California Writers Club.

Carol Hall, President
(510) 565-0619
cwc-fremontareawriters.org

**WRITERS WORKSHOP: Craft
Powerful, Compelling Stories
One Scene at a Time**

Author **Jordan E. Rosenfeld** takes writers through the fundamentals of strong scene construction and explains how other essential fiction-writing techniques, such as character, plot, and dramatic tension, must function within the framework of individual scenes in order to provide substance and structure to the overall story.

Location: Three Flames
Restaurant, 1547 Meridian
Avenue, San Jose, California

09:30 am Registration &
Continental Breakfast
10:00 am Workshop begins
Noon Lunch
03:30 pm Workshop ends

Member price: \$49 (Early Bird
through 11/13) \$59 (Sleepy Bird
11/14 to 12/7)

NON-member price: \$57 (Early
Bird) \$67 (Sleepy Bird)

Student price (18-25 with ID): \$29
(either Bird)

At the Door price: IF SEATS
AVAILABLE (Sleepy Bird pricing)

Sign up at
www.southbaywriters.com

**BOOK SIGNING NEWPARK MALL
THANKSGIVING WEEKEND
NOVEMBER 29, 30, DEC 1, 2013**



Reminder Authors,

We have a great opportunity to show and sell our books at NewPark Mall. We get Thanksgiving Weekend. Black Friday is the biggest sales day of the year. The Mall opens very early. We would probably have to be there by 8:00 am or 8:30 am (on Black Friday) or earlier if one is so inclined. And, we should probably arrange to stay as late as possible.

This is also a great opportunity to increase our membership. Unaffiliated authors may want to join so they could be a part of this. Also writers/authors who might not know about us before may want to join. We need all Fremont Area authors who are interested to sign up on or before the 4th Saturday in October. If there is any space left and if the board approves we could open it up to other writers groups....**Jan Small**

MEMBER SUCCESSES

Art Carey's short story "Last Call at the Do Drop Inn" appeared in The Pedestal Magazine and has been reprinted in Barcode, an Australian anthology published by Pure Slush Press.

THE HISTORIAN

Visit "The Historian" by clicking unioncitypatch.com. Read all about **Myrla Raymundo's** writings on the Blog.

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.

FAW'S COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Myrla Raymundo is chair of the Fremont Area Writers' Community Involvement. Community Involvement is a great way to help out our fellow citizens and improve the community. This is also a good way to let the community know about our club.

BOOK EXCHANGE

Saroj Kar 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 will be held monthly at the BOOKSMART (near Andersen's Bakery) 1st floor, in NewPark Mall in Newark at 7:00 pm.

Next meeting: October 28, 2013
Monday

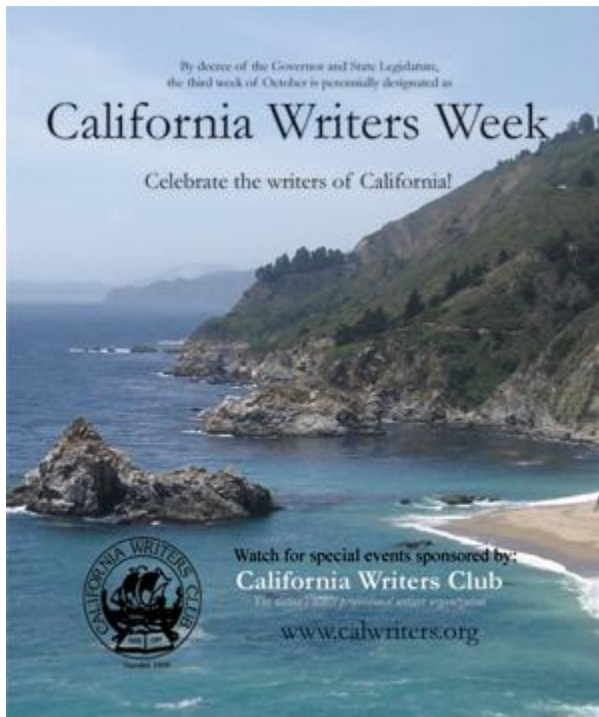
Writers attend and read their articles and books to the audience.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Carol Hall

When you think of October, what comes to mind? The crunch of dry leaves under your feet, a bite in the air, cinnamon apple cider, costumed children yelling “trick-or-treat”? In 2003, the California State legislature decreed the third week in October “California Writers Week.” To honor you, we will hold a fun celebration at our next meeting. Hope to see you there!



FROM THE EDITOR



Myrla Raymundo welcomes you to our October 2013 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.

When we have enough articles written by our members, we could consolidate them into one book.

Submit your articles in Word format (.doc) and one or two pages maximum to:

Myrla.raymundo35@gmail.com

Visit our Web - www.cwc-fremontareawriters.org

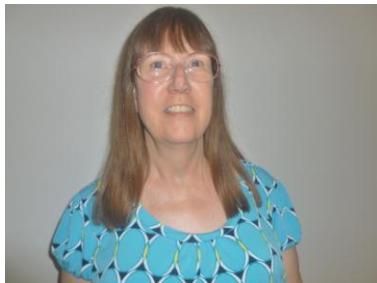
**FREMONT AREA WRITERS
OFFICERS**



President– **Carol Hall**



Vice President – **Geraldine Solon**



Secretary – **Joyce Cortez**



Treasurer – **Myrla Raymundo**



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

Saroj Kar – Book Exchange

Jan Small – November Bookselling
Event

CALENDAR

BOARD MEETING – Fourth Saturday of the
month 12:45 pm – 1:45 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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Writing Prompt: I put a quarter in the gumball machine and a human tooth came out...

Red Joker, Gumball By Tony Pino

I woke the next morning with a ringing in my head. The fat woman was gone. I looked around and was relieved to find that she hadn't taken anything. I showered, dressed and clumped down the rustic R&J stairs, leaving the hotel and getting into my truck. There was a light snow on the ground. I needed gas and went to the little Pine-Town Gas-and Snack across the street. The place was a clutter of cellophane and plastic wrappers. I spotted an old gumball machine. Feeling like a kid, I put a quarter into it. A tooth fell out, yellow with rust-brown crevices and cracked in the center. I was astonished. This ivory had a hard, violent history. Its owner had been a smoker. Blood was in its creases. I put it into my pocket. Disappointed, and a little repulsed, I put another quarter into the machine. A large gumball coated in thin, pink, artificial sugar tumbled into my cupped palm. I stuffed it into my mouth and began to gnaw on it. It was too sweet. I walked out the door and spat it out across the wooden porch and onto the snowy dirt.

I wanted to know more about the gumball machine. I waited for the clerk to finish up with another customer, a big man with greasy unwashed hair wearing a worn checkered Pendleton. I could smell him and backed away. He paid for his

cigarettes and thumped across the loose, wooden floor and into the air---which he really needed. I smiled at the clerk, a skinny middle aged man with yellow teeth and green eyes. “Hey, I really like that gumball machine! Must be an old one,” I said.

“That?” he responded. “Yeah, it’s old, but it was just refilled two days ago. You may even have seen the refill truck. On the highway. It says ‘Red Joker Candy’ on the side. “

“I don’t recall seeing it,” I replied, but I’ll look for it while I’m driving. I filled the pickup and went back into the Gas-and-Snack. The clerk looked at my credit card and lay it on the linoleum counter. “I’m sorry, sir,” he said. “You just don’t look like Nina Fujisaki to me.”

“Oh,” I said. “That’s my ex. She gave it to me to help me start a new life. You can call her if you like. Here’s my license and her phone number.” I took out a piece of notebook paper from my shirt pocket and a pencil and began to scribble.

“It’s a little early to be calling anyone,” he said. “I’ll trust you.”

“Thanks,” I replied.

I left the Gas-and-Snack and drove north toward Oregon. It was a solitary, two-lane country road surrounded and darkened by pines and covered in light snow. It began to get cold. I turned on the heater. The road arced into a blind darkness of pine trees. I thought about Nina and about her last words: “You don’t love me. You love your laptop, and spend more time with that than with me. All you do is write those crappy stories that everyone rejects and stare at pornography. You need a new life and I do, too.” The snow fell heavier. As I rounded a curve I saw the back of a white panel truck flush against the trees, on the very narrow shoulder of

the road. The truck looked as though it had slammed against a tree stand, but there was no evidence of an accident. Driving past, I saw bright advertising on the side of the truck: the bright, blood-red face of a cartoon character in a pointed hat, and the words, “Red Joker Kandy.” I thought about the rancid gumball and the cracked tooth; this was where it originated.

I decided to investigate.

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By Agnes Kirkhart

...I felt along the inside of my lips with my finger, licked my gums to see if I had lost a tooth. How could this have happened? I asked myself. Could this be part of some promotion or a lottery? The one who gets a tooth wins a golden ticket to a fun dental or orthodontic appointment?

It was a canine tooth judging from the size of it, the sharp tip was a telltale sign. I looked around to see if anyone saw what just happened. I looked inside the gumball machine, but I didn’t see any other teeth.

Finally I looked around the store and I noticed there was a man nursing his jaw slumped against the wall near the men’s room. “Pardon me, sir,” I asked the man, “did you happen to lose a tooth?” Since he was the only one in the store, I had to ask.

“Why, yes, as a matter of fact. Where did you find it?” he said.

“In the gumball machine.”

“I’ve been looking all over for it. I placed it on top of the machine while getting some Crazy Glue to put it back in.”

By Mary Anne Casas

...I was so shocked, I held the tooth in my hand, and turned it over with my fingers. Ever though I was disgusted, I was also fascinated by the possibilities: Who had this tooth been connected to, where are they now? It seemed to be a front tooth. Did they owe money and did they default on a loan? Were they so old that it just fell out and someone happened to pick it up?

Maybe an employee had access to the gumball machine. Maybe, a gumball plant line operator tripped and fell knocking out his tooth which then made a free fall into the gumball packing vat. Unless, that same employee was disgruntled and had gotten into a bar fight at "Iguanas," his favorite club. After waking up that morning, in an alcohol induced fog, he looked at his tooth on the night stand with some bloody sinew still attached, cleaned it off and purposely threw it into the gumball packing vat.

By Jan Small

...Whose tooth could it be? It's a small tooth. Looks like it could be a child's. This child is going to miss the tooth when it comes to "Tooth Fairy Time." He won't find a quarter under his pillow.

But, how did it get there? Is the Tooth Fairy in charge of the gumball machine? I bet she is. I think she keeps kids' teeth in it. Then when people put a quarter in the machine, instead of getting a gumball they get a tooth, they are reminded that gumballs can lead to cavities. Perhaps it's better to get a tooth than a gumball. In that case my quarter was well spent.