



# INK SPOTS

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

**Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Writer/Editor**

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

*Webmaster – Linda Lee*

**VOL 71 January 2018**

**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.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Myrla Raymundo, MBA

We welcome the New Year 2018. Now, still in its scanty cloth, we want to take care of it, nurture it and make the best of it.

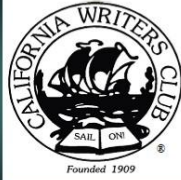
Plans are underway to make 2018 the best ever. There will definitely be plenty of activities in our lives. We gathered our families to nice and sumptuous New Year's Eve dinner. Some of us went to different parties and danced the night away until the sound of midnight, when we joined the others in singing the joys of the holiday season.

Now we relax. And now we think of what we can do.

There are a lot of activities to do. We go back to our book that we are still adding more recollections in our lives. We should sit down and think what articles we should contribute to our newsletter.

Have you read our column Feature of the Month? Everybody likes to read stories of other people. There are many reasons why we are very interested in other people's story. People's stories inspire us.

For 2018, here's hope that our lives may be merry and bright and full of gaiety and happiness. **Happy New Year**



## Fremont Area Writers

The Centennial Branch

### Relationships that Ring True



Fremont Area Writers will host Tiffany Schneider, author and professional counselor and life coach, at its January 27th meeting.

Schneider will explore the emotional dynamics that distinguish a healthy relationship from a diseased one and how authors can use that information to construct character interactions

(both positive and negative) that are interesting, believable and reflect real life relationship patterns.

Participants are encouraged to bring relationship problems from either their writing or real lives for a professional opinion on possible resolutions or (in the case of fictional problems) believable escalations! It promises to be a unique and lively discussion.

For more information about Tiffany, please go to her website:  
<http://www.tiffanyschneider.com/>.

#### Writers and Poets Open Mic!

**When:** 7:00-9:00 pm  
Monday, January  
27th

**Where:**  
Suju's Coffee  
3602 Thornton Ave.  
Fremont

**Sat. Jan. 27th, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**  
**Round Table Pizza**  
**37480 Fremont Blvd.**  
**Fremont, CA 94536**

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

**Robert Garfinkle, President**  
(510) 489-4779  
[cwc-fremontareawriters.org](http://cwc-fremontareawriters.org)

## Feature of the Month



**Chris Dews**

Chris was born in 1946, in the bombed-out, grimy, and exhausted north England town of Bradford in Yorkshire. His father was an engineer, and his mother, surprisingly for the time and place, had a deep love of literature. Chris grew up in a small house abuzz with the latest works by D. H. Lawrence and Dylan Thomas.

Chris was always a storyteller. Even at a young age, he amused his friends with imagined tales of the mouse Sandeman and comrades. Later, in grammar school, his skill for amusing writing and pointed wit was commented upon, though not always appreciated.

Chris studied electronic engineering in London, and married Valerie in 1969. He worked for several years in Hampshire, moving to California when he was thirty-one, to enjoy a successful career in electronic product development.

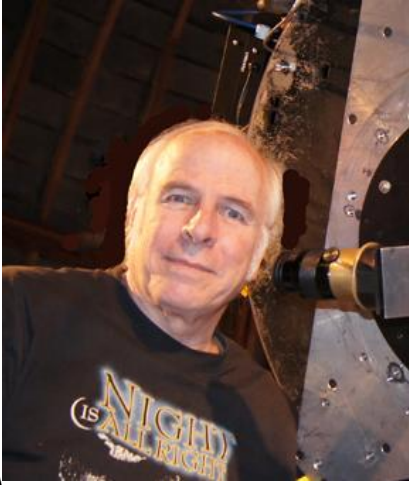
The writer imprisoned in the engineer broke free upon his retirement in 2012, and Chris turned to writing fantasy novels, publishing *Aengus Amused* in 2013 and *The Druid and the Bracelet* in 2015. He is now about to publish *Antler Jinny and the Raven*.

Chris still lives in the San Francisco Bay Area, and enjoys mountain bikes, small airplanes, and, most of all, reading and writing books. He and Val have two adult daughters.

\*\*\*\*\*

**FREMONT AREA WRITERS**

**OFFICERS**



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



Secretary – **Joyce Cortez**



Treasurer – **Cherilyn Jose**



**Knuti VanHoven**  
Vice President



**Tony Pino, Open Mic.**



Authors Table Sound Equipment, Book Exchange



**Art Carey** –Signage



**Jan Small**, Book Signing



**Carol Hall**  
Facebook Page, Meetup,



**Liz Breshears**  
Community Outreach



**Evelyn LaTorre**  
Central Board Representative



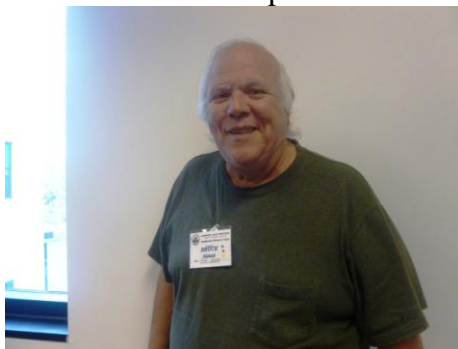
**Chris Dews**  
Membership Chair

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**JACK LONDON AWARDEES  
FREMONT AREA WRITERS**

- 2009 Robert Garfinkle
- 2011 Myrla Raymundo
- 2013 Carol Hall
- 2015 Art Carey
- 2017 Shirley Ferrante

\*\*\*\*\*



**Bruce Haase**

**FREMONT AREA WRITERS  
CHAIRPERSONS**

Meet Up, Facebook Page - Carol Hall  
Open Mic - Tony Pino, Bruce Haase  
Historian - Bob Garfinkle  
Membership – Chris Dews  
Newsletter - Myrla Raymundo  
Publicity, Website & Newsletter Liaison  
Knuti VanHoven  
Book Signings - Jan Small  
Central Board Rep - Evelyn LaTorre  
Community Outreach - Liz Breshears  
Authors Table, Book Exchange, Sound  
System - Bruce Haase  
Signage - Art Carey  
CWC Advertising and Promotions Chair  
– Cherilyn Jose  
Nor Cal Rep – Vacant  
Hospitality, Welcome New Members –  
Jan Small

**CALENDAR**

BOARD MEETING – Fourth Saturday of the month 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm – 37408 Round Table Pizza, Fremont.

OPEN MIC – Fourth Monday of the month 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm at Suju’s Coffee Meeting Room, 3602 Thornton Ave, Fremont

FREMONT AREA WRITERS REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING – Fourth Saturday of the month, 2:00 pm -4:00 pm, – 37408 Round Table Pizza, Fremont.



**Myrla Raymundo, MBA-**  
Writer/Editor

**Ink Spots Newsletter**

This Editor welcomes you to our January 2018 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. It is also emailed to the different clubs of the California Writers Club.

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***

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### **GRAVEYARD RAMBLINGS**

**By Terry Tosh**

Life serves up such interwoven material...  
harmony, confusion; wonder, understanding;  
mystery, knowledge;

The Fabric of our tapestries are magnificently made...  
A simple change in the Stitch Pattern sends the next segment  
into a completely unique and different outcome.

We can never pre-conceive what the actual turn of the corner will bring,  
Mortality is SO fickle.

\*\*\*\*\*

When did we convert from seeing a painting and marveling at how REAL it looks, "almost like a  
photograph of the real thing!" to  
seeing a real scene and wondering, "Wow, that looks just like a postcard!"

\*\*\*\*\*

Shadows dance on the aluminum-painted backdrop

\*\*\*\*\*

Cozy scenes inhabit the interior behind the cold, dank window covering

\*\*\*\*\*

Twilight seeps into darkness...sounds intensify.  
Distant whistles bellow. Time relaxes its forward death march. Lights flicker;  
shadows quiver; Home is but a faded distance.

\*\*\*\*\*

Consciousness flags. Mind ... wander s.  
Concepts elude capture.  
Coherent thought escapes reality.  
Life is Good; Worries are ethereal. Personalities compete for dominance.  
Sanity Rules...

\*\*\*\*\*

Night Watch on Duty...Tower silent in background.  
Peace REIGNS (for now)

Shortwave chatters. Incoherent?  
Not really. Bits and Pieces fall into a fragmented picture puzzle  
Physical necessity rears its cry  
Get UP, Get OUT...Stretch and MOVE!  
Idleness if unbecoming.

\*\*\*\*\*

Why does it give me pleasure to go in one door and come out another?  
Something about a change?  
Deep subject, No?

\*\*\*\*\*

Alone with my thoughts...interesting Companionship.  
Intrigue, Speculation, Fantasy...hope for tomorrow

\*\*\*\*\*

Joy comes in many sizes, shapes, colors, flavors. Simple, Complex,  
Mediocre, Dazzlingly Brilliant.  
"Enjoy your ride! C-Ya"

\*\*\*\*\*

Wing your way to my thoughts.  
A Bat? An Owl? A Dove?  
How about an Eagle?? (Preferred, I think)

\*\*\*\*\*

"She loves you, Yeah, Yeah, Yeah.  
The Sound of her Voice brings the stmosphere and Frangrances; Instantly transported to my "space"  
Yeah.

\*\*\*\*\*

Check out the Oakland Yard, someday! you'll be treated to the background recreated by the Magic  
Mountain Artists that designed the "atmosphere" for "BATMAN, the RIDE".

[- Hide quoted text -](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

On-duty; off-duty. Shifts changed---I watch in the background  
(Are you a voyeur, if they know you're there?)

\*\*\*\*\*

Want to read a bit, but the thought of staring at the pages, and needing to remember to flex the neck  
muscles make me hesitate.

\*\*\*\*\*

Well, there is a benefit (or curse?) in knowing so many tunes from years  
gone by...there's always appropriate background theme songs playing in your Mind's Ear!

\*\*\*\*\*

Life is like a bag of rocks...(come to your own conclusions on THAT one!)  
\*\*\*\*\*When you wish upon a star (Time still takes its own pace)

It was a pleasant, breezy night.  
You'd never imagine that somewhere there is the proverbial "Dark and Stormy" one going on, now  
would you?

\*\*\*\*\*

WHAT IF...

I was born someone else? Think of all that I'd have missed here!

\*\*\*\*\*

surf the dial...lots of nostalgic and some disturbing tidbits

\*\*\*\*\*



Amazingly, all the rough-looking men are very warm and friendly to me. Must be the newness of my job---they try to help.

Once the face gets familiar, will it change?

Maybe not.

HEADING HOME, bye-bye Night.

Terry Tosh

Written during an overnight stint on duty as railroad transport driver.

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## **Is There a Doctor on Board?**

**By Doris Nikolaidis**

My brother Didi took on the task of organizing a family reunion in July 2017 at a brand-new fancy hotel at the Elbe river in Germany. All twenty family members agreed to attend. Even our Hong Kong relatives were going to travel to Germany to be part of the celebration. I convinced my Greek husband Nick that we could not be the only family members not attending.

Nick insisted that he would not be able to survive three days of everyone speaking German - which he does not speak - without first fortifying himself for ten days in Greece. So I agreed to go with him for ten days to Athens.

We flew from SFO to Frankfurt, Germany, and after a two hour lay-over boarded a Lufthansa plane to Athens. In the row in front of us sat an elderly Greek couple. The plane had already taken off and everyone was supposed to stay seated and buckle up. The elderly Greek gentleman got up while his wife tried to pull him back into his seat. He threatened to punch her in the face if she did not let him get up. He insisted he had to see the doctor. He yelled for the stewardess and stepped into the aisle. The stewardess tried to convince him that there was no doctor on board. "Sir, what is wrong with you. Why do you think you need a doctor?" she asked. "Nothing is wrong with me, I just want to see a doctor," he replied.

The pilot evidently heard about the commotion and ordered the co-pilot to check the situation out. But the co-pilot was not able to convince the man to sit down and buckle up. "If there is no doctor on board I am going to get off," he yelled and walked towards the plane's exit door trying to open it.

I told my husband that we had to take off our jackets and fold them into emergency parachutes. The co-pilot tried to pull the man away from the door but the old man threatened to punch him in the face. Then two young Greek men got up and engaged the old man in a conversation. "Where in Greece are you from, what is the name of your village, do you have children?"

The old man calmed down. The co-pilot asked the wife and another passenger to vacate their seats and let the two Greek young men sit there with the old man, hopefully being able to keep him calm.

They were able to engage him in conversations until the plane landed in Athens. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief.

When we landed in Athens, our nephew - a general in the Greek army - was already waiting for us to drive us to our hotel in down-town Athens. The outside temperature was over 100 degrees and I was glad to be able to collapse in our air conditioned room.

For the next ten days we moved from our hotel into the air-conditioned car of our nephew, to his air-conditioned home. Our plan to visit those wonderful ancient Greek sites like the Acropolis, the Parthenon etc. was impossible. The outside temperature stayed at over 100 degrees. I was ready to pass out just making it from the hotel room to my nephew's car. After ten days I was glad to return to the cooler temperatures in Germany. We boarded the airplane in Athens and collapsed into our seats. The plane started to taxi to the runway when it suddenly stopped and the pilot's voice came over the speaker: "Is there a doctor on board?" Luckily, there was a doctor who went to attend to a man in the back of the airplane. After half an hour the air in the plane became stifling hot. Since the plane was idling, there was no air conditioning and outside temperatures were still over 100 degrees. After sitting for two hours on the runway, the pilot's voice came over the intercom. "Ladies and gentlemen, we have called for an ambulance to take the patient off the plane. The doctor could not find anything wrong with him. But unfortunately, we have to unload all the luggage and remove the luggage of the patient. Since the doctor could not find anything wrong with him, there is a small possibility that he is a terrorist and has some explosives in his luggage. I apologize for the inconvenience."

We sat another half an hour on the runway, dripping wet from the heat, while the luggage was re-loaded. When we arrived in Frankfurt we stayed one night at a hotel and took an early morning train to the hotel at the Elbe river.

The three day family reunion made up for the heat in Athens, the airplane disasters, the terrorist threats and the senile old man. The two hour train ride back to Frankfurt on Sunday morning almost sounded idyllic. We boarded the train, ordered breakfast and sat back to enjoy the wonderful scenery of woods and rivers. Then the conductor's voice came over the intercom. "Is there a doctor on board?"

That was the moment we decided to skip any trips to Europe at least for the next couple of years. The train sat on the tracks for about two hours while a doctor - who was on board - treated the patient who finally died and was removed from the train. The train continued to Frankfurt; we ran to the gate and made it to our flight back to USA literally with only one minute to spare.

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