



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 – Chris Dews

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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.



Newly elected officers of the Fremont Area Writers Club

***Cherilyn Jose – Treasurer, Joyce Cortez – Secretary, Knuti VanHoven - Vice President,
Terry Tosh – President***

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



TERRY TOSH

I want to thank you all for the opportunity to serve as the new FAW President in the coming session. I look forward to collaborating with the past and present board members and to bringing some ideas to be tossed around and explored.

I will not be able to attend the August gathering, as my family and I have a cruise to Alaska that departs Friday, 8/24, but I will be there in spirit. Please feel free to contact me at any time with your thoughts, ideas and suggestions for moving forward and growing our group in personal and professional endeavors. My email address is Toshmanii@yahoo.com I check this email several times a day, and will respond as quickly as possible.

Thanks, again, for your support and cooperation in helping to build even stronger committees and events. We can certainly use volunteers and expertise to increase everyone's knowledge and add to the success of our diverse and corporate goals.

I hope to see and chat with all of you at the July picnic! Please come and bring a friend or two, as well as your inspiring thoughts and ideas.

Sincerely,

Terry Tosh

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



ROBERT GARFINKLE

This will be my last message to you as your branch president. I am happy to turn over the reins of the branch to our new president Terry Tosh. One of my goals has always been to make sure that there qualified people ready to step up and take a branch leadership position. This is not my branch per se. I do not own it. It belongs to each and every member and it is in your hands to keep it running. The CWC is now almost 110 years old and that is primarily due to the hundreds of members who over that time have held either a branch leadership position and/or a Central Board seat representing their branch.

I do want to let you know of an “out-of-this-world” honor that I received while Kathy and I were in Europe in May. The Minor Planet (asteroid) 2000 EY70 has officially been renamed (31862) Garfinkle by the International Astronomical Union (IAU). This is not that name a star scam you hear about each Xmas. The IAU is the official international body the sets the standards for astronomical things and maintains the nomenclature lists of every celestial thing that is named (except comets). My asteroid is located in the Main Asteroid Belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.

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Write That Query

How to Pitch to Magazines, Agents, and Publishers



Saturday August 25, 2-4 p.m.
42 Silicon Valley, Room 115
6600 Dumbarton Circle
Fremont, CA 94555

Query first. Those words bring many writers to a standstill. Writing a good query is the first step in selling your story to a magazine or your book to an agent or publisher. But what goes into a query? How long should it be? How is querying a magazine different from querying an agent or a publisher. What are the similarities between fiction and nonfiction queries? Is there ever a time when you shouldn't query first?

Get the answer to your query questions from Tish Davidson

Tish Davidson has written everything from restaurant reviews to magazine features to textbook chapters including 13 books published by Scholastic, Mason Crest, and ABC-CLIO/Greenwood Press. Her creative nonfiction can be found in anthologies from Adams Media, Harlequin, Scribes Valley Press, and Outrider Press. Medusa's Laugh Press, Sand Hill Review Press, and the California Writers Literary Review have published her short fiction.





Fremont Area Writers

The Centennial Branch
"Writers Helping Writers"



How to Contact Publications to Propose Paid Writing Assignments



Author Tish Davidson will explain how to contact publications to propose paid writing assignments at the Fremont Area Writers meeting Saturday August 25th at 2PM. The event will present solutions to an ongoing dilemma. Tish says, "So many good writers have no idea how to sell their work or suggest ideas to publications. Even when magazines and publishing houses advertise for submissions, they're likely to conclude their request with the words 'Query First'."

"Those words," Davidson points out, "bring many aspiring writers to a standstill."

"They don't know what a query is, or what publishers want it to say. How long should it be? Why is writing a good query even necessary in selling your story to a magazine or your book to a publisher?"

Tish will answer these questions and more. She's written dozens of successful queries and has the publication list to prove it. Her works-in-print range from restaurant reviews to magazine features to textbook chapters. She's also written 13 books (published by Scholastic, Mason Crest, and ABC-CLIO/Greenwood Press.) Her creative nonfiction can be found in anthologies from Adams Media, Harlequin, and Scribes Valley Press, while Medusa's Laugh Press, Sand Hill Review Press, and the California Writers Literary Review have published her short fiction.

Her queries get positive results and, in the FAW tradition of "writers helping writers," she'll show how others can achieve the same success. Afterward, she'll be happy to answer individual questions or sign copies of any of her books.

For more information about Tish, see her website at <http://www.tishdavidson.com/>.

Tish Davidson
Saturday, August 25th, 2-4 p.m.
42 Silicon Valley, Rm. 115
6600 Dumbarton Circle
Fremont, CA 94555

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

Terry Tosh, President
408-314-4926
cwc-fremontareawriters.org

Writers and Poets Open Mic!

When: 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Monday, August 27th

Where:
Suju's Coffee and Tea
3602 Thornton Ave.
Fremont



Our very own VP Knut VanHuven was the Feature Speaker at the FAW's June 23, 2018 Regular Membership Meeting. Her topic was

“CREATING A MEDIA IMAGE FOR YOU AND YOUR ROJECT”

The Attendees:



FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Evelyn LaTorre

Evelyn LaTorre, a cofounder of our FAW chapter, recalls imagining stories at age seven during boring rides to church in rural southeastern Montana. She won first, second and third places in poetry contest in high school with the three poems she entered. She had her stories read in front of the class at Washington Union High School after she moved with her family to California when she was sixteen. After graduating from Holy Names University, Evelyn joined the Peace Corps and was sent to Peru where she met her husband. You can read about her adventures in her 86,000-word memoir presently titled *No Guardrails: From Montana to Machu Picchu, a Peace Corps Romance*, for which she is seeking an agent for publication.

Upon returning to California from Peru, Evelyn worked in education for 32 years as a school social worker, psychologist and administrator. For a couple years she was a part-time travel counselor for Overseas Adventure Travel. In 1983 she earned a doctorate in Multicultural Education, after which she had to transition from academic to narrative writing. Her writing improvements came through the tutelage of editor, Charlotte Cook and fellow FAW members of the Night Writers critique group: Tish Davidson, Jan Salinas, and Joyce Cortez.

Evelyn has served as our chapter's representative to the California Writers Club since 2016 and *requests that another member replace her this month*. She is presently secretary for the NorCal Writers group, a CWC auxiliary group, which is planning another "Building Better Branches Leadership Conference" for September 29, 2018. Both CWC and NorCal provide members opportunities for writing and publication.

Evelyn's passions are traveling and writing about her travels and her life. Her writing has appeared in World View Magazine, Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin, and the Tri-City Voice. She is a lifetime member of the National Association of Memoir Writers and membership chair of the League of Women Voters. She is in the process of developing a personal website.

KUDOS

A long-awaited anthology about the life of a dollar bill has been published by South Bay Writers. FAW's **Dave Strom** was an editor and has a story in it.

Chris Dews has published another book, *Antler Jinny and the Raven*, in a fantasy series. It's set in Scotland in 64 A.D.

Members of FAW were back marketing their books at NewPark Mall on July 14 2018, thanks to the efforts of tireless book sale organizer **Jan Small**.

Tish Davidson's nonfiction piece "Miss Tish and the Okree Ladies" has been accepted for publication in the California Writers Club Literary Review.

STARTING A FREMONT AREA WRITERS BLOG



Tish Davidson

I am interested in starting a blog for our club. The blog would put up a new post twice a month plus an announcement of the next meeting. Participating members would contribute a blog post that is in some way related to writing once or twice a year. This is a chance to have an ongoing web presence without any single individual having to blog on a weekly or monthly basis. Posting would be limited to paid up FAW members.

You don't have to know anything about how to post to participate. I am willing to take responsibility for getting the blog set up and putting up the posts. All you have to do is write them. The post should touch on some aspect of writing or publishing. It could include a link to your books or website but could not simply be an advertisement for your books. If you are interested in participating, please email me at tish_davidson@yahoo.com or speak to me at the next meeting. I am also looking for a couple of people to help formulate posting guidelines and to read over the submitted posts for appropriateness before they go up.

FAW BOOKSIGNING AT NEW PARK MALL – JULY 14, 2018

Ten authors sold 32 books for a total of \$402.





The authors who attended were: Jan Small, Chris Dews, Art Carey, JoAnn Frisch, Penelope Cole, Anita Tosh, Helen Vanderburgh, Armila Patel, Dave M. Strom and Paul K. Davis.

FAW JULY PICNIC AT THE UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM BACKYARD JULY 28, 2018.

By Nancy Guarnera

In the final days of the blood moon month of July, the patio of the Union City Museum was bathed in the warm afternoon sun. Shade tents covered tables and chairs giving the writers attending the FAW annual picnic respite from the glare and the heat of summer. The smell of hamburgers and all-beef foot-long hot dogs wafted on a gentle breeze, teasing hungry folks engrossed in conversation as they waited patiently for the dinner bell. Each table was graced with a vase of beautiful red roses.

Then the call rang out, *"Burgers are ready. Time to eat!"*

An orderly line formed and plates were piled high with fruit salad, pasta salad, potato salad, green salad, chips, burgers, hot dogs, and shrimp with cocktail sauce, corn pudding, fried chicken, and all manner of yummy comestibles. There were rosy-red, ripe strawberries to nibble, and homemade chocolate chip and snicker doodle cookies to finish off the meal. It was indeed a delicious extravagance of picnic edibles. Clutching plastic forks, knives and spoons, napkins and overflowing plates, the picnickers returned to their seats. They munched and talked, and talked and munched; new folks and long-timers getting to know each other through their shared meal and their love of writing.

As the writers and the Museum folk, who joined them for the picnic, finished their meal, a second call went out: *"Who would like to take a tour of the museum?"* A small, but very keen group was escorted through the Museum and treated to a marvelous trip to the past. All manner of vintage and antique items (rotary telephones, adding machines, refrigerators, farm implements, etc.) are to be seen in this wonderful museum founded and run by Myrla Raymundo, writer and editor of the FAW newsletter, Ink Spots. (If you've never been for a tour of this little Union City gem of a museum, add it to your To Do list.)

As the picnic began to wind down, a discussion evolved amongst those die-hard folks who take seriously FAW's mission of Writers Helping Writers. Over dessert and coffee, they talked for a while about updating FAW branding with a consistent look across all printed and digital material and platforms; about developing a skills bank that writers can avail themselves of; and about partnering with a bookstore chain in the East Bay to facilitate regular book readings for FAW published authors. As the picnic ended with final goodbyes, and the last few revelers drifted off to their Saturday evening commitments, they vowed to bring these ideas to future FAW meetings.

Picnic – a pleasant or amusingly carefree experience...with food. That's what we had at this year's FAW Picnic. So if you missed it, fear not, for there will be another one next year, and the August meeting is just a month away! See you there!

**FAW JULY PICNIC AT THE UNION CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM
BACKYARD JULY 28, 2018.**





INTRODUCING.....



Nancy Guarnera
Hospitality, Welcome New Members,
Assistant Editor Ink Spots, CWC Bulletin Contributor

An East Coast transplant, Nancy made her way to California in 1984 on a bus. While she still misses the well-articulated seasons of the Mid-Atlantic States, she loves the West Coast and has now lived in Northern California half her life.

Nancy began her writing life in third grade, stumping her teacher with a short story whose characters all had pronouns for names. The dialogue was most tricky. As a sixth grader living in Pennsylvania, she won an honorable mention in a creative writing contest about the trials of wintering at Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War. A few years later, her dad took her and her brother to see Goldfinger. That same day, after her first Bond film, she began writing her first, and only, spy story. She has continued to write to this day. Whether poetry or prose, editorials, essays, features, songs, plays or meditations, she will avidly engage in this pursuit when given the opportunity.

She has had her poetry and prose published, edited an award-winning college newspaper, and resurrected a campus literary journal. Nancy is currently working on several longer pieces: a paranormal murder mystery, a children's series, a serialized vampire novel, and an up-dated blending of several popular fairy tales. As a visual artist, who studied film, video and computer art at University, she is also anxious to add script writing and screenplays to her skill set.

Nancy is also a photographer and an artist. She has shown her work on both coasts, most recently her computer art in Berkeley and Hayward. She has a professional background in graphic and publication design; producing newsletters, magazines, and books. She is currently contemplating publishing a book of her photographs and another of her poems.

Nancy lives with her artist /writer husband, Robert in the San Francisco Bay Area.

FREMONT AREA WRITERS



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



Secretary – **Joyce Cortez**



President – **Terry Tosh**



Treasurer – **Cherilyn Jose**



Knuti VanHoven
Vice President



Tony Pino, Open Mic.



Art Carey –Signage



Carol Hall
Facebook Page, Meetup,



Evelyn LaTorre
Central Board Representative



Bruce Haase
Authors Table Sound Equipment, Book Exchange



Jan Small, Book Signing



Chris Dews, Membership Chair



Nancy Guarnera
Hospitality, Welcome New Members,
CWC Bulletin Contributor, Asst Editor

**JACK LONDON AWARDEES
FREMONT AREA WRITERS**

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

**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 - Vacant
Authors Table, Book Exchange, Sound
System - Bruce Haase
Signage - Art Carey
CWC Advertising and Promotions Chair
– Cherilyn Jose
Nor Cal Rep – Evelyn LaTorre
Hospitality, Welcome New Members,
CWC Bulletin Contributor, Asst Editor –
Nancy Guarnera

CALENDAR

BOARD MEETING – Fourth Saturday
of the month 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm – 42
Silicon Valley, 6600 Dumbarton Circle,
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, – 42 Silicon Valley, 6600
Dumbarton Circle, Fremont.



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

Ink Spots Newsletter

This Editor welcomes you to our
August 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 or
raymundomyrla@gmail.com.



**Myrla Raymundo joined the
new FAW officers.**

FREMONT AREA WRITERS CORNER

CLABBERED SKY



By Jo Ann Frisch

I peeked out the window through the torn side of the paper shade at the low hanging grey sky and shivered in the early morning cold. I wanted to snuggle back down under the quilts next to my sister. Grandma was already bustling around in the kitchen and I wondered if she would ask Grandpa to take us to Reagan Baptist Church seven miles away. It looked like rain and I didn't feel like getting out on the rutted dirt road in his old pick-up with him trying to keep it in the middle of the road. The rain could quickly fill the ruts with red mud in this part of Oklahoma.

"Girls, time to get up if we're going to church this morning," Grandma called.

Well, that settled it, I guess we were going to brave the bad weather to worship God. I nudged Carla with my knee. She lashed out at me with her hand and grumbled.

"No, I don't want to get up yet." She turned over and scrunched deeper into the quilts.

I threw the covers off her and jumped out of bed onto the bare plank floor, grabbed my robe and pushed my feet into my slippers. Shuffling to the kitchen I held my hands over one of the burners on the stove trying to warm up.

"Don't get too close, Jo Annie, you'll catch your sleeve on fire," Grandma warned. "Wash up and set the table."

She walked into the living room where the small heater was and bent down with a large wooden match to light it. It popped out as soon as she turned the propane on. She returned to the kitchen. "At least the oven stays on so we'll have biscuits soon. I'm glad we got the wash finished yesterday because it looks like rain today."

I checked how much water was in the bucket on the stand next to the window and decided it was full enough so I wouldn't have to draw more water out of the well in the corner of our yard to refill it. I

dipped a little water into the wash pan, washed my hands and dried on a towel hanging from a hook on the wall.

“Oscar, get up if you want breakfast,” she called to Grandpa. “Jo Annie get sister up.”

I walked back to our bedroom. Carla was under the covers again. I pulled them off her as she grabbed at the corner. She curled into a ball in the middle of the bed and yelled, “Leave me alone.”

“She won’t get up,” I told Grandma.

“Do I have to get that razor strap?” she called.

I knew it wasn’t an empty threat. Sometimes when Carla sassied Grandma she would get Grandpa’s razor strap and whack her a few times on her bare legs for talking back. He sharpened his straight razor on it for shaving each morning. We called it a strap instead of its correct name a strop.

“Ok, I’m getting up,” she shouted back. She joined us in the kitchen with a scowl on her face, curly hair sticking out all over her head. “How come its so cold?”

“I can’t get the gas to stay on in the heater,” Grandma said. “Wash yourself, Grandpa is going to want the wash pan.” She opened the oven and took out a pan of biscuits and set it on top of the stove, leaving the door open to warm the room.

Carla washed and then opened the back door to throw the dirty water out on the ground. She quickly closed the door and set the pan back down next to the bucket.

Grandpa crowded into the kitchen to wash for breakfast.

“Oscar will you try to light the heater?”

“Ok,” he said and hobbled into the living room with his cane and a box of matches. He got down on his knees next to the heater and struck one. Holding it steady he slowly turned on the gas. The burner flared and stayed on. Adjusting the flame a little he waited a moment before awkwardly getting off his knees. He turned around and sat down at the table.

“Thank you, Oscar. Carla, get the jam and butter out of the refrigerator and Jo Annie, pour the milk.”

Grandma brought a plate of biscuits to the table and a platter of fried bacon, crisp just like I liked it.

“Looks like you burnt the bacon again,” Grandpa growled.

“I have some almost raw just for you, Dad,” Grandma said. She walked to the table with the iron skillet held with a pot holder and forked out three strips onto his plate and returned to the kitchen. She came back with a plate of fried eggs and sat it in front of him.

We waited for Grandma to say grace and then helped our plates with biscuits, bacon and eggs. The room began to feel warm but the clouds were darkening and I was sure it was going to rain.

“Dad, do you think you can take us to church this morning?” Grandma asked.

“Oh, Loni, it looks like rain. Don’t you think we can skip it this week?”

Grandma frowned and nodded her head. “Yeah, I’d hate to be caught in the rain.”

We continued to eat our breakfast in silence. I was glad we didn’t have to rush around in the barely warm house to get ready.

After breakfast, Carla put away the jam and butter and Grandma had me wash the dishes. I left them drying on a towel and poured the water out of the dish pan into the sink connected to an underground French drain that ran downhill from the house.

Grandma lifted a plate on one of the crocks sitting on a counter on the other side of the kitchen, bent over to smell it and wrinkled her nose. "I thought so, this kind of weather causes milk to sour quickly and I can't use it up soon enough just for biscuits. I can make cottage cheese with it if it doesn't rain."

If it doesn't rain? I wondered.

I watched her take a large bowl out of the cupboard and put a clean, white cloth over it. She removed the plate on the crock and motioned for me to come and look at it. The buttermilk was curdled, thick with veins and runny whey as she stirred it with a wooden spoon. "We call this clabbered milk," she said. Carefully she poured it into the bowl and pulled opposite corners of the cloth together and tied them into knots. I followed her to the clothes line and secured the knots with clothes pins while she held the bowl underneath. Then we stood back letting it drip on the ground. "We can take it down when its dry and finish making cottage cheese," she said.

We went back inside and I got dressed. Carla and I each took a glass of water to brush our teeth and spit over the wire fence that surrounded our house. Grandma had me dust the furniture and dust mop the linoleum floor in the dining and living rooms. Carla made our bed and took the slop jar we used each night to the outhouse and emptied it.

"Well, Jo Anny, since we're not going to church, let's crochet and you can finish the doily you're working on."

I was happy to get back to it. The design was a spiral from the center and it was looking like the picture in the Workbasket booklet. I had no trouble reading the instructions. Grandma was working on another doily from memory in very thin thread. I liked to use coarser thread because it made a larger doily sooner than hers.

Carla disappeared somewhere with our dog, Bullet. She often walked into the thicket near our house and was gone for several hours. Grandma always cautioned her about watching out for snakes. Rattlesnakes and copperheads were both deadly.

A couple of hours later Grandma said, "Let's see if our curds are dry." She unpinned the stiff bag from the clothes line and we went back to the house. Carefully she untied the knots. The curds were standing up in the shape of the bag that had held them. "Now, we can break it up with a fork and add a little sweet cream and salt to make cottage cheese for lunch. Here, taste it, what do you think?"

"Well, it doesn't taste like the cottage cheese that our milkman delivered to us in California but it's not bad," I said.

Looking out the window at the small broken clouds crowded together she said, "This is called a clabbered sky."

Myrla Raymundo, MBA
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