



Ink Spots



The Newsletter of the Fremont Area Writers

"Centennial" Branch of the California Writer's Club

Myrla Raymundo, MBA, Writer/Editor raymundomyrla@gmail.com

Nancy Guarnera, Assistant Editor nguarnera16@comcast.net

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.



Your Dues in Action →

FAW Grants Writing Scholarship to Ohlone College Student

by Evelyn LaTorre, NorCal representative

Madeline Inman, a Human Development major at Ohlone Community College, is the first recipient of a \$500 scholarship awarded by the Fremont Area Writers (FAW) branch to a student pursuing a degree involving writing. FAW received matching funds from the Central Board of the California Writers Club to provide the scholarship.

Madeline, a Fremont Christian High School graduate, who lives in Union City, will use the grant to pursue her studies this fall in Communications/Political Science at the University of California, Davis.

Madeline read her winning essay, *"A Love Letter to my Home,"* to the FAW membership in attendance at the August 25th monthly meeting. The essay alluded to the nine years she lived in Northern Ireland and was very well received.



Madeline Inman

**2018 FAW
Writing Scholarship
Recipient**



President's Message

Terry Tosh

It's been an exciting couple of months since I was honored to lead the FAW branch of CWC. A lot of new things being learned...hopefully remembered! Thanks again to everyone who's jumped in with both feet and helped to guide me through some rapidly moving events and details.

We had an exciting phone meeting with several of the NorCal board members to discuss final details on the upcoming Leadership Conference, going to be a lot of fun and very educational. I look forward to having many of you at the event.

More to come on book signing events and contests, and great speakers and new releases on our authors' books! Lots of new people to meet and new members to welcome! I'm out of breath just typing this!

Anyway, here's to a fantastic 2018-2019 season of learning and doing, moving forward and prospering!

See you at the next meeting; please bring a friend or several.

Terry

FREMONT AREA WRITERS MONTHLY CALENDAR

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Fourth Saturday

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**42 Silicon Valley
6600 Dumbarton Circle,
Fremont**

BOARD MEETING

Fourth Saturday

12:45 pm - 1:45 pm

**42 Silicon Valley
6600 Dumbarton Circle,
Fremont**

OPEN MIC

Fourth Monday

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**Suju's Coffee & Tea Mtg Rm
3602 Thornton Ave,
Fremont**

FAW Board Members



TERRY TOSH
President



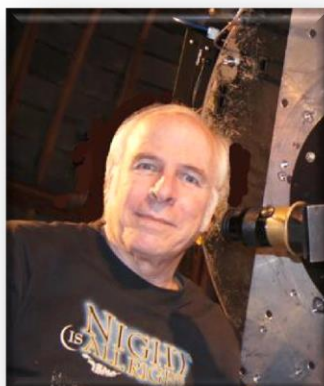
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JOYCE CORTEZ
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Fremont Area Writers
Past President –
CA Writers Club

JACK LONDON AWARDEES

FREMONT AREA WRITERS

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

FAW Chairpersons



ART CAREY
Signage
Facility Contact



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CA Writers Club
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Book Exchange
Sound System
Open Mic



CAROL HALL
Facebook Page
Meet Up



CHERILYN JOSE
CWC Advertising &
Promotions



EVELYN LATORRE
NorCal
Representative



MYRLA RAYMUNDO
Newsletter
Editor



JAN SMALL
Book Signings



KNUTI VANHOVEN
Speakers Program,
Publicity

September's Speaker



How to Get Your Book Made Into a Film

Carol Lee Hall

Many writers dream of writing a book, then seeing their words come alive on the silver screen. But how does one go about doing that? It's not as easy as you may think and there is no one way to go about it. Author and screenwriter Carol Lee Hall has been trying for years to become an optioned, produced writer. What does that mean? How does one pitch a book or screenplay to a producer, agent or manager? Should you adapt your book into a screenplay first before approaching industry professionals? What are the odds of a book becoming a movie or a television series?

Come to the Fremont Area Writers meeting on Saturday, September 22, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm to find out. Carol will speak not only from first-hand experience, but give examples of self-published and traditional small press books that have been optioned or produced as films. She will also answer questions attendees may have about the film industry, adaptations, and other related topics.

Carol is a long-time member of FAW and has served on the board as President and Treasurer. Her non-fiction book, *For Those Who Serve: A Devotional for Church Volunteers*, was traditionally published in 2004. She is a freelance writer and has adapted four pieces of intellectual property into script format and edited several more screenplays as part of her freelance writing business. Carol is also actively seeking markets for eight screenplays she has written.

For more information about Carol see her website at www.CarolLeeHall.com.

New Member Spotlight



**Natalie
Denise
Forbes**

I was born in the Deep South, but raised an Air Force brat; emphasis on brat! Moving around the country and living in France, I acquired a taste for different cultures, and music.

I was a single mother of four and now have five grandchildren. Raising a family in the Washington, D.C. area, while working as a Broadway Theatre Corporate Manager, was no easy task!

My hobbies are writing, photography, creating and selling greeting cards, hiking and dancing. I'm a nanny to a six year old (at 66) and must be out of my mind!

I began writing poems for children upon my arrival in Southern California. Inspiration comes to me by observing the many ups and downs of a child's day-to-day existence.

I'm hoping that California is my last stop on the map!

My favorite California cliché is ***"No worries"***. Ha!

Hello from New CWC/FAW Member ... Ms. Claire Adalyn Wright

I read with interest August's newsletter page Introducing Nancy Guarnera, who had warmly welcomed my husband and me to the August meeting.

Like Nancy, I am an East Coast transplant, arriving here five years later – on Valentine's Day, 1989. Before I left New York, a friend suggested that February 14 could be a portent of meeting my Mr. Right. Well, in October 1989, the Bay area experienced its second largest earthquake. Three days afterwards, I met Mr. Loren Wright – my friend's prediction had simply overlooked the silent W!

Writing consists of playing with poetry – especially Haiku – for many years and posting each week to Loren's and my recent travel blog. This journals our journey around parts of all seven continents over the past 4+ years. Traveling inspires new poems, which now reside on the blog. We hope to resume our journeying in early 2019.

Oh, and the blog is: www.journeytowardwholeness.net.



**Claire
Adalyn
Wright**

New Member Spotlight (Continued)



**Loren
Wright**

I am a native Californian raised in Castro Valley. My wife, Claire, and I are temporarily living in an Airbnb near the home where I grew up. My 92 year old mom still lives there along with one of my two sisters. We are in the area helping care for my mom.

My intent in joining FAW is specifically related to the memoir I have been writing about our travels. I finally realized I am a novice and need help!

I have also been diligently sending out every few weeks what I refer to as 'E-blasts' to my email contact list of about 1000 people. They consist of photos with the poetry I write about them, which create stories from 'on the road'. There are nearly 100 of these in a portfolio from which I plan to also create a companion coffee table book.

And Now, A Word from Our Editor



Myrla Raymundo, MBA
Editor/Writer
Ink Spots Newsletter

Welcome to our September 2018 issue of Ink Spots. It contains the latest FAW news, tidbits, poems, prose, essays, and articles written by our members. It also contains information from other branches of the California Writers Club.

Ink Spots is emailed monthly to members on or around the 15th of each month (*excluding July*). It is available in print to FAW members at the general meeting on the fourth Saturday of the month.

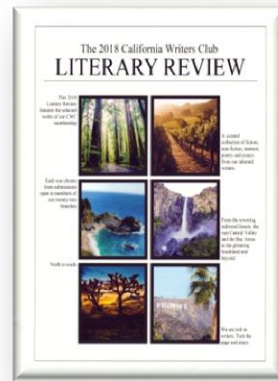
We email a copy of Ink Spots to all the different branches of the California Writers Club, as well.

We welcome your submissions; please send them to the Editor at the following email addresses:
myrlaraymundoback@gmail.com or
raymundomyrla@gmail.com

FORMAT: Text in word.doc or PDF & Photos in jpeg

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: On or before the First Day of the publication month (May 1st for the May issue). **WORD COUNT:** Articles: 300 words max. New Member bios: 150 max.

Call for 2019 CWC Literary Review Submissions



by Tish Davidson, CWC Representative

The *California Writers Club Literary Review* is an annual print publication that features writing from members of all 22 branches of the California Writers Club. Submissions are accepted in the categories of fiction, memoir, essay, and poetry. Publication is competitive. Although the name “literary” is in its name, the *Review* encourages well-written genre fiction such as mystery, fantasy, and romance. In short, it is looking to publish the best writing from CWC members regardless of category.

Submissions are accepted between September 1, 2018 and November 20, 2018.

Full information on how to submit and a FAQ giving more details about the process is posted on the CWC website <http://calwriters.org/>

“Building Better Branches” Conference Last Chance to Register

by Evelyn LaTorre, NorCal Representative

The biennial conference, "Building Better Branches" will be held on September 29th from 8:30 to 4:00 at National University in Pleasant Hill.

Officers and potential volunteers from all Northern California branches of the California Writers Club are invited to participate.

Contact Cherilyn Jose, FAW treasurer (cherilyn@ymail.com), by September 20th if you wish to attend. The cost is \$25 and includes lunch.

Call NorCal Representative Evelyn LaTorre at 510-651-6773 for more details.

August 2018 Meeting

Guest Speaker **Tish Davidson** shared the secrets to writing the perfect query for both fiction and non-fiction work. She included in her talk the best ways to pitch to magazines, agents and publishers. Tish is an FAW member and has published 13 books on a wide variety of subjects.



FAW members at the general meeting listened intently to both special guest speakers, Tish Davidson and Madeline Inman.

Madeline Inman, a former student at Ohlone Community College, shared her winning essay, *"A Love Letter to my Home,"* with those in attendance. Her essay was inspired by the nine years she lived in Northern Ireland. She will be starting college at UC Davis this Fall and will use her \$500 FAW scholarship to pursue her studies in Communications/Political Science. Madeline is the first recipient of the Scholarship.



FAW Featured Member

Helen Vanderberg: *British Cozy Mystery Writer*



Helen Vanderberg grew up in England's Thames Valley, and began by writing professionally as a columnist in an upstate New York newspaper. When she moved to Texas she published *Dallas in a Nutshell* in five editions. Her search for information about business matters had her writing a book for women *Liberation Through the Marketplace*. She lived abroad while writing short stories and finally published her first cozy mystery: *The Domino Deaths*. She lives in northern California where glimpses of sailboats on San Francisco's city-front stir her wanderlust.

Her home-of-the-heart is the English village she depicts as Pangbury-on-Thames in her novel: *The Domino Deaths*. Helen's grandfather had been a police surgeon for Scotland Yard before the turn of the century, when Jack the Ripper roamed London's streets; hence her attraction to mysteries.

After stints as advertising copywriter on art and antiques, daily newspaper columnist and writer on technical subjects, she took off around the world, arriving eventually back in England where she found life changed immeasurably.

The Domino Deaths reflects that world the author once knew, a world of Agatha Christie and cozy mysteries, remote from the stresses of modern life. The story in *The Domino Deaths* is one of pure fiction, although, like any writer, the author draws on memory.

The book was featured at the Writer's Digest Conference in Los Angeles. It is available at author talks, on Amazon and from Abbott Press.

Helen now lives near San Francisco, loves sailing most of all, painting in water-color and oil, jazz and classical music, and the caffeine-inspired liveliness of California's Silicon Valley.

KUDOS – Members' News

KUDOS to the following authors who participated in the **FAW Book Signing** at the Newpark Mall on Saturday, July 14th : **Art Carey** sold 1 book; **Penelope Cole** sold 11 books; **Paul K. Davis** sold 1 book; **Chris Dews** sold 3 books; **Jo Ann Frisch** sold 5 books; **Urmila Patel** sold 4 books; **Jan Small** sold 2 books and 1 art print; **Dave M. Strom** sold 1 book; **Anita Tosh** sold 1 book; and **Helen Vanderberg** sold 3 books. A total of 32 books and 1 art print were sold for total sales of \$402. Sales per author ranged from \$2 to \$95.

The next FAW Book Signing is on October 13th at the Fremont Main Library from 11:00 to 1:00. If you would like to participate and have not already signed up, contact Jan Small (jan@jansmall.com) no later than October 6th. This is a FREE opportunity to sell your books.

Chris Dews has recently published a new book – *Antler Jinny and the Raven*, and has revised and republished his previous book, *The Druid and the Bracelet*. His books will be available at Coastside Books and Ink Spell Books in Half Moon Bay. You can also find them online at Barnes & Noble.

Evelyn LaTorre, an FAW founding member, will have her memoir titled, *No Guardrails, From Montana to Machu Picchu, A Peace Corps Romance*, published in 2020 by She Writes Press. Brooke Warner, Publisher of She Writes Press & SparkPress is scheduled to be our January speaker.

Clevermag.org has notified **Evelyn** that her piece about her recent trip to Ireland, "Is Ireland Really Heaven," will be published in the Fall 2018 issue of their e-zine.

Dave M. Strom recently updated his book, *Super Holly Hansson in Super Bad Hair Day* to roughly 120 printed pages of stories, audio scripts, and Super Holly artwork. At Worldcon, the annual convention of the World Science Fiction Society (WSFS) recently held at the San Jose Convention Center, Dave shared a table with authors from the South Bay Writers branch of CWC. He sold nine paperback copies and one Kindle eBook.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

If you give a Shout Out at one of our meetings, we'd like to celebrate you and put it in the newsletter. So Shout Out – then send the information to Myrla (raymundomyrla@gmail.com) or Nancy (nguarnera16@comcast.net). Please keep word count in the range of 75 words or less. Congratulations! and Thank you!

FREMONT AREA WRITERS CORNER

Sizzling Punishments

by Helen Vanderberg

At Lordsbridge House the kitchen is upstairs; the flat is above a row of shops. It's a sunny morning and sunlight falls through the window onto a blazing white tablecloth edged in drawn threadwork and appliquéd with daisies. Isabel's grand-parents sit across from each other at breakfast. They are deep in discussion and don't notice her. The talk is grownup, and she doesn't understand

She stands in the doorway and rubs her eyes. The brown linoleum catches the sunbeams and dazzles her. Sleepily she tries to make out the words, as she stands there and sucks her thumb. They are so absorbed they don't notice this forbidden thing she's doing. Granny wrapped her thumb in a bandage to prevent it, but it came off in the night. They are not arguing; they never do. Simply engrossed in a knotty problem, and Granny's face is worried. Grandpa proposes something; Granny isn't sure about it.

Isabel is hungry, sees the eggcup on the table with the tiny teaspoon they use for eggs sticking out of it. Breakfast, Isabel thinks, and edges forward to stand at the side of the table in the full sun. Grandpa looks at her and smooths back her hair. Isabel smiles and reaches for the egg spoon. He watches her as she puts the spoon with its yellow egg-yolk to her mouth. It tastes sour. He's watching her intently. She looks at Granny, scared now. Has she done something wrong? The sour in her mouth bursts into flames, and she begins to howl and spit and shake her head. She can't put the flames out, so hot it is.



Helen Vanderberg

Grandpa calmly takes a napkin, grabs her face in his hands and pinches her cheeks together so hard that her mouth can't fail to open. He wipes her tongue, scours the roof of her mouth, while Granny pours milk in her silver cup and urges her to drink. She won't, until Grandpa insists.

She's yelling her head off, angry now. Why are they punishing her?

What makes it worse is Granny's laughing so hard, can't stop, and has to take her glasses off to wipe her eyes. Isabel's doubly hurt now because Granny's laughing at her pain. Isabel thinks it's very cruel of her and won't let her touch her or come near her. Finally Granny explains, but not before holding the egg cup out to her and offering her another taste. "It's Coleman's Mustard," she says, and gets down the small tin of yellow powder from the dresser, shakes a little in the egg cup, adds a drop of water, stirs and bids her taste again. Isabel is smart this time. She won't go near the stuff.

And she begins to think Granny and Grandpa don't like her very much either.

(Continued)

FREMONT AREA WRITERS CORNER (Continued)

Sizzling Punishments *by Helen Vanderberg (Continued)*

Time passes, they move to Bridge Cottage, a house of many rooms and two gardens just through the hedge. An innocent time of bananas hanging in the darkened dining room, and jars of newly made crabapple jelly growing wrinkled skin on the surface. Preparations for something. Still a time of peace but shadows loom. Bright sunshine in the garden, an autogyro flaps overhead, and Auntie Blanche and other strange ladies come to visit. One brought Isabel a rust-colored knitted dress that was miles too long. But war was already on its way so they kept it, just in case.

Flypaper hung over the table, careless flies stuck to its surface. It puzzled Isabel that flies circled the center of the room around where the gas fixture hung. Didn't they know that's where their friends died? Didn't they understand what all those dead bodies meant?

So beneath that sticky flypaper Isabel sat watching, waiting for Auntie or someone to take her for a walk. Except Isabel never walked. That was apparently the problem. Isabel refused to walk. Isabel had fallen over the banisters from the top of the stairs, and although Dr. Sweetnam came and said she'd be alright, she wasn't. Nothing in particular wrong with her. She just didn't feel like walking. She was tired.

So she refused to budge and Auntie Blanche was forced to take her in the push chair. Auntie struggled to get the contraption through the Sun Room door, muttering to herself as she bumped the fragile pram over paving stones along the garden path. Isabel was a nuisance. A lazy great thing. Isabel was four.

It was Auntie Blanche's fault Isabel fell from the banister, and Isabel felt she should be punished. The grownups weren't going to do it. It was up to her. So Isabel sat, and refused to walk.

Auntie had been with her at the top of the stairs that day. "Slide down the banisters," she whispered to Isabel. Either she or the devil, it's too late now to tell the difference. Isabel got her leg cocked over the shiny, slippery sweep of oak, but couldn't quite balance.

"I can't," she wailed.

"Here," Auntie said, and hoisted her up. Isabel gave a little squeak of terror.

"I'll hold you," Auntie said. "You'll be alright."

But she didn't, and Isabel wasn't.

Next thing she knew, Isabel was flat on her back, staring up a square of daylight two floors above, the breath driven out of her body.

Grandpa was standing over her, and Dr. Sweetnam from next door was moving her arms and legs, and gently turning her head from side to side. Auntie Blanche hovered at the head of the stairs, her knuckles pressed to her teeth.

Isabel got her breath back, was carried to the sofa, and made to lay still the rest of the day with a cold cloth on her forehead, considering what further injuries the grown-ups had in store for her.

Punishments were a two-way street.

FREMONT AREA WRITERS CORNER (continued)

THE GARDEN

there was once a garden

flowers once bloomed here
richly scented purples, reds and yellows
one sniff enough to intoxicate the senses

now asphalt and concrete cover the soil

buzzing bees sipped from flowers here
butterflies floated on gentle breezes
birds sang love songs to the earth

now the hiss of poison mist fills the air

crystal clear water once sang on these rocks
icy cold on the fingers and toes
to drink was to know the meaning of salvation

*now the symbol of death is planted in the earth here
and the water sings no more*

ancient trees once watched over this place
branches reaching to the sun and the stars
roots laced together in the dark earth below
binding the planet to the heavens

*now even the stumps are gone
chewed to bits by metal teeth*

creatures once frolicked and swam here
slithered and slunk here
lumbered and ran here
great and small
mated and gave birth here
the predator and the prey
living and dying by nature's design

*now they are hunted for their precious treasures
or as bothersome pests
and the balance is broken*

there once was a garden
a wondrous delight
delicious smells and mellifluous sounds
magnificent beasts and wise old trees

once there was harmony
once there was peace

nancy guarnera
© 1990

THEY STOOD THERE

they stood there
on the corner
ominous in their anonymity
five dark figures in the night

like wraiths
floating in the glow of the street lamp
their presence a portent of divine malice

i peered at them for just a moment
from behind the curtain

then turned away
afraid to look too long
lest their gaze fall upon me

nancy guarnera
© 1979

FAW Coincidences Haiku

Forty-two members,
right now, meet at "42
Silicon Valley."

If member Tish wed
Mr. Tosh, she could become
Ms. Tish Tosh, of course!

Alas, I think not -
if member Anita is
already his Ms.?

Then, I wonder, how
three with Garfinkle last name
are related? Hmmm...

I look forward to
meeting them, and the others
whom I've not yet met.

Claire Adalyn Wright
August, 2018