



# Ink Spots



## The Newsletter of the Fremont Area Writers

*"Centennial" Branch of the California Writer's Club*

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

Webmaster – Chris Dews

**Vol. 80 November 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.

**No FAW General Meeting in December**  
**Meetings on November 24<sup>th</sup> 2018 & January 26<sup>th</sup> 2019!**

## Fremont Area Writers

### *Holiday Party & Gift Exchange*

**For FAW Members and Their Guests**

**Saturday December 8, 2018 6:00 to 9:00 pm**

*Check your email  
for details*

*At The Home of  
Bob and Kathy  
Garfinkle*

*Check your email  
for details*

*Check your email for details*



## ***President's Message***

### **Terry Tosh**

I can't believe how ridiculously fast these last six months have sped by. I won't take the time to reiterate all that's transpired, but suffice it to say our hard-working volunteers are going above and beyond to make FAW one of the best and most sought after CWC branches to join.

We are currently making plans for a fun 10th Anniversary celebration and could use your help; please speak to any board member and we'll sign you up. And please be thinking of ways you could help attract new members, as well as ways to help support our social media presence, and other FAW projects. Did you know we have a website and a Facebook page? When was the last time you checked these out?

We have some very exciting speakers scheduled for 2019 and look forward to the wealth of knowledge they will share with us. Remember that the newsletter is always happy to have your creative submissions. Don't hide your talents, set them free and be a part of the next thrilling year as we zoom into 2019. Enjoy your Holidays; use the time to reflect and create. **Remember, no general meeting in December, but I look forward to seeing you at the Holiday party on December 8th.**

***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***  
**12:30 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



**KNUTI VANHOVEN**  
Vice President



**JOYCE CORTEZ**  
Secretary



**CHERILYN JOSE**  
Treasurer



**BOB GARFINKLE**  
Past President –  
Fremont Area Writers  
Past President –  
CA Writers Club

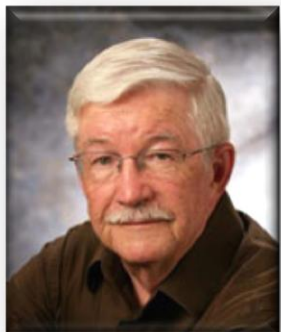
## **JACK LONDON AWARDEES**

### **FREMONT AREA WRITERS**

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



# ***FAW Chairpersons***



**ART CAREY**  
Signage  
Facility Liaison



**TISH DAVIDSON**  
CA Writers Club  
Representative



**CHRIS DEWS**  
Membership  
Webmaster



**BOB GARFINKLE**  
Historian  
Past President



**NANCY GUARNERA**  
Hospitality  
Co-Editor



**BRUCE HAASE**  
Authors' Table  
Book Exchange  
Open Mic



**CAROL HALL**  
Facebook Page



**CHERILYN JOSE**  
CWC Advertising  
& Promotions



**EVELYN LATORRE**  
Nor-Cal  
Representative



**TONY PINO**  
Open Mic



**JAN SMALL**  
Book Signings



**KNUTI VANHOVEN**  
Speakers Program  
Publicity

## *November's Speaker*

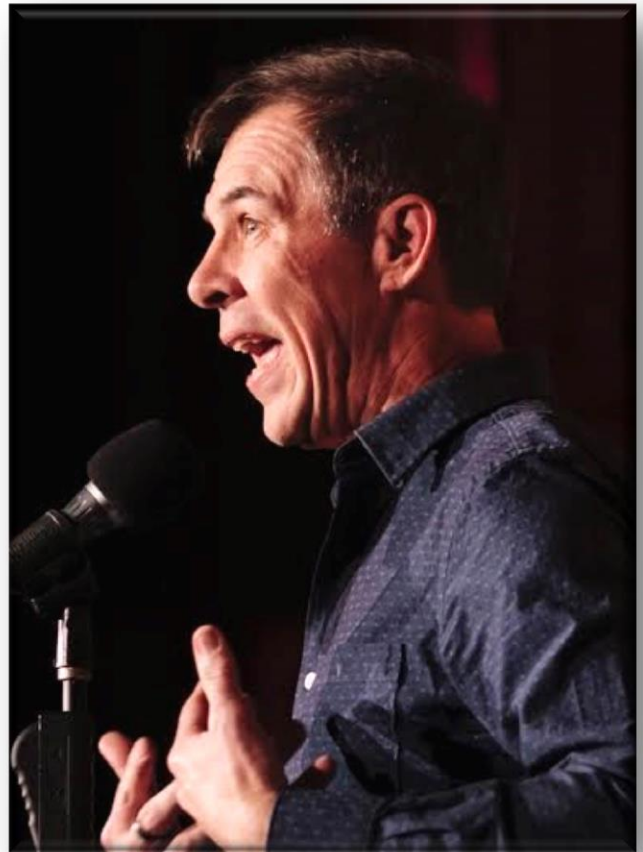
# Don't Just Write It — Tell It!

You're cradling your book in your hand; it's open to the page where your protagonist just barely avoids decapitation; the mic is hot; the audience is waiting; it's your turn to read! Are you ready?

Reading one's own work out loud can be both exhilarating and terrifying. Have you ever wished there was somewhere you could go to learn the secrets of making your words "sing" when you read? Well, there is!

On Saturday, November 24, join **Jeff Hanson**, one of the Bay Area's top story tellers, as he shares various techniques for creating exciting, relatable readings at the FAW monthly meeting. *"We'll talk about how to adapt a written story into a tell-able story,"* Jeff promises.

A four-time winner at The Moth Story Slam, one of the area's premier



*Jeff Hanson*

storytelling venues, Jeff now has nine major slam wins to his name.

His ability to create a one-on-one atmosphere, as though he's talking to a few close friends instead of an entire audience, has put him in demand to host storytelling events throughout the region.

Don't miss this exciting speaker and this opportunity to learn some award-winning secrets for improving your readings!

# October Meeting Recap



**Margaret Lucke**

**Margaret Lucke** returned in October to speak to FAW members about the “making money” part of a career in writing, and to answer questions that were not addressed due to lack of time during her previous visit.



*Paul Davis has a question for Ms. Lucke, as other members listen intently to Margaret's presentation.*

Margaret's first suggestion to those assembled was to get clear about your desires for what you would like your writing to become—imagine what your life would look like if you were to pursue writing as a career and let those desires be open-ended. Then she got into the nuts and bolts of how to approach your writing, if you really want a money-making career as a writer.

**Step 1:** Approach your writing as you would a business—give it a name! Explore incorporation or LLCs.

**Step 2: Compartmentalize:** Think in terms of **R&D**—the creative side of things—writing (creating) your manuscript (product).

**Production**—getting your product ready to sell—editing, proofreading, formatting, cover art, uploading, launching, **production partners:** agent, editor, proofreader, cover artist, designer, lawyer. **Marketing**—selling your product—getting the word out and putting your product in your readers' hands—radio shows, social media, book signings/readings, a website, business cards, etc.

**Step 3: Finances (a.k.a. – the money!):** Number one most important thing is keeping track of the money. Set up a good filing system. Keep every receipt. Use a separate bank account—do not mix your writing money with your personal money.

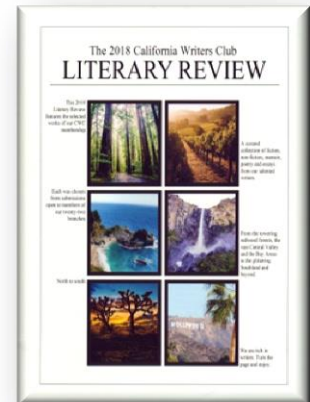


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# *Notes from the World*

## Call for **2019** CWC *Literary Review* Submissions **Deadline: Nov. 30th**



*by Tish Davidson, CWC Representative*

The CWC *Literary Review* is an annual print and online publication that features writing from members of all 22 branches of the California Writers Club. Submissions are accepted in the **categories of fiction, memoir, and essays up to 2,500 words, and poetry up to 30 lines.**

Although the word “*literary*” is in its name, the *Review* encourages **well-written genre fiction such as mystery, science fiction, fantasy, romance, western, and light humor, as well as literary fiction.** In short, it is looking to publish the best writing from CWC members regardless of category.

Publication is competitive. Works will be reviewed and selected for possible publication by a panel of acquisition editors through a blind judging process.

Up to three (3) prose pieces may be submitted for a fee of \$10 per submitted piece – Total for three (3) prose submissions: \$30. Up to three (3) submissions of two (2) poems each may be submitted for a \$10 fee for each submission – Total for three (3) poetry submissions of 2 poems each (6 poems): \$30.

**Limit of three (3) submissions per person. No refunds or revisions of your work once it's been submitted.**

**Submission Deadline is November 30, 2018.**

Please check out **[www.calwriters.org](http://www.calwriters.org)** for FAQ and additional information on how to enter. Click on the banner near the top of the home page.



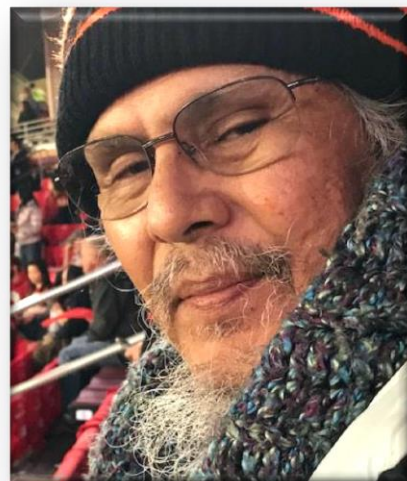
# ***New Member Spotlight***

**Robert Cabello** was born in Bisbee, Arizona. When he was three, his family moved to Decoto (now Union City, California), after his father was hired to teach at Decoto Elementary. Robert attended K through 5<sup>th</sup> at the school.

Eventually, his family moved to Irvington (now Fremont). He attended Irvington High School, and was active in basketball, track and field, and ran cross country. In the late '60s he headed to UC Berkeley to study Engineering, in time switching to Psychology.

Robert lived in Berkeley for a number of years after graduating from Cal and then returned to Fremont, where he worked as a dorm counselor at the California School for the Blind. He met and married his wife, Nancy, while at the school, and retired from his position there after twenty years. He also worked for Intel as an operations analyst.

Recently, Robert has begun expressing himself artistically. He enjoys abstract drawing using colored pencils, and is now writing fiction, as well as spiritual and metaphysical thought pieces.



**Robert  
Cabello**



**Bhaskar  
Sompalli**

**Bhaskar Sompalli** was among the first to join the FAW group back when Fremont used to have a Borders book store. Work in startup companies over the years pulled him away from FAW, with stints in India, Japan and China. These days, he works in consumer electronics research (think Kindle) and is closer to home.

Over the years, he has written and read personal essays on-air in KQED NPR programs called Perspectives. He is finishing up a science/social fiction e-book and plans to get a story published in a magazine by end of 2019.

When not spending time with his wife and 2 daughters, and fending away their entreatment to get a dog, he is out gardening or training for a once-in-a-lifetime half-marathon in Ladakh, India. He is convinced that doing the dishes brings forth his best writing ideas.



## ***And Now, A Word from Our Editor***



**MYRLA RAYMUNDO, MBA**  
*Editor/Writer Ink Spots*

Welcome to our November 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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month (*excluding July*). It is available in print to FAW members at the general meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each 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](mailto:myrlaraymundoback@gmail.com) or  
[raymundomyrla@gmail.com](mailto: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:** Feature articles: 300 words max. New Member bios: 150 max.

## ***October Meeting Recap*** (continued)

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*Helen  
Vanderberg  
talks about  
her book.*



*Shirley  
Ferrante  
shares a  
Shout Out.*



**Step 3: Finances (continued):** Hire a tax accountant who works with freelancers. Invest in Quicken or Excel and use them. Set up a cash journal and keep track of your expenses and your income. Keep track of your submissions. Why? Because you'll be paying taxes quarterly, and the effort up front makes doing your taxes much easier and less stressful in the long run.

Perhaps the most valuable information Margaret shared was the secret to calculating what to charge your customers for writing jobs. Do you charge by the hour? Or do you charge by the job? Sometimes the client will make that choice, but you can still calculate how much you're being paid per hour and whether the customer's rate falls within what you expect to make per hour.

*Many thanks to Margaret Lucke for an enlightening and informative talk.*

# ***FAW Featured Member***

## **Penelope Cole:** ***Children's Books And So Much More***



Penelope Anne Cole, retired from her Federal career, where she traveled widely to Europe and the Pacific. She's lived in Washington, Michigan, Texas, Maryland, Virginia, Hawaii, Paraguay, and Alabama. Penelope has taught English in Spain and Turkey; now she writes, tutors K-8<sup>th</sup> graders, and reviews children's books at [www.penelopeannecole.com](http://www.penelopeannecole.com). She also counts money, arranges altar flowers, and sings in the choir with her daughter at their church. Penelope enjoys gardening, walking her dog, sewing/knitting/crocheting, and reading cozy mysteries. She lives in Santa Clara with her four fur-babies, and various rescued dogs and cats.

Although Penelope loves her twelve children's books (see below), she's now inspired to write poetry, memoirs, and short stories for adults—some of these have been featured in California Writers Club (CWC) branch newsletters. "Ma and Pa" won first place at 2017 Tri-Valley Writers Conference. Her first place thriller, "Night School," is in San Mateo County Fair's Lit Stage's 2017 *Carry the Light Anthology*. Three pieces: "Escaped from Honolulu", "Roamer's World," and "Captive of Love," are in *Tri-Valley Writers 2018 Anthology, Voices of the Valley: Journeys*.

She's published with Guardian Angel Publishing and her own Magical Book Works. Penelope's five-book Magical series was inspired by a neighbor's son: *Matthew; Mea; Mea Goes to School; Max & Mickey; and Max & Mickey's Big Surprise*; a memoir: *My Grandma's Pink House*; with coloring book: *Grandma and Me*; a Halloween counting book: *Ten Little Tricksters*; (also in Spanish); a rhyming book: *In and Out, All 'Round About – Opposite Friends*; a foods book: *What's for Dinner?* (also in Spanish). Her awards include: Readers' Favorite Bronze for *Matthew*, Literary Classics Gold for *Ten little Tricksters* and *In and Out, All 'Round About*; and Silver for *What's for Dinner?*; Creative Child Magazine's Book of the Year for three Magical books and *Ten Little Tricksters*; Preferred Choice for *Mea, In and Out, and Mea Goes to School*. Penelope's children's books' themes include: helping, friendship, family relationships, and doing good works.

# KUDOS – Members' News

**Art Carey's** modern, tongue-in-cheek version of Jonathan Swift's classic satire, *A Modest Proposal*, appeared in an August issue of *The Satirist, America's Most Critical Journal* (Since 1999). While Swift proposed solving the problem of Irish over-population by stewing or roasting children, Carey suggests dealing with American overpopulation by offering unproductive elders like himself \$25,000 to shuffle off early or requiring the departure of losers in a lottery.

Art also had a piece, "A Farewell to Alms," published online in the Fall edition of *Clever Magazine*. (See the Writers' Corner to read this humorous piece.)

**Evelyn LaTorre's** memoir/essay "The Potato Caper" was accepted and recently published in *The 2018 California Writers Club Literary Review*. Watch for Evelyn's memoir/essay in a future issue of *Ink Spots*.

**Judy Taylor's** poem "A Trail of Papa Crackers on the Beach" was accepted and recently published in *The 2018 California Writers Club Literary Review*. Watch for Judy's poem in a future issue of *Ink Spots*.

**Kudos to FAW authors Nancy Curteman, Paul K. Davis, JoAnn Frisch, Urmila Patel, Jan Small, Dave M. Strom, Anita Tosh, and Carmen VonTickner** who participated in the **Book Signing at Fremont Library on October 13<sup>th</sup>**. A total of seven books and one art print were sold at the signing. Congratulations to all of you! Thank you for your participation in FAW Book Signing Events. You are not only taking advantage of an opportunity to promote yourself and your books; you are also promoting FAW and the work our branch is doing to expand our visibility in the local community.

## **Please Read: 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 in third person. If you'd like us to print the accompanying piece, please include it as a word.doc with your Kudo. If it's a long piece (500 words or more) we may choose to hold the Kudo and your piece for an issue when we have room for it in its entirety. If you've published a book, send us an excerpt (300-500 words) from it and we'll print that in the Writers' Corner.*

**Congratulations! & Thank you!**



# **FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER**

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**Penelope Ann Cole**

## **From the Fire**

*by © Penelope Anne Cole*

The acrid smell of burnt wood hung in the air making her eyes water as she stumbled along the sidewalk. Aimee's tuxedo cat yowled in her arms—frightened and indignant at having been so roughly removed from his usual hiding place under the bed.

"Shush. You would have been burned alive if I hadn't yanked you out." Aimee couldn't soothe Mickey and hold him at the same time. She'd just lost everything. All her worldly goods—all the things she'd collected and cherished. Plus her mother's things and her grandmother's things handed down with the house. All Aimee could save was Mickey, her cuddle-bug and her late mother's beloved. He was the only living creature to share her home and her life since her mother's death.

Things could be replaced, but loved ones, cherished companion animals, can't so easily be replaced. Mickey used to warm her mother's lap. He still had a good ten years left to warm Aimee's. Stroking Mickey brought back memories of Mom—good memories of their last years together. Losing Mom's china and Grandma's furniture was nothing. But if Aimee had lost Mickey—a living, breathing symbol of Mom's love—that would have been devastating.

Aimee crumpled at the thought. "What if I'd lost you, silly fur ball? Who would lie on my laptop? Who would lie on my head and share my bed?" She couldn't stagger another step.

She sobbed brokenly into Mickey's neck. She made it to the corner and twisted to watch the fire fighters drench the smoldering remains of her family home. Aimee relaxed her death grip on Mickey, who nestled into her side, hiding his face. A neighbor wrapped an oversized, fluffy, white bathrobe around Aimee and gave her a bottle of water. She choked down the water while Mickey burrowed deeper for warmth and safety. Aimee shivered and sighed deeply.

"We'll need a place to stay tonight, Mr. Mick. We'll find a bed and then tomorrow we'll figure this out. We'll begin again, won't we, sweet boy?"

The street light behind Aimee illuminated her hunched over figure. From across the street it looked like Aimee was sheltered beneath angel wings—safe and warm. Mickey purred as she stroked him—slowly and smoothly—he liked it slow and smooth. It was a comfort to them both.

## Black Cat's Barn

### A Story in Single Syllable Words

by Nancy Guarnera

Black Cat fell through a hole in the big barn's roof and sang songs of shame all the way to the soft loft floor. Warm oat straw broke her fall for a pounce, bounce with no pain. But shame, shame for a cat with no name, to fall with no hint of grace in such a quaint place. Who saw, she did not know, though the cows made moo sounds, soft and low.

Streams of white light shone through the cracks and holes in the old barn's walls and stalls. Motes of dust blown here and there flew in the barn's warm dense air. Black Cat did drift from room to room like smoke in a tomb.

Some nice fat mice to search for here, thought Black Cat with a smile on her sweet pink lips. With a quick lick of tongue on silk soft paws, and a swipe here and there at the tips of sharp quick ears, she did slink off to scare up some sup, with the mice, who were near and in fear.

**Please!**  
**PLEASE!!**  
**PLEASE!!!**  
  
**Send us your**  
**submissions!**

## Shoes

(Reprinted from October 2018 Ink Spots –  
the last line was omitted – our apologies to Anita)

by Anita Tosh

Jessica sprang out of bed as soon as the sun was up. She threw on her play clothes and her favorite red tennis shoes before running outside to the big backyard to play until mom called her for breakfast.

Getting ready for another day at the high school, Jessica dressed carefully. She decided on the navy blue heels to go with her blue skirt and white blouse. *You never know, she thought, I just might meet Mr. Right today.*

The music was playing in the church. The bustle of excitement was everywhere. Bridesmaids were checking the mirror one last time before finding their groomsman to walk down the aisle. Jessica was putting on her sparkly white shoes. Her father took her hand and she stood. It was time.

Jessica sat up slowly, the bed and her own bones creaking in the process. Her feet searched for the comfy slippers next to her bed. Her toes wiggled in and she willed herself to stand even as she groaned.

Bright light woke her. She bounded out of bed and her feet touched a cool smooth surface. Jessica looked around. She was not in her bedroom. This was not the floor. It was gold, and splendorous beauty surrounded her.

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## **Adrian Wolf: The Ape Man**

*by Anthony Pino*

### **II**

***[This resumes the narration of Adrian the Ape Man who was found in a coffee shop in Newark after an escape.]***

Everyone else had tablets and laptops, but not Adrian. He had lugged the old Royal typewriter out of the university writing museum and must have secretly hitched a ride on a truck to get to a place that was fifteen miles away.

He was naked (again), but that didn't seem to bother anyone in the cafe. By now, many in the reading public had heard about him; in fact, he had become a kind of celebrity in some circles around Hayward, Newark and Fremont.

He was now so hairy that he was accepted more as an ape than a man. He had lost his ability to speak—sad for a former English teacher—but he could point out favorite drinks and pastries, and grunt out his preferences.

Owners gave him goods for free, usually taking pictures of him sitting in their establishments and posting them on walls along with the portraits of Joe Montana, John Kennedy, Billie Holiday and Lady Gaga. The images were usually inscribed with a primitive X which Adrian signed as an autograph. Sometimes the coffee itself served as his ink, applied with a wooden stirrer.

When he walked into a café, customers would stare over the edges of their coffee cups and commence a quiet chorus of whispers.

And this is how I found him, sitting among his fans.

“Adrian, good to see you,” I said. Nothing on his face suggested anger, or disappointment that I had shown up during his great escape; he knew I was intervening, as I often did. He looked back at me, grinned and nodded. Today's episode must have fatigued him. He didn't resist my request that he get into the truck. Resolved, he climbed into the old Ford pick-up with me.

***(Watch for the continuing adventures of Adrian Wolf: The Ape Man in future issues of Ink Spots.)***



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## A Farewell to Alms

*by Arthur Carey*

"Good evening.

"First, I want to thank the staff of Channel 32, our local cable company, for affording me the opportunity to address you, my friends, neighbors, and constituents, for the last time.

"After considerable thought—and with great regret—I have decided to resign as your representative in our proud state's 17th Congressional District. I am leaving to spend more time with my family. The decision was a difficult one since I have always believed citizens have a responsibility to participate in government.

"Let me say at the outset that sensational media reports that a grand jury is about to indict me for receiving illegal contributions from a foreign power had nothing to do with the decision. That is fake news!

"Yes, during my 19 years of public service, mistakes were made. In retrospect, I shouldn't have accepted treatment for back spasms from a masked, leather-clad masseuse while attending a conference in the Bahamas about global warming. I thought the masseuse had come from a costume party. I must admit I was surprised when she insisted on handcuffing me to the bed. It was unfortunate that a video I did not authorize was made and appeared on YouTube.

"I have been gratified, but not surprised, that my family has rallied around me during these difficult times.

"My son Robbie, 16, saw the video and said, "You rock, Dad!"

"Janie, my daughter, 11, removed her cell phone ear buds and commented, "Whatever..." She says that a lot.

"And my wife Glenda greeted the news of my being home permanently without comment, displaying the same brave front she has presented to the TV news crews camped outside our front door. Now there will be more time for us to resolve our communication issues.

"I have shared my decision to leave office with close friends and aides. Ahmad Habid, who services my Cadillac Escalade, observed, "Politics is like changing oil. Sometimes you wind up with lots of gunk you didn't anticipate."

*(continued next page)*

## **FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER** *(continued)*

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### **A Farewell to Alms** *by Art Carey (continued)*

"My chief of staff, Joe Marcette, also expressed regret at the news. 'So what do I do with all the campaign signs and buttons?' he asked. I told him where he could put them.

"Looking back, I take pride in some accomplishments. Certainly, they would include obtaining federal funds for the \$14 million Underwater Hockey Hall of Fame. Yes, the complex was finished two years late and over budget. But there is good news, too. Repair of the leak in the "living" grass roof is almost finished. Weeds remain a problem.

"I am equally pleased with my role in securing inclusion of the Elkhorn Swamp Sewage Treatment Plant in the Homeland Security database of potential terrorist targets. To date, the district has received \$42,000 in federal anti-terror funds. Our wastewater storage is secure.

"I have always made myself available to voters when Congress recessed. Yes, for security reasons I flew first class and used a limousine service. At times, I saved the taxpayers money by accepting rides in corporate jets whose owners were eager to discuss pending legislation.

"I shall miss spirited discussions with residents outside church, in the supermarket, or at my son's basketball games. These interactions gave me a better idea of your wishes. Other concerned citizens have contacted me by mail, often anonymously; by email in a volume that shut down my mail server, and late at night by telephone from places with loud conversation and music. I congratulate those persistent callers who obtained my unlisted number.

"And so, my fellow citizens, I thank you and say goodbye. Serving as your representative in Congress has been an experience I shall never forget. Nor, I expect, shall you."

★ **HAPPY** ★  
**Thanksgiving**