

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Ink Spots

The Newsletter of the Fremont Area Writers

The "Centennial" Branch of the California Writers Club

Vol. 82 January 2019

Anniversary

A large, stylized red '10' with a white horizontal line through the middle of the '0'. Below the '10' is the word 'YEARS' in a smaller, red, serif font.

Anniversary

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Visit us at <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/bsc>

cwc-fremontareawriters.org

Webmaster – Chris Dews

101

January 2019's Speaker

The Healing Art of Memoir

Saturday January 26th 2:00 to 4:00 pm

How many times have you reflected back on your own life experiences and thought, "Wow! I could write a book!" But how? What would you leave in? What would you be better off not mentioning? Do you want to sell your story or leave it as a legacy for your family?

Memoir writing expert and coach, **Linda Joy Myers Ph.D., MFT**, will help you answer these and other questions when Fremont Area Writers hosts her at its January 26th gathering.

"For the last twenty years I've taught the "Turning Point and Timeline Method" she explains. "It's a powerful tool for sorting out a lifetime of memories. It helped me as I wrestled with my first (book) and I've used it ever since to help others complete theirs."



Linda Joy Myers

Ph.D., MFT

(continued on page 6)



Terry Tosh

President's Message

Happy New Year everyone! Here we are rocketing off into a brand new year filled with an array of exciting events to assist us in honing our craft, publishing our work, and selling our books — and of course celebrating ten years of literary community at our 10th Anniversary celebration in July. We are steadily working towards this landmark, and will update you all as details unfold. If you have the time and the inclination, volunteers to help plan and execute are always welcome!

We're already off to a great start with the first very successful "Second Saturday" Meet Your Local FAW Authors at Half Price Books in Fremont. Chris Dews did a magnificent job reading his new book *Antler Jinny and the Raven*, and with an assist from Tish Davidson, answering questions from the large crowd that turned out for this event. Tish (non-fiction) and Penelope Cole (children's books) are scheduled for February and March. If you're one of our published authors and would like more information about scheduling a "Second Saturday" reading, contact Nancy Guarnera at faw-hpb@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org.

Please join me in thanking Carmen VonTickner, who has graciously agreed to take over the position of Secretary for our Board Meetings! We are very grateful to her for volunteering and look forward to working with her as she learns the ropes. And again, our sincerest thanks to Joyce Cortez for her dedicated service to FAW and for her willingness to help Carmen get settled into her new post. We are pleased that Joyce will continue to be a member of the FAW community.

I also want to take a moment to thank all of you for your support and encouragement during my first six months serving as your branch president. It's been challenging and invigorating experience, as I've learned the ins and outs of this task.

Finally, thanks for everyone who has continued to stay involved in our branch. We are truly grateful for each of you, and ask that you consider what talents you can develop moving forward to continue growing our membership and helping us do our best to help others have a place to explore their own potential as writers, or whatever you feel called to contribute. Life is a mystery unfolding around us day by day, and we are all sharing in this together. Let's do our best to help and encourage others in this journey.

Here's to a stellar year for all — let the fun begin! Happy 10th Anniversary!

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



**CARMEN
VONTICKNER**
Secretary



CHERYLYN 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



SUE CURTZWILER
Hospitality Co-Chair



TISH DAVIDSON
CA Writers Club
Representative



CHRIS DEWS
Membership
Webmaster



BOB GARFINKLE
Historian
Past President



NANCY GUARNERA
"Second Saturdays"
Writer/Co-Editor,
Ink Spots



CAROL HALL
Facebook Page



CHERILYN JOSE
CWC Advertising
& Promotions



EVELYN LATORRE
Nor-Cal
Representative



TONY PINO
Open Mic



JAN SMALL
Book Signings



ANITA TOSH
Authors' Table
Book Exchange



KNUTI VANHOVEN
Speakers Program
Publicity



CARMEN VONTICKNER
Hospitality Co-Chair

FAW 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.

Introducing . . .



Sue Curtzwiler, Hospitality Co-Chair

AND



AND



Anita Tosh, Author's Table & Book Exchange

*Thank you all
for your willingness to serve!*

FAW Book Signing at NewPark Mall * February 9th * Openings Still Available

Fremont Area Writers will be holding a Book Signing at NewPark Mall on Saturday, February 9th, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Among the writers selling their books will be: Penelope Cole, Jo Ann Frisch, Marjorie Johnson, Jan Small, Dave Strom, and Anita Tosh. There are still openings available. Authors who would like to participate can still sign up by contacting Jan Small by phone 510.656.1844 or email jan@jansmall.com. Please come and support our members.

And Now, A Word from Our Editor

Happy New Year and welcome to our January 2019 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 to members on or around the 15th of each month (*excluding July*) and is available on the FAW website cwc-fremontareawriters.org. 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 or
inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.org**

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 words max. Kudos: 75-80 words max.

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MYRLA RAYMUNDO, MBA
Co-Editor Ink Spots

January 2019's Speaker (continued from page 1)

The Healing Art of Memoir with Dr. Linda Joy Myers

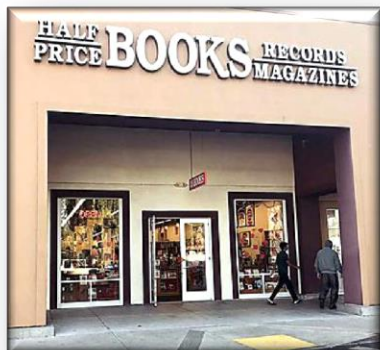
Dr. Myers first memoir, *Don't Call Me Mother: A Daughter's Journey from Abandonment to Forgiveness*, was a finalist in the ForeWord Book of the Year Award and the IndieExcellence Awards, and a BAIPA Gold Medal award winner. Her new memoir *Song of the Plains* is a finalist in the Best Book Awards and the 2018 Next Generation Indie Book Awards. Author of *The Power of Memoir—How to Write Your Healing Story*, *Journey of Memoir*, and *Becoming Whole*. With Brooke Warner, Dr. Myers co-authored *Breaking Ground on Your Memoir* and *The Magic of Memoir*.

A memoir coach for two decades and president and founder of the National Association of Memoir Writers, Dr. Myers helps people dive deep into writing their truths while crafting a publishable story. So, if 2019 is the year you're finally going to write that book, get off to a good start by attending the FAW January meeting on the 26th. This event is free and open to the public. Don't miss this powerful speaker!

For more information, contact Fremont Area Writers at <https://cwc-fremontareawriters.org> or Linda Joy Myers at <https://memoriesandmemoirs.com>.

Calling All FAW Published Authors

FAW is Partnering with Half Price Books in Fremont

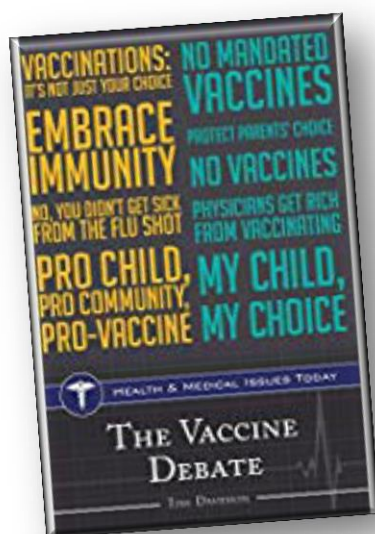


HPB at the
Fremont Hub

Great news! **Fremont Area Writers** is now partnering with **Half Price Books in Fremont** to present **"Second Saturday"** — **Meet Your Local FAW Authors** monthly readings by FAW published writers. Readings will be scheduled from 2:00 to 4:00 PM unless arranged otherwise at time of scheduling. A different author will be featured each month.

This opportunity is available to FAW members who are published authors with books to sell. Keep an eye on your email for more information, or contact **Nancy Guarnera** to schedule your month. Don't wait, 2019 is filling up fast!
faw-hpb@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org

"Meet Your Local FAW Author" for February 2019



Published by ABC-CLIO

Join FAW author **Tish Davidson** at Half Price Books in the Fremont Hub for a "Second Saturday" reading and Q&A session of her new book **The Vaccine Debate**.

The book examines the science of vaccines and why they're so controversial, by contrasting the anti-vaccinationist point of view and the medical establishment point of view for six specific vaccine controversies.

www.tishdavidson.com



**TISH
DAVIDSON**

Saturday February 9th 2:00 to 4:00 pm
Half Price Books Fremont Hub

FAW—HPB “Second Saturday”

January’s “Meet Your Local FAW Authors”



There Be Dragons Here!

The clock struck 2:00, a sizable crowd was beginning to gather, the mic was hot, and the author stood, book in hand, ready to read, while the dragon beat its wings. And so it began—the first monthly FAW “Second Saturday” event at Half Price Books in Fremont.

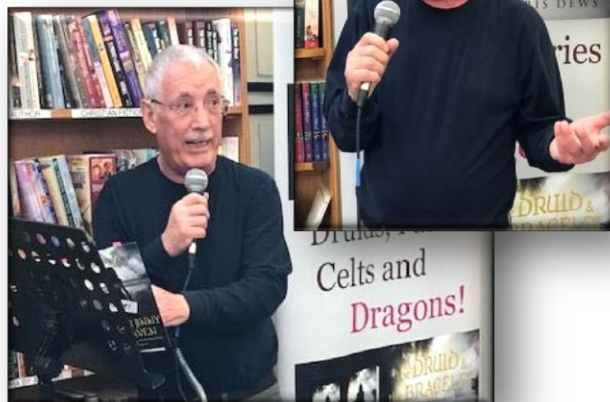
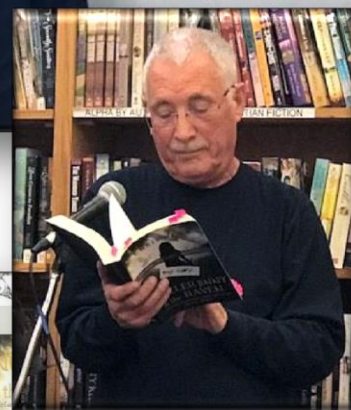
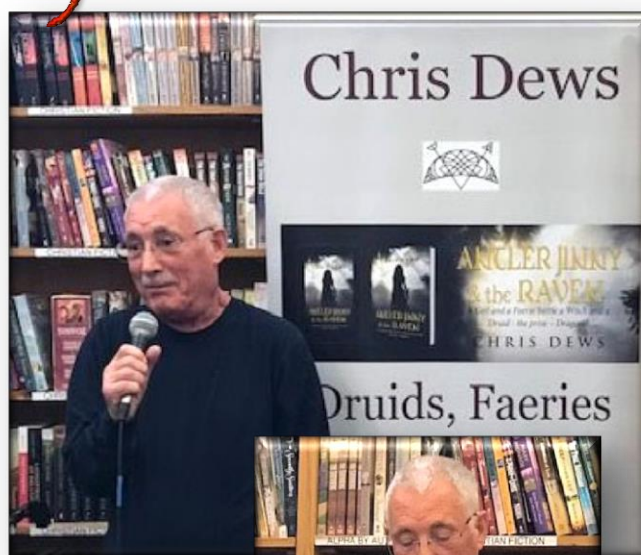
On the 12th of January, Chris Dews treated a standing-room-only crowd of book-lovers to a series of readings from his new novel, *Antler Jinny and the Raven*. Local non-fiction author and FAW member, Tish Davidson joined Dews in a Q&A segment after each reading to encourage questions from the audience.

During the break, the crowd chatted, ate cookies, sipped tea and hot chocolate, purchased books and had them signed.

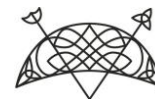
“This was my most successful book sale to date,” Dews shared with a grin. “If you’re an FAW author with a book to sell, consider signing up to do a “Second Saturday” event.”

As the afternoon continued, more passages were read and more questions were asked and answered. Folks were interested in the author’s writing process as much as they were in the story of how a young disabled girl became Queen of the Dragons.

Even after the event had ended and the dragon had flown off somewhere, the crowd lingered, perhaps hoping there was another author waiting to share another book with them. And so it would come to pass on February 9th that Tish Davidson would appear at the very same time, in the very same place, to read from her new book, *The Vaccine Debate*.



**Thanks to all of you
who turned out to
support Chris Dews
and this event!
It was successful
beyond our wildest
imaginings!
See you next month!**



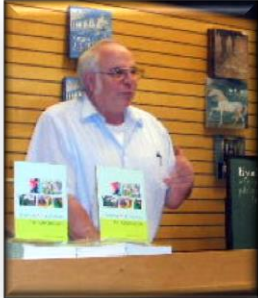
A Little FAW History

HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Part I

In the Beginning, There were Three

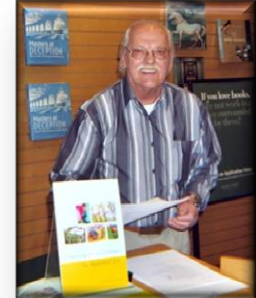
by Robert A. Garfinkle, co-founder



Bob Garfinkle



Jeannine Vegh



Darwin Mathison

As part of our 10th Anniversary celebration, we will explore the history of the Fremont Area Writers branch of the California Writers Club (CWC). Watch for Part II in the next issue of Ink Spots.

Jeannine Vegh, Darwin Mathison, and I were members of the South Bay Branch in 2007. We would make about a 50-mile round trip drive from Fremont to attend meetings in San Jose. In the summer of 2007, we decided to try to form a new CWC branch in Fremont. In August of that year, Jeannine organized our first Open Mic event at the Barnes and Noble book store on Mowry Avenue in Fremont.

We advertised our event in the "Tri-City Voice" and the South Bay's newsletter. Over the next few months we had more people attend and read their materials at our monthly Open Mic events. As we obtained names and contact information our list of prospective members grew. In late 2008, we held an organizing meeting at the home of Evelyn LaTorre. I was elected president; Jeannine became Vice-president, and Evelyn Secretary.

On March 28, 2008, I sent a letter to the CWC Central Board (CB) informing them that we had met on March 22, 2008 and the eleven attendees were interested in becoming a branch of CWC. We had six

Active members of South Bay and over thirty-five additional writers interested in joining us.

We held our first general meetings at the Broncho Billy's Pizza Palace located in the Brookvale Shopping Center. Over the next few months, we drew up by-laws, prepared Writers Resumes, and had a series of guest speakers.

We needed thirty-five prospective members in order to receive a charter from the CWC Central Board. At that time, the Central Board met four times a year, so I met with two CB representatives to go over our roster to make sure that we had the requisite number of Active and Associate members. We did, so we were scheduled to receive our official Charter at the July 18, 2009 Central Board meeting.

FAW became the 19th branch of CWC, and since it was also the centennial year of the founding of CWC, by the writing friends of Jack London, we added the moniker "The Centennial Branch" to our name. I represented FAW on the Central Board and served as our founding president.

A "humorous" side note: Our original name was the Fremont Area Writers Club (FAWC), but we dropped the "C" when a member pointed out that the pronunciation of FAWC sounded very much like the British pronunciation of a dirty, four-letter word.

FUN & GAMES, ETC.

??

Don't Say It Twice: A Writing Quiz

by Tish Davidson

Test your eye for tight writing and phrases to avoid. How many redundant phrases and improperly modified absolutes can you find in the following paragraph?

Examples: free gift (if it's a gift, it's obviously free); pair of twins (pair=2, twins=2. You're never going to have a pair of triplets); refer back (refer means to make reference to something in the past. The "back" is redundant); a little pregnant (either you are, or you aren't. There's no "little" about it).

Look on page 15 for the answers and explanations.

I am making forward progress on my fiction novel. When I am completely finished, a publisher will pay me cash money for it because it is a most unique book. In it, a man is killed dead and found under a totally demolished building. The detective examines the dead corpse to determine the true facts. She collects together clues and reports back to her superior officer the unadulterated truth about the deadly killer. The reader will get almost infinite enjoyment from this print book.

Happy 10th Anniversary

FAW FUN FACTS

1. How many people attended the very first meeting (before FAW existed)?
 2. Who were they?
 3. Where was the first meeting held?
 4. How many of these original members are still members?
 5. What year was the first meeting held?
 6. When was the first FAW meeting held?
 7. How many members do you have to have to become a chartered CWC branch?
 8. How many Presidents has FAW had?
 9. Who were they?
 10. Who was the first president of FAW?
- Answers will be in next month's issue!**

FAW Featured Member



Jo Ann Frisch

Art by Jo 

When Art and Words
Collide... Oh my!

Jo Ann Frisch has been drawing since childhood; her favorite subjects—plants and animals. As a child she lived in a rural setting and had various farm animals, and woodland creatures and plants to provide her with creative themes.

She worked for the East Bay Regional Park District for thirty-two years as the clerical support for a team of naturalists at Sunol Regional Wilderness. In addition to her clerical duties, Jo Ann illustrated and designed fliers, brochures, and posters for special events, and wrote articles for “Sunol Chatter,” a newsletter for volunteer docents.

She studied watercolor for six years, and has taken Web Design and Computer Graphics classes. Jo Ann was, at one time, a member of the Pleasanton Art League.

Eventually, she became interested in Native American culture and was fascinated by their use of plants for medicine, food, tools, and building materials. This fascination evolved into a passion that led to a book.

Before retiring in 2007, Jo Ann illustrated a brochure, “Local Indian Uses of Plants, a Self-Guided Trail of Leona Canyon Regional Open Space Preserve” for EBRPD. It was the first step on the path to publishing a book of her own. In 2012, she illustrated and self-published *Plant Uses by California Native Americans Rumsen and Mutsun Ohlone*. A couple of years later, she produced a companion coloring book.

She has also produced illustrations of native plants for the Park District’s *Ohlone Curriculum with Bay Miwok Content*, penned by Beverly R. Ortiz, Ph.D.

Currently, she’s a member of Fremont Area Writers and is working on a second plant book, *Illustrated Plant Foods of the Ohlone People*. She is also writing her memoir and a psychological thriller: she is workshopping both in one of FAW’s critique groups.

Jo Ann has two sons, one grandson, and two granddaughters.

If you’re interested in Jo Ann’s books you can reach her at joannfrisch@sbcglobal.net.

KUDOS – Members' News

Chris Dews had a very successful reading and sale of his book, *Antler Jinny and the Raven* at the first monthly “Second Saturday” Meet Your Local FAW Authors event at Half Price Books in Fremont on January 12th. The event was well attended for the full two hours. Tish Davidson assisted by asking questions that encouraged questions from the audience.



Notes from the World

Call for Submissions

Birdland Journal

My colleague Sharon H. Smith and I are co-
editors of [*Birdland Journal*](#) an on-line
publication that features prose and poetry
by **Northern California** writers.

We'd welcome submissions from your members and it would be great if you could share this listing with them:

Birdland Journal: Theme: A Matter of Character

Open for submissions: January 1st 2019

Birdland Journal offers a home for fiction, flash fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction from established and emerging Northern California writers. We welcome all kinds of writing, including voices that explore place through prisms of race, gender, and ethnic/social identity.

For more information: birdlandjournal.com

Deadline: April 15, 2019

THE 16TH SAN FRANCISCO WRITERS CONFERENCE!

A Celebration of Craft, Commerce and Community for Writers

February 14th-18th, 2019

Hyatt Regency Embarcadero, SF

Registration details at sfwriters.org

**A FREE \$850 Registration
to One Person for The San Francisco
Writers Conference 2019 –
Hyatt Regency Embarcadero,
San Francisco**

Qualifications: Available to members who have volunteered to work at the SFWC in the recent past, have a book about to be launched, or would benefit from attending, has transportation to and from the event, and would appreciate this gift of a free San Francisco Writers Conference pass.

If you meet any of these qualifications and are available to attend (Feb. 14th-18th) contact FAW President Terry Tosh by email at toshmanii@yahoo.com by January 25th and we will draw a name at our meeting on the 26th and submit that name to the drawing by CWC.

January Workshop: PLOTTING YOUR CRIME WITH DAVID CORBETT

Mystery! Thriller! Caper! Noir! Crime Drama!

Every sub-genre has its own requirements and reader expectations. In this one-day workshop author David Corbett, will share the demands of each and lay out their unique plotting requirements.

Sunday, January 27th, 8:30AM – 2:30PM

Hometown Buffet 2670 El Camino Real, Santa Clara

For more details: southbaywriters.com

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

(1)

The wind does blow both ways,
One way, when she drifts along happily with the tide,
The other way, when she erodes into her direction,
Wondering why she blew in the first place.
We need to iron out our pace,
Either way we blow,
And recount our steps no matter where we flow.

Rekha Ramani

(2)

Did you know there is sunset behind every dawn?
Did you know there is darkness surrounding eternal light?
Did you know there is war before words of glorious might?
Let these thoughts unfurl their flags, and unleash your wise insight.

Rekha Ramani

(3)

Each petal soft, moistens my eyes,
And unto my soul, a flower secretly spies.

Rekha Ramani

I drift
nearly awake
caught in the final vestiges of dreaming
simultaneously knowing and not knowing who I am
a wanderer resisting reality
preferring the dream

Nancy Guarnera

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

Tubed and Tagged

*words and art
by Jo Ann Frisch*

"Jo, want to help me tube Fred?" Katie said.

I grabbed my camera and followed her to the Old Green Barn.

We entered the cool middle room.

Fred, in his terrarium about six feet from the corner slowly undulated, bathed in sunlight. Our local Northern Pacific rattlesnake watched with lidless eyes, tongue flicking, smelling us, as we approached.

Katie slowly laid down three transparent plastic tubes about three feet long and grasping a long stick with a hook, she carefully slipped the lid off Fred's glass enclosure with the other hand. Coiling, he rattled a warning. Deftly she lifted him out with the hook onto the floor. Loosed, he looked around, rattles now a castanet. I didn't move.

Pulling his body with the hook to keep him from coiling, she said, "He can't strike if he isn't coiled."

Crouching, she picked up the largest tube and poked at his nose. He opened his mouth, glistening fangs at the ready. Quickly, she pushed the tube over his head. He crawled swiftly toward the open end.

"Hand me the next size tube." Never taking her eyes off Fred, she twisted the smaller diameter tube into the larger one just as he reached the connection. He slithered into the smaller tube.

"Now, take the last tube and twist it into the end."

I did as she instructed, and watched Fred inch his way toward the smallest tube. He stopped, it was too small, and he couldn't turn around.



Katie removed the first tube exposing his tail and rattles doing double time. Reaching into her pocket for a syringe, she inserted it under a scale near his vent and released a rice size transmitter.

I was eye to eye with Fred through the transparent tube held tightly in my hand. I felt for my camera behind me and took a couple of shots closer than I'll ever be again.

Katie removed the small tube so he could slip into his terrarium and quickly replaced the lid to Fred's home.

Breathing shallowly, my heart beat a steady rhythm to the snake's frenzy. I now had a tremendous respect for this captive.

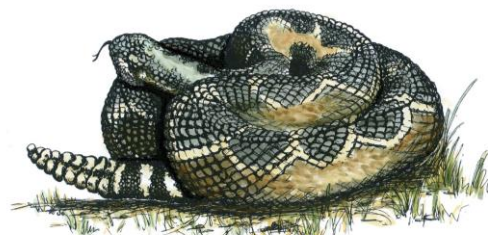
"Thanks Jo. Now, let's set him free."

She carried the terrarium outside to Alameda Creek, set it down and carefully removed the lid and stepped back. Fred slowly lifted himself up and over the side onto the leaf-littered ground to make his escape. We watched as he slithered into the underbrush, his rattles now still.

"Why didn't he attack us when you let him out?"

"Rattlesnakes aren't aggressive. They rattle when they're threatened, and coiling to strike is a defensive behavior," Katie said.

Fred led Katie through his wilderness wanderings for years thereafter, teaching her many much about the secret lives of snakes.



***Northern Pacific Rattlesnake
Crotalus oreganus oregonus***

Calling all FAW Members



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

1. Contest Judges Needed

The League of Women Voters has asked us to sponsor (run) a Junior High or High School writing competition. We need Judges who'll volunteer to read and kindly rate the entries. Having judge credits on your resume, by the way, can be a good thing. Interested? Send your email to webmaster@cwc-fremontareawriters.org.

2. 10th Anniversary Celebration

There will be lots of volunteering opportunities connected to FAW's 10th Anniversary this year. Keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities to help, and don't be afraid to step up and volunteer.

3. New Nor-Cal Representative Needed

Evelyn LaTorre is asking for a volunteer to replace her when her term expires in June.

Answers to "Don't Say It Twice"

There are 14 redundancies, unnecessary words, or improperly modified absolutes in the paragraph.

They are:

forward progress. Progress implies moving forward. Has anyone ever spoken of making backward progress?

fiction novel. If it's a novel, it's fiction.

completely finished. Something can be partially finished or almost finished, but when it is completed, it is simply finished.

cash money. Cash=money.

most unique. Unique is an absolute that means one of a kind. You are unique. I am unique. But I cannot be more unique than you.

killed dead. If someone is killed, he is dead (unless, of course, you write horror and he is coming back as a zombie).

totally demolished. Wrecked, razed, knocked down, destroyed, wiped out. If it's demolished, it's gone. Totally is redundant.

dead corpse. If it's a corpse, it's dead (although horror writers might get a pass on this one, too).

true facts. Facts are facts because they are true (or they were until the arrival of "alternative facts").

collects together. If things are collected, they are grouped together. The together is redundant.

reports back. The back is unnecessary. Is there a way to report forward?

unadulterated truth. If it is the truth, it is unadulterated because the truth is not a mixture of lies and facts, despite what politicians may think.

deadly killer. What? There's a non-deadly killer on the loose? If he kills, he's deadly.

almost infinite. Infinite means unlimited or immeasurable. Since infinity has no end, something cannot be almost infinite because there is no way to almost reach the end.

Finally, one phrase that a few years ago would have been a redundancy has become respectable. In the era before e-books, *print book* would have been redundant, but today it is legitimate to distinguish between a book printed on paper and a digital e-book.