

Happy 10th Anniversary

Ink Spots



The Newsletter of the Fremont Area Writers

The "Centennial" Branch of the California Writers Club

Myrla Raymundo, MBA Managing Editor raymundomyrla@gmail.com

Vol. 83 February 2019

Nancy Guarnera, Co-Editor inkspots@cwc-fremontareawriters.org

Webmaster – Chris Dews
Visit us at http://cwc-fremontareawriters.org

10101010101010101010101010101010101010

February 2019's Speaker Copyright Law & Your Work

Saturday February 23rd 2:00 to 4:00 pm

n February 23rd, Fremont Area Writers will host **Kelley Way**, a lawyer who will teach us all about copyright laws and how they can protect our work as authors.

Copyrights are an important tool in the arsenal of any author. Without copyrights, there would be no way to truly profit from your work or prevent others from copying, using or even selling your work without your permission.

So what are copyrights? How and under what circumstances must you use them to protect your work?

Kelley Way will teach you what rights you have, and how to use copyrights to your best advantage.



Kelley Way

Kelley was born and raised in Walnut Creek, California. She graduated from UC Davis with a B.A. in English, followed by a Juris Doctorate. Kelley is a member of the California Bar, and an aspiring writer of young adult fantasy novels. She practices copyright, trademark and estate planning law at The Law Office of Kelley A. Way. She can be contacted at **kaway@kawaylaw.com** or at her website: **kawaylaw.com**.



Terry Tosh

President's Message

And, we're off!!! The year just started and January is gone. What a wonderful time it was. We had a great general meeting with 20 visitors, and the highest turnout ever for our general meeting!

Our first Half Price Books (HPB) event was a smashing success, with more than 30 attendees, and excellent book sales for our author, Chris Dews! Thank you, Chris, for

being our inaugural speaker; it can be nerve-wracking to be the first person to do something new. We appreciate your courage. By the time you read these words, our February "Second Saturdays" author, Tish Davidson, will have shared her newly published book *The Vaccine Debate* at Half Price Books and we'll be getting ready for our third event featuring children's author Penelope Anne Cole on March 9th. We are most grateful to Nancy Guarnera for initiating and coordinating these monthly events with Half Price Books for our published authors.

Also in early February, FAW had another book signing at NewPark Mall in Newark; a special thank you to Jan Small for her perseverance and hard work in arranging this event.

I am very encouraged by the momentum our branch is building, and the willingness of everyone to step up and help out. It's all about volunteering and helping each other learn and grow, and accomplish and progress. You will read all about it in this edition of Ink Spots. Know that we value every one of our visitors and members, and we encourage and challenge you to step up a little higher, get out of your comfort zone, and be a part of what we get to experience in the coming months of our 10th Anniversary Celebration. We know you won't regret a moment of it!

See you at our upcoming events.

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



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



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 Past President



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.

And Now, A Word from Our Editor

Welcome to our February 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: inkspots@cwc-fremontareawriters.org or myrlaraymundoback@gmail.com or raymundomyrla@gmail.com



MYRLA RAYMUNDO, MBA Managing Editor Ink Spots

Submission Guidelines

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

On or before the First Day of the publication month (May 1st for the May issue)

WORD COUNT

Feature articles (Presidents Message, Featured Member, etc.): 300 words max. New Member bios: 150 words max. Kudos: 75-80 words max. Creative Submissions: 1,000 words max. (unless you are willing to have longer pieces serialized)

FORMAT Text: Word.doc Photos: JPEG

KUDOS - Members' News

Tish Davidson has been selected to judge the historical nonfiction and regional nonfiction categories for the Next Generation Indie Book Awards. This is an international competition sponsored by the Independent Book Publishing Professionals Group. Books written in English from small presses, mid-size independent publishers, university presses, e-book publishers, and self-published authors are eligible. Winners are recognized with cash awards and review by a literary agent at a ceremony in Washington, DC during the American Library Association Conference in June.

Penelope Anne Cole has had three pieces published in the *Tri-Valley Writers Anthology: Voices of the Valley*. Her published pieces are a poem, "Captive of Love," a memoir, "Escape from Honolulu," and a short story, "Roamer's World." She is most proud to have been so honored.

January Meeting Recap



A Few Things to Remember When Writing Your Memoir

- 1. Memoirs and reminiscences are not the same thing. Memoir has a theme and a deeper meaning and emotional content than reminiscence.
- 2. You must have written permission to use photos and quotes. Letters are the property of the person who wrote them, not the recipient.
- 3. Libel is written; slander is spoken. You may write pretty much whatever you want about a person once they're dead. Though, checking with an attorney before your book is in print might be a good idea.
- 4. It's okay to change the names of the people in your memoir; just get their permission and make sure you let your readers know you've changed the names.

The Healing Art of Memoir

January's scheduled speaker Dr. Linda Joy Myers was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. After a last minute cancellation, FAW Vice President Knuti VanHoven, with assistance from Tish Davidson and memoirists Evelyn LaTorre and Urmila Patel, filled in using material gathered from Dr. Myers website and their own experiences studying and writing memoir. Knuti, who schedules our monthly speakers, promises to make every effort to negotiate another opportunity for Dr. Myers to present before us in the future. Here are some highlights from the meeting.

Resources

National Association of Memoir Writers NAMW.org

Mendocino Coast Writers Conference MCWC.org



President Terry Tosh addressed the membership and 18 new guests on various topics including: FAW's 10^{th} Anniversary and events that are in the planning stages, the need for more volunteers, the up-coming NewPark Mall book signing, the success of our first FAW-Half Price Books "Second Saturdays" Meet Your Local FAW Author event with Chris Dews and February's scheduled author, Tish Davidson, and so much more. 4th Saturday Meetings are not to be missed!

Calling All FAW Published Authors

FAW is Partnering with Half Price Books in Fremont



HPB at the Fremont Hub

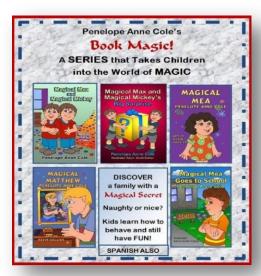
Great news! **Fremont Area Writers** is now partnering with **Half Price Books in Fremont** to present "**Second Saturday**" — **Meet Your Local FAW Authors** monthly readings by FAW published writers. Readings will be scheduled from 2:00 to 4:00 PM unless arranged otherwise at time of scheduling. A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

"Meet Your Local FAW Author" for March 2019

Join FAW author **Penelope Anne Cole** at Half Price Books in the Fremont Hub for a "Second Saturday" reading of her many wonderful children's books.

Children of all ages are welcome!







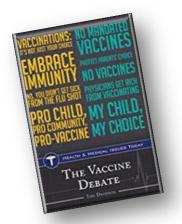
Penelope Anne Cole

www.penelopeannecole.com

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

FAW—HPB "Second Saturdays"

February's "Meet Your Local FAW Authors"



"Second Saturdays" FAW author **Tish Davidson** and author **Chris Dews** share a lighter moment as they explore Tish's book *The Vaccine Debate* at February's Meet Your Local FAW Authors event held on February 9th at Half Price Books in the Fremont Hub.

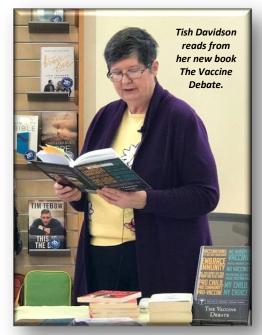


To Vaccinate or Not to Vaccinate... THE VACCINE DEBATE

On February 9th, FAW author Tish Davidson shared her newest non-fiction book *The Vaccine Debate* with an audience of 15 to 20 people at Half Price Books in the Fremont Hub. This is Tish's second book on vaccines and presents an even-handed exploration of the current debate that surrounds the topic of vaccines and whether we should or should not vaccinate our children, and who should make that decision—parents or the state.

Tish was joined by author Chris Dews who asked her questions that helped stimulate discussion amongst members of the audience and encouraged additional questions from the audience. During the two hours, Tish covered the history of vaccines and how they became a public health issue, the different types of vaccines, and the various arguments on both sides of the debate.

In the audience there was a scientific researcher who works in the field of immunology and was able to add a scientific point of view to the discussion. Audience members shared personal experiences as well as the varying points of view held by their pro- and anti-vaccine friends and family members. The discussion was vibrant and congenial and packed with Tish's extensive research into this timely subject. She concluded, "I don't want to tell people what to think about vaccines; I want to give them as much information as possible so they can make informed choices for themselves and their children."



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.

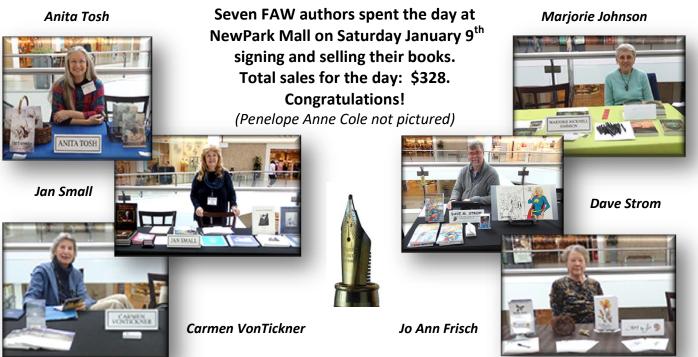
2. 10th Anniversary Celebration

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.

FAW Book Signings NEWPARK MALL



A Little FAW History

HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Part II The Path to "Charterdom"

by Robert A. Garfinkle, co-founder

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 more history in up-coming issues of Ink Spots.

Last month I gave you a brief history of the founding of the Fremont Area Writers branch of the California Writers Club (CWC). When we received our Charter from the Central Board (CB), we had the following members listed below. We were required to have at least 35 members with 50 percent being Active, meaning that they were published authors. We did not have the 50 percent, but several of our Associate members were actively pursuing publication, so the Central Board waived that requirement and granted us our charter. We received our charter 100 years after the CWC was founded and became affectionately known as "The Centennial Branch."

July 2009 — Original FAW Charter Members

Active Members

Stefhan Bryan Jeannine Vegh
Art Carey Craig Weiss
Kameshwar Eranki Simon Wong
Robert Garfinkle (17)
Carol Hall

Tawnya Jonsek Evelyn LaTorre Barbara Lyon Darwin Mathison

Nicky O'Brien
Anu Peshawaria
Myrla Raymundo
Ameena Saeed

Denny Stein

Associate Members

Gail Louise Smith Syed L. Ali Jonas Clausen **Bhaskar Sompalli Nancy Curteman Stacy Sorrel Annmarie Garfinkle** Olga Stockman **Shirley Gilbert** Janice Tarbox Marcela Griffin **Star Urioste** Jonika Dhima Hoomes **Ken Weiss** Raymundo Jacquez, Jr. Vicki Wynne Min Kang (22)

Kimi Little
Mary McCrystle
Florence Miller
Ninette Pierce
Randhir Singh

FUN & GAMES, ETC.

Happy 10th Anniversary

FAW FUN FACTS

- 1. Who was the first FAW President?
- 2. Who was the first FAW Vice President?
- **3.** Who was the first FAW Secretary?
- 4. Who was the first FAW Treasurer?
- 5. How many different locations has FAW held its meetings?
- **6.** What were these locations?

- **7.** How many issues of the Ink Spots newsletter have there been?
- 8. How many editors and/or co-editors of Ink Spots have there been?
- Name the editors/co-editors of the newsletter?
- **10.** What month is the newsletter not published?

Answers will be in next month's issue!

Answers to Last Month's FAW FUN FACTS Quiz

- 1. How many people attended the very first meeting (before FAW existed)? 11
- 2. Who were they? Bab Garfinkle, Jeannine Vegh, Darwin Mathison, Evelyn LaTorre, Nancy Curteman,
- 3. Where was the first meeting held? Evelyn LaTorre's home
- **4.** How many of these original members are still members? 8

- 6. When was the first FAW meeting held? 2009
- 7. How many members do you have to have to become a chartered CWC branch? 35
- 8. How many Presidents has FAW had?
- Who were they? 5 Bob Garfinkle, Rick Scott, Shirley Ferrante, Carol Hall, Terry Tosh

FAW Featured Member

Carmen VonTickner Poet & Painter Hospitality Co-Chair FAW Board Secretary



armen VonTickner has lived in the Bay area all her life. She was born in San Juan Bautista, and at the age of five her parents moved to Redwood City. She graduated from Menlo Atherton High School, where she discovered her love for reading. She then attended San Jose Junior College, but had to drop school to help her sister raise her three daughters.

Carmen worked for the Credit Bureau of Santa Clara Valley for ten years as a credit reporter. Recognizing the need to fulfill the desire to return to school, she did exactly that, quit her job and enrolled in San Jose State College. It was during this time that the Manpower Development Training Act, a Federal Program under Kennedy's Administration, began to offer instruction and training programs for individuals limited in the English language, and seeking employment.

With Carmen's knowledge of the Spanish language she took advantage of the opportunity, and took classes to earn her teaching credential, while fulfilling her regular course of studies. She taught two years under the MDTA program. After graduating from San Jose State College, she was offered a teaching position at the California School for the Deaf (CSD) in Berkeley, CA. This meant going back to school to learn a new language, which proved to be an enormous struggle, but very rewarding.

Carmen met her husband Jim at CSD, where he also taught. They moved to Fremont when the CSD moved to Fremont in 1980. Carmen retired from teaching in 1994.

She returned to her love of painting and writing poetry. Carmen's love for poetry goes back to her early childhood, when her father tutored her in reciting lyrical poetry in Spanish. Her older sister encouraged her to write short stories. Carmen soon found a new world of creativity as she began to weave her stories.

Carmen has recently become FAW Board Secretary and co-chairs Hospitality with Sue Curtzwiler.

Notes from the World

NorCal Notes February 2nd Meeting

by Evelyn LaTorre, Representative

Want a Free Lunch? Don't say there's no free lunch. You'll be given the lunch of your choice at Panera Bread in Livermore on Saturday, May 4, from 10 to 3, if you represent FAW at the next NorCal meeting. Be the first to gather exciting new writing resources, obtain ideas to improve our branch, and learn about new CWC activities. And, you'll get a big chocolate chip cookie—free. Check with Evelyn for details.

SF Writer's Conference, February 14-17 — Co-chair Kymberlie Ingalls reviewed instructions for those staffing the CWC booth at the San Francisco Writer's Conference at the Embarcadero Hyatt Regency. Free attendance at one of the sessions is allowed for volunteers. Money was allotted for Co-chair Carole Bumpus to put together a gift basket for the auction to increase CWC visibility. The winner of the conference's free registration from Smashwords is Brian Marshall, an author from North State Branch who lost his home in the Paradise Fire.

Bay Area Book Festival, May 4 & 5 — NorCal will again provide a table at this annual event in Berkeley where members' books can be sold by those present.

Best Practices — NorCal members present shared numerous suggestions to increase meeting attendance, generate income beyond dues, and obtain great speakers.

Call for Submissions

My colleague Sharon H. Smith and I are co-editors of *Birdland Journal* an on-line publication featuring prose and poetry by **Northern California** writers. We'd welcome submissions from your members; please share this call with them.

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

Theme: A Matter of Character

Open for submissions: January 1st 2019

Deadline: April 15, 2019

Call for Submissions

Writer Advice seeks flash memoir (750 words or less). Dazzle, delight, and entice us. Low fee for detailed feedback from an award-winning author, plus the chance to earn a cash prize and publication. Deadline: 03/01/19. Fee and details: **www.writeradvice.com**.

Notes from the World (continued)

Sources for Free Legal Images and Music

Do you need copyright-free high-quality images for a book cover or to illustrate a story?

If so, check out the list of places you can find artwork online at the Adobe Create Magazine https://create.adobe.com/2018/1/8/not_another_free_ima.html?trackingid=BWBX35BS &mv=email. This site includes links to free legal materials from the Rikjs Museum in the Netherlands (instructions in Dutch with an option to switch to English), the National Gallery of Art, the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, Maryland, and NASA and NOAH Websites. Not every image is copyright-free, but those that are not are clearly marked as not downloadable.

Other places offering free images include the Metropolitan Museum of Art https://www.metmuseum.org/information/terms-and-conditions (look for the material that has the OA open access symbol as some material is copyrighted), the Digital Public Library of America https://dp.la/. Be alert. Much, but not everything is in the public domain; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Digital Library, https://digitalmedia.fws.gov/digital (again, most but not all is in the public domain), Unsplash.com https://unsplash.com/ for photogra-phy in the public domain, and the Internet Archive https://archive.org, which also has copy-right free music. The Public Domain Review https://publicdomainreview.org has free images as well as books, music, and copyright-free films.



Carmel Literary Festival

Alive in the Arts

March 1st to 3rd 2019 Carmel-by-the-Sea

The **Carmel Literary Festival** offers personal and interactive time with highend, award winning NY publishers and best-selling authors from various fields and genres. Presenters will feature contemporary artists who move across all genres in fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and diverse areas of art.

The Festival will be held at the Pine Hill Hotel located in Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Contact Nancy Bell 831-920-9967 or Sharon Law Tucker 831-809-1705 for more information.

CarmelLiteraryFestival.com

Notes from the World (continued)

Suggested Guidelines for Critique Groups

There are two types of critique groups. In one, people show up, read their work, and get immediate feedback. This type of critique often helps writers with problems in story development, but does not address issues of grammar, punctuation and other mechanics. In the second type of critique group writers hand out a piece that is to be discussed and critiqued in writing at the next meeting. This allows critique partners to make more thoughtful suggestions and address problems with mechanics.

These are guidelines were developed by a long-running critique group that hands out material to be critiqued at the next session. The group consists of a mixture of fiction and nonfiction writers. They have found that a maximum of six members was optimal.

- **1.** If you are going to give out a piece to have critiqued, you have an obligation to find the time to read and critique everyone else's work. The goal is thoughtful and equal participation for all.
- **2.** Keep work to a maximum of 10 double spaced typed (size 12 font) pages. If you choose to use a larger font, the equivalent is 4,000 words. If you are writing a novel or longer piece, submit sequential chunks to the group.
- **3.** Use professional formatting. Use margins of 1.25" all around. Indent paragraphs at least three (3) spaces. Double space. Left justify. All this makes for easier reading and leaves room for comments and notes. Number pages and if use the function that numbers lines to make it easier for everyone to follow the line(s) being discussed.
- **4.** Be specific in criticisms. Mark passages you like and passages that you don't like. Indicate errors in mechanics (grammar, punctuation). Comment on transitions, tone, dialogue in specific ways (e.g., When you started this paragraph, you lost me. The transition from the scene before was too abrupt).
- 5. If you think you know how the author can fix something, make a suggestion, but remember, it is the author's story. Respect the story he/she wants to tell and don't try to change it into the one you would write in terms of content.
- 6. Here are some elements to consider when making a critique. You will not be looking for all these things in every critique: Good title. Proper format for submission. Few/no spelling or grammatical errors. Setting interesting or clearly describe. Characters easy to visualize, names well chosen, backgrounds smoothly presented with neither too little or too much backstory. Unique writing style, easily readable. Skilled handling transitions, flashbacks, or characters' thoughts. Goodbalance between dialogue and exposition. Dialogue realistic and advances the story. No information dumps. Skill at showing vs. telling.? Places where the author has excelled at making a character seem real, presenting a plot element, or creating tension. Pacing appropriate to the scene. Word choice supports story mood. Word choices or turns of phrase please or amuse. Point of view consistent, or point of view changes that are interesting and purposeful. Motives for characters' actions are clear. Material is presented in the best order. All the scenes/segments are needed to advance the story. Unexpected, satisfying ending.

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

Carmen VonTickner

Loved and Cared

We once walked together
We once talked and shared
We once knew each other
When we both loved and cared

Moments filled with bliss Moments filled with tears We both had each other When we both loved and cared

From worlds so far apart
We found a common ground
To reach and teach each other
When we both loved and cared

Now the curve of life is bending Like the branches of a tree With all the scattered thoughts Falling on a darkened sea

The loudness of your silence Now echoes through my mind With each passing day it seems We no longer love or care

Carmen VonTickner

Further adventures in the wilderness during Katie Colbert's eight-year rattlesnake research.

On The Hunt

by Jo Ann Frisch

We walked toward the creek and across the bridge. The fall weather was chilly and leaves crackled underfoot. I loved the smell of fall and the quiet atmosphere along the creek. Bare sycamores exposed white bark. The Ohlone people called them ghost trees. Skeletal willows hugged the banks and small rustling sounds came from the dry underbrush. Animals seldom seen, hurried before winter's cold.

"I want to see how far Fred has traveled since the last time I tracked him a few months ago," Katie said. She looked ready for a safari, dressed in her tan uniform, well-worn hiking boots, backpack stuffed with a radio and antenna sticking out about three feet above her head.

She turned the knobs on the radio and tried to honein on Fred as we walked along the creek. The signal was weak and full of static. Changing directions, she began walking at an angle from the creek. The static gave way to faint beeping that got louder and then faded again. I double-checked the ground ahead of us.

"I guess that's as close as we're going to get, Jo." Katie said.

She took out a small note pad and wrote down our GPS position, making a dot on a park map. I noticed several dots from prior hunts.

"I'm disappointed we didn't find him," I said.

"He's fine and still in the area. His territory isn't large and there are plenty of rodents to eat. It's a good thing too, or we'd be knee-deep in them."



Sycamore
"The Ghost Tree"

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

A Valentine's Day Special

It's coming up on Valentine's Day; a Hallmark Holiday to celebrate our loved ones. There are ads for diamonds and other fine jewelry, for romantic weekend get-a-ways, for one-of-a-kind gifts. And in stores we'll see the chocolate and flower gifts. Even with two failed marriages behind me, I can't remember any memorable Valentine's Day gifts from my husbands or boyfriends. What I do remember is a special valentine from my younger brother. He's gone now, but I cherish that special gift. And one other one he gave me, a homemade Christmas candle. Gifts from the heart you don't forget.

I never talked about how special this gift was to my brother Don when he was still with us, except to say "thank you for your thoughtfulness." It really touched me. On Valentine's Day, I received a small box of chocolates from my younger brother. I found out later it was a special deal offered by J.C. Penney's.

It was the only box of chocolates I received that year, so I was determined to make it last. I limited myself to just one piece each day until they were gone. I congratulated myself on my restraint and discipline in eating only one candy a day. And I was pleased my brother remembered me that way. I was divorced, didn't have a boyfriend, and my baby brother thought of me on Valentine's Day. How sweet it was.

Then less than a week later, I got another box in the mail. Though smaller than the first box, it was another box of chocolates. That was the Penney's special deal. Just when you thought you were finished with the chocolates, you got another three-day treat. Thank you, my little brother; you knew my weakness was chocolate. You are greatly missed, especially each Valentine's Day.

© by Penelope Anne Cole

Flash Fiction Prompt

If you like a challenge, here's one for you die-hard writers! Every so often you'll be given a prompt. Tell us a story in **250 words or less** and submit it to the newsletter at **inkspots@cwc-fremontareawriters.org** by the **first of the month** and we'll publish it in the newsletter. The prompt for March – **TUNNEL VISION**.

Have fun with it and remember, **submit by March 1**st!