



Terry Tosh

President's Message

Things are getting very exciting! Plans for our 10th Anniversary Picnic are firming up. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS—July 6 is the date, and Lake Elisabeth in Fremont at the Redwood 2 Area is the place.** You'll have more details soon; keep an eye on your email and Ink Spots.

We've had some fantastic speakers and subjects already this year—if you missed attorney Kelley Anne Way's presentation on copyright law last month, check out the Recap in this issue.

She gave us a dense overview of her subject and has agreed to come back soon to do more in-depth coverage on subjects such as contracts.

Our monthly meeting attendance is reaching record numbers and our membership is growing! A heart-felt thank you to our publicity team for your great promoting of our events; FAW has had coverage of our each of our Half Price Book "Second Saturday" events in the Tri-City Voice, as well as coverage of our monthly meeting speakers. Keep an eye out for more FAW coverage in the Voice. And thank you to those of you who are sharing our event flyers! Every bit helps!

The Half Priced Book events are rocking it, and our authors are working hard to grow and expand in the promotion of their wonderful talents and abilities. Let's keep the momentum soaring, and keep the outreach alive, as we seek to grow our membership and to reach out to more youth.

Keep the shout-outs coming, and remember to get them published on our website and in our newsletter as KUDOS. The more you share, the more you expand your exposure and increase your potential fan base. The more we celebrate our successes the more success we will have!

Enjoy this month's copy of Ink Spots, and note the many ways you can volunteer and participate in the success of others, as well as your own.

Thanks, everyone, for being a part of our success and our successful future.

Terry

FREMONT AREA WRITERS MONTHLY CALENDAR

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Fourth Saturday

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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

BOARD MEETING

Fourth Saturday

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

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

OPEN MIC

Fourth Monday

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**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
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:
Forums for educating members in the craft of writing and marketing their works and,
Public meetings, workshops, and seminars open to all writers and the general public
to facilitate educating writers of all levels of expertise. (*Article II Section 1:1.1 and 1.2 FAW Bylaws*)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

! SAVE THE DATE !

FAW's 10th Anniversary Celebration Picnic

10 a.m. – 7 p.m. **July 6th 2019** 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Redwood – 2 Lake Elizabeth in Fremont

Details to follow by email and in Ink Spots

And Now, A Word from Our Editor

Welcome to our March 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** and **myrlaraymundoback@gmail.com** and/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

February's Speaker Recap

LESSONS IN LITERARY LAW

Presented by Kelley A. Way, Esq.

"Every author should know their rights in relation to their work. This presentation looks at five areas of the law—copyright, trademark, right of privacy and publicity, defamation, and contracts—and talks about how to protect your rights in these areas while avoiding infringing on the rights of others." Kelley Way



Kelley A. Way
Copyright & Trademark Attorney

Our February speaker, Kelley A. Way, Esq. is an expert in copyright and trademark law. She was very clear that in order to protect our rights, we must first know what our rights are, then we need to take steps to give our work the maximum protection possible, and finally to actively enforce those rights.

She covered copyright law in great detail, starting with its purpose: to promote creativity and ensure that writers profit from their work.



While explaining what copyright is, Kelley listed the rights conferred by the law: Reproduction (making copies), Derivative works (merchandizing), Distribution (selling), Public Performance, Public Display, and Public Transmission of sound recordings, and spent time discussing each in detail.

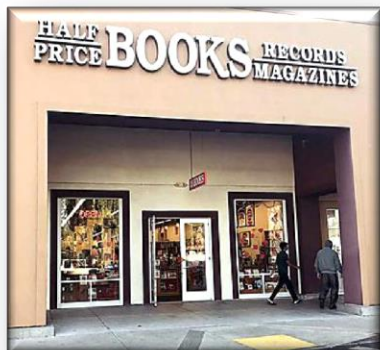
The copyright section of Kelley's presentation generated a great deal of interest and many questions. To protect our work that we are publishing in print or online, she recommended registering with the Copyright Office (www.copyright.gov); a requirement if you ever need to file a copyright infringement lawsuit. Kelley also suggested policing the internet to keep an eye out for infringement violations as one way to keep track of our work, and to first send a "cease and desist" letter if we find violations. She also shared information with us about how to avoid having copyright infringement lawsuits filed against us; covering what's "usable" and what's not...think public domain. To illustrate various subject areas, she shared some fascinating legal cases with us to help us see the real application of the law in both copyright and trademark lawsuits.

After Trademark Law, she covered Rights of Privacy and Publicity, Defamation, and Contracts. She had so much valuable information and there were so many questions that the meeting ran over.

Kelley summed up with reminders to make sure we have written permission to use a person's name, likeness or work product, and to make very sure we know exactly what we're agreeing to when we sign any contract. She promised to come back and cover Contracts in more detail in the future. If you missed this important speaker and would like to receive her free newsletter, you can contact her at kaway@kawaylaw.com.

Calling All FAW Published Authors

FAW is Partnering with Half Price Books in Fremont



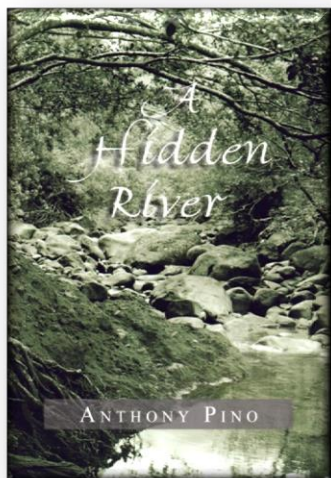
HPB at the
Fremont Hub

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 2:00–4:00 p.m. 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-cfremontareawriters.org

"Meet Your Local FAW Author" for April 2019

Saturday April 13th
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Half Price Books
Fremont Hub



Join FAW poet **Tony Pino** in April as he celebrates National Poetry Month at Half Price Books in the Fremont Hub. Tony will read poems from his book ***A Hidden River*** and discuss the many various forms poets use to express their deepest insights. Do you love poetry or find it confusing? If you've ever wondered what makes a poem tick, don't miss this opportunity to learn more about poetic structure, style and meaning.

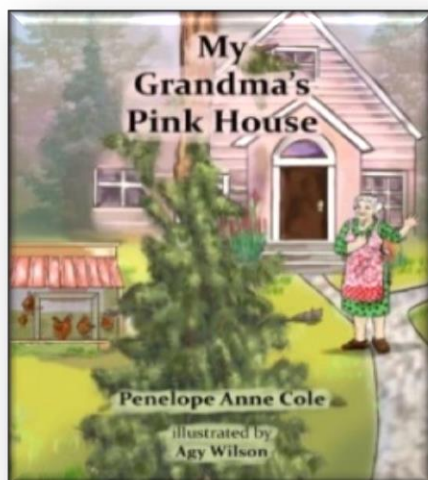
Everyone is welcome!



**ANTHONY
PINO**

FAW-HPB "Second Saturdays"

March's "Meet Your Local FAW Authors"



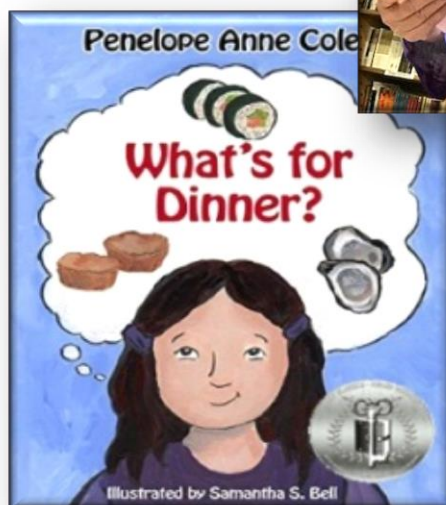
Penelope helps young members of her audience choose a book. Penelope reads from her book My Grandma's Pink House.

Inspiring Readers of All Ages



Penelope Anne Cole

On March 9th award-winning FAW children's author Penelope Anne Cole shared her beautifully illustrated books with an audience of children of all ages at Half Price Books in the Fremont Hub. Filled with messages about helping, trying new things, relationships, and choosing to do good, her books were very popular with young and "old" alike.



When asked which book was her favorite, a young girl said she liked *My Grandma's Pink House*, because it "reminded her of her own grandma," who had recently passed away; her brother liked Penelope's magical twins book best.

KUDOS – Members' News

Kudos to Tish Davidson who was chosen to read two of her stories at the **San Lorenzo Public Library's 2019 Lit Reading Evening** on March 2nd. She read a short fiction piece, "**The Legacy**," about a woman who must choose between helping her son or saving her ancestral home, and "**Visiting the Bone Man**," a memoir about an encounter with a shamanistic healer in South Carolina. The reading was held at the library and was open to the public.

Kudos to Tish Davidson on her successful "Second Saturday" reading on February 9th at **Half Price Books** in Fremont.

Kudos to Chris Dews for his book, ***Antler Jinny and the Raven***, which progressed from the Slushpile, to the Long List, to the Short List, and is now an **official SEMI-FINALIST for the OZMA Book Awards for Fantasy Fiction**, a division of the Chanticleer International Book Awards (CIBAs). Next stop, the Finals!

Kudos to Carol Lee Hall, her feature screenplay, ***Ryan's Treasure Hunt***, has been optioned by **Roslin Pictures**. The screenplay is a family crime dramedy about a boy whose family's valuable painting is stolen at a yard sale and he must retrieve it. Roslin Pictures is a Greek company—roslinpictures.com.

Kudos to Jan Small on the publication of her new book, "**Zootangle**." She was inspired by trips to the Oakland Zoo where she photographed the animals. Back in the Studio she used the new art form, **Zentangle** to create the animals. The book has colored "tangles" of each animal, a story for each with some of their characteristics. The book includes "Some Tangles for You to Color" with a short lesson on color, as well as the original zoo photos.

Kudos to Jan Small, 2019 recipient of the **JACK LONDON AWARD**. More in future issues of Ink Spots.

Kudos to Dave Strom, who was the headliner at San Jose's **Caffe Frascati's Live Lit open mic** on January 24, 2019. He performed "**The Intellecta Rhapsody**," where his super heroine, Super Holly Hansson, gets into a big argument with her boyfriend's super-car (Batmobile-body, HAL-like computer brain), and then she must team up with it to stop an Edward G. Robinson gangster who has stolen a giant super-tank. Dave had fun and got 50 bucks.

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 can be a good thing. Interested? Send email to webmaster@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org.

2. 10th Anniversary Celebration

There will be lots of volunteering opportunities connected to FAW's 10th Anniversary this year. Watch 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.

An FAW Call to Action

HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Jump Right In!

First, as a founding member of Fremont Area Writers, let me tell you what I do for our branch. I raise the FAW banner and post directional signs at meetings, bring in additional chairs when needed, serve as the contact point with our host, 42 Silicon Valley, and... whatever. Oh, and I pay my \$45 annually to the California Writers Club and \$5 at meetings gladly. Why? Because Fremont Area Writers has done more for me in the past 10 years than I've done for it.



by Art Carey

I've learned from guest speakers what an elevator pitch is and how to deliver one, why it's important to have an internet platform if you want to sell books, and the legal pitfalls of writing. One of my favorite speakers was Andy Weir, who discussed how he promoted his book *The Martian* before it became a best-seller and led to a movie.

The best information about getting published I've ever gotten came at a California Writers Club gathering in Berkeley. While I was chatting with another writer and mentioned that I write science fiction, he said, "Oh, you must belong to Duotrope." Huh? Duotrope's website lists hundreds of publications looking for writers. It's where I start seeking a home for short stories and humor.

At our meetings, I've met successful and would-be writers. ***Wear nametags, people!*** Some joined critique groups and became friends. Writing is a lonely task and knowing other writers share your struggles is encouraging.

FAW gives back to the public, too. I've joined other members and talked to high school creative writing classes in Fremont and to senior citizens in assisted living facilities in Union City. Our branch has sponsored several high school writing contests in which members act as judges.

One of the best ways to get to know people in an organization is to volunteer or be an officer. Jump right in!

FUN & GAMES, ETC.

Happy 10th Anniversary

FAW FUN FACTS

1. Who is our current FAW President?
2. Who is our current FAW Vice President?
3. Who is our current FAW Secretary?
4. Who is our current FAW Treasurer?
5. Who is our FAW Historian?
6. What does it cost to become an FAW member?
7. Which FAW members have won the Jack London Award?
8. Which member has served the most terms as FAW President?
9. Which months does FAW not have general meetings?
10. Which Saturday of the month does FAW have its meetings?

Answers in next month's issue.

HAPPY WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!

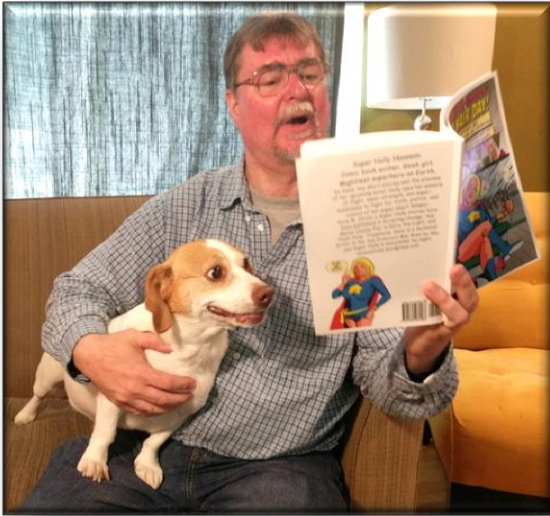
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Answers to Last Month's FAW FUN FACTS Quiz

1. Which FAW member has won both the Ina Coolbrith Award and the Jack London Award?
Bob Garfinkle
2. Who was the first FAW Vice President?
Jeannine Vegh
3. Who was the first FAW Secretary?
Ninette Pierce
4. Who was the first FAW Treasurer?
Evelyn LaTorre
5. How many different locations has FAW held its meetings? **6**
6. What were/are these locations? **Suju's, Mountain Mike's Pizza, Evelyn LaTorre's home, DeVry University, Roundtable Pizza, 42 Silicon Valley (2x)**
7. How many issues of the Ink Spots newsletter have there been? **84 issues**
8. How many editors and/or co-editors of Ink Spots have there been? **3**
9. Name the editors/co-editors of the newsletter?
Myrla Raymundo, Jay Swartz, Nancy Guarnera
10. What month is the newsletter not published?
July

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FAW Featured Member



Dave Strom Creator, Writer & Performer of Super Holly Hansson

As a kid, Dave M. Strom devoured first-run episodes of the Adam West Batman and first print runs of "Spider-Man." He started employment as a software programmer, then a technical writer. His goofy letters were printed in the Cal Poly student newspaper and in the San Jose Mercury News, where he twice won the Silver Pen Award. In the magazine *Amazing Heroes*, he wrote Strom's Index, a takeoff of Harper's Index. (Square feet of glass shattered per year by The Question's jumping through closed windows: 23. Of "X" number of ninjas, number Batman can knock out before being wounded: X-1.)

When the book *The DaVinci Code* came out, Dave started writing a satire of it. That went nowhere except for the female lead, Holly Grail, who punched villains, got superpowers, and faced several supervillains at once like Rooster Cogburn in *True Grit*. Dave renamed her and now writes superheroine slapstick about Super Holly Hansson and her super friends and fiendish foes. Dave's dog, Sweet Pea, loves listening to him read about Super Holly's adventures!

His short stories are printed in *Fault Zone Transform*, *Fault Zone Uplift*, *Carry the Light* in 2016 and 2017, *Scripting Change*, and *Series 1963 A: An Anthology of California Writers*. He published *Super Holly Hansson* in *Super Bad Hair Day* on Kindle. Two of his audio stories won first prize at the San Mateo Country Fair Literary Contest.

Dave performs his stories at open mics, where he loves doing evil laughs, over-the-top characters, and a few funny accents. On January 24, 2019, Dave was the headliner at San Jose's Caffe Frascati's Live Lit open mic. He performed the "Intellecta Rhapsody," where Super Holly gets into a big argument with her boyfriend's super-car (Batmobile-body, HAL-like computer brain), and then she must team up with it to stop an Edward G. Robinson gangster who stole a giant super-tank. He had fun and got 50 bucks.

Dave needs to finish a novel or three. He's working on that.

For more about Dave and Holly, check out davemstrom.wordpress.com.

Notes from the World

Resources Suggested by Our Members

Duotrope.com is an award-winning resource for writers and artists. Find publishers and/or agents for your work. Offers submission trackers, custom searches, deadline calendars, statistical reports, and extensive interviews. Paid subscription service (\$5/month or \$50/ year).

Winning Writers.com finds and creates quality resources for poets and writers. Offers a free newsletter and some cash prize contests that are free to enter. **winningwriters.com**

Writers Weekly.com Offers a free newsletter with contest opportunities. **writersweekly.com**

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 NOAA 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 photography in the public domain, and the Internet Archive <https://archive.org>, which also has copy-right free music. The Public Domain Review <http://publicdomainreview.org> has free images as well as books, music, and copyright-free films.

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.

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

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

An excerpt from the short story by Dave M. Strom

Super Bad Hair Day!

featuring Super Holly Hansson



Super Holly Hansson

THE STREET BEFORE THE BANK. 3:49 P.M.

Super Holly was a double-mitted baseball catcher fielding high and outside pitches, her giant telekinetic hands scooping up flying, flailing cops before they splashed into the ocean or splatted on buildings. She set them down behind the surrounding police line and whirled to face the jerk at ground zero. "You lumbering lummoX! You could've killed them!"

Harry puffed out his chest like he owned the road. Seven feet tall, five feet wide, a muscle-bound brick wall with a matching I.Q. Tree trunk arms and legs. Battleship armor pectorals. Cauldron of a belly. Moon of a head fronted by a stupidly pleased face. Close-cropped hair so no one could grab it during fights, he picked a lot of those. Torn white shirt falling off. Ripped black pants thankfully staying on. No shoes or socks on those fee-fie-foe-fum feet.

He laughed like a burping foghorn. "BUH-WAH HAW HAW! HARRY HURL PUNY COPS!"

BANG! A young cop shot Harry in the mouth.

PAH-TOOEY! Harry spat the bullet back.

DOINK! It hit the cop on the forehead and knocked him out cold. **PLOP!**

An older cop shook his head. "Damn rookie."

Harry looked down his nose at Holly. "HARRY GONNA ROB BANK! GONNA GRAB MONEY, GET A GIRLFRIEND, BUY TEN POUND STEAK, AND NOT LEAVE TIP! NOW HARRY LEAVE BIG FAT FOOTPRINTS ON YELLOW HAIR'S BIG FAT—"

"Talk to the hands!" yelled Holly. She punched twice. Two bowling-ball-size blue fists cannonballed at Harry's big fat mouth.

And missed because Harry had bent way, way back like a hippo doing the limbo. When had he learned to do THAT?

KERR-RUNCH! SKKKKKTT! A parked car behind Harry had skidded onto the sidewalk, its driver-side door caved in. Holly grit her teeth. Good thing her super-job had liability insurance.

"BAH-WAH HAW HAW! YELLOW HAIR MISS!" Harry stuck out his tongue at Holly: "NNNNN!"

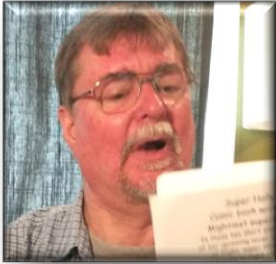
Holly boxer-posed, she was fine with up close and personal. "Fine! You want to rob the bank, you gotta go through me!"

Harry stomped toward Holly like an elephant. Then he winced, like a tiny thought had burst in his B.B. of a brain. He stopped next to a heap of fresh asphalt. He crossed his arms and defiantly glared at Holly. "NO."

Holly kept her guard up. "What do you mean, 'No'?"

(Continued next page)

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)



Super Bad Hair Day! with Super Holly Hansson by Dave M. Strom (Continued from previous page)

Harry lifted his chin. "HARRY NOT LISTEN TO YELLOW HAIR. YELLOW HAIR JUST A GIRL." He snorted, a derisive truck backfiring. "LITTLE GIRLY GIRL. PUNY. TINY. EXCEPT..." His eyes found Holly's chest. And widened. "WHERE SHE BIG AND ROUND."

Holly's intestines curdled. She closed her mouth in time to stop her jaw from dropping past her knees. *Oh, no. Please, no. Not him. Anybody but him.*

Harry's head bobbed as he rollercoasted his leer over Holly's every curve. "YUM, YUM! HARRY LIKE WHAT HE SEE! LONG LEGS! SMALL WAIST! BIG CHEST! WANNA DATE?"

Holly shuddered; it felt like Harry's eyes had left a slimy slug trail all over her. "Ew! No!"

"YELLOW HAIR LIKE BIG MUSCLE?" Harry bodybuilder-posed and flexed his biceps with a base drum sound: **BOM, BOM!** "CUMMERE AND GIVE HARRY A LITTLE SMACK! KISSY, KISSY!" He smacked his lips, sounding like a toilet plunger working on a clog.

A few cops stifled laughter. Paparazzi zoomed their lenses.

Holly gagged. "Stop that!" She upped her boxer stance to heavyweight. "Or I'll give you a smack, all right!"

"WHY DON'T YELLOW HAIR MAKE HARRY STOP? IS YELLOW HAIR, UHHH, YELLOW? BAH-WAH HAW HAW!" Harry blew a motorcycle-revving super raspberry: "BBBBBTTHHHHHPPPPPP, BBBPPPP, BBBPPPP, BBBTHHHPPPPPP!"

Bullseye. Holly's face tried to crawl out from under a pint of super spittle. Gasping, trembling, she wiped—*gross, gross, GROSS!*—and flicked gooey saliva off her hand—*ew, ew, EW!* Her steely muscles trembled. Her telekinesis quaked road and atmosphere to make Darth Vader jealous. Inside her mind, she composed, *Get on your knees, hands behind your head, and... OH, THE HECK WITH IT!* Out of her mouth, she roared, "Mff, glerk, snrt, RRRRRAAWLLL!"

She flew at Harry, rocketing her fist at his fat face as...

LASH'S PLACE. 4:48 P.M.

"...steam rocketed out her nose!" Holly sighed. "That happens now when I get really mad."

Lash towed her head. "Maybe you should've asked yourself why Harry was hitting on you instead of hitting you."

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 **300 words or less** and submit it to the newsletter at **inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.org** by the **first of the month** and we'll publish it in the newsletter. The prompt for April – **SUPERSTITION or DAY OF FOOLS**. Have fun with it and remember, **submit by APRIL 1st**.

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

Relax... *(To be read in your most sultry, enticing voice.)*

See that dent in your sofa?
Your butt exactly **fits** it!
Your posterior sinks into its center and is
cradled,
gently.

We all know what that means.
That's sofa sign language for

You're special.
You belong.

That sofa used to be just a piece of padded cloth supported by a wooden frame

But now, it's as much part of you
as you are part of it.

It lured you into lying down,
at first sometimes,
but now...always

That's the fullest way to experience its serene embrace!
and watch more TV...
Play more video games...

If you buy one of those combination
coffee-table/refrigerator/microwaves,
you'll **never** have to get up again
– except to- well, you know...

And in time, another sofa will inspire some genius to create a convenient convenience,

sofas get lonely
and lonely sofas become insecure.

That's why they keep calling you back
then hold you so firmly
that you absolutely inescapably know that
you're adored.

(c) Knuti VanHoven 2019

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

A Day In The Life Of Alec, Wise Guy

by Terry Tosh

Hi. My name is Alec. Some remark that I'm a bit of a "wise guy".

I'm not exactly sure why some seem to sound a bit sarcastic when they give me this compliment, or seem to get annoyed, when all I'm doing is trying to help.

Usually, my eyes pop open quite early in the morning, and I really can't just lay around doing nothing, so I get out of bed and do stuff to keep me at peak brain performance. I just love helping others to improve their speech and spelling skills, so I look for opportunities to give them direction when they mis-use a word, or have maybe not quite figured out the correct spelling for it.

I'm not sure why some just seem to get their hackles up, or sound defensive. They often remark, "Oh, you think you're so smart!"

Well, I am, so what's the big deal? Is it my fault if I happen to have a gift?

I started tracking my great suggestions and helpful corrections, just to get an idea of my genius in action, and I seriously think I might be world champion for the most great advice!

What's not to love?

Writing Prompt 2/23/19 FAW Mtg. A day in the life of living your dream job.

A Day in the Life of Celestina Star: Tour Guide to the Solar System

by Nancy Guarnera

Today I stood on the bridge of the Starbus and called attention to the giant red spot on Jupiter's swirling surface. It mesmerizes me every time I see it. The Valley Mariner on Mars and its four neighboring volcanoes have a similar effect, though I wouldn't call it mesmerizing, more like awe-inspiring! Earth, as beautiful as it once was, has nothing to compare with these behemoths. Our Grand Canyon could fit quite nicely into Mariner with lots of room to spare. And Olympus Mons, the tallest volcano on Mars, is two and a half times taller than Mt. Everest. Not too shabby, right! But at the moment, I can't take my eyes off of the swirling eddies of Jupiter's surface.

"Star, are you okay?" the captain's voice in my ear snaps me from my reverie. I make a mental note, for the umpteenth time, not to stare at Jupiter's face too long, but it's hard to contain myself in the presence of such spellbinding beauty.

I adjust my com and continue my description of the largest planet in our solar system; remembering to include the story about the first humans who survived a deep dive into the giant red spot. Before that day, more than a hundred brave souls had not been so lucky. As thrilling as the idea of exploration sometimes seems, I like knowing what I know about our solar system...and sharing it with others from the relative safety of a Starbus. Yeah, that's the perfect job for me.

Writing Prompt 2/23/19 FAW Mtg. A day in the life of living your dream job.