



Terry Tosh
FAW President

President's Message

GROWING!

Thank you, everyone, for posters, bulletin board notices, newspaper articles and ads, word of mouth...being welcoming and helpful; that's what it's all about.

We're excited to have the need for a larger room at our meeting place (now in Room 106 at 42 Silicon Valley—formerly DeVry University in Fremont). I know some think it's too cold, but the old room was really stuffy, and I'd rather don a heavier shirt or jacket than sweat in a thin shirt! And it gives us plenty of room to grow.

The excitement and action is growing at the Half Price Books "Second Saturday" events, as well as at our meetings. And I hear from some of our movers and shakers that we are scouting locations for additional Open Mics and new critique groups. More on these, as things develop. Don't let the fire die down, keep stoking the flames!

I see more youth showing up, and activity levels rising. Our celebration year is in full swing, and people are accomplishing forward and upward progress!

We will continue to highlight past leadership and remember those who have supported this branch from the beginning, and strive for greater heights moving forward.

Anticipation is building as we prepare for our Picnic on July 6th at beautiful Lake Elizabeth for a relaxing and refreshing time to bring family and friends together to chill and reflect and network. Planning for accolades and celebration and workshops for our year-long 10th Anniversary Celebration continues. If you want to join in the fun, speak to one of our Board members and we'll happily find an opportunity for you to participate in the festivities!

Be sure to read through, and contribute to our monthly newsletter, Ink Spots...lots of Fun Facts and updates, as well as sharing of ideas and talents.

Keep the dreams alive and growing!

Terry

FREMONT AREA WRITERS MONTHLY CALENDAR

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Fourth Saturday

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**42 Silicon Valley Rm 106
6600 Dumbarton Circle,
Fremont**

BOARD MEETING

Fourth Saturday

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

**42 Silicon Valley Rm 106
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)*

KUDOS – Members' News

Kudos to Penelope Anne Cole who has had two pieces, a short memoir “**Escape from Honolulu**” and a short story “**It’s a Small World**” published in the SF Peninsula Branch’s 2019 Anthology—*The Fault Zone: Strike Slip*.

Kudos to Penelope Anne Cole on her very successful “**Second Saturday**” reading on March 9th at **Half Price Books** in Fremont.

Kudos to Tish Davidson who participated in an **AAUW panel on writing** at the Fremont Artist Walk on April 13th.

Kudos to Tish Davidson whose recently published book, *The Vaccine Debate* is listed as #3 on an **Internet list of 16 Wholesome Books to Learn About Health**.

Here is the link to the 16 wholesome books.

<https://fupping.com/zakparker/2019/03/03/16-wholesome-books-to-learn-about-health/>

Kudos to Evelyn LaTorre who will have her essay “**The Ecstasy of Travel**” and photos published in the April 8th issue of *Overseas Adventure Travel* (oattravel.com).

Kudos to Tony Pino on his very successful “**Second Saturday**” reading on April 13th at **Half Price Books** in Fremont.



And Now, A Word from Our Editor

Welcome to our April 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 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

March's Speaker Recap

MARKETING YOUR BOOK (or Ebook)



LeeAnne Krusemark
Author & Writer's Consultant

"It's all about exposure!"

At our March meeting, speaker LeeAnne Krusemark shared her extensive knowledge of marketing your written work in the age of social media. She covered the following subject areas: **Online Platforms, Networking, Website, Publicity/Reviews, Blogging, Distribution, Mail/Email Lists, Speaking/Book Signings, Agents /Other, Q&A.** She did a deep dive into each area and gave thorough answers to members' questions. For more about her and her services: **LeeAnneKrusemark.com.**



Her first piece of advice was to pick 10 ways to market yourself and your work, and make sure that three of those are online marketing strategies. The second piece of advice: Create a pitch—for your book, your work, yourself—in 25 words or less. Practice your pitch and use it every time you find yourself in a situation where you're talking to other writers, agents, publishers, bookstore owners...anyone who might be interested in you and your work. Coincidentally, before LeeAnne began her talk, VP Knuti VanHoven led us in an exercise to create our author's/writer's pitch (aka—an elevator speech).

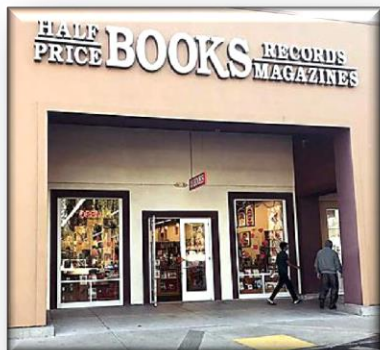
LeeAnne emphasized networking with other writers, going to writing conferences and workshops, and joining groups like FAW—all are very important when marketing your work.

Knowing your book's demographic (your readers/buyers) is essential and will help you target your marketing to get the most out of the money you'll spend doing it. She shared a story about a friend of hers who is a tech author. He spends \$6000/yr. for 6 mentions in national tech magazines—it nets him 10 times what he's paying (money well spent, on his targeted demographic).

Here are a few other suggestions LeeAnne had for us. Create a blog and link it to your book on Amazon—but be consistent—if you're going to do it...do it. If you don't, you will lose your audience (aka—your readers). Send out at least 20 pre-publication books for review to people whose names are recognizable. Schedule speaking engagements and book signings; write an article on your subject for the local newspaper; do interviews on your local TV and radio shows. Post readings on YouTube; don't forget Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. Set up a website. Do you have a card? There are so many great ways to market yourself and your book; find the ones that work best for you, and put them to work!

Calling All FAW Published Authors

FAW is Partnering with Half Price Books in Fremont



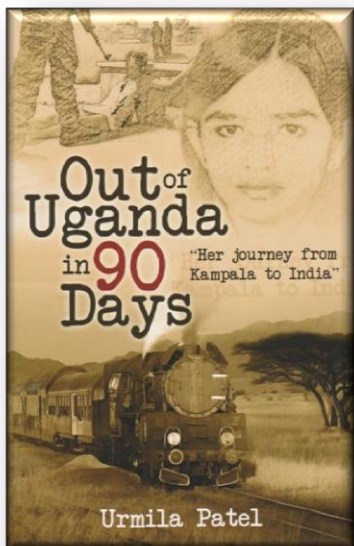
HPB at the
Fremont Hub

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-c-fremontareawriters.org

"Meet Your Local FAW Author" for May 2019

Saturday May 11th
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Half Price Books
Fremont Hub



Join **Urmila Patel** for the **May "Second Saturday"** event at Half Price Books in the Fremont Hub. Urmila will read from her memoir *Out of Uganda in 90 Days*. She'll answer questions and discuss her experiences as a young teenager forced to leave her home when a vicious dictator comes to power and her family must flee the country to survive. She is now working on her second book; the next chapter of her compelling life story.

Everyone is welcome!



**URMILA
PATEL**

FAW—HPB “Second Saturdays”

April Is National Poetry Month

Tony Pino and A Hidden River

A Word about “The River”

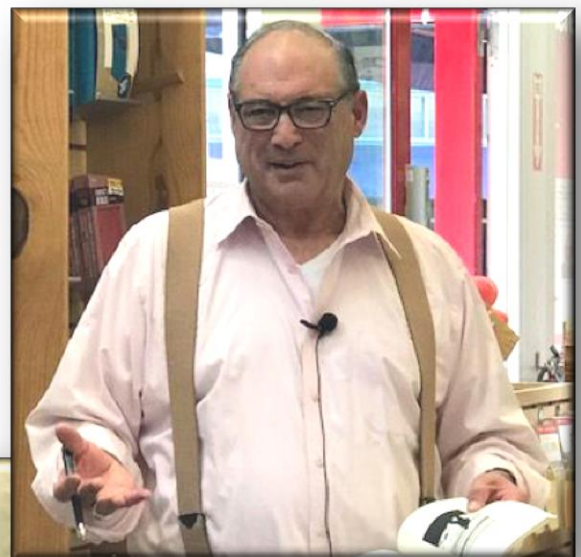
“Underneath us all works a river, quiet and unseen. We know it only when it delivers memories, stories, dreams, and poems, which seem to come from nowhere. The spirit of the river works its power as it fuses our desires, fears and loves, and forms a mysterious, fully-formed whole—an act of creation. Like you, I have had my share of these mysteries.

My river’s work lies here within this book.”

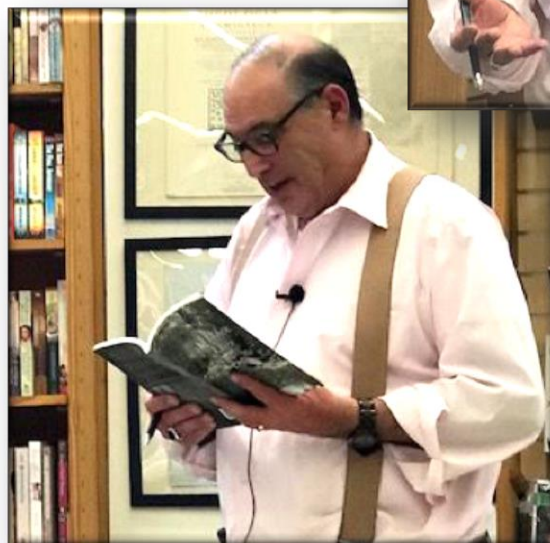
from A Hidden River by Anthony Pino



On April 13th award-winning FAW poet, Tony Pino shared his poems and short fiction with a crowd of more than twenty friends, family and poetry lovers at Half Price Books in the Fremont Hub. He took those present on a journey through his life of memories and experiences—from California to Germany; from the streets of Hayward to the beaches of Half Moon Bay; from Auschwitz to Mars; from San Francisco to Lake Tahoe; from his father’s kitchen to his mother’s stories of San Antonio in the ’20; from war to peace—and always there is the river running underneath.



***Tony Pino offers us
‘the eternal graffiti
written in his heart.’***



***“Poetry is eternal
graffiti written
in the heart of
everyone.”***

Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Calling All FAW Members



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

1. 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. Speak to Terry Tosh or Sue Curtzwiler.

2. New Nor-Cal Representative Needed

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

3. Volunteer Coordinator Needed

Are you skilled at herding cats? Well, this will be even easier. FAW needs a talented, patient people-person to help our members find that perfect volunteer opportunity for them. If this sounds like the perfect volunteer opportunity for you, please contact FAW President Terry Tosh 408-314-4926.



FAW "Writers Helping Writers"

Being of Service to the Community

Hello Jan Small,

My name is Paris Peats and I am a 10th grade student at Washington High School in Fremont, CA. I was wondering if you had some time to do an email interview with me for my English class?

In my English class, I have recently begun working on what is called the "I-Search Project." It is a project where I choose a career I would like to pursue and that career I have chosen for this project is a writer. As part of this project I am required to interview people who have knowledge of my subject and my deadline is on March 1st. I was hoping I might be able to do an email interview with a couple of questions for you about you as a writer.

If you are able to do this with me I would deeply appreciate it and will send over the questions once you have confirmed you are able to do this interview again.

Sincerely,

Paris Peats :)



FAW Member Jan Small and Paris Peats

Instead of an email interview, Jan invited Paris to our February meeting, so she could meet other writers and experience the opportunity for networking and growth FAW affords its members. Jan introduced Paris to other writers, and when the meeting was over, she and Paris sat down to a face-to-face interview about writing as a career.

The Picnic is Coming

HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Saturday July 6th

11:00 to 3:00...

**Lake Elizabeth Fremont
Redwood 2 Area**

FOOD

Provided

Burgers, Hot Dogs, Veggie Burgers,
Buns & Trimmings, Bottled Water

Please Bring

Your Last Name Begins with

A thru C	Salads
D thru G	Side Dish
H thru R	Dessert
S thru Z	Snacks (chips, etc.)

SPECIAL NEEDS

Special dietary needs, please
bring whatever you need.

Bring your own soda or
specialty drink if needed.

(Please no alcohol!)



*Redwood 2 Area is
located just to the right
of the Community Center
which is located at the
light at the intersection
of Paseo Padre Blvd &
Mission View Drive.*

Volunteer Opportunities

Arrive at 10:00 to help with set-up

Assist the Grill Master with cooking

Stick around at the end and help
with clean up **(especially important)**

Don't Forget to Bring...

Other meat, seafood or veggies to grill

A special chair & pillow if needed

A Hat Sunscreen Bug spray

Anything else you might need or want

FUN & GAMES, ETC.

Happy 10th Anniversary

FAW FUN FACTS

1. Where does FAW currently hold its meetings? What is the significance of the number in the name?
 2. What is the submission deadline for the FAW newsletter?
 3. What is the name of the FAW newsletter?
 4. How often is the newsletter "published?"
 5. What is the date of the FAW 10th Anniversary Picnic?
 6. Where is the picnic being held this year?
 7. Which FAW member has hosted the picnic in the recent past?
 8. Where was the picnic held last year?
 9. What are the three types of FAW membership?
 10. Explain the three types of membership and how they differ?
- Answers in next month's issue.*

HAPPY EARTH DAY!

??

Answers to Last Month's FAW FUN FACTS Quiz

1. Who is our current FAW President?
Terry Tosh
2. Who is our current FAW Vice President?
Knuti VanHoven
3. Who is our current FAW Secretary?
Carmen VonTickner
4. Who is our current FAW Treasurer?
Cherilyn Jose
5. Who is our FAW Historian?
Bob Garfinkle
6. What does it cost to become an FAW member?
\$65 for New Members (\$20 for CWC and \$45 for FAW). Dues cover the calendar year from July 1st to June 30th. Members can renew their membership for \$45 if paid by September 1st
7. Which FAW members have won the Jack London Award? **Bob Garfinkle, Myrla Raymundo, Carol Hall, Art Carey, Shirley Ferrante**
8. Which member has served the most terms as FAW President? **Shirley Ferrante**
9. Which months does FAW not have general meetings? **July and December (Picnic & Party!)**
10. Which Saturday of the month does FAW have its general meeting? **The 4th Saturday**

??

FAW Featured Member



Marjorie Johnson

Writer, Math Whiz, Small Craft Pilot & World Traveler

Marjorie Johnson has always loved to write. When she was ten, she submitted several stories to the *Oakland Tribune* for their children's section and won a pencil box for "The Adventures of Charlie Tree." Marjorie was editor of her high school newspaper and wrote a weekly column, "What's New at NU," for the local paper.

At San Jose State, she liked to solve math problems in unusual ways. Marjorie wrote "64 Ways to Write 64 Using Four 4s," published in *Recreational Mathematics Magazine*. From there, she joined the editorial board of the *Fibonacci Quarterly*, an academic mathematics journal, where she served for more than fifty years. Over the years, she authored or co-authored 89 mathematical papers published in various journals (mostly in the *Quarterly*).

After teaching high school mathematics for thirty years, Marjorie retired and had time for fiction writing. Now she has three published novels, *Bird Watcher*, *Jaguar Princess*, and *Lost Jade of the Maya*. Some of her stories and memoirs have won prizes in local contests, especially in the Literary Division of the San Mateo County Fair. Marjorie has dual membership in FAW and the South Bay branch, and received the **Jack London Award in 2013** for her hard work and commitment to the South Bay branch.

Marjorie likes helping other writers. She was Editor of *WritersTalk*, newsletter of **South Bay Writers**, for six and a half years. She is the moderator of a critique group that has met every Monday afternoon (except Christmas) since 2010.



*Marjorie Johnson and
the Jaguar Princess*

Notes from the World

Prompts Website

If you need to jump-start your writing or just like being prompted with an idea or a first line, check out this site! <https://blog.reedsy.com/creative-writing/prompts/comedy/>

Poets Needed for Public Schools Program!

Alameda County Council for the Arts and the Fremont Cultural Arts Council are looking for volunteers to go into public schools and introduce students to poetry! Remember the first time you discovered what poetry could be to you? This is your chance to spread that inspiration! For more information about this exciting project, contact: **Margaret Thornberry, President, Fremont Cultural Arts Council, P.O. Box 1314, Fremont, CA 94538**

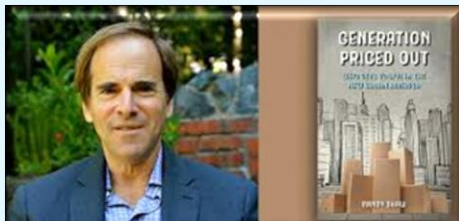
Resources Suggested by Our Members

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**

Author Randy Shaw Talks About His Latest Book *Generation Priced Out*



Randy Shaw, author of *Generation Priced Out*

The League of Women Voters Fremont-Newark-Union City, the Green Belt Alliance and the Alameda County Library invite you to attend a talk by author Randy Shaw and discussion about skyrocketing urban rental and home prices and how to reverse this inequitable trend.

The event will take place Saturday, May 11 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Fremont Main Library, 2400 Stevenson Blvd. The program is free of charge and all are welcome to discuss a topic that is plaguing young people who cannot afford housing in today's high-priced rental and home market. A book signing and sale will follow Randy Shaw's talk. For more information, contact:

marthakreeger@gmail.com.

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

Out for a Spin

by Marjorie Johnson

"Want to go out for a spin in my flying machine?" My husband Frank grinned with the excitement of a newly minted pilot. He rented a Cessna and took me to visit my parents, an hour's smooth flight instead of a three-hour road trip. But he had to make three attempts to land. I felt uneasy about riding in a small plane, and flying with Frank made it worse. His early landings were bumpy affairs. Whenever he shoved in the throttle and lurched into the air to make a second landing attempt, I gripped the edges of the seat with white knuckles, closed my eyes, and prayed.

Frank loved to fly. The first thing he bought after he retired was a four-seat airplane. I didn't want any part of that dangerous hunk of metal, but when he gave me a set of aircraft keys tucked into a card with the message, "Come fly away with me," it was impossible to say no.

I signed up for flying lessons to stay alive. When I learned that the plane could land safely, even if the engine stopped, I felt more in control and decided to conquer my fears. Even so, it took me nine months to learn to land—the last fifty feet were too close to the ground.

After a year, almost ready to take the FAA flying test, I needed only one more hour of solo flying. My instructor told me to practice simulated soft field takeoffs.

On a clear October morning with no wind, I readied a Cessna 172 to hit the air at Palo Alto Airport, flying solo. I climbed into the cockpit with pride and taxied to the run-up area, where I heard the magic words, "Cleared for takeoff."

In position at the end of the runway, I pushed in full power and kept the nose up, as I had been taught. When I released the brake and started the takeoff roll, I felt the plane leave the runway, much too soon. When I lowered the nose a bit, I was sailing to the left, over parked aircraft, at about twenty feet above the ground. The right rudder did nothing!

I saw the trees at the golf course, straight ahead, and lifted the nose—

...

The next thing I knew, I was looking at a bright white light.

"Keep your head still," someone said.

I was tied to a gurney.

"Relax," the stern voice said. "You need a few more stitches."

"Where's my airplane?"

"Now, now. Everything's all right. You left it on the golf course."



Marjorie and Frank Johnson
ready for take-off.



(Continued on next page)

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

Out for a Spin by Marjorie Johnson (Continued from previous page)

"I couldn't have done that—they don't have a runway." I took a nap until I heard the door open. Two men came in, one carrying a camera with a big flash.

"We're from Channel 2. Can we interview you about the accident?"

"I didn't see any accident."

"No visitors." A nurse rescued me. She escorted the Channel 2 pests out and directed Frank to my bedside.

"You scared me to death," Frank said, sitting on the edge of the bed and taking my hand. "Palo Alto Tower said you had an accident with the airplane. The nurses wouldn't let me see you."

Frank took me home. I wore only a hospital gown because they had cut off my clothes. I had eight stitches on my forehead and ugly bruises on my leg and hip.

The crash on the golf course made the evening television news. *Why can't I remember?* A Palo Alto controller said he thought I was going to take out the tower. A photo in the next morning's newspaper showed my airplane parked beside a tree at the golf course with the caption, "Birdie on the Green." I didn't find it funny.

Three days after the incident, still trying to remember, I drove to the airport. The tower controller said I had uprooted a tree next door at the golf course. I walked to the site he indicated, but, being Palo Alto, they had already repaired the turf.

Frank told me that if you fall off a horse, you need to get right back on, or you won't want to ride ever again. So, I asked an instructor from the flight school to go up with me for a few trips around the landing pattern. My heart pounded and my palms perspired on the takeoff roll—my body remembered what my brain did not.

A week later, two stern FAA investigators grilled me. They fired questions I couldn't answer. "How did it happen?" "Why did you do that?" "Don't you remember anything your instructors told you?"

"I recovered just fine," I said, "but I tangled the landing gear in a tree, and the weight of the tree pulled me down."

"Didn't you learn that the rudder is ineffective at too low an airspeed?" the gruffer one barked. Uprooting a tree didn't seem to have much to do with it. He ruled it a stall/spin accident and assigned me ten hours of stall recovery practice. Flight time to the practice area didn't count.

Each recovery takes only a few seconds—provided that you don't spin. My instructor quit. No one else wanted to fly with me either.

Roy, an aerobatic instructor who had a reputation for being wild and crazy, took me on. He was always as wound up as someone high on drugs, and he loved to show off. Another female flying student said, "My God! You're flying with Roy? He ditched a twin in the bay last month."

Roy's airplane had "throw away doors" for emergency egress. We entered stalls and spins from every conceivable direction—no more pussyfooting around. Stall recovery from hammerhead stalls, tail slides, butterfly spins, but the worst of the worst—inverted flight. Fortunately, I don't get airsick. We wore parachutes—I seriously considered using mine, except that I had had no training in jumping, not even in how to pull the ripcord.

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

Out for a Spin by Marjorie Johnson (Continued from previous page)

I had worked hard on learning to fly for a whole year. Would I let this keep me from getting my license? *No, damn it, no! Anything he can do, I can do better. Surely he doesn't want to die.*

The aircraft shuddered and bucked. The stall warning horn blasted my ears, over and over. We stalled in turns, going up, going down, a roller coaster in the air. On every flight, Roy would smirk: "We can stop anytime you want."

Ask him to stop? That male chauvinist pig! No, no, and no. I endured.

Finally, I did get my pilot's license. I never had to use my stall recovery training, although the experience gave new meaning to "going out for a spin."

The Wall: a Poetic Political Parody

From *A Midsummer-Night's Dream* Act V Scene 1

Shakespeare:

In this same interlude it doth befall
That I, one Snout by name, present a wall;
And such a wall, as I would have you think,
That had in it a crannied hole or chink,
Through which the lovers, Pyramus and Thisby,
Did whisper often very secretly.
This loam, this rough-cast, and this stone doth show
That I am that same wall; the truth is so:
And this the cranny is, right and sinister,
Through which the fearful lovers are to whisper.

PKD:

In this same interlude it doth befall
That I, one Trump by name, present a wall;
And such a wall, as I would have you think,
That had in it no crannied hole nor chink,
Through which the awful caravans, so dastardly,
Might sneak in here, even secretly.
This wire, this concrete, and this steel doth show
That I will build that same wall, the truth is so:
And this the bluster is, right-wing and sinister,
To reduce my ardent critics, to a whisper.

**by William Shakespeare,
parodied by Paul K Davis**

Basketball Haiku

Nothing compares to
the sounds of sneakers squishing
across the gym floor.

by Claire Adalyn Wright

Peace Comes

Peace comes on the heels of Love
It settles the mind
It opens the heart
It lifts the Spirit

Peace frees us to know the Truth
We are One

Peace comes on the heels of Love
It settles the mind
It opens the heart
It lifts the Spirit

Peace encircles the Earth
Refreshes
Renews

Peace comes
Open your door

Nancy Guarnera

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

My Children . . .

My children die, tiny
bodies torn apart
like houses ripped to rubble.

My war-torn babies, tortured,
dangling helplessly
from desperate caring arms –

heads flopping,
pale faces dripping blood,
blank eyes wide with shock.

Some faces slack with death
have perhaps escaped
this overwhelming war.

Someone sends me pictures
of my distant children
through the television.

A different agony,
for I am safe right here . . .
watching helplessly.

This morning I could choose
what I preferred for breakfast,
unthinking luxury.

I'm guilty, furious.
My children are so thin
and I can't cook for them.



Senators debate
their blood drenched policies,
intent on keeping safe

the things they think they own –
their families, jobs, their houses,
and their bank accounts.

While my children
who have not died
wait helplessly

for peace, safe breath and food,
for hospitality
my country will not share.

I push away awareness
of my children's pain
so I can work for change,
but still they live in tender
corners of my being
where I can only cry,

"Today my children die,
their bodies torn apart
like houses ripped to rubble."

Diane Morninglight

Send Us Your Submissions – We Will Print Them!

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

Portland

it has a northwest feel to it.
the clouds are close
the homes often large,
the windows crystal clean

trees in old neighborhoods
have a tinge of yellow in September
and, at the shoreline, spears of
firs pierce the estuaries.

I could live here,
near this fountainhead
of fresh ideas and heaving change
where ten rivers

Speak to the Pacific.
I would visit the Café Creation
and speak with those rivers
about the next formation

and a plan for a new moon,
one larger than the last,
and fully orange in color.
It will move fast

and pass in
a tighter ellipse
making it redder
than before, as

it pushes past the corn
and rushes the salmon
into the rivers' stones.
And the orange eggs will open

and face the Pacific
like tiny moons.

Tony Pino

Plight of the Dog-Man

Here comes that dream again!
A pack of dogs in hot pursuit of me,
and I, barking back,
becoming a dog myself.

And eventually I dissolve
with my enemies into a biting,
lathered cyclone of fur.
And my wife stirs me and says,

"Wake up. You're dreaming again!
What are you screaming about?"

"Oh, I thought I was barking;
it's the dogs again."

And we laugh; it's just
another silly dream.

But why, I wonder,
later in the morning,

do I want to tear into the throats
of the arrogantly rich?

And why does this rough dark hair
grow so savagely,

so abundantly under my clothes?
And why do my teeth grind

like scraping stones?
And here comes the enemy now.

"Don't tread on me," his yellow
tee-shirt says.

I won't;
I'll simply occupy his throat.

I'm a dog again.

Tony Pino

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

the clock

the clock is ticking away
and i am helpless to stop it
minute by minute
day by day
year by year
oh what i would give to slow it down
just for a time
but no
time is running out
biology is getting the best of me
in truth
it may not be my destiny
but in fact
it is my desire
to look into the eyes of my child
to touch its face
its fingers
its toes
to hear its laugh and its cry
to know the joy and the wonder
of passing on a part of myself
to be a guide in the lessons of life
can it be that i am never to know this
can it be that the ticking will stop

and time will run out

can it be that such a vision
as i have had
was only an illusion

nancy guarnera

Observation Poetry

Observation poetry,
like observation comedy,
tickles memory.

It keeps our sense
of self intact.
"I've seen that!"
Some part of us
will shout. Or whisper.
We silently affirm,
"I am here. I'm seen!"

Observation poetry,
called belly button
contemplation
contemptuously,
is indeed the strict
investigation of ourselves
through saying what we see.

Are there really
other kinds of poetry?
Can we report anything
but what we see?

I dance here in my skin
eternally.

Diane Morninglight

**HAPPY NATIONAL
POETRY MONTH**