



HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY **Ink Spots**



The Newsletter of the Fremont Area Writers
The "Centennial" Branch of the California Writers Club

Nancy Guarnera Editor-in-Chief

Vol. 87 June 2019

inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org

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



June 2019's Speaker

Planning and Plotting Your Series

Saturday June 22nd 2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

R

Submitted by Knuti VanHoven

eaders love series...but writing one involves more than making up a small town and a lot of characters. Join Shelley Adina to discover how best friends, buddies, exes, and families create foils and contrasts for your main characters, push the plot's emotional complexity, build the story worlds your reader wants to come back to...and become the main characters for the next book. As the author of numerous series in several different genres, Shelley will share strategies and tips for over-arching plotlines, re-appearing characters, and interlocking subplots. She'll also touch on how to use collaborative creativity skills to work up a "continuity series" with other authors.



Shelley Adina

Shelley Adina is the author of 24 novels published by Harlequin, Warner, and Hachette, and more than a dozen published by Moonshell Books, Inc., her own independent press. She writes the Magnificent Devices steampunk series; as Charlotte Henry writes the Rogues of St. Just series of classic Regency romance; and as Adina Senft, writes the Whinburg Township Amish series. She holds an MFA in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University, and is currently at work on a PhD in Creative Writing at Lancaster University in the UK. She won the Romance Writers of America RITA Award® for Best Inspirational Novel in 2005, and was a finalist in 2006. Her latest release is *The Matchmaker Wore Mars Yellow*, book three in her steampunk mystery series. For more, visit www.shelleyadina.com.



TERRY TOSH
FAW President

President's Message

June has arrived, and Volunteerism is in the air! FAW needs YOU.

We are at the end of a very fast-paced, exciting and event-filled fiscal year; it went by so fast I can hardly believe it! And lots to look forward to in the coming months. Please consider what you can contribute from your vast resources of talent that would benefit your fellow travelers on this journey of discovery and growth as writers.

We will be holding elections of officers, as well as positions on committees. Take a look at the website under "Board" at **cwc-fremontareawriters.org** and give some careful thought to how you can grow and spread your wings while learning by doing in this upcoming 2019-2020 season.

Can you say "**Anniversary Celebration!**" It's here!! **July 6** is the date, and **Lake Elizabeth** is the place! Come and join us for a day of relaxing and mingling, reminiscing and feasting. See the invitation on our website and in the newsletter for the **alphabetized listing** of what to bring, and let us know what your dish will be, so we can have a good mix of delectable edibles to share.

We have a new newsletter editor! Our wonderful Myrla Raymundo has passed the Ink Spots pen to Nancy Guarnera. We thank and honor Myrla for her many years of service and welcome Nancy into her new role as Editor-in-Chief. We know she will do a great job filling Myrla's shoes.

On a somber note, we say goodbye to our friend Chris Dews, FAW Membership Chairperson and Webmaster. Chris passed away on May 29th. Many of you know him from his books about dragons and fairies and druids set in early mythological/historical Britain. There will be a gathering of his writers' community on Friday, June 28th from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. to remember and celebrate him and his contributions to FAW and his wonderful writing. Watch your email for details.

Remember, there will be no meeting or newsletter in July, so please make every effort to come to the picnic and also to join us to support our "Second Saturday" event at Half Price Books on July 13. (More details can be found in this newsletter and on our website.)

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
- 2019 Jan Small

FAW Chairpersons



ART CAREY
Signage
Facility Liaison



SUE CURTZWILER
Hospitality Co-Chair



TISH DAVIDSON
CA Writers Club
Representative



BOB GARFINKLE
Historian
Past President



NANCY GUARNERA
"Second Saturday"
Coordinator
Ink Spots Editor



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
Membership
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 Marie Blanchard for the future publication of her essay "Finding Rebecca" in the Fall issue of the journal *Dialogue*."

Kudos to Penelope Anne Cole for her 2nd and two 3rd place **Short Story Awards** at the 2019 San Mateo County Fair Literary Stage Competition. **Second Place winner:** "The Little People" and **Third Place winners:** "Welcome to Hell" and "The Wild Ride."

Kudos to Joyce Cortez for her 3rd **Place award** in the 2019 San Mateo County Fair Literary Contest. Her piece, *What Class Are We?* won in the Division 326-06, Lifestyle Memoir, Senior.

Kudos to Leticia Escalera who will be reading from her unpublished work *A Journey to Begin in Life* on **Thursday, June 20th at 6:00 P.M.** at the **Octopus Literary Salon** located at 2101 Webster Street in Oakland. Everyone is invited to attend.

Kudos to Jo Ann Frisch for her successful "Second Saturday" event at **Half Price Books** at the Fremont Hub. Jo Ann shared her illustrated *Plant Uses by California Native Americans Rumsien and Mutsun Ohlone* and her new book, *Plant Foods of the Ohlone Peoples* with an audience anxious to learn more about the subjects.

Kudos to Brenda Sands (writing under the name **B.G. Aucoin**) on her two new self-published handbooks entitled *Handbook of Seven Holy Women of God: A Simplified Reflection* and *Handbook of Women in the Bible: An Alphabetical List*. She has already had three substantial orders for her books and is marketing to gift shops with a religious orientation, as well as to individuals. These are her first "for sale" publications as a writer.

Time to Renew Your Membership

Calling all FAW Members



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

1. 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.

2. FAW Webmaster Needed

Have you had experience creating and administering a website(s)? If you answered YES to this question, we need you! This is a critical role in our organization; if you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Terry Tosh 408-314-4926 ASAP! Thank you!



Thank You, Myrla!

For 10 Years as Editor of Ink Spots

Myrla,

You always make us smile. You welcome everyone with open arms, and we feel at once that we can trust in you. You are clever, witty, funny, and motherly, yet rule with confidence and strength.

Thank you for the years of selfless energy and dedication to the FAW cause. You have been a rock and an inspiration. We are very grateful to have had you on our team, and look forward to your continued friendship and fellowship at our monthly functions.

(Wanna be President?)

Sincerely,

Terry Tosh
FAW President

Hello Myrla,

You have been a pillar of strength for the Fremont Area Writers. Treasure, dedication, enthusiasm, dependability, and your loving smile are qualities that describe you, Myrla Raymundo. Your work as the Editor-in-Chief, writer, and other behind the scenes tasks needed to publish our newsletter for countless years will be missed. Now, it's time for you to enjoy the meetings and relax as you watch the foundation you have built thrive and continue to blossom with the new guidance of Nancy Guarnera.

Best wishes to you!

Sue Curtzwiler
Hospitality Co-Chairperson



MYRLA RAYMUNDO, MBA
Editor-in-Chief Ink Spots

Dearest Myrla,

At my first monthly meeting, you stood up and introduced yourself and told us that you were the oldest FAW member. You talked about the newsletter, encouraged people to submit their writing, and that you would love some help. I almost put my hand up that first day, but I was new and decided to wait.

Several months later, Jan Small asked if I'd like to take over Hospitality. I did, and a few months after that you made a trip to the hospital. At the next meeting, you asked for help again. This time I didn't wait. And you embraced me with open arms. Literally! It was the first of our many hugs!

You trusted me; gave me free reign. You encouraged me and always checked in to see if I needed help. I knew I was auditioning for you, and I'll do my best to honor your faith in me. I promise to take good care of our "baby," Ink Spots!

Thank you for all you've done for FAW and me!

Love and Hugs, Nancy Guarnera

Myrla,

Myrla Raymundo joined FAW at the very start back in 2008. She is a Charter Member and has held several positions in the branch. Being involved in the entire history of our branch, I have the unique position of having watched and worked with her for the past 10 years or so.

I wish Myrla well as she basks in her well-earned retirement as our newsletter Editor.

Thanks Myrla for all you have done to make FAW the great branch that we are.

Take care,

Bob Garfinkle
FAW Past President
FAW Historian

Dear Myrla,

Thank you for your labor of love over the years faithfully getting a newsletter together month after month. I was so excited when I first joined to hear we could send in our writing and it would be published!

You are a joy to be around and you have encouraged countless writers.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, and God Bless.

Anita Tosh
Membership Chairperson

A Word from Our Editor



Nancy Guarnera
Editor-in-Chief Ink Spots

Welcome to our June 2019 issue of Ink Spots, it contains the latest FAW news, poetry, prose, essays, and articles written by our members. It also contains information from other branches of the California Writers Club and from the literary world beyond.

I'm Nancy Guarnera and I'll be your new Ink Spots Editor-in-Chief starting with this issue.

Please thank Myrla Raymundo personally the next time you see her for her 10 years of service to FAW keeping Ink Spots in our hands each month. Any of you who have ever published a volunteer newsletter, know the work involved. Done properly it can become almost a full-time position. I'll do my best to continue Myrla's commitment to providing up-to-date information about what's happening in our FAW branch and beyond.

Please consider submitting your writing for publication—poetry, prose, fiction, non-fiction, articles related to writing, kudos, writing tips, and workshop information that you'd recommend from personal experience. This is your newsletter, let's fill it! If you'd like to contribute a continuing series, let's talk. Send me an email or talk to me at a 4th Saturday meeting.

Send submissions to **inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org**. Please put **FAW Ink Spots Submission** in the **Subject** line of your email. Thank you!

Ink Spots is emailed to members on or around the 15th of each month (*excluding July*) and is available on the FAW website **cwcfremontareawriters.org**. If you have not received a copy of the newsletter by the 25th of the month, and you've checked your SPAM folder and it's not there, contact me at **inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org** and I'll resend it to you. Please put **FAW NO NEWSLETTER** in the **Subject** line. We email Ink Spots to all the different branches of the California Writers Club, as well.

Enjoy this month's issue!
Nancy

Submission Guidelines

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

On or before the **First Day of the Publication Month** (May 1st for the May issue)

Please submit as attachments, rather than in the body of your email.

WORD COUNT:

Feature articles (Presidents Message, Featured Member, etc.): **300 words max.**

Creative Submissions: **1,000 words max.** (unless you are willing to have longer pieces serialized)

Kudos: **75-80 words max.**

FORMAT— **Text:** Word.doc/docx **Photos:** JPEG

May's Speaker Recap



Andrew Benzie

Judging A Book By Its Cover

"I know a woman who was selling four or five copies of her E-book a day on Smashwords; she changed her cover design, and she was suddenly selling 1,000 copies a day."

— Andrew Benzie andrewbenziebooks.com

A great cover has a number of elements that make it successful. With a bit of prompting from Andrew Benzie, our May speaker, we compiled a simple list by which to judge a book by its cover. Does it encourage curiosity—do we want to know what's in the book? Is it simple and clear—can you tell what you're looking at when it's the size of your thumbnail? Does it have distinctive typography that's easy to read? Does it make good use of color? Is the title short enough to be remembered and does it grab your attention? If you can answer YES! to each of these questions regarding your book's cover, you've got a strong cover design that should stand up to the various sizes in which it will appear.

Andrew reminded us, once again, that promotion and marketing our work is up to us when we self-publish. We may have the next best book in the history of the written language, with a really awesome cover, but if we don't promote it, no one is likely to buy it, because they don't know it exists. Here is the **Top Ten Dos and Don'ts List of Self-Publishing** Andrew shared with us.

DO

- **Clarify Your End Goals:**

What's your budget? Why are you writing this book? Fame? Fortune? Self-expression? Generate business leads? Establish yourself as a professional? Educational?

- **Seek Professional Editing:**

Publish the most polished work possible

- **Have a Website:**

Look professional / Establish your brand / Sell your products / Capture email information

- **Take Advantage of Social Media:**

Facebook, Twitter, Blog, Newsletter, etc.

- **Take Advantage of New Technology:**

EBooks, Smashwords, Audiobooks, interactive books, etc.

DON'T

- **Wait to Start Marketing Your Book:**

Identify your target audience. Build your fan base as you write, post previews

- **Skimp on Your Cover Design:**

A strong cover is essential for strong sales

- **Treat Your Business Like a Hobby:**

Make a business plan (90 day increments)

Design a "Brand" and use it across all printed and digital platforms – business cards, postcards, bookmarkers, websites, Facebook, etc.

- **Worry about formatting your book, just write it:**

Focus on your writing / Hire a professional designer to format it for you

- **Assume Your Book Will Sell without a Well-Thought-Out Marketing Strategy:**

Create a marketing plan to target your audience

Calling All FAW Published Authors

FAW-HPB “Second Saturday” Meet Your Local FAW Authors



HPB at the
Fremont Hub

Fremont Area Writers is 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 P.M. A different author will be featured each month.

This opportunity to sell your books is available to FAW members who are published authors.

Our schedule for 2019 is now complete. To schedule your month in 2020, please contact Nancy Guarnera at faw-hpb@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org.

2019 FAW Authors

August

Marjorie Johnson

September

Dave Strom

October

Diane Morninglight

November

Anita Tosh

December

Doris Nikolaidis

“Meet Your Local FAW Author” for July 2019

Saturday, July 13th 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Half Price Books in the Fremont Hub



CAROL HALL

Join **screenwriter Carol Hall** and her readers as they treat us to a group reading of Carol’s screenplay about the lives of young Chinese girls enslaved in early 1900’s San Francisco.

After the 1906 earthquake, Chinatown was rebuilt as a tourist attraction, but human trafficking in young Chinese girls continued. Just as now, there were groups then that were determined to rescue these girls and young women.

Many of these “rescuers” were women as well.

This piece of historical fiction tells their story.

Don’t miss this special FAW “Second Saturday” event at **Half Price Books** in the **Fremont Hub**.

There will be time for Q&A with Carol.

Everyone is welcome!

FAW-HPB "Second Saturday"

June's "Meet Your Local FAW Authors"

PLANT USES by California's

Native Americans

Rumsien & Mutsun Ohlone

**JO ANN
FRISCH**



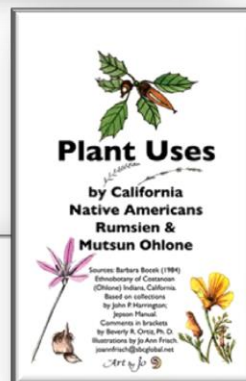
Jo Ann Frisch brought her books and cards, as well as a variety of items made from the plants used by the Ohlone peoples as well as the live plants used to make them: tule, cattails, wild onion, manzanita, and live oak acorns.

One of Jo Ann's friends uses her Plant Uses book as a field guide on his hikes!



(Above) The artist models a hat made from the tule plant, which is also used to make huts and a variety of other useful items.

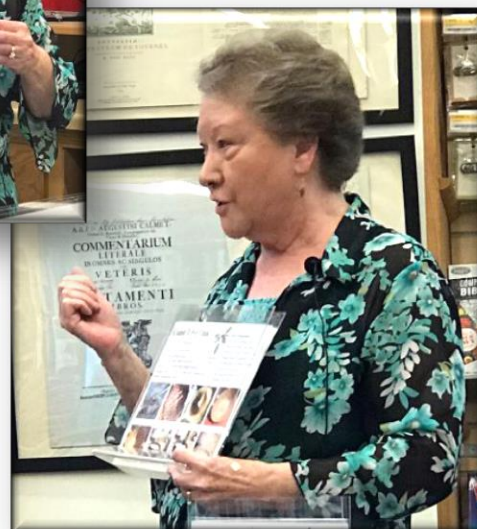
Art by Jo



(Right) Using an illustrated collage of her creation, Jo Ann talks about various plants, fruits and flowers used by the Ohlone people for food and for their medicinal properties.



(Right) Using a photographic instructional guide she created, illustrator Jo Ann Frisch explained the process used for generations to make a staple food of the Ohlone from the Coast Live Oak Acorn. The process is labor intensive but yields a food product that is high in protein, vitamins and minerals and is eaten as mush, bread, soup and for dessert as a "jelly roll." Jo Ann's audience was fascinated by her subject and she entertained a lively discussion during her successful HPB event.



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. It offers submission trackers, custom searches, deadline calendars, statistical reports, and extensive interviews. This is a paid subscription service (\$5/month or \$50/ year).

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

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

Better Writing Tip of the Month

"Hi, Jeff. Where you going?"

"I'm going fishing, Bill."

"Well, Jeff, I hope you catch something."

"Gotta go, Bill. See you later."

What's wrong with this dialog? No, it's not "Where you going" or "Gotta go." Dialog is supposed to sound natural, and that's the way some people talk. The problem is the use of names instead of dialog tags. People don't refer to reach other by name in conversation this way. The "Hi, Jeff" works, but after that, the use of names instead of dialog tags is artificial. Try rewriting the dialog using dialog tags. Does it sound more natural?

(Just in case you've never heard the term dialogue tag before and are not sure what one looks like...he said, she said, I screamed, they cried, are all examples of dialogue tags.)

FREE* Online Honors Class *FREE

Jane K. Cleland, author of 12 mysteries and 5 nonfiction books is excited to share a new, completely free program she has created. It's called the **Honors Class**. Designed for thoughtful writers (and readers), the Honors Class provides one-minute lessons to improve and reinforce understanding of the tools skilled writers use to tell captivating stories.

Writers will learn new techniques that they can put to work right away, and readers will discover tricks of the trade that will deepen their appreciation of their favorite books. If this is of interest to you, you can access these in both text and podcast formats using the link above or via my website at <http://janecleland.com/honors-class-overview/>—**completely for free!**

HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY
The Picnic is Almost Here

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.)

Contact Sue Curtzwiler

smcurtzwiler@comcast.net with the
number in your party and what specific
dishes you'll be bringing. Email her by
10:00 P.M. on Thursday, June 20th.

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
(important)

Stick around at the end and help
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

A Little FAW History

HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Part III

A History of the Fremont Area Writers Picnic

by Robert A. Garfinkle, FAW co-founder

With our branch picnic next month, I decided to write about the history of the branch's annual picnic. Actually, the founders of the California Writers Club (CWC) held picnics/critique group meetings long before there even was CWC. Writers like Jack London and some of his fellow authors would head up into the Oakland hills to meet at the home of Joaquin Miller. His home "The Abby" still exists, located along Joaquin Miller Road on the edge of the park named for the "Poet of the Sierras." Miller owned 59 bare acres on which he planted hundreds of trees. After his death in 1916, the members of CWC pushed the Oakland city council to purchase the land (in 1919) and to create the park. Over the years the City purchased additional land and Joaquin Miller Park now comprises about 500 hilly acres.

When our branch was new, I thought it would be a great idea to hold a picnic up there and contacted Al Levenson, then-president of the Berkeley Branch, about holding a joint picnic. I wanted our new branch to reach out and develop relations with our neighboring branches. Al and I decided to invite the other local branches and soon we decided to invite all of the branches. I was running to be the president of the Central Board (CB) and we decided to hold the picnic on Saturday, July 11, 2010, the day before the July CB meeting. We did that so the CB Representatives from the Southern California branches could attend. We had about 45 CWC members and guests, including the Mayor of Oakland, Jean Quan at the picnic. During the picnics we held Open Mics and a Litcake dessert contest where the items were supposed to be decorated with a literary theme. The best offering



CWC members relax in the shade of Joaquin Miller Park at the first CWC Picnic.

The child in the foreground is Kira MacVicar, Bob Garfinkle's granddaughter. The cake was served at the 1st Anniversary Celebration of the Fremont Area Writers branch.



one year was a small square cake with a big round glowing red eye with an iPod under it playing HAL's lines from the movie "2001 A Space Odyssey."

Because of costs, and the fact that no CB member wanted to take over organizing the CWC picnic in 2017, the CB dropped the annual picnic up at Joaquin Miller Park. The leaders of FAW decided to hold our own July picnic instead. One year later Myrla Raymundo hosted our picnic on the patio behind her Union City History Museum. Thank you again Myrla for all you have done for FAW. This year we celebrate our 10th Anniversary as a CWC branch with a picnic in Fremont's Central Park on the shores of Lake Elizabeth.

FAW Featured Member(s)

Loren & Claire Wright

Traveling the Open Road

Dear Fremont Area Writers,

Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you,
thank you, thank you, thank you, and thank
you again!

My husband, Loren, and I have enjoyed our membership in FAW. The first Ink Spots we read included photos of the picnic, and it looked fun. I wish we could attend this year, but we will have to hope for a future picnic for that. By the time you read this, we will have left the area for an extended period of time, resuming the travels to see the world that we began in early 2014. We had returned home last June to help care for Loren's Mom. She died at 93 years of age at home in March.

If you didn't surmise from my opening words, you have my deep gratitude. You wonderful group of writers of California Writers Club have offered us fellowship at a critical point in our lives. Loren has intended to write a book since he was in his 20's. Now in his 60's, he is in the process to make that dream a reality.

From informative talks at the Saturday meetings, to the Holiday party, Ink Spots, the purchase of a couple of members' books as gifts for people who truly appreciate them, and more, our times spent in FAW activities has been outstanding. Further, our participation in a small group has been delightful, while the other members'



comments and combined wisdom have been invaluable.

Please keep on with all you provide to the community of writers in the Fremont area.

***Yours sincerely,
Claire Wright***

Dear Fremont Area Writers,

I have benefited from joining FAW as a member about a year ago. Thank you for what you do together as a group to improve writing and literacy in the world.

Your Saturday meetings and small group critique meet ups have helped me to improve and given direction to my memoir. I have also enjoyed the camaraderie and making new friends in the process.

My wife, Claire, and I depart soon for ongoing travel adventures. We won't be able to make all of the meetings as consistently, but plan to renew our membership and stay in touch. I will continue to write the book I always promised myself I'd write, and with your help, finish it.

***Sincerely,
Loren Wright***

Remembering Chris DeWes

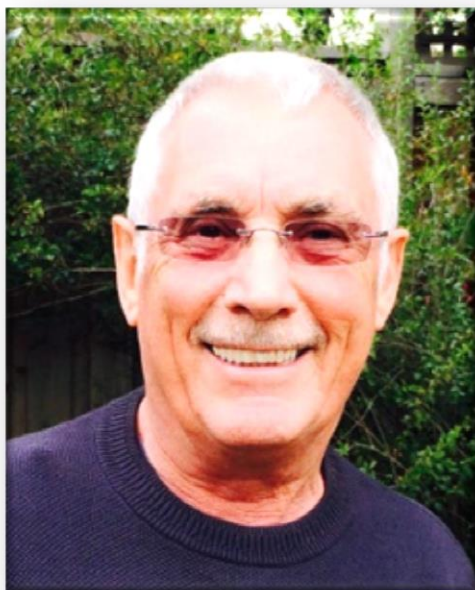
For Chris

Our love is riding the waves
of the universe
to swish at your feet.

New light and silver water
on silk web threads glisten.
Joy captures me.

Small breeze. The cattails sway.
Reflections ripple.
Our breath moves quietly.

Diane Morninglight
6/2019



CHRIS

Chris, you charmed your
readers with tales from afar

Happy and joyful your words
touched our hearts

Reaching your audience, you
did this with style

Infinite creativity, one of a
kind. Now you are free to

Sleep, dream, with the magic
of Erin and the shine of a star

Carmen VonTickner
6/2019

Wordsmith

I know that you refused
to swallow dogma whole
like sophomores swallow goldfish,
but twinkle eyes like stars
showed us your universe,
immense and orderly.

I miss you, wordsmith friend,
quick wit, unwritten books,
perceptive thought, support.
I can't quite accept
you won't be walking through
our writers' group front door.

Now you know the truth
we fumble tongue around,
writers in the dark
wishing you were still
wandering with us
in the mystery.

Diane Morninglight
6/2019

These are just a few of the
abounding attributes that I have
witnessed in the short 2 years
that I was privileged to work
closely with Chris as a fellow
Board member, trainer and
confidant as I learned the ropes
of the various aspects of leading
this amazing team of fellow
writing enthusiasts we call FAW.
Chris was always ready to help,
and give his advice on any issue
that I would bring to him. He
taught me confidence in my
attempts to learn and execute
projects on our challenging
Website (and me, a bungling
dimwit in the field of anything
remotely technical).
He would readily praise my
efforts, knowing that I had
indeed really botched that one,
but still encouraging me that it
was a valiant effort!

Love Always, Terry Tosh President, Fremont Area Writers
6/2019

CHRIS DEWS

An acrostic

Capable and Caring
Hardworking and Happy
Reliable and Ready
Intelligent and Irrepressible
Stolid and Steadfast

Dynamic and Daring
Effervescent and Energetic
Witty and Well-spoken
Spellbinding and Savvy

His works of genius in his
creative writing have left
lasting impressions in my
thoughts, and I am so very
saddened and at a loss for
words in how to just say,
Thank You, Chris. You are
forever in our hearts and we
are so full of gratitude in
having had the pleasure to
call you FRIEND.

Remembering Chris DeWes (continued)

Lil, Chris, Virginia Beach This Week

From birth each of us have unique features, mannerisms, laughter, poise, quirks, interests and loves.

But how do we reconcile death? It will happen to every one of us - in some way, on some day.

It could be through a tragic event, the result of an illness, age, or even by one's own hand.

Whatever the cause, all of us will one day stop speaking, stop seeing, stop hearing, and stop breathing.

The lives touched, left behind and left bereft, will hold your memory in our hearts, 'til our own heart stops.

Claire Adalyn Wright 6/2019

So, I know you didn't believe in God; the big guy in the sky, God. Or perhaps it was just religion that appalled you. We came close one day to a shared idea of oneness, I think. A conversation I was looking forward to having with you at some point. It will have to wait; perhaps another time, in another place.

You were so many things to me: A friend, a confidante, a sounding board, a trouble-shooter, a second pair of eyes, a fellow writer, a coffee companion, an encourager, a support, a tech guru, a voice I will hear in my head whenever I read your wonderful stories. I hope I was all, or some of these things to you, as well.

I miss you! But I will carry you in my heart and in my memories until it's my turn to take to leap into the unknown. I wonder, will you and all my other companions in life be there at the party on the other side waiting to welcome me into my next experience? I hope so! Fare thee well, Chris!

Nancy Guarnera 6/2019

I met Chris at a meeting of Fremont Area Writers and invited him to consider joining a small writers' critique group. He came, he saw, he stayed. And when he did, he admitted us into a rich world of ancient Celtic mythology. He called it "fantasy/reality." His main character in several novels was Antler Jinny, a crippled young girl who lived in a time of magic. There were dragons, cute little ones that buzzed about like mosquitoes, and big ones, malevolent monsters that incinerated people like the ones in "Game of Thrones." Fascinating stuff.

Chris was an ex-engineer and a problem solver. He nudged our group from pen-on-paper suggestions in critiques to electronic evaluations on iPads and computers. Got a computer problem? He'd take a crack at solving it. I shall miss him.

Art Carey 6/2019

Jinny tucked her antler under her armpit, a substitute for her missing leg. One step, two steps, maybe three before she ended up on her face in the mud. When I asked Chris why he chose to make his protagonist disabled, he explained that he wanted to write about a person who had nothing. In 65 A.D., Antler Jinny was a girl in a world dominated by rough men. She was poor, hungry, cold, and had only one leg. Her mother was dead, and her father had removed her leg with an axe to free her from a fallen tree—one that he himself had felled. Jinny truly had nothing, yet in Chris's imagination and through his words, she would overcome obstacles to dance with faeries and become a queen.

I only knew Chris as the creator of Antler Jinny. But in his writing, his sympathy for the underdog, the oppressed, and those that struggled came through, as did the things he valued—persistence, ingenuity, loyalty, and a touch of magic. I only knew Chris as a talented writer, but I am saddened that I, and the world, did have time to know him better. At least he left us a story to remember him by.

Tish Davidson 6/2019

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

The Professor – A Short Story

by Chris Dews

Too late, I see her. I try to hide, but it's hard to be inconspicuous when you're pushing a bicycle. We exchange greetings. Hers cool, mine jovial, with a smile. 'Show teeth', my wife used to say.

"And the University?" she asks, looking away up the crowded sidewalk.

"It's all going wonderfully now." I smile again. Her mouth works as she chews and swallows things she would like to say. There is no sign of her smile. Her smile is the thing I remember most about her. Without it, she is concerned, serious, plain and easy to miss, but her smile transforms her. Her smile is so open, so honest, but so rare that when it comes, it dazzles.

Finally, something: "Now?"

"Yes," I say. "You know..."

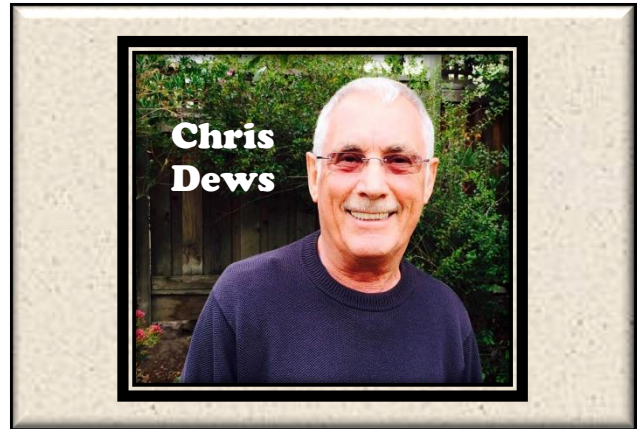
She nods, looks away again, makes a decision. "I trusted you." Stopping, she faces me, forcing people to squeeze past the bicycle. "Don't expect me to be friendly. You know what you did."

"What I did? I was your professor. I helped you." I walk on quickly. "It's been splendid talking to you."

She keeps up easily, skipping a little as she walks. "Helped me? Helped yourself, I think."

"I'm going to the bicycle shop—my bike needs repair." I hope she'll let me go. Take pity on me perhaps. Who doesn't pity a man wheeling a broken down bicycle?

"You're doing so well now." She catches at



my sleeve to slow me down. "You're famous. I see you on the box."

"Yes, my idea—"

"Your idea?" Again, her mouth works, the skin on her face tightens. "But it wasn't yours, was it? It was mine. You stole it." Her voice becomes louder. "You stole my big idea, professor."

"You kept my pen."

Her eyes lose focus for a moment, her head shaking slightly. "Your pen? I kept your pen?"

"Yes, I lent it to you. You never gave it back." She screws her face up, trying to remember.

"Was it expensive?"

"A Bic."

It was one of those commodity pens you buy five to a pack and lose four in the first few days.

"That old chewed-at thing?" Her lips curl in distaste. "It was disgusting. I threw it out."

I hardly remember the pen, but I do remember my dismay at losing it.

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FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

The Professor – A Short Story

by Chris Dews

(continued from previous page)

"I'd had it a long time. I was used to it."

Her eyes narrow and she tilts her head a little to the side. "A pen," she says slowly. "You ripped off my idea because of an old chewed up pen..."

"Oh you're young," I say. "You have a wonderful mind, you'll have many big ideas; I'd be surprised if you haven't had half a dozen doozies since then." I try the teeth again, hoping she'll be a little less loud. People are looking.

She gets louder. "No. I haven't had any doozies! Why are you laughing? You think it's funny that you ruined my life?" A Pekinese and her owner scowl at me as they cross the street. A bus inches past in traffic, windows pasted with white, curious faces, mopping up the drama. I walk again, faster, making a run for the bicycle shop, which is just ahead. Jo will be there. Jo is scary. She will never make a fuss in front of Jo.

She follows me through the door. Brightly-tubed, black-tired bicycles hang from the ceiling above a glass counter, overstuffed with glittering gears, brakes, shifters, and pedals. By the side and behind are racks of fluorescent clothing that I could never wear.

It's a cacophony of color, and in the middle of it all is Jo. Spotty, greasy-handed, teenaged and surly, she is fiddling with a bike on a stand. She sees me come in, lowers her head and turns her back, wrenching on the bike.

My student leans her back on the glass counter, her elbows bent, her hands on the glass top. "Really—why did you do it? Do you steal all your students' great ideas? I bet you do; I know you do." Her eyes become large and moist. "I thought we had something."

"Tenure," I mumble, remembering. "I wanted tenure. I *needed* tenure." I should get Jo involved. "Jo, my bike—"

Jo gives the wrench one last tug, wipes her greasy hands on a greasier cloth, and sits behind the counter, glowering at me.

"You brought the heap back." She wasn't going for the teeth either.

My student is red-faced now, her teeth are bared, her hands held white-knuckled by her sides. No sign of that smile. "Tenure! You ruined my life, so you could get your miserable tenure?"

"I thought you'd be happy for me," I say.

"Going to pay me this time?" asks Jo.

"I didn't ruin your life—you must have a great job now, in some multinational something—"

She nodded. "McDonalds. I work in McDonalds." McDonalds. Small children, ketchup fingers, lips pursed around ketchup fries, gaping wounds in joyful faces. Harried mothers, loud noise, upset drinks. I shudder. Not like the Italian place, with its white table cloths, waiters with mustaches and accents. And Chianti. I lick my lips. Chianti...

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FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

The Professor – A Short Story

by Chris Dews

(continued from previous page)

"Messed it up again?" Jo comes from behind the counter and stands, hands on hips, tut-tutting at my bicycle and the angry young woman with me. Her hand comforts the handlebar. It had been a good bike. All top end Shimano.

"It's been out in the rain," she sniffed. "Look—it's filthy. And these gears; they're rusted solid!" Her hand moves back to her hip, leaving an oily handprint on the chrome. She sneers at me with that particular expression that cyclists reserve for those who don't share their passion.

"McDonalds? Making hamburgers? Surely you could do better than that."

"After the hatchet-job you did on me at the hearing? I'm lucky to have anything."

"Pricey bicycle. A lot of my customers would love to have one of these."

"Do you know what he did to me? He was my professor. He pretended to like me, to help me, then he stole my great idea!"

Jo moves closer to her. "Not surprised," she said, lowering her voice and shrugging. "Doesn't care for his bicycle..."

I can tell my student liked her. She grinned. "And you should see his poetry. He writes poems to all the young women in class."

Jo's eyes dart quickly to one side; a smile begins.

"We don't have to talk about the poetry, please. I just write it to make the course more involving, more exciting. I just want

to connect."

"Only, every poem is the same; he just changes the first line. 'Oh Claire, I love thy hair.' Or, 'Oh Janice, you look so Spanish.'"

Jo's smile is now a laugh. "Really? He writes poems to the women? What was yours?"

"I never got one. My name is Rosamund. I'm too hard to rhyme."

Jo cackles. "What would he write for me? Oh Jo, I'm sure you know—"

"I love thy toe," I say, hurriedly.

"My toe?" said Jo, her brows beetling. "What about my toe?"

"And his socks," said Rosamund, her voice rising to a screech. "You can see his heels. All holes. Big old potatoes sticking out of the back of his sandals!"

The girls are laughing together now, clutching each other, so free, their bodies dipping with their laughter, Jo's hand at her mouth. I try to hide my heels. My wife told me that people would notice. Hiding one heel is easy, two is more difficult.

"Why are you standing like that?" asks Rosamund. I have moved my heels together, toes splayed out like Charlie Chaplin. "It looks ridiculous." It's at these moments that I miss my wife the most—that woman could hide a heel.

This old stag's antlers crumble with their laughter. Already they are friends, bonded by secrets that men can never understand. We may catch an insight, like a dolphin arcing out of the water, but then, like the dolphin, it sinks into mystery, leaving us with nothing.

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FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

The Professor – A Short Story

by Chris Dews

(continued from previous page)

"You can forget about the pen," I say. "I've bought a new packet."

Finally she smiles. The grubby bicycle shop glows as if a nuclear weapon has detonated in the street outside. Even Jo is impressed. Then she giggles and the girls exchange a knowing look.

"And the bicycle." I thrust it towards her, my brow furrowed, eyes firm. It is earnestness I am going for now. "Please keep it—I want you to have it. To make up, you know..." She makes no move to take it.

"Jo, I'll buy a new bicycle from you. I will—I'll treat it like a baby."

But I can tell they aren't interested. These young women, like my wife at the end, want nothing from me.

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Send Us Your Submissions

Ireland Haiku

If the Irish live
in *ire* land, then how come
they are so upbeat?

Claire Wright

With Dragons Haiku

You fly with dragons
Now you have made the leap to
Radiant new Life

Nancy Guarnera

RAINDROPS

First there is calm
Then winds pick up speed
The heavens part
And raindrops begin
That's how it is
When you and I meet
An innocent word
A touch of a hand
Too soon I fear
The heavens shake
Like volcanic eruption
Your anger explodes
As lightning strikes
You fail to hear
my pleading voice;
Teardrops fall
To your silent ears
With a thundering sound
Of my beating heart
I sit; I wait
For silence; silence
Of the raindrops

Carmen Ruelas VonTickner