



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. 90 October 2019

inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org

Visit us at <http://cwcfremontareawriters.org>

October 2019's Speaker

Andrew Benzie

with more on

Publishing & Promoting Your Written Work

Fourth Saturday Mtg. October 26th
2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

42 Silicon Valley Room 106
6600 Dumbarton Circle in Fremont



Andrew Benzie
andrewbenziebooks.com

You've finished your book. You've read it to your critique group; had a proofreader take a look at it; and even had an editor-friend give it the once-over. It's ready to go. You've decided to self-publish online. All you have to do is post it—right? Well, maybe not. Are you going to give it away for free, or is your intention to make some money selling it? If you want to sell your book, you need to promote it, and that can be a complicated process to navigate gracefully and successfully in the world of online publishing. But help is on the way.

Join book designer and publisher **Andrew Benzie** when he returns to take us on a deep dive into the ever-changing world of promoting your self-published written work in the digital age.

Benzie is a Bay Area native with years of experience in graphic design and online publishing. He'll share his knowledge and experiences, and answer your questions. When he's finished, you'll know what it takes to promote your work so it stands out on the crowded digital shelf—and sells.

Don't Miss This Informative Speaker!
Everyone Is Welcome!



TERRY TOSH
FAW President

President's Message

Hey, everybody,

Pumpkins everywhere; harvest festivities abound. We are harvesting wonderful tidbits of knowledge as we chew on the good mental food we have been grateful to receive over the past year we've spent together. I hope to see everyone stay with us through the renewal cycle and not have to pay the additional \$20.00 to start over as a new member due to procrastinating on your annual membership dues!

Thanks again for your attendance at our HPB "Second Saturday" events as well as our Fourth Saturday general meetings, and sundry critique groups, open mic sessions, and other "writer's helping writers" opportunities. Everything we do to support and help each other grow as writers is rewarding and well worth the effort.

This month begins one more opportunity to share your writing with the world: **FAW-Starbucks "Third Sunday" Literary OPEN MIC—Writers Reading Their Original Work** will kick off on Sunday the 20th from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. with sign-up starting at 3:00 p.m. Join us at the **Starbucks at 39201 Cedar Blvd in Newark** for a traditional open mic. It's **FREE and open to the public**.

We received a very warm "Thank You" and high compliments from our September speaker, John Byrne Barry. He hopes we had as much fun learning as he had teaching; and would be pleased to book a return engagement any time we'd like to have him back. Be sure to pass the word to any of your friends in other branches that he is a very helpful and informative speaker.

Upcoming events are rapidly approaching as 2019 zips by at lightning speed. Two more general meetings before our December year-end get-together. Marketing (October's meeting) and the Law (November's meeting) should prove to be just the ticket to round out a very fulfilling year. We'll wind up our 10th Anniversary Celebration (at the November Meeting) with special "Thank You" tokens of appreciation to our founding members and long-time members. Of course, there will be cake!

It's been a year of Joy and Sorrow, but we remain grateful during this season of Harvest, Thanksgiving and Sharing. I hope to see you soon at one of our many functions. Be sure to check in on Facebook and our website for opportunities to grow and prosper in your journey to literary success.

Have a great month! Terry

FREMONT AREA WRITERS MONTHLY CALENDAR

SECOND SATURDAY
Meet Your Local FAW Authors

Second Saturdays

2:00 – 4:00 PM

Half Price Books

39152 Fremont Hub,
Fremont

THIRD SUNDAY
Literary OPEN MIC

Third Sundays

Sign-up 3:00

Reading 3:30 – 5:30 PM

Starbucks
39201 Cedar Blvd
Newark

SUJU's
OPEN MIC

Fourth Mondays

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Suju's Coffee & Tea
Meeting Room
3602 Thornton Ave,
Fremont

BOARD & GENERAL
MEETINGS

Fourth Saturdays

Board: 12:30 – 1:45 PM

General: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

42 Silicon Valley Rm 106
6600 Dumbarton Circle,
Fremont

FAW Board Members



TERRY TOSH
President



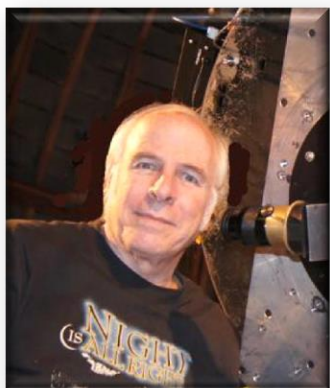
KNUTI VANHOVEN
Vice President



**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
Volunteer Coordinator
Hospitality Co-Chair



SCOTT DAVIDSON
Webmaster



TISH DAVIDSON
CA Writers Club
Representative



AMBER DeANN
Facebook Page
Social Media



BOB GARFINKLE
Historian
Past President



NANCY GUARNERA
"Second Saturday"
Coordinator
Ink Spots Editor



CHERILYN JOSE
CWC Advertising
& Promotions



TONY PINO
Open Mic



ANITA TOSH
Membership
Nor-Cal Representative
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 Art Carey who has a short story in the September issue of *Guardian Angel Kids Magazine* and has had a sci-fi piece reprinted in *First Encounter*, an anthology produced by Didcot Writers in England. Congratulations, Art!

Kudos to Amber DeAnn on her successful “Second Saturday” event at Half Price Books in the Fremont Hub which was held on October 12th; she shared excerpts from her book *Release Your Magical Child*. Congratulations, Amber!

Fremont Area Writers & Starbucks

present

“Third Sunday”

***Literary* OPEN MIC**

Writers Reading Their Original Work



Readings should be no more than 8 minutes long. Starbucks is a “family-friendly” venue—please read family-appropriate material. PLEASE: No hate speech, No pornography, No gratuitous obscenities or vulgarity; No political or religious rants or proselytizing. Thank you!

New FAW OPEN MIC Starts

October 20th 2019

**Every Third Sunday
of the month**

Sign-up: 3:00 PM

Reading: 3:30 to 5:30 PM

Starbucks in Newark

39201 Cedar Blvd

**Free and Open to the Public
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

A Word from Our Editor



Nancy Guarnera
Editor-in-Chief Ink Spots

Welcome to our October 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.

If you are an avid reader of *Ink Spots*, you've probably noticed that we have "departments." Some examples: Notes From the World, Kudos, A Little FAW History, FAW Featured Member, FAW Writers' Corner. Some of these appear every month, some are more transitory.

This is your newsletter and I would truly appreciate your participation. If you've had a success, submit it as a **Kudo**; finished a poem or a short story, submit it for the **Writers' Corner**; have some tips, tricks, contests, websites, or events that would appeal to writers,

submit them for **Notes from the World**; have some FAW history you'd like to share...you get the idea! This is your organization and your newsletter; please consider contributing to both. If you'd like to submit a continuing series, or have an idea for a new department, let's talk. Send me an email or talk to me at a 4th Saturday meeting.

Send submissions to inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org. Please put **FAW Ink Spots Submission** in the **Subject** line of your email. See below for Submission Guidelines. 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 cw-c-fremontareawriters.org. If you have not received a copy of the newsletter by the 25th of the month, and you've checked your SPAM/JUNK folder and it's not there, contact me at inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org and I'll resend it to you. Please put **FAW—NO NEWS-LETTER** 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—Happy Halloween! Nancy

Submission Guidelines

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

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

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

September's Speaker Recap

Settings that Work

How Memorable Setting Can Advance Plot, Reveal Character, Echo Theme, and More

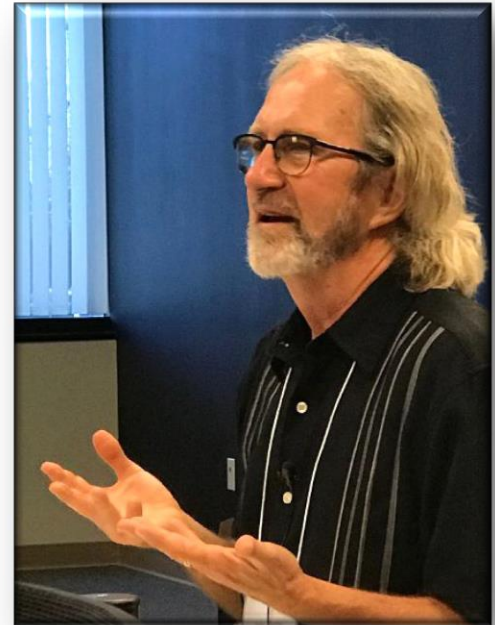
September's speaker, **John Byrne Barry**, is fascinated by setting. Author of two books, *Wasted* and *Bones in the Wash*, with another one, *Why I Killed My Father*, on the way, Barry shared his thoughts on the importance of setting. He explained how this aspect of storytelling can do so much more for us than simply describing the weather or giving a detailed description of the neighborhood in which a character resides.

Here is the list of **EIGHT JOBS SETTING CAN DO** that Barry recommends writers consider when they write. Each is accompanied by a book title that illustrates his point.

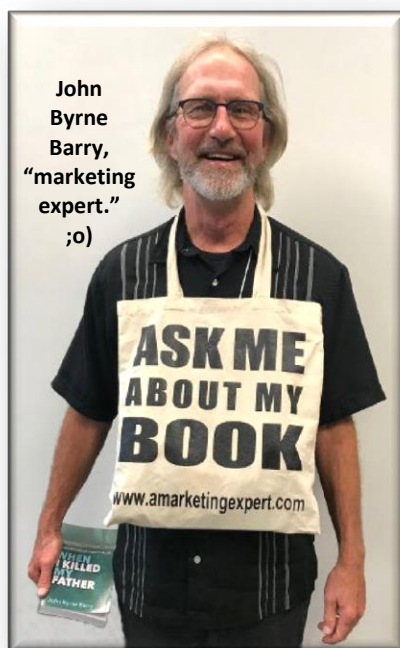
1. Setting advances the story: a) The setting is an obstacle the protagonist needs to overcome. b) A change in setting creates danger—and creates new plot development. c) A ticking clock builds suspense. *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*

2. Setting drives the story: The setting itself *is* the story. It's what the protagonist must face and overcome. *A Perfect Storm*

3. Setting defines character, changes character: Characters are so defined by the setting, they couldn't exist elsewhere. *Lonesome Dove*



John Byrne Barry



4. Setting establishes the rules of your universe: For historical fiction or sci-fi/fantasy, the writer needs to describe the rules. *The Martian*

5. Setting unifies the story: Some books have multiple storylines connected by a common backdrop. *Hotel*

6. Setting conveys mood and tone: Weather is often used to unify story by conveying mood and tone. All the characters experience the same weather. *The English Patient*

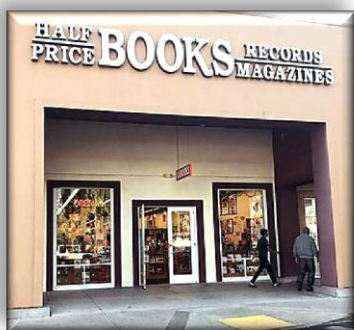
7. Setting echoes theme: Best done with a subtle touch. *All the President's Men*

8. Setting Serves as metaphor: Because place is destiny. *The Great Gatsby*

After sharing several examples, Barry encouraged the audience to write a scene employing some of his suggestions. Once again, even doing a short prompt moved us forward in understanding new ways to improve our writing.

Calling All FAW Published Authors

FAW-HPB "Second Saturday" Meet Your Local FAW Authors



**Half Price Books
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 authors. Readings are scheduled from 2:00 to 4:00 PM; a different author will be featured each month.

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

If you're interested in scheduling a month in 2020, please contact Nancy Guarnera at faw-hpb@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org. 2019 authors who have new books to share are welcome to schedule for 2020.

2019 FAW Authors

September 14
Dave Strom

October 12
Amber DeAnn

November 9
Anita Tosh

December 14
TBA

"Meet Your Local FAW Author" for November 2019

Saturday, November 9th 2– 4 P.M. Half Price Books in the Fremont Hub



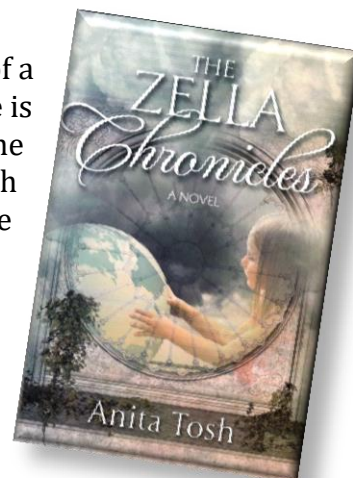
**ANITA
TOSH**

Join FAW author **Anita Tosh** as she shares excerpts from her books *The Zella Chronicles* and *God's Amory*. Anita writes Christian fiction for the Young Adult market.

The Zella Chronicles follows the journey of a young girl who wants to grow up, but she is already in Heaven. To achieve her goal, she must help others, those still on Earth, with theirs. *God's Amory* is the tale of end time calamity and salvation.

Don't miss this inspiring FAW "Second Saturday" event at Half Price Books in the Fremont Hub.

Everyone is welcome!



FAW—HPB “Second Saturday”

October’s “Meet Your Local FAW Authors”

Release Your Magical Child

At the FAW Second Saturday event on October 12th, new member and author Amber DeAnn shared her book ***Release Your Magical Child*** at Half Price Books in the Fremont Hub.

The author took her audience on a journey with her protagonist, Camillia, through the complex terrain of child abuse and post-traumatic stress disorder in her search for happiness and freedom.



Author Amber DeAnn has a strong empathy for her main character’s challenge.

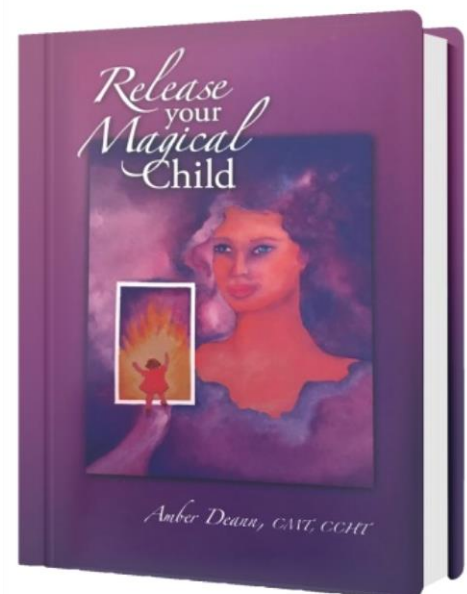
Camillia has help along the way; Heaven is watching. Assistance from a fairy, spirit guides, and an Archangel allow her to make sense of confusing nightmares and flashbacks, as she learns to soothe and love her angry, vengeful Inner Child; finally reconnecting with her Higher Self.

DeAnn’s audience was appreciative and resonated with her book’s subject matter and message. There were questions and lively discussion after the reading.



AMBER DeANN

coachingbyamber.com/release-your-magical-child-book/





Notes from the World



CONTESTS

Writers Weekly. Free newsletter. 24-hour short story contest once each quarter. Topic and word length revealed after signing up. Limited to 500 entrants. \$5 entry fee. Also lists some paying markets for fiction and nonfiction.

writersweekly.com

Winning Writers. Free newsletter. Lists free contests (many age or location restricted) as well as pay-to-enter contests. Lots of poetry contests. **winningwriters.com**

The Write Life. Website. Lists free contests (with a few exceptions.) Includes book, short fiction, essay, and poetry contests. Many contests are very specific, e.g. book by first generation immigrant, book of military fiction.

thewritelife.com/writing-contests

Poets & Writers. Website. Searchable contest database with filters for cost, genre and deadline. **pw.org/grants**

Submishmash Weekly. Free newsletter. A curated arts newsletter with select publishing opportunities including contests, publications seeking submissions, and artist residencies. Run by the submission platform **Submittable**.

Free Write. Blog. 20 contests for 2019. Mixture of pay-to-enter and free contests. **getfreewrite.com/blogs/writing-success/2019-writing-contests-the-complete-guide**

The Writer. Website and free newsletter. Listing of mostly pay-to-enter contests. **writersmag.com/contests**

Fan Story. Paid site. Seven-day free trial. \$9.95/month or \$69/year. Feedback on writing you post and almost daily contests that can be entered at no additional fee. **fanstory.com**

Better Writing Tip of the Month

As the submissions editor of the 2019 *CWC Literary Review*, one of my jobs was to weed out unqualified submissions that violated the CWC Policies and Procedures (<https://calwriters.org/resources-for-branches>) for religious proselytizing, political rants, libelous material, and use of copyrighted material. Fortunately, few submissions fell into in the first three categories, but a surprising number did contain material that violated another person's copyright. Most of these quoted song lyrics or poetry published after 1924.

Although there are exceptions for fair use of another person's work, these exceptions deal mainly with quotes for reviews or critical analysis, news reporting, or parody. Even under these circumstances, only a small percentage of material may be used. Quoting song lyrics is especially dicey because songs are short and a line or two of lyrics can make up a good percentage of the whole.

Don't take your work out of consideration for publication through ignorance of copyright law. For a quick rundown on copyright, check out the Ingram Spark blog entry at:

<https://www.ingramspark.com/blog/quoting-song-lyrics-in-a-book-4-factors-fair-use>

Tish Davidson

**November is...
National Novel Writing Month a.k.a.**

NANOWRIMO

Check it out!

<https://nanowrimo.org>

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

Birth of a Poem, a Haiku

drafted July 23, 1999

A poem in birth:
scrap paper to write upon,
thank you for your pen!

Claire Adalyn Wright

Spider

Creature with eight legs
You don't belong in my house
Here, you get flattened

Nancy Guarnera

Remove My Cloak

I am the sole of your shoe,
The dirt that you spit upon,
And the excrement of fish
That sinks into the silt
Quickly becoming invisible.

I am the one who sits in the
Last seat, in the last row,
Who never says a word or joins
A group or makes any sound,
Trying to be invisible.

I am the one that you never see,
Even when you brush against
My back or shoulder in a crowd,
The one that you never grace with
A smile, for I am invisible.

I yearn to have a friend of my own,
Someone who shares secrets with me,
Holds my hand, carries my books,
Asks for my phone number so that
I will no longer be invisible.

I am tired of sitting alone, day after day,
Munching on my cardboard lunch
While others around me joke and speak
Of adventures of which I will never know,
For I remain invisible.

I ask for your attention, your time,
Which you so willingly give to your
Chosen few, the "in crowd", those that
Raise your status, your time card, but
Not me, for I am invisible.

I beg you to stop just once and ask
My name, to hold the door and let me
Enter first, to invite me to join your group
For lunch, or to be my partner, to wipe away
My cloak of invisibility

So that I may be seen for who I am,
A child of God
A blessed soul
A friend in waiting.

Terry Connelly

Grief is a Funny Thing

by Penelope Anne Cole

Grief is funny, peculiar, weird. It's a terrible, unpredictable thing. One day you're tearing up at an abandoned toy, an empty bed, a half-filled water bowl. You know he's gone, but you expect his head to pop up from his bed, where he's chewed the corners off. Then the bed is gone, too. The next day you're openly weeping because his sad brown eyes and sweet face came to you in a dream. But each day you wake up and go on living. That's just how it is.

Then one day I woke up seething with anger. How could they have left the door open? If open even a crack, we knew Bo could push his way through. And why didn't they give him a full meal? If they'd run out of dog food, he would gladly have eaten cat food. Bo was hungry and went looking for something to eat. The ointment had an oil base. He smelled it, so it must have seemed good enough to eat. He started with one tube, then another, until he'd bitten into every tube of ointment and cream in my nightstand, in my room. The shredded remains told me something was wrong, very wrong.

So it was my fault—my medication that poisoned and killed Bo. How can it be my fault when the creams and medicated ointments had been there for months, maybe over a year? My meds in my room—so we all blamed me. Now I carry guilt on top of a load of grief. And then I even paid for the treatment that gave us false hope.

The young man was totally drained. He'd lain helpless on the floor, hugging his dog—his loyal companion, his protector, his beloved Bo. Kwang sobbed the deep, gut-wrenching sobs of the utterly hopeless. The fight, the struggle was over. Bo had tried to live, but he wasn't strong enough to fight the toxins. Then he stopped eating—so he wasn't getting any nutrition or the medication. He got weaker. He wobbled. He threw up. He had bloody diarrhea. He hurt and it was excruciating to watch him suffer.

There was nothing left to do except say goodbye. But Kwang didn't want to take his precious Bo for a final trip to the vet—to those who'd failed to save his dog. He didn't want that. He wanted someone to come to the house and spare us that long, last ride. But it was late at night and most vets don't make those house calls after dark. We had another choice. We drove Bo to the Humane Society in Milpitas, all the while he was cradled in loving arms, he was caressed and petted—he was a good boy to the very end.

We are bereaved in this small, sad house. The silence is oppressive. Each day our remaining pets try to fill the void. Our two cats loudly demand more attention. My sweet girl dog is slowly coming out of her shell, though still mostly under my bed. But she's no longer looking for her buddy. They know he's gone. We all know this. We have more time, but somehow we're busier. The raw, open wound is healing, bit by bit, tear by tear. So life goes on.

Meeting Author Ann Patchett

by Evelyn LaTorre and Jan Salinas

The evening of October 16, New York Times best-selling author, **Ann Patchett**, stirred the imaginations of FAW members Jan Salinas and Evelyn LaTorre, despite their cases of jetlag. For over ninety-minutes, Ms. Patchett kept Jan, recovering from a Mediterranean cruise, and Evelyn, recently returned from a trip to the Baltics, and over 500 other fans awake and applauding with stories of her personal and writing life.

The two members of FAW's Night Writers critique group ventured across the bay to the Menlo Atherton Center for The Performing Arts to hear the prize-winning author spin a tale of how she came to write her newest book, ***The Dutch House***.

"The idea for a new book," the author said, "often comes from my desire to understand more deeply a line, a character, or a relationship in one of my previous books."

Ms. Patchett is motivated to follow her characters through long spans of time. She is on no social media and doesn't watch TV, and is influenced by what captures her attention in her world. This is especially true for her most recent foray into writing children's books that usually include her dog, Sparky.

After the talk, the personable, generous, and rivetingly funny public speaker spent over an hour



answering questions from the audience and signing her books. She advised writers to always be receptive to critiques of their writing. She erased two-thirds of her latest novel from her computer after working on it for a year because she couldn't get it to come together. She started over and just kept writing through sickness and other setbacks to finish *The Dutch House* by her publisher's deadline.

Patchett says she improves her books by seeking input from some of the well-known writers and the celebrities she interviews, including: J.K. Rowling, Liz Gilbert, Alan Alda, Tom Hanks, and many, many more. Tom Hanks narrates the audio version of *The Dutch House*.

An avid reader herself, Patchett recommends that writers read as many books as possible to become better writers. Her book, ***The Story of a Happy Marriage***, covers all the advice one needs to become a better writer. She also recommends Stephen King's book, *On Writing*, for writing advice.

On her website, **annpatchett.com**, find a complete list of books she has written, a list of her favorite books, and a list of recommended reading. Ann lives in Nashville, Tennessee, where she co-owns Parnassus Books, an independent bookstore.