

President's Message



TERRY TOSH
FAW President

Hey, everybody,

Great to see so many of you have renewed your membership and are looking forward to greater horizons with FAW in the coming year. If you haven't renewed, please do so, we really need your support and involvement to make our club continue to soar and excel to new and loftier heights.

Thanks to FAW member Tish Davidson for her presentation on **Preparing to Publish** at our August meeting. We've been learning new things and revisiting the familiar-but-still-great information to help us all grow in wisdom and knowledge. We've had many tremendous events and some trying times, but all-in-all a fun and active year is rapidly rolling into the memoir category of our minds.

What have you gained this year? Why not write something about your experiences this year to share with your fellow members and let's do a nice memoir of our own for our **FAW 10th Anniversary year-end party at the November meeting? Here's the challenge:** Think about your writing life throughout this year and write a page or two reflecting on the events, experiences, successes, rejections, workshops, contests, etc.—anything connected to you as a writer and a member of FAW that you'd like to share—that was meaningful to you and encouraged you to grow as a writer, and as a human being. Use your "best words" and give voice to the changes, insights and inspiration that you've experienced over this past year. **Please submit your 2019 writing-life memoir to me at my personal email toshmanii@yahoo.com, by October 15th, and I will compile them into a special booklet to share with our FAW members and see where it goes from there.**

I look forward to an exciting finale to 2019, and will hopefully see many of you at our September meeting on the 28th and/or at Half Price Books "Second Saturday" event on September 14th featuring FAW's Dave Strom.

Check out our website, cwc-fremontareawriters.org for up-to-the-minute activities and coming attractions. If you haven't updated your bio for our website, please do so. Also, if you're a Facebook fan, please friend our FAW page. Amber DeAnn, our new Social Media Chair, wants everyone to check us out on Facebook.

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

SUJU's
OPEN MIC

Fourth Mondays

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Suju's Coffee & Tea Mtg Rm
3602 Thornton Ave,
Fremont

MEMBERSHIP
MEETING

Fourth Saturdays

2:00 – 4:00 PM

42 Silicon Valley Rm 106
6600 Dumbarton Circle,
Fremont

BOARD
MEETING

Fourth Saturdays

12:30 – 1:45 PM

42 Silicon Valley Rm 106
6600 Dumbarton Circle,
Fremont

FAW Board Members



TERRY TOSH
President



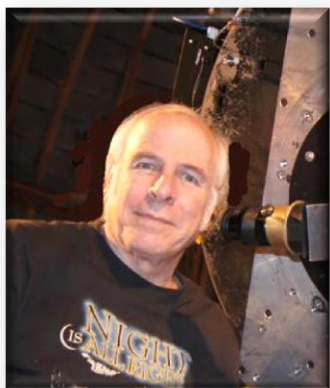
KNUTI VANHOVEN
Vice President



**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



JAN SMALL
Book Signings



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 Evelyn LaTorre on the May publication of her article “**The Ecstasy of Travel**” and its accompanying photo on the **Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT)** website oattravel.com, as well as the recent publication of both in the Spring 2019 Vol. 12., no.3 issue of *Dispatches* on pages 34 and 35. Evelyn did not know that when she submitted her article for publication online it would end up in print, as well. Congratulations, Evelyn!

Kudos to Dave Strom on the sale of five copies of his book *Super Holly Hansson in Super Bad Hair Day* at the Silicon Valley Comic Con in August. Congratulations, Dave!

Kudos to Dave Strom on moderating a panel of his own creation entitled **Writing Prose Stories that Are Usually Told Visually** (i.e. comic books or television), at the Silicon Valley Comic Con in August. Congratulations, Dave!

Kudos to Dave Strom on his successful “**Second Saturday**” event at **Half Price Books** in the Fremont Hub which was held on September 14. He shared excerpts of *Super Holly Hansson in Super Bad Hair Day* and some new stories he’s working on for an expanded edition of this work and possible new books starring Holly’s super friend, Kitty Girl. A number of Dave’s fans from other reading events turned up to support him at HPB. Everyone appreciated the over-the-top combination of character voices, sound effects, and facial expressions that comes together in a Dave Strom performance—especially when it’s put to music. Congratulations, Dave!

SAVE THE DATE: October 20th 2019

New Open Mic starting. Third Sunday of the month.

3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Starbucks in Newark on Cedar Blvd

2019 FLASH FICTION CONTEST

Co-sponsored by

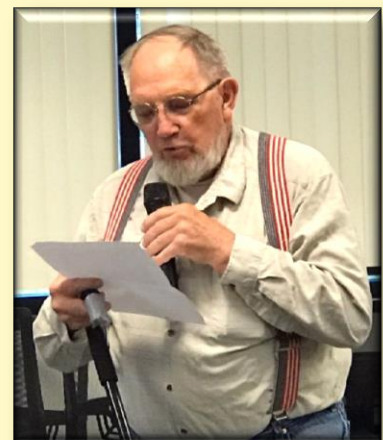
**The Fremont Cultural Arts Council
& Half Price Books (HPB)**

**Saturday, October 19th 10:00–5:00 P.M.
at Half Price Books in the Fremont Hub**

Theme: *An Alternative History of Fremont*

HPB patrons choose the winners : cash prizes : winners announced at 6:00 p.m. : max. 3 entries per person : 300 words or less including a title : must have a title : must be in English : open to all ages : deadline October 12th : **NO ENTRY FEES**

For complete rules go to: fcacwriters2019@gmail.com



Al Minard, FCAC board member and coordinator for the Flash Fiction Contest reads his example of this year’s theme at the August 2019 FAW meeting.

A Word from Our Editor



Nancy Guarnera
Editor-in-Chief Ink Spots

Welcome to our September 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! 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

August's Speaker Recap

Preparing to Publish

How to Target, Polish & Submit to Editors & Contests

Author Tish Davidson shared her expertise and experiences as a submissions judge for the 2019 issue of the CWC Literary Review at the August general meeting. Her talk, “Preparing to Publish,” covered the Do’s and Don’ts of targeting, customizing, polishing, and submitting written work to editors and contests.

Tish began by reminding us that some publishers receive as many as 30,000 manuscripts a year. Unsolicited manuscripts end up in the “**SLUSH PILE**” and are typically the domain of interns, often not paid for their work. The bare minimum to get your manuscript out of the slush pile and onto some one’s desk for consideration... The number 1 rule to preparing to publish (as much a matter of common sense as an actual rule): **FOLLOW DIRECTIONS!**

If they ask for a submission of 1,000 words maximum, don’t submit 1,200. If they ask for a 12 point sans serif typeface, don’t use Times Roman 10 point, use Arial or Helvetica 12 point. Observe margin and spacing requirements. Don’t submit an article about fly fishing to a bridal magazine; these are the kinds of violations that land your piece in the circular file (trash). It won’t matter how well written or interesting your work may be.

Tish encouraged us to do the following when prepping our work:

TARGETING: Do some research; identify your target audience and find the publications, publishers and contests that cater to that audience. Don’t submit a tech-heavy sci-fi piece to a romance contest.

CUSTOMIZING: Read some of the articles/books that have been successful in their efforts to get published by the publications you’re targeting, or won the contests you’re considering. If your research reveals that this publisher doesn’t print work that is laced with profanity and your work is a smorgasbord of deleted expletives, perhaps you should do some rewriting, or find a different publication or contest for your submission.

POLISH, POLISH, POLISH: Your work must “shine” to get out of the slush pile. A first draft is never a final draft. Pay attention to punctuation, spelling, tense, POV, typos. Dump the junk: words such as like, very, rather, really, quite, in fact, pretty, just, actually, of course, you know...are often extraneous and/or don’t provide the sharp detail that will make your readers keep reading. Double check your grammar. Buy a style manual or a grammar book (check the links on Tish’s handouts). Workshop your piece through a critique group, or at the very least, have someone else read it before you submit it. A fresh pair of eyes will catch things you won’t.

DOUBLE CHECK THE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: Make sure you’ve followed **ALL** the submission guidelines. (Tish and her judges had to disqualify several submissions for the CWC Literary Review because authors put their names on their work or were way over the maximum word count.) **FOLLOW DIRECTIONS!**

You only have a page or two, maybe three, to capture a reader’s attention, so start fast. Long descriptive narrative or back story will not serve as well as an element of conflict, uncertainty or action along with the introduction of a main character and setting the mood. You must compel your readers to read—intrigue them and they’re yours.

If you missed the meeting, check with Tish for her handouts with contests, calls for submissions, a “prep for publication” checklist, and links for help with grammar and formatting. *(Some are printed in this issue of Ink Spots.)*

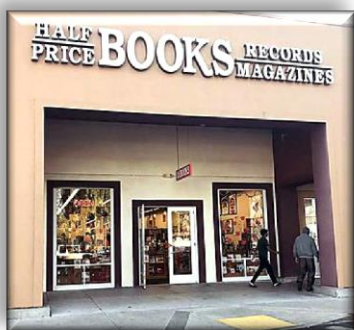


TISH DAVIDSON

August Speaker

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
Doris Nikolaidis

“Meet Your Local FAW Author” for October 2019

Saturday, October 12th 2– 4 P.M. Half Price Books in the Fremont Hub



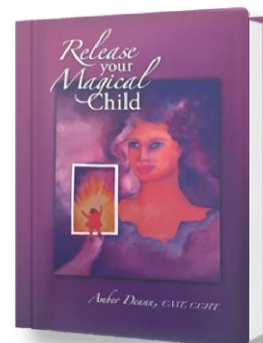
**AMBER
DeANN**

Join FAW author **Amber DeAnn** as she shares excerpts from her book *Release Your Magical Child*. In it she writes about healing PTSD and regaining one’s identity.

She has also written a screenplay, *Hidden Love*, dealing with the same subject; and in *Mental Reset: power tools & strategy to rest your mind for success*, she lays out an effective, interactive plan for the synthesis of mind–body–spirit–emotions–thoughts—the real secret to regaining wholeness.

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

Everyone is welcome!



FAW—HPB “Second Saturday”

September’s “Meet Your Local FAW Authors”



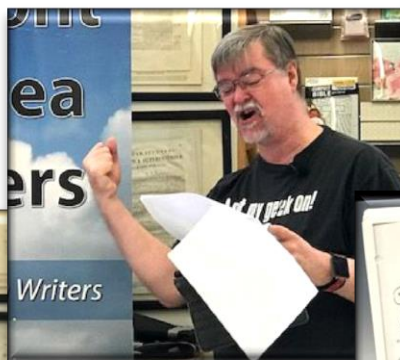
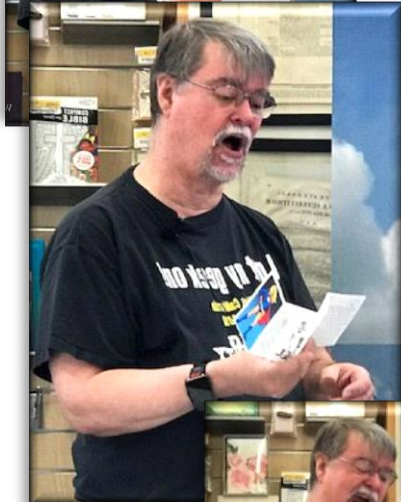
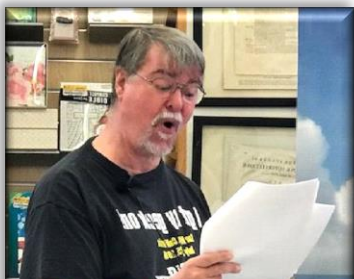
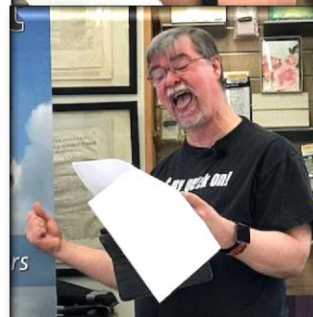
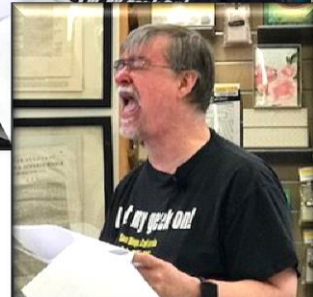
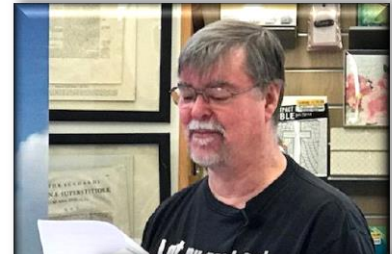
Super Holly Hansson IN Super Bad Hair Day

Dave M. Strom

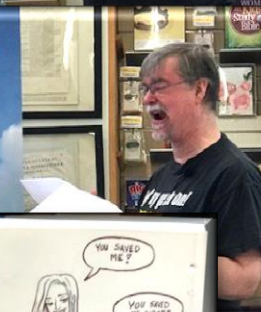
It started innocently enough... Dave Strom was introduced and began his presentation, first explaining how he came up with the idea for Super Holly Hansson. Then he began to read—that’s when things got a little bit **CRAAAZZZZYYYYY!**

**BLURBLE-SLURGLE-FFFSSSHH...PAH-TOOEY!
...DOINK!...PLOP!...KERR-RUNCH! SKKKKKTT!...
BOM, BOM! “CUMMERE AND GIVE HARRY A LITTLE
SMACK! KISSY, KISSY!” OH, THE HECK WITH IT! Out of
her mouth, she roared, “Mff, glert, snrt RRRRR AALLL!”
BIFF BOP BAM POW BOFF KAPOWEE! ZAP! WHUMP!
CLANG! CLUNK! BDOOOOOOMMM!!! CHA- CHING!
TOK! SPLAT! FWWHOOSH! ZZZORP! MMM-WAH!**

Dave Strom “performs” his readings—giving his audience not just his story, but unique character voices, and the sounds of the action his characters endure, as well as his wonderful “reading” faces, as he brings his stories to life—sometimes to music.



**Fremont
Area
Writers**



The many
amazing facial
expressions of a
Dave Strom
performance
reading

Alternative artwork
for Super Holly, LP by
Rich Koslowski, RP by
Amber Padilla

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**

Invite someone
to an
FAW meeting
or event –
Everyone is
welcome!

FREE Online Honors Class

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, it can be accessed **for free** in both text and podcast formats at the following website: **<http://janecleland.com/honors-class-overview/>**

FAW Featured Member

AMBER DEANN

A journey into aliveness & the paranormal



Amber DeAnn was five when she went on family vacation to Black Hills, South Dakota. As she looked at the famous figures carved into the granite of Mt. Rushmore, she missed her grandma. So she wrote a letter to her describing her feelings about the experience. That was the first time Amber put her feelings into writing.

She grew into an introverted Nebraska farm kid whose piano and bass clarinet provided her with a creative outlet and an escape from a dysfunctional world. This creativity emerged again in a creative writing class she attended at Midland Lutheran College. When the teacher put an item on the podium and said “write,” Amber “became” the object, and, for the first time, realized the heart-opening joy of creative writing.

After school, Amber grew bored with her clerical and bookkeeping jobs. She eventually found meaning in political activism and wrote articles about the nuclear power plant in her hometown Blair, Nebraska. This humiliated her mother and upset the entire community. Her articles on health and Nebraska uranium mining, and irradiated spices were published in the local newspaper and various newsletters. As she followed this path, Amber

began visualizing and defining herself as an activist. Eventually, California beckoned.

After a move to the Sacramento area, in an American River Community College short story writing class, the painful and missing elements of her life emerged. Her continuous warring battle with Mom became her badge of courage and the source of much inner anger.

A 12-step writing recovery program forced open her tightly closed door of buried feelings. It became the impetus of her journey into self-empowerment, psychic readings, acting, expressive art, hypnotherapy, and past lives. She yearns to continue exploring the mystic arts and to write fiction about witches, fairies and the paranormal.

Now living in the Bay Area, Amber has written about healing PTSD and regaining one’s identity in ***Release Your Magical Child***, a fictionalized story based on her own experiences, and her screenplay ***Hidden Love***. In ***Mental Reset: power tools & strategy to rest your mind for success***, she lays out an effective, interactive plan for the synthesis of mind–body–spirit–emotions–thoughts—the real secret to regaining wholeness.

A Little FAW History

HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Part IV

The Open Mic at Barnes & Noble

by Robert A. Garfinkle, co-founder

Although I mentioned the beginnings of our branch in Part I of this history, I think that possibly the most important thing that brought our branch to life was our original Open Mic events. All of our Charter members were Open Mic attendees. These began in September 2007 and were held in what was then the Barnes and Noble (B&N) bookstore (now Sprouts) on Mowry Ave. across the parking lot from the Big 5 Sporting Goods store. The B&N store manager gave us an area off to the side of the store with chairs and a microphone system to use. We set up signs directing people to us, and placed ads in the *Tri-City Voice*. It was not unusual, after Open Mics, for several of us to go over to the Uno Pizza Parlor, in the same parking lot, and chat for a time to get better acquainted.

At that time, I was writing book reviews for the paper. The owners of the *Voice*, Bill and Sharon Marshak, did not charge us and the ads were a great help in attracting local writers. We even had a traveling nurse/author from Florida who saw the ad and came to one event. Today we have a recurring ad in the *Voice's* Community Bulletin Board, and our events and meetings are often in the Community Calendar as well. Every so often one of our press releases will be printed in the paper.

In December 2009, at our first Holiday Party, the branch gave Bill and Sharon Marshak a gift for all that they did to get us going. They are continually looking for people to write articles for the paper. Contact Bill or Sharon and be sure to mention that you are a member of the Fremont Area Writers.

After holding Open Mics for about a year and then having a core group of regular attendees we decided to organize to become a CWC branch. We held our first FAW meetings at the Mountain Mike Pizza* parlor at the Brookvale shopping center. We were still using the back room there when we celebrated our first anniversary in June 2010. Soon we outgrew the parlor and moved to our current location, then DeVry University (now 42 Silicon Valley), and have been growing ever since.

Open Mics are still an integral part of our branch. They give us the opportunity to practice reading our work in public; an important skill to develop for those times when a writer is doing a book signing and is asked to do a reading. They also give listeners the opportunity to comment and offer ideas on improving your work. Reading your work aloud sometimes helps you catch problems you miss when reading it to yourself. We currently hold our Open Mic events at 7:00 pm on the fourth Monday of the month at Suju's Coffee shop at 3602 Thornton Avenue, near Dale Hardware. Tony Pino is our Open Mic chair; talk to him if you have any questions. Another Open Mic will be starting soon—watch for more about this in your email and the pages of Ink Spots.

We are now holding "Second Saturday" monthly book reading/signing events at Half Price Books in the Fremont Hub for our published authors. This is another opportunity to read in public. Talk to Nancy Guarnera our "Second Saturday" coordinator for more information about these events.

** In Part I of this series, I called this pizza parlor Broncho Billy's Pizza. I stand corrected here.*

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

Old Age Ain't for Sissies

"Old age ain't for sissies,"
old woman says,
standing crookedly
beside her walker.

Facial lines,
arroyo deep and beautiful,
rearrange themselves
as she speaks.

She grips her walker handle,
stands straighter as she gazes
into some far place
I cannot understand.

"My sweetheart's in a care home,"
she breathes softly.

"Old age ain't for sissies."

Diane Morninglight

Autumn Light

The light has changed
Birds begin their flight songs South
Earth does her sun dance

Nancy Guarnera

Emigrant Wilderness Backpack

An August 2019 Haiku

Free as butterflies
who flit flower to flower,
feasting on fresh mint.

Claire Wright

Meditation: Invitation

all times
all at once
the silent truss
slips

breaking custom,
bright sun dips
into a new delight,
another way of seeing.

the moon filled night is sweet,
bright flowing in a deepening sight,
creative, still,
another way of being.

Come, the night is startling,
brilliant in the mind.
Without it, who could find
clear meaning in the

orange sharp rind,
bitter tender bright
around the kind
sweet succulence of life.

Come, can you see the sweet
tipped night pine needles bright,
not green, clean and fleeting,
and in the seen, delight?

Diane Morninglight

Flies – A Limerick

Ugly is the simple fly.
Next ugly: the dragonfly.
I tell you no lie —
I see through one eye —
beauty in the butterfly.

Claire Adalyn Wright

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

Thanks for Your Submission, But...

by Art Carey

If there's anything more likely to get your writing day off to a bad start than opening your email and finding a rejection, it's finding *two* of them.

I did recently. First there was a smack down in less than 24 hours—24 hours!—by an Australian startup magazine that didn't appreciate a trio of admittedly atrocious but humorous Down Under puns. The second turndown, this of a novella, arrived after 128 days—128 days!—from a sci-fi magazine that sneers at writers by accepting less than 1 per cent of submissions.

Do I take these affronts personally? Does my wounded ego seek solace by pounding the keyboard, uttering unprintable epithets, or moving the 4 p.m. cocktail hour up to noon? Of course!

Let's face it. Computer technology has made writers of us all. Isn't that a good thing? Not unless you like competition. Editors and publishers can justifiably claim to be overwhelmed with a deluge of dubious creativity polished by spelling and grammar checkers. But who evaluates this flood?

When my rejections come—sometimes they don't—the bad news is couched usually in boilerplate language designed to save time and avoid offering reasons: *Thank you for your submission to "Volume 4 of Zombie Humor." Unfortunately, it does not meet our needs at the present time.*

But what about *my* needs as a writer? Ego gratification...Recognition...Reward... Shouldn't I know at least *why* my dreams are being crushed?

Maybe not. I might not appreciate candor after all. Honesty can be a downer.

First Screener:

Readthesubmissionsrequirements.Nosnailmail. Donotsendattachments.Useourspecialsubmissio nengine!Doublespace!Donotindent!Watchpara graphbreaks!Underlineforitalics!Indicatebegin ningandending quotesby>bfxxx<!

Overworked Editor:

Did you actually *read* the magazine before submitting this? A cursory glance would have revealed that a story about an android from the future preventing President Lincoln's assassination would not be appropriate for a women's magazine devoted to fashion, home decor and haute cuisine.

Moonlighting English instructor:

What an insightful exploration of the effects of guilt upon the subconscious! And how imagina- tive to move it forward to a Tesla factory in Fremont, Calif.! Alas, Dostoyevsky beat you to it in 'Crime and Punishment.'

Intern:

Dude! What were you THINKING of by sending this pile of ursine rectal refuse? Bad enough I'm not getting paid for a time-sucking internship that yields only two lousy college credits for monitoring the slush pile, which never stops growing, and...

Artificially enhanced scanning device:

Tnx...No...Crappy...Bye!

Okay. Maybe it wouldn't be better to know why my work is rejected.



Release Your Magical Child

A mystical adventure into your future through your past

An Excerpt by Amber DeAnn



Set-up

Camillia, a credit card counselor, is stuck in a world of work stress and hauntingly confusing nightmares and flashbacks. Her Inner Child is caught in her past between a scared, traumatized young child and a mind-controlling, abusive, harsh Mom. PTSD has settled into Camillia's life. Heaven sees. She must face and conquer the demons upsetting her Inner Child. She must soothe and love her angry, vengeful Inner Child to find her abandoned Higher Self.

The world of children's magical thinking and an honest conversation with her Soul holds the only hope for a saner and more fulfilling life. Heaven knows and helps by sending her some friends from her past.

Excerpt

Camillia dreams.

She is alone, an adult piercing through the thick gray fog.

"I can't see. Where am I? I'm lost." She grabs some fog and throws it behind her. Thicker fog swirls. Black edged fog surrounds her.

"Lost my way!" She frantically grabs more fog.

"Help!" she hollers as she swings at the fog.

"I can't live like this." She cries; tears stream down her face. "God help me," she cries.

The fog rises. She enters a clearing and sees a teddy bear sitting on a rock smiling at her. As she walks toward it, it morphs into a fairy. Camillia gasps and steps back.

The fairy stretches out on the rock and stares at her. "member me?"

"Who are you? I've never seen you before."

"We meet a long, long time ago." The fairy watches her.

"No, I've never seen you before?"

"You were very young. Then you say, 'I love you fairy.' We play every day."

"I didn't play. I had to work." Camillia stares at the fairy. "I don't know you. Now move you're bothering me." She swings at him.

The fairy flits straight up and then back down, avoids her swing. "We walk long walks. You and me. We talked and talked. Me know your secrets. 'member now."

"I only took some short walks with my dog and they were usually errands for Mom. I had no free time."

"We walk with dog...was Freckles. One with spotty nose...and long kinky hair...in many colors."

"Patient, loving Freckles, but he died many years ago. He was old and sick." She wipes a tear.

"He loves you. Yes, he do."

Camillia sits on a rock and sobs. "Yes, he did. And I loved him."

She sobs louder. "I miss Freckles. Where is he now?" She looks at the fairy inquisitively. "Is he happy in heaven?"

"Probably. Everyone happy there." The fairy rubs her back.

Camillia continues to sob.

"Me help you. Me from heaven." The fairy puffs out his chest and flutters his wings.

"Good, but I don't know you. I don't remember you. You could be from anywhere."

"Here, there, heaven, memory. That's me. World traveler." He stretches out on a rock. "I from you memory, you i-m-a-g-i-n-a-t-i-o-n."