





**TERRY TOSH**  
**FAW President**

# President's Message

November is upon us, and has arrived at hyper speed. The time of Thanksgiving is in the air, though surprisingly late in the month this year, which gives us time to have our November meeting before the family festivities. That also means we get a warmup to stretch our tummies through our "Celebration of Service" (I just came up with that as I write this) meeting. We really want everyone that can make it to be there this month, as we will be honoring our founding and long term members. It's not as much fun if you aren't there to receive the accolades in person, is it?

Our 10th Anniversary year is almost over and we have much to be grateful for; plenty of great fun and fantastic speakers, lots of things learned, and challenges faced and overcome. Thank you all—members and chairs, board and associates—for your constant

support and kind words of encouragement over this past calendar year. You made it all worth the effort.

Thanks also to our wonderful and inspiring guest speakers who gave us their time and energy as they shared their wealth of knowledge with us. We are forever in your debt as we take what you've given us, and apply it to our respective endeavors. Knowledge is something that really can't be valued enough, so it's a big deal to see it put into action, and paid forward.

I encourage everyone that reads this to please use your skills and talents to not only improve your own situations, but to share that talent and skill by volunteering your services to help our group grow and prosper in the coming months. We can really use your time and services in so many areas, just take a look at the many committees that need extra support to grow and strengthen.

Take some initiative and offer, instead of making someone come and beg for your help—after all, this is the season of Thanks and Giving, right? No better time to commit than right now.

No December meeting, so I hope to see you in November and shortly afterwards for our Holiday Bash on Friday December 6<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile think about what you can accomplish this coming calendar year, and also what you can offer to help others.

Thanks again, to all of you, for renewing and serving.

*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



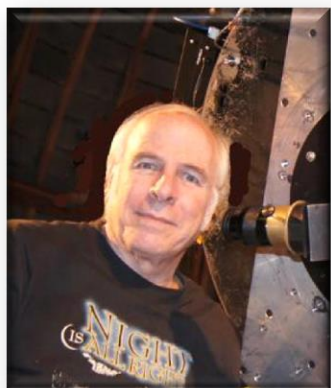
**KNUTI VANHOVEN**  
Vice President



**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" &  
"Third Sunday"  
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 Anita Tosh** on her successful “**Second Saturday**” event at **Half Price Books** in the Fremont Hub held on November 9<sup>th</sup>; she shared excerpts from her books *God's Armory* and *The Zella Chronicles*. Congratulations, Anita!

**Kudos to Janet Salinas** on taking first place in the Fremont Cultural Arts Council's **Flash Fiction Contest** held at **Half Price Books** in Fremont in October. Her winning story, entitled “**The Big One**” can be found in the **Writers' Corner** of this issue. Congratulations, Janet!

**Kudos to JoAnn Frisch** who sold 36 copies of her *Plant Uses of the Ohlone Peoples* and *Food Plants of the Ohlone Peoples* at the Ohlone Gathering at Coyote Hills Regional Park on October 6<sup>th</sup>. She gave a few of her original coloring books to children to color and their good behavior attracted customers to her. Congratulations, JoAnn, excellent marketing strategy!

**Kudos to Shirley Ferrante** on taking sixth place in the Fremont Cultural Arts Council's **Flash Fiction Contest** held at **Half Price Books** in Fremont in October. Her winning story, entitled “**We're Watching**” can be found in the **Writers' Corner** of this issue. Congratulations, Shirley!

**Kudos to Doris Nikolaidis, Evelyn LaTorre, Paul K Davis, Tish Davidson, Dave Strom, Carmen VonTickner, Manjula Bhadrasamy, and Nancy Guarnera** for braving the mic at FAW's first “**Third Sunday**” OPEN MIC at Starbucks on Cedar Blvd. in Newark. In addition to these FAW members, Usha R. T., a member of the public, also read. Congratulations to you all!

## **Fremont Area Writers & Starbucks**



*Writers Reading Their Original Work*

**Every Third Sunday of the month**  
**Sign-up: 3:00 PM    Reading: 3:30 to 5:30 PM**

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. No book sales at this venue. Thank you!

**Starbucks in Newark**  
**39201 Cedar Blvd**

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

# A Word from Our Editor



**Nancy Guarnera**  
**Editor-in-Chief Ink Spots**

**W**elcome to our November 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 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday meeting.

Send submissions to [inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month (*excluding July*) and is available on the FAW website [cwcfremontareawriters.org](http://cwcfremontareawriters.org). If you have not received a copy of the newsletter by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, and you've checked your SPAM/JUNK folder and it's not there, contact me at [inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.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.

Thank you to Erika Walker and Janet Salinas for volunteering to help with the newsletter and various other tasks.

*Enjoy this month's issue—Happy Thanksgiving! 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



# October's Speaker Recap

## Publishing & Promoting Your Written Work



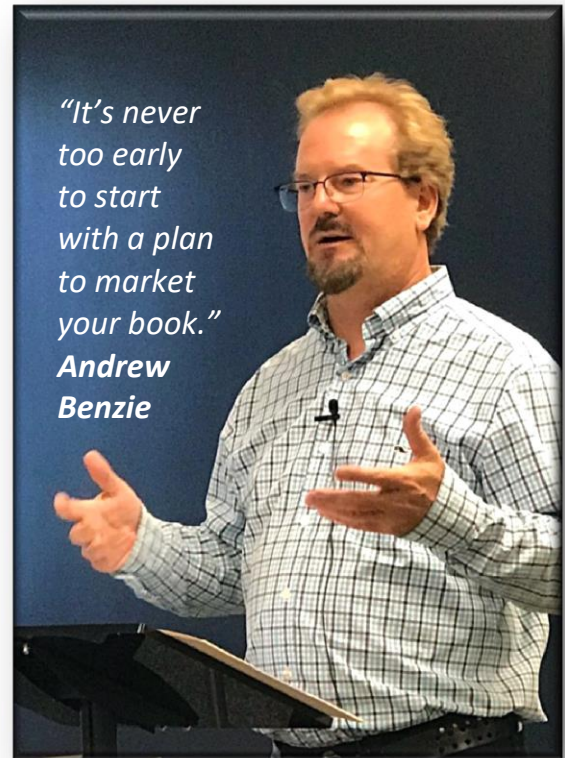
October's speaker, **Andrew Benzie**, designs and publishes books. He has years of experience in graphic design and the publishing industry. Whether you're self-publishing or publishing traditionally, he stresses the importance of planning your marketing strategy early.

In keeping with his presentation in May on "Judging a Book by Its Cover," he stressed the necessity of starting with a strong cover design. It should encourage curiosity; be simple and clear; have distinctive, readable typography; make good use of color; a title short enough to remember; and, over all, grab your readers' attention. This is just one step in effective self-promotion.

You've got your cover; what's next? Turn your book over. What's on the back cover? The back cover blurb, of course! It should, in one or two short paragraphs, tell your potential reader what the book is about and "sell" them on reading it. Include a short, one paragraph biography of the writer—that's you—and, if you choose to, a photograph of yourself. This should be professionally done and fit the persona you want for your brand: romance novelist vs. sci-fi tech novelist vs. cozy mystery writer vs. YA action adventure thriller novelist vs. children's author.

Once the product, your book, is well conceived, you have to tell people about it. Benzie suggests setting up an author's website—that's all about you; and a book website—that's all about your book. What you put on these is pretty much up to you. Your author's site can feature an extended author's bio, a blog, video clips, and your books with short descriptions and links to each individual book site, where readers can get more detailed information about your book(s). Perhaps you'll entice them with a free chapter or part of one. If you're selling your book on Amazon, a link to your book on Amazon is essential. The possibilities are only limited by your imagination. Take advantage of key words (meta-tags) that will drive people to your site if they don't know your name or the title of your book (i.e., fantasy, wizards, witches, and dragons, would likely pull up any of the Harry Potter books). See what your favorite authors are doing online to promote their work. Check out J.K. Rowling's website and be amazed!

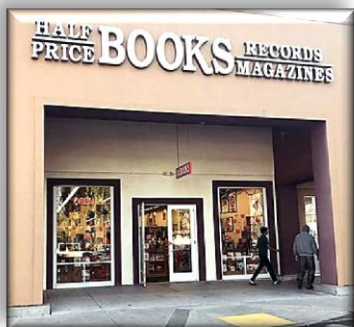
Are you still on Facebook? Set up a Facebook page for your book. Make use of other social media to let your friends and relatives know you've written a book and it's available to purchase. Make sure to encourage them to share this information with their friends and family. You can start your own publishing company with a registered logo. If you decide to do this, Benzie warns against using your author's name in your company's name. Throw a book launch party and invite everyone you know and everyone they know. Do a guest spot on a local radio or TV show. Do readings at local bookstores. Talk to other published authors and compare marketing notes. Don't forget to print business cards, postcards and bookmarkers with your pertinent info on each. The possibilities for self-promotion are pretty much endless; what and how much you do are up to you.



**Andrew Benzie**

# Calling All FAW Published Authors

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



**Half Price Books  
at  
39152  
Fremont Hub,  
in Fremont**

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: [faw-hpb@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org](mailto: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**  
*Jan Small*

## "Meet Your Local FAW Author" for December 2019

**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 2– 4 P.M. Half Price Books in the Fremont Hub**



**JAN  
SMALL**

Join FAW awarding-winning author, artist and teacher, **Jan Small** as she treats us to excerpts from her some of her many books , including: *Zootangles, It's About Art, and What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?*

In addition to her art books, Jan will also have coloring books with her. She will read from several of her books and tell us about others. Creating art and teaching others how to find their artistic voices has been a passion of Jan's for years.

Don't miss this prolific author read her books, and talk about her art and the inspiration behind her creative expression at this special FAW "Second Saturday" event at **Half Price Books** in the Fremont Hub.



*Everyone is welcome!*



# ***FAW—HPB “Second Saturday”***

**November’s “Meet Your Local FAW Authors”**

## ***Anita Tosh Shares God’s Armory and The Zella Chronicles***

At the FAW “Second Saturday” event on November 9<sup>th</sup>, YA Christian fiction author Anita Tosh read and sold her books *God’s Armory* and *The Zella Chronicles* at Half Price Books in the Fremont Hub.

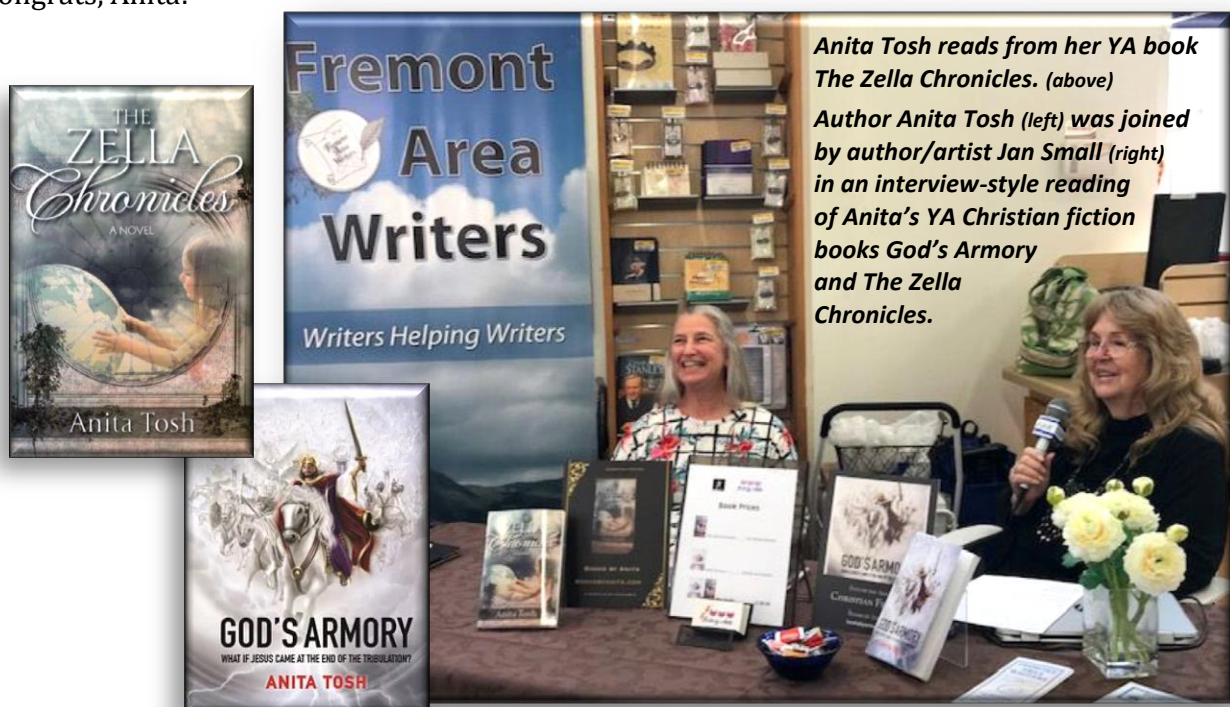
Anita chose an “in conversation” format with FAW author Jan Small interviewing her in between readings. In her books, Anita explores topics such as the end times, what heaven is like, and what happens to children when they die.

For the first time this year one of our authors sold books before the actual event started. A customer heard our 15-minute warning announcement and purchased three books. Congrats, Anita!



**ANITA TOSH**

[booksbyanita.com](http://booksbyanita.com)



*Anita Tosh reads from her YA book **The Zella Chronicles**. (above)*

*Author Anita Tosh (left) was joined by author/artist Jan Small (right) in an interview-style reading of Anita’s YA Christian fiction books **God’s Armory** and **The Zella Chronicles**.*

# 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**

## Another CONTEST

*(for ages 65 and up)*

**Ageless Authors** is accepting submissions to its new writing contest exclusively for writers and poets age 65 and older.

The categories are short fiction, short nonfiction, and short poetry. Stories must be 1,000 words or less, and poetry must be 12 lines or less.

**Deadline is February 1, 2020.**

Complete submission details are available at **agelessauthors.com/current-contests**.

There is a \$10 submission fee and cash prizes.

This is a good contest to enter. It's in its fourth year and the competition and number of submissions is not overwhelming.

Tish Davidson won second prize and \$75 in the nonfiction category last year.

**Remember: Don't waste your submission fee—follow the entry directions exactly.**

**Submitted by Tish Davidson**

# HAPPY THANKSGIVING





## *Notes from the World* (Continued)

### *Find Your Genre and Grow*

*by Tish Davidson*

California Writers Club chapters give local writers an opportunity to socialize, share ideas, marketing tips, and inspiration. But sometimes questions come up that are genre-specific. Who are the most active publishers of thrillers? What are the conventions of science fiction versus fantasy? What is the best way to market Christian fiction?

Genre-specific questions often are best answered by authors and editors experienced in the genre. So, as you gear up for your next story, novel or memoir, consider joining a genre-specific group, if not in person, then online. Take advantage of newsletters, blogs, insider publishing information, and tips on how to sell your work from people who are writing and selling the same kind of books that you aspire to write.

Below is a list of genre-oriented writing organizations. General information is available to everyone on the sites listed below. Meetings, webinars, contests, and publisher information usually are open only to members. Some organizations have free newsletters. Most organizations are open to both published and aspiring writers. Only the national organization is listed, but almost all these organizations have local chapters that can be found through their national website.

**Sisters in Crime** <http://www.sistersincrime.org> *(open to men as well as women)*

**Mystery Writers of America** <http://www.mysterywriters.org>

**Romance Writers of America** <http://www.rwa.org>

**Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America** <http://www.sfgwa.org>

**Inspire Christian Writers** <http://inspirewriters.com>

**Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators** <http://www.scbwi.org>

**Women's National Book Association** <http://www.wnba-books.org> *(open to men as well as women)*

**Academy of American Poets** <http://www.poets.org>

**Poetry Society of America** <http://www.poetrysociety.org>

**National Association of Memoir Writers** <http://www.namw.org>

**American Society of Journalists and Authors** <http://www.asja.org> *(nonfiction writers)*

**CineStory** (screenwriters) <http://www.cinestory.org>

**Scriptwriters Network** <http://scriptwritersnetwork.com>

**Historical Novel Association** <https://historicalnovelsociety.org/>

**Horror Writers Association** <http://www.horror.org>



# FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

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## Tunnel Vision

Can't see the forest for the trees  
Stories crowd my memory  
Stuck in the past century  
The future beckons, nearly  
Come into the present reality  
Live your story enthusiastically!

**JoAnn Frisch**

*(FAW meeting writing prompt 10/26/19)*

## Floating Blossoms

Iridescent blooms  
Dance on water's gentle flow  
Sweet, sweet scent in tow

**Nancy Guarnera**



## THE BIG ONE

*by Janet Salinas*

*(Half Price Books/Fremont Cultural Arts Council's  
2019 Flash Fiction Contest: 1st place)*

I wasn't scared until it happened. This was the real one. The one they'd been warning us about for so long – not the *if* but the *when*.

The shower door seemed buckled until I gave it a body check. I grabbed a towel, wrapped it around me, and staggered toward the bedroom, sliding across the wet floor in my bare feet.

The crash of glass startled me. The living room television that sat on spindly brackets must have fallen. I'd been meaning to secure it to the wall and even found the brackets in the garage last week.

With my pants in hand, I tripped down the hall, hopping to pull them on, one leg at a time, as I bounced from wall to wall like a yo-yo. My wallet, still in my pants pocket, had exactly \$37 in it. And I wasn't sure if my car had more than a quarter of a tank of gas. I meant to give

my kids the contact number in Chicago. I thought about it a hundred times.

With car keys in hand, I grabbed my quivering, whining terrier, Jumper, and rushed outside. Once inside my car, the car radio reported a magnitude 8.0 earthquake had rattled Northern California. It struck at 6:58 a.m. near Fremont, California.

I couldn't wait for details. I knew where to go. The sirens wailed as I drove with caution. There on the side of the mountain under the sign, "Niles", the half dome metal pits sat against the hill in alphabetical order for evacuees. I spotted the designated "J" pit and flew out of the car with Jumper in my arms, and ran toward them.

"Jenny, Josh—Am I happy to see you! Thank goodness for this evacuation pit."

## **FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER** (Continued)

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### **WE'RE WATCHING**

**by Shirley Ferrante**

*(Half Price Books/Fremont Cultural Arts Council's  
2019 Flash Fiction Contest: 6<sup>th</sup> place)*

I grew up in the California town of Fremont. It was a marvel to me that Fremont maintained its rural charm and friendly population of 43,000 while the orchards and open lands disappeared from surrounding communities. In my youth I overheard Mom and Grandma discuss the need to preserve our grasslands, or there would be dire consequences. When I asked Mom, our Mayor, why Fremont was blessed with open lands, she would put me off with "It's our way dear."

The day came when I gave in to curiosity and asked my 95-year-old grandma, who had also been Mayor.

"Oh honey, I knew this day would come." Grandma then told me a strange story.

"You know those clouds that often sit over Mission Peak? The surrounding sky is so blue and clear, so, why clouds only on the peak?"

"What are you saying Grandma? The clouds aren't real?"

"No dear. I suggested to my friends, we were being observed. They accused me of having a Trekkie imagination. Sorry dear, it was a 1966 science fiction TV show whose fans were called Trekkies.

"Well, one spring day in 1966, as I hiked Mission Peak, a strange thing happened. A shimmering light started to take shape just below the peak. I thought I had sun stroke and gulped down my water. Gradually, a strange man appeared. He told me the sad story of his planet. Poor planning had depleted all the grasslands. He promised if we provided grazing land for their planet's cattle he could protect us from land developers."

"Ah, your out-of-town buyers?"

"Yes. It was up to me to do what was necessary. I ran for mayor and implemented our open land policy. He returned with their cattle and his parting words were, 'We're watching.'"

### **THANKSGIVING**

**An Anagram**

Turkey, Turkey, Turkey  
Ham, Ham, Ham  
Apple Pie in Abundance  
Never ending sides  
Kindness to kindred, even those you avoid  
Stuffing Stuffing, STUFFED  
Grandma's special Everything  
Inviting, Intoxicating aromas

Vanishing piles of Veggies  
Indigestion inevitable  
No Way to diet today  
Going to try again tomorrow  
(well maybe after that, sometime...soon.)

**T.Tosh**  
**10/21/19**

## **FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER** (Continued)

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### **TUNNEL VISION**

*by Paul K Davis*

Tunnel Vision is a new non-profit organization. We are starting with one selected project, but hope to expand statewide before long.

With the advent of self-driving vehicles, a new desperate need is developing. What does the former driver do to keep from getting bored?

Many of us will continue listening to the radio, playing video games, and putting on our make-up, as we have always done, but some want more. (Heaven forbid we might have to resort to reading a book!)

On the open road there's much that is available, but not in every stretch of every highway. We

aim to fill the gap, or rather the tunnel, with high definition video transmissions inside California's many tunnels.

After the Caldecott Tunnel in Berkeley, we will prioritize the Robin Williams Tunnel in Marin County, and then the Tom Lantos Tunnel in San Mateo County.

So donate generously. Keep our self-driving car passengers alert and entertained.

The hill you are driving through may be bored, but don't be bored yourself!

*(FAW meeting writing prompt 2019 Oct 26)*

### **TUNNEL VISION**

*by Jan Small*

There was a light at the end of the tunnel but she didn't see it at first. She was more concerned with the paintings on the wall. However, the light wasn't such that she could see them clearly. She stepped closer to the wall to get a better look when suddenly one of the paintings came alive. A horrible monster-looking creature jumped out at her, showing its fangs and screaming.

She turned, heart throbbing, knees shaking, and made a dash for the end of the tunnel. Once in the light she regained her vision then peered back and saw the other pictures were only videos displayed on the wall. They weren't real at all.

She never went Tunnel Vision hopping again.

*(FAW meeting writing prompt 10/26/19)*

# **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**