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TERRY TOSH
FAW President

President's Message

As I compose this month's message, I approach another milestone in my journey through life. 65 will be a mix of relief and sadness! Relief that I no longer just hope I look old enough for the senior discount, sadness that I am.

Anyway, it also gives me motivation to press forward with a new theme idea: **Focus and Produce**

Oftentimes we get caught up in so many projects and ideas that we just spin our proverbial wheels. It has been aggravating to try and juggle the obligations of life along with the desires and passions of living and achieving.

Unless one has the special gift of "compartmentalizing" and multitasking with great ease, everything tends to get fuzzy and half-baked, if not completely derailed.

Let's try an experiment and plan to use this concept of Focus and Produce to accomplish more in the coming months. The idea is that if we laser-focus on a project or obligation, and get it moving forward, it will get done sooner and at a higher quality while still leaving time to complete the other tasks that we or society have placed on our plate.

Reach out to your fellow team members for advice and support, and as a team member, remember our mission is "writers helping writers". Yeah, I know, there are only so many hours in a day. If we organize our time and plan, we can do it!

We had a great month in February with lots of energy and activity. You'll read about the accomplishments and efforts in the newsletter and email reports.

Have a wonderful time of thinking and planning as you Focus and Produce in the coming months. Be sure to share your successes and lessons with us as you go!

Carpe Diem!

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

FOURTH MONDAY
WRITERS' SALON

Fourth Mondays

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Slap Face Coffee & Tea
Meeting Room
37324 Fremont Blvd
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



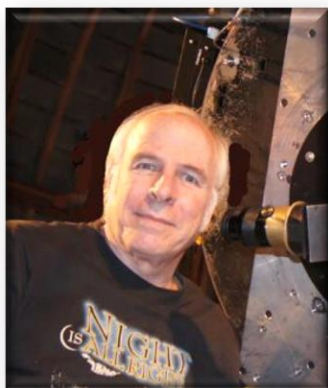
KNUTI VANHOVEN
Vice President



**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" HPB &
"Third Sunday" Open Mic
Ink Spots Editor



CHERILYN JOSE
CWC Advertising
& Promotions



TONY PINO
Fourth Monday
Writers' salon



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 Dave Strom who appeared as the Headliner at the Red Rock Coffee Open Mic (201 Castro, St. in Mountain View) on March 2nd. Dave started his 20 minute reading at 8:00 p.m. and planned to read two of his stories; hoping to video tape his performance. *Congratulations, Dave!*

Fremont Area Writers

"Fourth Monday" Literary Salon

March 23rd 7 – 9 p.m.

New location: Red Rock Coffee & Tea

Due to "Shelter in Place"
324 Fremont Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536

Fremont Area Writers & Starbucks

"Third Sunday"



Literary OPEN MIC



Writers Reading Their Original Work

Every Third Sunday of the Month

Sign up: 3:00 PM – Reading: 3:30 to 5:30 PM

March Event Canceled
Due to Coronavirus

Readings should be no more than 10 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

Welcome to our March 2020 issue of *Ink Spots*; you'll notice that there are some things missing from this issue. As well as being the editor of Ink Spots, I'm the coordinator for our "Second Saturday" events at Half Price Books and our "Third Sunday" Literary Open Mic at Starbucks. Given the current situation, I decided it wasn't worth the risk of someone getting sick or perhaps even dying to hold these events this month. I'm not given to panic, but I do prefer to err on the side of caution; some risks are just not worth taking. "Fourth Monday" Salon is now canceled as well.

We're currently living through an event most of us have never experienced before—a global pandemic. While it can be scary, it's mostly because we're dealing with lots of unknowns. Our new buzz word "*social distancing*" is being ignored by some and probably over-done by others, but it is an interesting concept and perhaps something we should consider, at least for the duration of COVID-19, or until we know more and can adjust our behavior accordingly.

I'm not sure if we'll have to cancel our events in April and beyond, I hope not, but we'll see how things go. In the meantime, since we're also missing our March meeting and our monthly writing prompt, I'd like to ask you to consider writing about this experience we're all going through. Any angle you want is acceptable: the effects of social distancing — to distance or not to distance; how do you feel about being told what to do by your government in this sort of situation; what's it feel like to go into a grocery store and see row upon row of empty shelves; have you asked yourself if you'll have enough food and toilet paper (I expect at least one ode to toilet paper); lack of information; conflicting information; the ethics of ignoring recommendations to do things to stop the spread; how do we help people through this event economically; an ode to the stock market, the individual's right vs. the collective good; etc. Fear, loathing, helplessness, hopelessness, hopefulness, unity, altruism, courage, the silver linings; this is rich territory folks.

I hope some of you will share your thoughts in whatever form you choose, and we'll print them in next month's issue. You may find it cathartic to write more than just once about how you're processing this. Submit as many pieces as you'd like. Of course, submissions on other subjects are welcome as well. Or... you can work on your current writing projects with fewer distractions. *Write on!*

Please send submissions to inkspots@cw-cfremontareawriters.org by April 1st. Please put **FAW Ink Spots Submission** and **your name** in the **Subject** line of your email. See below for Guidelines. Thank you!

Stay healthy! Nancy

Submission Guidelines

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

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

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

WORD COUNT:

Feature articles (Presidents Message, features, 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

February's Speaker Recap

Luna Cognita Publishing without an agent

Few of us wake up one morning and say to ourselves, "I think I'll spend the next 30 years of my life writing a book." **Bob Garfinkle** certainly didn't, but that's what happened in 1989, while on a lunar eclipse cruise, when he decided to write a book about the known moon. ***Luna Cognita: A Comprehensive Observer's Handbook of the Known Moon*** is the title of Bob's three-volume life's work about the moon. With an introduction by retired NASA astronaut Harrison Schmitt, it was published last month by Springer, the world's second largest publisher. Those of you who have gone the traditional route to publish your written work, know you generally need an agent, but maybe not. Bob managed the near impossible—he published without an agent. Here's how he did it.

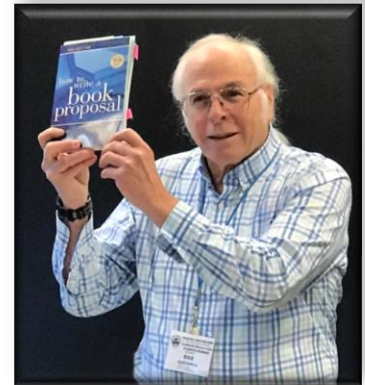
Bob's first degree was in history, but his true passion was astronomy. He read everything he could get his hands on about the subject. *Astronomy Magazine* was one of his go-to publications and after discovering that they published book reviews, he decided to try his hand at writing one. He submitted it and *Astronomy* printed it—and sent him a check! He kept submitting and soon the magazine was sending him books to review.

As anyone with an obsession will tell you, reading is not the only way to feed your passion. During his 30 years of "research and writing" Bob went to astronomical conferences all over the world and met other astronomy enthusiasts, both amateur and professionals, who became friends and colleagues; he read, and recommends, *How to Write a Book Proposal* by Michael and Elizabeth Larson and followed their advice; he wrote his first book on the subject, ***Star-Hopping: Your Vista to Viewing the Universe***, published in 1994 by Cambridge Press, the largest publisher in the world; and he followed the moon and the sun as they eclipsed their way around the Earth and renewed and made more friendships in the field. One auspicious connection was with David H. Levy, a Canadian amateur astronomer, science writer and discoverer of comets and minor planets, and co-discoverer of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 in 1993, which collided with the planet Jupiter in 1994. Levy connected Bob with The Nature Company for which he co-authored the book, ***Advanced Skywatching: The Backyard Astronomer's Guide to Starhopping and Exploring the Universe*** published in 1995 in German, Spanish and English; he wrote the monthly Star Charts for the *Mercury News*; he was nominated and inducted as a Fellow into the Royal Astronomical Society (FRAS) which gave him a level of credibility that opened doors once closed to him; and he has met most of the men who have walked on the moon.

If you look up Bob on the internet, here's what you'll find at his publisher's site: "**Robert A. Garfinkle, FRAS** is an internationally recognized independent scholar on the history of astronomy and is a highly regarded amateur astronomer. He has been a professional writer for about 40 years. In addition to his two published astronomy books, **Garfinkle** has published book reviews, articles, and short stories." And apparently, he's also written a novel!

Cambridge said "No," when Bob pitched his book to them. Not long after, he was on the phone with a representative from Springer, who asked what he was working on. "A big book about the moon." Bob responded. "We're looking for a big book about the moon," she said. And voila! A serendipitous match made over the phone! In 2011 Bob signed a contract with Springer allowing him to write until he was finished. The rest, as they say, is history.

He recommends the following if you'd like to publish without an agent: get the Larson's book and a copy of Ten Speed Press' book on negotiating contracts and read them; send out announcements to trade publications in your field; get reviews from folks you know; promote yourself and your book on Facebook and other internet platforms; set up a website; blog about your book as you're working on it; and do all the things mentioned above—pursue your passion, become an expert in your field, network with people who share that passion, read about it—write about it. In short, it takes passion, networking, legwork, commitment, and time. **Congratulations Bob!**



Robert A. Garfinkle, FRAS recommends *How to Write a Book Proposal* if you want to try traditional publishing without an agent.



Sue Curtzwiler
Volunteer
Coordinator

MARCH MADNESS

March Madness and the NCAA Basketball go hand-in-hand, twisted together like braided dough to make fresh bread. Planning is in high gear as winning team jerseys are for sale on street corners, as well as plenty of hype, ads, party planning for the champion play-off, and the big parade are on the drawing boards. Bracket charts and player trades are already being tossed around by high betting, energetic NCAA managers in cloud-like, smoke-filled offices.

What about writers? Do we have a March Madness? Yes, we do. Remember, it takes highly energetic, talented writers to produce those ads and create the hype.

Writing Challenge! March Madness for Writers — *Nephele Tempest* focuses on writing for 15 minutes a day. (<https://nepheletempest.com/2013/03/01/writing-challenge-march-madness-for-writers/>)

According to Wikipedia, in Greek mythology, Nephele is the word for cloud nymph.

Writing for 15 minutes a day caught my interest. Certainly, all of us can find that small niche of time to write down most anything. This is for YOUR book, poem, or short story. It's your chance to be spontaneous, improve your writing talent, or make a list of writing prompts. Those little writing prompts we do at our FAW meetings will come in handy. Keep your writing exercises in a folder or somewhere on your laptop. Think of unusual events or favorite things throughout the day. Be observant and make a mental note of the first purple iris or yellow tulip bloom in your garden; a bird's song; a squeaky, closing door; a dripping faucet; a distant siren; and ahhh, the smell of winter soup and homemade bread or biscuits in the oven at the end of a long day. Then, when you're ready, with pen in hand or at the keyboard, that 15 minutes will be done before you know it.

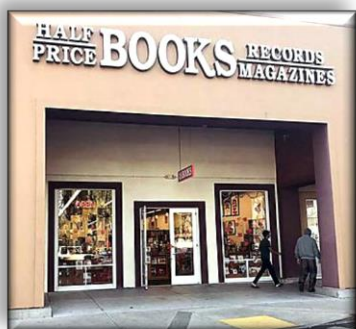
So, the challenge is here. Even beyond March, let's each of us pause from our crazy day for a mere 15 minutes and see what we have at the end of the month—maybe a great beginning to YOUR new best seller.

One more note. How does this tie in with basketball and March Madness? Besides all the planning and rush of adrenaline to finish the race, there is discipline and exercise to prepare to be the best, be it athlete or writer. Now, stand up and MARCH. You've been busy all day, so yes, STAND UP and MARCH for 15 minutes around the house or in the back yard, or down the street to the corner, and feel great for a job well done.

Sue Curtzwiler

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 has partnered with Half Price Books in Fremont to present "Second Saturday" — Meet Your Local FAW Authors monthly readings. These 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.

To be fair, authors who did not read in 2019 will be considered before those who read last year. 2019 authors who have new books to share are welcome to schedule for 2020.

2020 FAW Authors

~~March 14
Eudora Welles~~
**Rescheduled to
July 11**

April 11
Jan Small

May 9
Alfred Jan

June
TBA

"Meet Your Local FAW Author" for April 2020

Saturday, April 11th 2 – 4 P.M. Half Price Books in the Fremont Hub

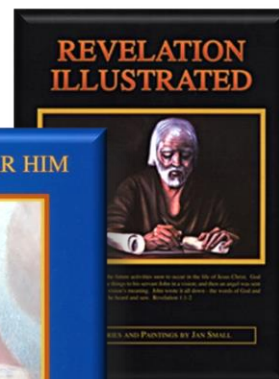
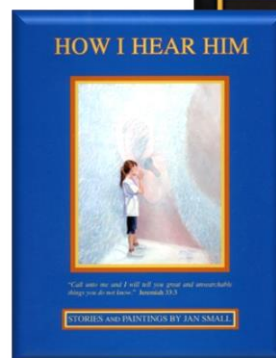


Jan Small

Join FAW award-winning artist, writer and teacher Jan Small as she shares several more of her wonderful art books with us on the Second Saturday in April. Jan feels her artwork is a divinely inspired gift; a spiritual expression to which she must give voice.

She will be reading from *Revelation Illustrated*, *How I Hear Him* and *The Making of an Artist — The First 70 Years*.

Jan has successfully conducted a school of art for the past 50 years. Her art has been exhibited nationally and internationally, seen on television, published in newspapers and magazines, and purchased for public and private collections. Don't miss this!



**ALL
ARE
WELCOME!**

FAW—HPB “Second Saturday”

March’s “Meet Your Local FAW Authors”



Luanne Oleas

**Flying Blind,
A cropduster’s story**



**Event Rescheduled
Due to Coronavirus
New Date: July 11th**

Notes from the World

If you're getting rejections from publications or for contests where submissions run in the 1,000s, member Art Carey suggests you check out the *Birdland Journal* which limits submissions to work by Northern California writers. Its Spring 2020 issue is currently available to read on line. They are not currently accepting submissions, but should be in the future. Keep an eye out. birdlandjournal.com

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**.

The Writer. Website and free news-letter. 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

DEADLINE EXTENDED

2020 CWC Literary Review

Open Submissions

**Deadline is now
March 31, 2020!**

All submissions must be received no later than this date, and any payments in the form of a check must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2020.

Submission is open only to members of the California Writers' Club.

All work will be reviewed and selected for possible publication by a panel of acquisition editors through a blind judging process.

Members will be notified by email if their work has been selected for inclusion in the 2020 Literary Review shortly before publication in autumn of 2020.

Get Submission Guidelines at:
[https://calwriters.org/
publications/
#submit](https://calwriters.org/publications/#submit)

Notes from the World (Continued)

Adventures at the SF Writers' Conference

The SF Writer's Conference is a four day celebration of craft, commerce and community that combines the best of the traditional publishing industry with the latest technology to empower authors to publish anywhere.

Notes from FAW Volunteers

My wife, Anita, and I were excited to offer our services as volunteers in exchange for some "free" sessions! Each year the California Writers Club (CWC) has a booth at the conference. As volunteers, it was our responsibility to give out pamphlets and brochures explaining CWC. In return for our time, we were allowed to wander around and slip into sessions (other than the keynote address).

Anita and I were very impressed to meet **Nina Amir**, a presenter at a breakout session we attended, whose subject was **Inspiration to Creation: From Idea to Brand to Business**. FAW will be extending an invitation to Ms. Amir to speak at one of our future meetings.

There were so many great opportunities to meet new people and see the various ways people market themselves and their ideas as well as their offerings.

It was a very long day, as we left home at 7 a.m. and drove into our driveway at around 5:00 p.m. that night; we were weary, but happy for the experience.

We were very impressed with the quality of the site (Hyatt Regency, Embarcadero) and the variety of the content.

Terry Tosh

Terry, my husband, and I were looking forward to the San Francisco Writer's Conference. It was the first writer's conference for both of us.

Terry found a site called Spot Hero where he reserved a valet parking spot for the day for only \$15 and only three short blocks away.

We arrived early and helped Carol set up the CWC table. Tables ringed the large room, and we took turns watching our table and checking out other tables. Later, we were able to sit in on some "breakout sessions." So many choices, so little time. We heard Nina Amir speak on "Inspiration to Creation."

On our lunch break we found a plethora of eating choices nearby; vegetarian, Japanese, burgers, to name a few. Then we met Urmila, another FAW member, who pointed out a Mediterranean eatery where we purchased two huge gyros wraps, yum! We walked to a nearby park and ate our lunch there.

I write fiction for teens and young adults, so was happy to sit in on two more sessions in the afternoon, one on middle grade and another on young adult. Each one was set up with a panel of three speakers.

I gained lots of helpful information and we both enjoyed the whole experience.

Thank you, NorCal for getting us involved in this great venue.

Anita Tosh

Notes from the World (Continued)

Adventures at the SF Writers' Conference (Continued)

Notes from FAW one-day pass winners

The Hollywood Summit at the San Francisco Writers Conference on February 15th was well-attended. There were six sessions of panelists discussing various aspects of writing for Hollywood such as writing for film vs. writing for television. Although I could only stay for the first half, it was a great experience listening to the panelists and speaking with them afterwards. Five of the CWC Summit attendees who received free passes, along with one more attendee, ate lunch together at the Eclipse Kitchen in the Hyatt Regency where the conference was held. The meal and fellowship were invigorating. Hopefully, CWC will offer the free passes again to each of the branches, so more of our FAW members can attend in the future.

Carol Lee Hall

Thank you to the FAW board for awarding me the one-day pass to the poetry section of the San Francisco Writers Conference. I used to win prizes with my free verse poems, but haven't been inspired to write anything except prose for too many years. Though I thought I might be inspired to return to poetry writing, the day didn't result in the production of any verses worth sharing—yet. I did, however, return with admiration for the 30 to 40 other participants of this special group.

All our sessions were scheduled in the same room, which saved time and promoted a spirit of camaraderie among the experienced and aspiring poets alike. Well-known Bay Area presenters provided numerous ideas for publishing our works and encouraged us to keep writing whether we get published or not. I came away with a real appreciation for the art of expressing one's innermost observations and feelings in ways that could inspire more poetry writing. I may even soon try my hand at perfecting a poem.

Evelyn LaTorre

San Mateo County Fair Literary Arts Contest Deadline: April 1st

<https://www.sanmateocountyfair.com/pdf/2020/2020-literary-arts.pdf>

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

The pieces on this page are submissions inspired by a writing prompt
from the February 2020 meeting. The prompt: The Moon.

About the Moon

by Paul K Davis

What is the moon's gender? This is a compelling question from ancient times which has not yet been answered by modern science. We talk of the "man in the moon," which has the authority of Shakespeare, but the Greek's called her the goddess Artemis.

Some, I am sure, have regarded the moon as feminine, because it has a period of about 30 days. Why then the "man in the moon" notion. Presumably because the so-called maria call forth a masculine visage.

Is there really nothing in all our scientific investigations to resolve this issue? Perhaps one of the moon journeys has resolved it. Best is perhaps the trip of Wallace and Gromet, which resolved it not only as green cheese, but specifically as Winsleydale.

We Love The Moon

What a wonderful sight
As we stare up at night
At that orb that delights
Such artistic insight.

Terry Tosh

Memories of a Breakup

When I think of moon
I think of longing:

She was once part of us
And now taunts us nightly.

Her presence,
Seeming to say

I left you before
And I may again.

Some nights she unclothes herself
And unleashes our desire

To close with her, and
It aches to watch this.

We palpitate with inner fire
Wanting, watching, longing

How long must we wait?
When will it end?

Agony,
Such a price for forgiveness.

Tony Pino

LA LUNA

You tug at me
You tug at my world
Forcing tides to ebb and flow
You force me to tears when full
Every fluid in my body
Responds to your pull
I curse you for your unwanted influence

Yet when you go missing from the sky
I search for you in the darkest night
Wondering when your delicate sliver
Will glide across the heavens again
Unable to imagine a full life without you

Nancy Guarnera

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

Two more Moon pieces from the February 2020 meeting writing prompt.

Ahhhh-Oooooooooo!

Wolves howl at the moon
Some women howl at the moon
Delightful madness

Nancy Guarnera

LUNA MOONA

Round White Full and Bright
A lunatic's fantasy
You inconstant orb

Nancy Guarnera



On a misty morning

She is his lover, a wild flower
Slips in and out as she pleases
Caressing his crown vermillion

Her veil a white dale
Cloaks as she kisses
His golden heart and lips!

Dancing with wind, playing with sun
She nestles him in her bosom warm
Singing his glory and hymn

An emissary from heaven and a beckon
She comes to remind us
That life is an illusion.

Manjula Bhadrswamy

Shall We Dance

In the age of social distancing
What shall become of dancing?

When I was very young
My mother and I would dance
To classical music in the living room

Like Isadora Duncan
Gracefully feeling the music
Each in her own way

I loved to watch my parents dance together
Light on their toes, gliding, in tune
Holding each other close
Dancing to Glenn Miller and Dave Brubeck

My generation preferred to flail and gyrate
But still close enough to bump occasionally
What now?

Will we dance together at all
Or shall we dance in isolation

Shall we be all alone
leaping and tapping and twirling at home
Will we even remember how to dance?

Nancy Guarnera

Check It Out

theliterarynest.com
imitationfruit.com/submissions.html