





TERRY TOSH
FAW President

President's Message

What a time we live in! So many opinions, so many options, so much uncertainty. One thing shines through the melee...FAW needs to get out of the techno dark ages.

Use this uncertain climate to rethink as well as refocus. If we intend to reach the younger generation, we do need to get up to date with our technological options. Just when we had come together in the Focus and Vision theme, kaboom!

I don't think I can claim to be prophetic when I say that April will likely be a rerun of the cancellations and "SIP"ing (sheltering in place)(thank you, Nancy for coining that phrase) that we faced last month.

Truthfully, I'm not all that impressed with the whole Zoom thing in our particular organization. We may be able to work with it for the next Board meeting, but I think we may need to step back again on the general meeting. Maybe those who must have it can check in with other regional locations that may have the online option already in place? Remember, it's always ok to visit our fellow CWC branches.

We are indeed working behind the scenes to come up with some forward solutions. Anita, our membership chair, has offered to add a line to the upcoming invoice process for prepaying the meeting donations to cover the 10 months of speaker fees. Then you won't need to remember to bring cash if/when we resume live, on-site meetings. Furthermore, we would still be able to have online sessions without having to figure out collection of speaker fees.

Reminder: we need some fresh faces to fill our places, as the election cycle is nigh upon us! Come on, ladies and gentlemen, it's your turn to grow and give. Start improving your writer's resume by adding some nice kudos to your byline. "President of Fremont Area Writers" has a nice ring to it, right? Any "Board Member" really adds pizzazz! Let's do this!!

There's more to come as we move forward in our efforts to meet the opportunities to grow and adapt to these trying times. Thanks for your help and continued support of FAW; it's very much needed and appreciated.

Let's see how prescient we all are. Here's a **writing prompt** for your consideration and submission to *Ink Spots* at some time in the coming weeks and months. Imagine the future look of FAW at the end of 2021. Don't forget to submit your short essay to the newsletter when you've finished it.

Sincerely,

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



CHERILYN 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 Evelyn LaTorre who has recently received advanced copies of her new memoir *Between Inca Walls: A Peace Corp Memoir*. Evelyn's book can be pre-ordered at your local bookstore and will be sent out by August 11th. If you do not have a favorite local bookstore, the author would like to recommend that you consider ordering from Towne Center Books in Pleasanton, email: townecenterbooks@sbcglobal.net. *Congratulations, Evelyn!*

Fremont Area Writers

"Fourth Monday" Writers' Salon

April 27th 7 – 9 p.m.

For details, contact Tony Pino

up.dragonfly.com@gmail.com or 510-745-0761

FAW & Starbucks



FAW "Tell Me a Story" Invitation

For those of you with huge amounts of time on your hands...we're about to start a *"Tell Me a Story"* opportunity for you. Your editor will start a story and then email it to the first person on our alphabetical membership list. That person will be invited to contribute up to 3 paragraphs or a block of dialogue to the story and then return it to the editor. The next person on the list will be contacted with the same invitation, and so on. Everyone will have 3 days from the day it is sent to them to write and return. *Example: If you receive it on Wednesday, you return it by Friday, so it can be sent out Friday (or Saturday) to the next person on the list.* We are using our editor as the send-and-return person, because she has the email list. Eventually we'll have a story of some kind that hopefully will have a beginning, middle and an ending. This may be a great success, or an abject failure, but we are writers helping writers write, right? So, one more opportunity to do just that in the time of COVID-19 (a.k.a. CoronaV).

If you don't want to participate, reply immediately with "I pass," and we'll move on to the next person. Participants, please reply to the email you receive. The story will be in the body of the email. Open the email, add your part at the end of the story, and send it back to the editor.

This couldn't be simpler or more fun; we hope you'll participate. Happy writing!

A Word from Our Editor



Nancy Guarnera
Editor-in-Chief Ink Spots

Welcome to our April 2020 issue of *Ink Spots*; you'll notice that there are once again some things missing from this issue. Since we are continuing with local and state orders to "Shelter in Place" (SIP), our **"Second Saturday" event at HPB** and our **"Third Sunday" Literary Open Mic at Starbucks** are again both canceled. Our HPB author for April, Jan Small, has been rescheduled for November and our May author, Alfred Jan has been rescheduled for August.

The **"Fourth Monday" Writers' Salon** is continuing to meet through email and may be exploring Zoom as a possible "virtual" meeting option. Check with Tony Pino before the next meeting on April 27th; contact info for him is on page 5.

Your Board is discussing the possibility of Zooming our general meetings, but we're still looking into the logistics of this. We will be testing this out in April with our Board Meeting on the 25th. If all goes well with that, we'll investigate Zooming general meetings if we are still following SIP orders. We'll keep you posted.

We will continue to publish Ink Spots for you as always; and you should be receiving your **Weekly SIP NOTES** on Mondays. If we have something pressing to communicate, we'll send out an email to everyone.

In an effort to encourage all of us to do some writing, we've included a few photos in this issue as writing prompts for you. You'll find them scattered throughout the newsletter. If you decide to write something and submit it for publication, please identify the photo by its number (1, 2 or 3), and I'll include the image with your submission when we publish it. This is an opportunity to do some writing, short or long, if you're having difficulty with writer's block. Or these may stimulate you to begin a new project, or to get back to work on your current writing project.

And check out **page 5** in this issue for another opportunity to do some writing, this time as a "writers' collective" with **"Tell Me A Story."**

Please send general submissions for **The Writers' Corner** to inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.org by May 1st. Please put **FAW Ink Spots Submission** and **your name** in the **Subject line of your email**. See below for Guidelines. Thank you for sharing your writing with the rest of us!

If you decide to send us a **SIP NOTE**, please send that to nguarnera16@comcast.net. Please put **FAW Weekly SIP NOTE** and **your name** in the **Subject field**. Thanks!

Stay healthy! 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, 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

Your Weekly SIP NOTES

WEEK #1 APRIL 6TH NANCY GUARNERA

March 31st

This can certainly be a trying time, scary even. I'd like to pass on something I heard today. We humans like to feel we're in control and right now, that sense of control feels like it's being challenged. But, in fact, we have lots of things we can control and focusing on those things can help us stay sane in this crisis. Yes, our regular routines are upended. But, we can choose to create a new routine that helps us move through our day in a way that balances the things that we all need: sleep; companionship; healthy food; physical activity; something to replace our "work" with, that we actually enjoy doing and perhaps allows us to pursue a passion that under normal circumstances we rarely have time for; and some kind of spiritual practice—yoga, prayer, meditation, journaling, singing, music, daily inspirational quote, etc. Who's going to stop you? Your cat, your dog, your spouse, your landlord, your parakeet? They may already be doing this. You can, too. Taking back control of your day-to-day experience can be very empowering. We are all creative by our very nature as human beings, and we can create a life that we enjoy if we choose to do so, even when we are sheltering in place (SIP). Now is a perfect time to do this.

Don't forget to do some deep breathing, if you find yourself panicking.

I like to think of challenges as opportunities I'm being given to learn and grow beyond my currently perceived limitations. Ultimately, my responsibility in any situation, is my ability to respond to the situation. How I do that, is entirely up to me.

And this has finally happened:

March 31st: I also heard someone suggest that we should all be wearing "masks" whenever we're in the presence of another. Actually, wearing a bandana or a scarf will help, since masks are at a premium right now. This could become the new CoronaV fashion statement. Anything we can do to keep ourselves and others safe can make a difference.

April 5th: Gentlepeople, make a personal statement with your "Marf," (your mask/scarf). Yet one more way we can bring a playful, creative, personal touch to our experience. Darn, most of my "marves" are in storage, I think!

Stay happy, healthy, safe, and sane...the choice is yours!

WEEK #2 APRIL 13TH TERRY TOSH

So, Day 22

I am finding out just how true it is that those that are "too busy" are the most productive!

Since I am now in the at-risk category, and most experts recommend we self-isolate, as well as recommending to our family members to stay in other areas of the house to avoid one side or the other of the crisis, it is becoming harder and harder to get out of my rocker/bed/bathroom.

The big excursion of the day is walking the dog. Weekly trip to early admission to grocers. Yard work beckons. Rake practically jumps into my arms. Ok, so I accidentally stepped on the tines, giving it that feeling of an unexpected hug...

Ok! Did one row, is it time for a nap? YEP.

I think this probably has something to do with inertia, maybe?

Hey, I did manage to go on that super long, um, longish bike ride last week; or was that 2 weeks ago, already? Yeah, when I still had some semblance of strength left. You know, the one where I only used my "pedal-assist" part of the time, on the way, till I stopped at that duck pond, way down there...at least 3-4 miles...of flat ground.

Then the migraine came on and rescue was required for the return trip. I mean, well, dinner was going to be ready! Oh, lunch? Seemed later.

Thanks, honey, for the rescue. Maybe I'll go not quite so far this time...bike looks fine. Weather looks good. (Yawn), maybe in a little while.

Keep the Faith!



Reply from member Marie Blanchard...

Thanks for introducing me online to Mr. Rake. I looked for years for someone so willing.

-Sarah Spinster

BE GRATEFUL!



Sue Curtzwiler
Volunteer
Coordinator

April Showers Bring May Flowers

April Showers Bring May Flowers, an old cliché that paints the colors of hope and purpose. The hope is in the vibrant colors of new emerging plants. The purpose is knowing that bees and hummingbirds will dance around the blossoms collecting pollen for their hives and pollinating fruit trees, so that nature will continue to feed us. Even the hope of young love is in the air. How do I know? Because it's always that way, it's the season of Spring.

There's a reason for every season, but not necessarily a date on the calendar. This year, the first day of Spring was March 20, 2020. However, on March 16, only a few days before the declaration of Spring, our lives began an inward turn when Alameda County, in concert with other counties in the San Francisco Bay Area, ordered a Shelter-in-Place for all residents.

Today we are living through an historical medical crisis that is defining this Spring as a season of social distancing and missing our family and friends. Not since the Spanish Flu of 1918, over one hundred years ago, has there been anything like this. None of us could ever imagine this would happen in our lifetime.

This Spring season is unlike the colorful images of nature and changing weather. This Spring season has a cloud of uncertainty, the unexpected, and the fear of the unknown: lost jobs, unpaid rent or mortgages, no health insurance, empty classrooms, no graduations, no weddings. Why? Because of this tragic, highly contagious Coronavirus that is raging the entire globe like a wild, perfect storm.

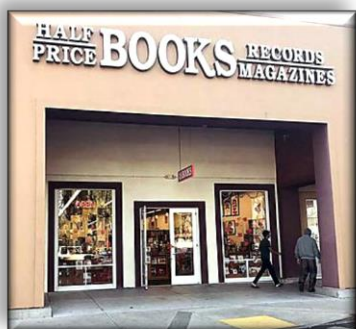
Fremont Area Writers is a group of highly talented people. We have all lived through the good and the bad. Please, during this uncertain time, keep your distance and your memories. Remember writing letters and having a long phone conversation with a cup of coffee? It's time to bring back hearing the voice of family and friends or getting a nice well written email (in lieu of a posted letter—who knows how long this virus lasts on paper—and of course, no need to lick a stamp or an envelope).

The challenge: Forget texting. Pick up the phone or write a nice email and bring back the joy of reaching out and touching someone, as previously promoted by AT&T. Remember, we can Facetime Skype and Zoom now. Put on a smile and send out your love to the tune of *What the World Needs Now, is Love, Sweet Love*.

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

July 11
Luanne Oleas

August 8
Alfred Jan

September 12
Urmila Patel

October 10
Evelyn LaTorre

November 14
Jan Small

December 12
JoAnn Frisch

Canceled
"Meet Your Local FAW Author"
Rescheduled November 14th
for April 2020

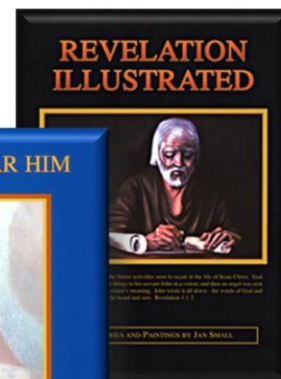
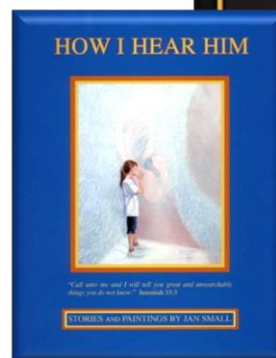


Jan Small

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!**

Notes from the World

Two New Contests

The **35th Annual Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival** is seeking submissions of original *Fiction, Short Fiction, Poetry, and One-Act plays* for our 2020-2021 Writing Contest. This contest is open to U.S. and international submissions. Prizes are awarded for the winning submission, as well as for the top finalists in each category. Fiction and One-Act Play deadline is October 1, 2020. Poetry and Very Short Fiction deadline is October 15, 2020. For complete guidelines and submission details, please see our website

tennesseewilliams.net/contests/

Saints and Sinners, our LGBTQ Literary Festival, also has an annual Fiction Contest. Deadline for submissions is October 1, 2020. More information can be found on our website.

sasfest.org/#contest

Follow us @TWFestNOLA & @sasfest on social media.

Call for Romance Submissions

Belonging Books, a new, inclusive, feminist publishing house, has begun accepting submissions for launch in June. Submissions can be of all lengths from and about minorities—people of color, people with disabilities, religious minorities, LGBTQ+ people, etc.—and non-traditional romance. Mission: diversify and modernize the genre.

belongingbooksonline.wordpress.com

Coping with Crisis New Seniors Contest

No one has quarantined your creativity. Writers age 50 and up are encouraged to enter our new contest.

Ageless Authors is offering older writers an opportunity to comment on our current travails, as well as perilous times in the past, the future and elsewhere in your imagination.

Coping with Crisis is the theme of a new spur-of-the-moment contest. Beginning Monday, April 6, senior writers can enter any of three categories—creative nonfiction prose, fiction prose, and poetry—in two age classifications.

We have broadened the contest from emphasizing just “coronavirus” to examining “crisis” in all its forms. Think about other crises and how they have affected you and others. With age comes experience with many different types of crises.

For this contest, we have expanded our definition of “senior writer” to include those age 50 and older. There are many story lines, focuses, directions to take.

Prose entries should be no longer than 3,500 words. Poetry can be any length. Cash prizes will be awarded from a pot in excess of \$1,500. Each entry will be \$20. We will also publish some of the best submissions.

The contest will run from Monday, April 6 through July. Put your mind and talents to good use during this difficult time. Entrants and contest judges needed for this contest.

Go to agelessauthors.com/current-contests/ for contest information and rules.

Go to agelessauthors.com for a 40% discount on an **Ageless Authors** anthology.

More 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

Great Online Help for Writers

Hello FAW writers. I must share a wonderful resource I just discovered. Perhaps you have heard of Tom Corson-Knowles. He wrote *"The Book Marketing Bible"* and he knows what he's talking about. Wouldn't it be great to have him speak to our group? We don't know when we will gather again, but we don't have to wait to hear him. Right now we can catch him online for **FREE!**

tckpublishing.com/fta-video-1.

This is a series of free videos, the one I just listened to is called **5 Keys to More Royalties**.

The series is called **"How to earn a full-time income from your writing."** I have listened, taken notes, and I'm already starting to apply some of the strategies learned. You can check out his website for more informative videos at tckpublishing.com also on **YouTube** and **Udemy**. Don't let his youthful appearance fool you. He has a wealth of information to offer.

Submitted by member Anita Tosh

Photo Prompt #2 by N. Guarnera



FAW CALL TO ACTION

A Word from your Volunteer Coordinator...

FAW Board Elections Coming in June. You can make a difference!

Fremont Area Writers (FAW) is a group of writers, editors, and poets at any level from published or information gathering. We would love to get to know you. Please let me, Sue Curtzwiler (Volunteer Coordinator) or Terry Tosh (President) know if you would like to run for a board elected office or volunteer in some other capacity. This is the perfect time to think outside the box and/or do something you really enjoy. We would like to help you utilize your gifts and be involved in FAW.

During this challenging time, each of us is doing our best to maintain a routine and balance our lives with reasonable flexibility. Likewise, this treasured group of writers, Fremont area's literary community, needs to run business and keep this group active as much as possible.

With this in mind, this notice is **focused on the upcoming June 2020/2021 elections**. However, please let us know of any other activities that would interest you, such as helping with the *Ink Spots* newsletter, the Second Saturday Half Price Books event, the Third Sunday Literary Open Mic, the Fourth Monday Writer's Salon, Hospitality, Publicity, etc.

CALL TO ACTION: Elections for board positions will be in June 2020. The term for board positions run from the beginning of July 2020 to the end of June 2021.

All elected positions are open to the general membership.

- The board meeting lasts for 1 hour and 15 minutes.
- Fourth Saturday of the month (except for the FAW Picnic in July and the December Holiday Party)
- Meeting starts at 12:30 p.m. and concludes at 1:45 p.m.
- In addition to the elected positions, there are 10 to 12 chairpersons on the Board of Directors.

The official **elected positions** are **President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer**. The following formal descriptions are taken directly (verbatim) from the *Bylaws for the Fremont Area Writers*. A general softer summary follows each of the official descriptions.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

Section 2: President. The president shall preside over meetings of the Board of Directors and general membership.

2.1 The president shall, subject to the advice and consent of the directors, direct the affairs of FAW in accordance with these bylaws.

2.2 Except for the nominating committee, the president shall appoint such committees and chairpersons as necessary to conduct affairs of FAW. Such appointments end when the business of the committee is finished or at the end of the term of the president who made the appointments.

Summary: Call the meeting to order, review old business by having each committee person give their report, conduct new business such as upcoming events or tasks that need to be done, monitor the timing of the contributors to keep business on track, close the meeting. Write a *Message from the President* for the monthly *Ink Spots* newsletter.

Section 3: Vice President. The vice president shall assume the duties of president in the absence of that officer at any duly called meeting. The vice president shall also serve as the chairperson of the Programs Committee. *(continued on p. 13)*

FAW CALL TO ACTION *(Continued from p. 12)*

Summary: As the Programs Committee chairperson, the Vice President shall arrange monthly speakers, introduce them, and write a summary of their presentation for the monthly *Ink Spots* newsletter.

Section 4: Secretary. The secretary shall prepare agendas and keep minutes for all meetings, handle incoming and outgoing correspondence, and maintain the administrative files for the Fremont Area Writers.

Summary: The secretary takes minutes of the Board meeting, makes sure to write down the time of the open and close of the meeting, gets accurate spelling of names of upcoming speakers, dates of events, and any other important information that is either a suggestion or resolved.

Section 5: Treasurer. The treasurer shall keep proper books of account showing receipts and disbursements for Fremont Area Writers and report the financial status of the Branch at each duly called meeting of the Board of Directors.

5.1 The treasurer shall receive and keep all funds of Fremont Area Writers and pay them out only as authorized by the Board of Directors. Any funds received for the organization shall be promptly deposited in an account at a financial institution set up for that purpose.

5.2 The treasurer's signature shall be required on all checks \$350 or less. A second cosigner's signature shall be required on checks of more than \$350. The second cosigner shall be either of two persons so authorized by the Board of Directors.

Summary: Manage the accounting of the Fremont Area Writers. Record expenditures and refund members who have personally paid for materials necessary for the group's activities.

Thank you in advance for your suggestions and participation in the Fremont Area Writers. We hope you will consider standing for office. Please contact me (510) 299-0135 or Terry Tosh (408) 314-4926 to discuss your interest.

Most important, please stay healthy and do your best to create a balance for yourself and your family.

Sincerely,

Sue Curtzwiler
Volunteer Coordinator

**San Mateo
County Fair &
January Arts
Contest**

sanmateocountyfair.com

Online Memoir Workshop and Classes

FAW's canceled Speakers for April, **Brooke Warner & Linda Joy Myers**, have asked us to share the following online events with you. For more info go to **magicofmemoir.com**.

May 1st **2020 Memoir Event** w/ Elizabeth Gilbert & others

May 4th - 25th **Mastering Voice** 4 Weeks of Mondays in May

Screenwriter & FAW member, Carol Hall suggests scriptwriters check out **roadmapwriters.com** for **FREE ONLINE WORKSHOPS**

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

SOLITUDE

He stood alone, young oak, meek
singing his tune melancholic.
One day there came an old Owl, wise.
He frequented the tree twice,
at sunset and sunrise.
Perched on the tree he hummed,
enchanted the land beyond;
out toward the moon bellowed.
"Don't fret you're lonely.
Brace your heart slowly:
Walk that path assiduously,
for this land belongs to brave
and bold and the mighty."
Indeed a teacher, no mean preacher.
One day, a year later he flew away
never to return; to a land far away.
And the lone tree stood profound,
ready to weather the storms whirl around,
singing his tune euphoric!

Manjula Bhadraswamy

SOLEMNITY

redemption's sweet embrace
(A quarantine acrostic)
Solitude divine awaits.
Only God and I abide,
Life's uncertainty to ponder.
Eternal destiny comes into focus;
Memories of bad and good
Niggle at my mind's surrounds.
Infinity approaches fast.
Thorough examination beckons.
Yesterday's gone. Today I atone.
redemption's sweet embrace

Terry Tosh

CoronaV

I saw your picture today
You're beautiful
An exotic sea creature
A frilly flower
Gorgeous tiny thing
Deadly little virus
How can something so ravishing
be so ravagingly ravenous?

Nancy Guarnera

Come Easter

Come Easter
Rise like mustard flowers
Spraying the greening shore
Rise billowing clouds, and
Stretch your arc along the mottled coast.
Easter, we hear your song:

The otters applaud you
The sea lions sing of your approach
Ecstatic, the gulls scream their ecstasy

Glee, glee they say.
Whales breach the inner bay.
Feel their heavy passing joy

Hear their rising call
Come, come Easter
Let your tides rip down the walls of fear

Push up the reeds of life and birth
Let cattails seed the shore
Come, come Rising one

Raise your shoots, plant your roots
Come Easter make us new
Renew again.

Tony Pino

HAPPY NATIONAL POETRY MONTH!



Mitzi

A cold wet-nosed touch
A warm snuggle by my side
Brown eyes shine with love

Anita Tosh

SLITHER

Smooth, cool, gleaming scales
Flickering tongue tastes the air
You glide over me

Nancy Guarnera

One Happy Ending

in the alabaster columns
of the great distant city

In the downtown of my dreams
I would someday be a big guy

who would laugh and leap
from building to building

the rage of Cosmopolis,
the one getting all the attention

the men would fear me
the women worship me

it would not end like this,
with these pesky, cowardly aeroplanes,

spitting their little lead pellets.
No, my ending would be different

in a bungalow in Hollywood
I would keep Fay Wray beside me

as bus tours pass with
tourists leering at the homes of the stars

and I, the eighth wonder of the world
with my screaming blond friend

would pound my fists
on the Santa Monica Mountains

Often mistaken for an earthquake.
I would pick my teeth with palm trees

And she would sun herself languidly on the lawn
and scream at the staring strangers.

Tony Pino



HAPPY NATIONAL POETRY MONTH!

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

STRINGING—STRANDS—OF—BANGLES—AND—BEADS

Necklace nooses hanging 'bout
Preening, priding shouting out.
"Jingle, jangle, clang," they sang,
"See, seeds and beads from old Ban Chiang."

Seeds and beads and hollowed reeds,
Stones and bones and twisted weeds,
Copper, crystal, coral, copal,
Onyx, oxide and fire opal.

Ruby rosaries from Romania.
Ivory and iron from inland India.
Jade beads carved by skilled Chinese.
Pearl seeds grown by Japanese.

Amber, emerald, aventurine,
Prayer beads worn by St. Augustine
Ceramic, sapphire, cinnabar,
Precious gems from near and far.

Brass and glass and lapis lazuli,
Clam and conch and coconut, cowrie
Shells and bells, wood and tulle,
Jasper, jade and jet from Maui

Painted, lacquered, twisted, fused
Beads of every color used.
Folded, molded, fluted, flat,
Choose a bead from this or that.

Gilded, ground, wound and etched,
Ideas for these are likely sketched.
Pressed, and poured, rolled and drilled,
The bead maker's work is artful and skilled.

Necklace nooses done at last
Strung on a string and lost-wax-cast
Beads from every corner sought
Jingle, jangle, forget-me-not

Jan Small



Grandmother's Brooch submitted by Jan Small

Photo Prompt #3

Does this scream "social distancing" to anyone else?
Or perhaps you see something entirely different...
Perhaps it reminds you of your gran' and a long-forgotten memory.
Consider sharing your reaction to this image and/or one of the other two, or all three. *Please share!*