





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

## ***President's Message***

I trust you are all staying safe and well, and finding new avenues of entertainment, reflection, study, and spring cleaning momentum. It's a great time to reorganize our priorities; to make some new habits of setting aside time to write and to help those that need help accomplishing their goals.

As for FAW, we are happy to report that our first attempt at Zooming our board meeting was successful! It was great work by Scott Davidson, our talented webmaster of the Universe. Thank you, Sir, for your efforts and how you made it as effortless as possible for our ancient minds to get somewhat tech savvy. Miraculous!

Reminder: We are still taking nominations for the elected Board positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and we need to hear from you soon if you'd like to be considered. We'll be voting at the June meeting, so contact me, or any other Board Member, if you'd like to serve.

Thank you to all those that are willing to juggle around their workloads in order to take on new areas of responsibility, we will continue to look for talented folks that may be willing to assist the leaders in their tasks as part of a mentoring process that could lead to new candidates for future years.

News! We will be permanently Zooming our Board meetings going forward. This will allow more time and less pressure to rush through and be ready for the general meeting (once we get back to live meetings). It will also relieve those that have to spend a marathon day of setting up/attending/taking down the room at 42 Silicon Valley. This month the Board will meet on the Tuesday prior to our 4th Saturday General Meeting, from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. See your Board in action; you are welcome to "sit in." Contact Scott for an invitation.

It looks quite likely that our May General Meeting will be going online, as a "webinar" type format, with our speaker doing his magic right through our virtual spaces. If you haven't yet received instructions on how to join a zoom meeting, you should be getting them shortly in the form of a YouTube presentation on your membership email program. *This information is also available on pages 1 at the top and 23 at the bottom.*

Also new for this year's membership renewal cycle—you will receive an invoice in the mail with some new options. You will be able to prepay your meeting donations to support our speakers. You will also have the option of donating to a membership fund to help those that would love to join us, but aren't financially able.

Thanks, again, for everyone's continued membership and flexibility to keep our branch alive and moving forward during these rapidly changing times! Your involvement and efforts are immensely appreciated.

Happy SIPing till we meet again,

***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 Blvd  
Fremont

#### **THIRD SUNDAY**

Literary OPEN MIC

#### ***Third Sundays***

Sign-up 3:00

Reading 3:30 – 5:30 PM

Half Price Books  
39201 Cedar Blvd  
Newark

#### **FOURTH MONDAY**

WRITERS' SALON

#### ***Fourth Mondays***

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Slap Face Coffee & Tea  
Writing Room  
37324 Fremont Blvd  
Fremont

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

MEETINGS

#### ***Fourth Saturdays***

General: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

42 Silicon Valley Rm 106  
6600 Drayton Circle  
Fremont

**CANCELED UNTIL  
FURTHER NOTICE**

**VIA EMAIL**

**zoom**

# ***FAW Board Members***



**TERRY TOSH**  
President



**KNUTI VANHOVEN**  
Vice President



**CARMEN  
VONTICKNER**  
Secretary



**CHERYLYN CHIN**  
Treasurer



**BOB GARFINKLE**  
Past President –  
Fremont Area Writers  
Past President –  
CA Writers Club

**BOARD MEETINGS**  
3:30 to 5:30 P.M.  
Tuesday before the Fourth Saturday  
Membership Meetings  
ZOOM

## **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 CHIN**  
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 Robert "Bob" Garfinkle whose three-volume set *Luna Cognita: A Comprehensive Observer's Handbook of the Known Moon* is now available on Amazon and from Springer. **Congratulations, Bob!**

Kudos to Evelyn LaTorre who presented a zoomed workshop entitled *Why and How to Write Your Memoir* on May 13, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. for the SF Peninsula branch's "Writers Helping Writers" program. **Congratulations, Evelyn!**

Kudos to Anita Tosh whose book *God's Amory* is now available on Amazon in both paperback and e-Book formats. **Congratulations, Anita!**

## FAW "Tell Me a Story" Up-date!

"Tell Me a Story" has begun. Thus far, nine members of our branch have turned their creative juices to this "collaborative" writing project. The story is already almost 3,200 words.

The working title is "A Time, A Place...and The Right Person." It's making its way through the FAW membership list alphabetically; we're still in the C's, but the story is progressing. We've met our "she-ro" and perhaps one of our villains. There's mystery, and magic, and crullers.

Our process has changed slightly. Each member on the list will receive a call from our *Ink Spots* editor with a verbal invitation to participate. If the member chooses not to participate, the next person on the list will receive a call, and so on. So far, the participants seem to have enjoyed the experience and are anxious to read the story once it's complete.

The final copy will either be published in *Ink Spots* (possibly serialized depending on the length), or sent as an email attachment to all FAW members.

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

## Fremont Area Writers

### "Fourth Monday" Writers' Salon

May 25th 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

For details, contact Tony Pino

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



# A Word from Our Editor



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

**W**elcome to our May 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 May, 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 in June. Check with Tony Pino before the next meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup>; contact info for him is on page 5.

The Board has successfully Zoomed our first meeting and will be Zooming our meetings going forward. New date and time for these: the Tuesday before the General Meeting from 3:30 to 5:30. And on **Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>** we will be **Zooming** our first **General Meeting** with **guest speaker Rafael de Jesus Gonzalez**, poet, artist and activist. We hope you will join us.

**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.

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.**" This collaborative project has begun and we're moving along quite nicely. So far, nine members have contributed. We currently have almost 3,200 words written; we may just have enough to publish this when it's finished. We're still working our way through the C's, so we'll be at this a while. I hope that most of you will choose to participate. Those who have are having fun with it and are anxious to see where the story goes.

Remember, we're always interested in your other work as well. Please send general submissions for **The Writers' Corner** to [inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.org) by June 1<sup>st</sup> for the June issue. Remember to put **FAW Ink Spots Submission** and **your name** in the **Subject field** 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](mailto:nguarnera16@comcast.net). Please put **FAW Weekly SIP NOTE Submission** and **your name** in the **Subject field**. Thanks!

*Stay safe, healthy and happy! Nancy*

## Submission Guidelines

### SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

On or before the **First Day of the Publication Month** (June 1<sup>st</sup> for the June 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)

**Weekly SIP NOTES:** **275-300 words max.** **Kudos:** **75-80 words max.**

**FORMAT:** **Text** – Word.doc/docx in Arial 12 pt. **Photos** – JPEG

**Don't use any special formatting. Please use the return key ONLY at the end of each paragraph. Thanks!**

# ***Your Weekly SIP NOTES***

**WEEK #4 APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup> SUE CURTZWILER**

## **With All Your Heart**

Make a routine, chart your projects, create your own recipe, read, or take a nice walk in the neighborhood. These are a few things that might help you adjust to shelter-in-place (SIP). Social limitations are not familiar to some of us. Think of something you really enjoy, your “go to place”. You might want to start by writing a routine. Whatever you choose -- own it, do it with all your heart.

Cooking is my sandbox, my “go to place.” I love to work with new vegetables, spices, and how to combine them with a main entrée or make a solid vegetarian meal. No, I’m not a vegetarian; occasionally, it’s fun to have variety. Recently, following a recipe in a new cookbook, I needed Star Anise (a slight licorice note) to make a cherry sauce for pork chops. This was before (SIP) was our way of life, but it still was a good excuse to get out. Tonight, my own creation, I sliced a yellow beet into chicken tenders, sliced cherry tomatoes, quinoa, the juice of ½ a lemon, and a little butter. Putting together what’s on hand is how I cook with all my heart. Tonight, I fought the lack of socializing.

**WEEK #5 MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> AMBER DeANN**

## **Thanks Corona**

I was at the end of my rope. Jobs and work kept eating up my time, sucking my energy and leaving me feeling drained. Worst of all, my spirit was unhappy. Deep inside me I could feel the yearning for time, space, and creative freedom growing larger and larger. I could feel my expressive inner child growing restless and impatient.

The unfinished art piece waited patiently for my return, and sadly, every day I walked past it saying, “maybe tomorrow.” The huge stack of unread books captured my attention and called to me, “We are here for you. Where are you?”

*(continued)*

**WEEK #5 MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> AMBER DeANN (continued)**

Something inside was about to crack and it was not going to be pretty.

Then Coronavirus hit and soon I got the word—I was furloughed from the inventory job, furloughed from the housecleaning job, the Census job was postponed, and my coaching client was gone. My life was upside down. I stared at the walls, unable to believe the bombshell that had been dropped on me.

Slowly, I remembered my teachings — “When you are unhappy, help someone else” (AA advice) and “Gratitude opens doors,” (pretty much every spiritual teacher).

I felt the urge to make FB Lives sharing my gratitude. Yes, I will do this. I reached for one of my favorite books from the bookcase, flipped the pages and felt a calming satisfaction come over me. I tapped the FB button on my cell phone, then the Live button, positioned the iPhone in the holder and I talked. The words gushed from inside me, bypassing my brain, entering cyber-world.

I was alive and functioning again. My heart was excited, my soul happy, my spirit calmed and my passion on fire. I smiled at the books who were my saviors, my support, and my teachers in that moment. I sighed...realizing being a teacher of practical mysticism was my passion. It was the reason I existed, and it was the source of my inner joy.

The FB views started to grow, the comments intruded into my FB Live meditations, and they flooded onto the FB pages, and popped up in my FB messages.

My heart felt joy. My face smiled. I knew I would read the books now and plan to be a speaker and build my online community. This was the shove I needed to move into truly being a teacher and healer.

## **BE GRATEFUL!**



**Sue Curtzwiler**  
**Volunteer Coordinator**

## *Mother's Day and Zoom*

Moms are special. Although the second Sunday of May is the celebrated time to honor our mothers, we all know that every day is Mother's Day. They never have time off. They are the glue that keeps everything running like a magic machine. Early morning breakfast for the family, daycare and school, getting herself to work, rushing home for after school activities such as sports, music/dance lessons, dinner, laundry, and on and on. To all moms, my sincere apologies for all the other things I have forgotten to mention.

Families have honored their mom's in many ways for decades, (since 1914, declared by President Wilson). For example, we've enjoyed lunch or dinner at a restaurant, picnics at the park, or a backyard BBQ. Lavished with flowers, cakes, candy, and cards, moms around the world have been held in high honor.

However, this year's celebrations had to be much different due to the social distancing restrictions caused by Covid-19.

Certainly, you have heard of or participated in a Zoom meeting. Today, Zoom is a new communication tool that the whole world is using to stay connected when we can't be together. Families, friends, and businesses are using it on cell phones, iPads, and laptops. It lets us visit with one person or see several people at the same time. We can participate in a myriad of May celebrations, even as we stay home. You might remember when "Zoom-Zoom" described the sound of a car racing down the street; or "Zoom," an old children's TV show. Now it's a means of gathering people together.

May Day, Cinco de Mayo, graduations, and Memorial Day are additional main events for May. Is it any wonder we want to party? Now, we can join a Zoom meeting, and like magic, we're at the party. We can eat together, chat, play games, share pictures of our graduates in their caps and gowns, turn on the music, dance...and "Zoom" the party's started.

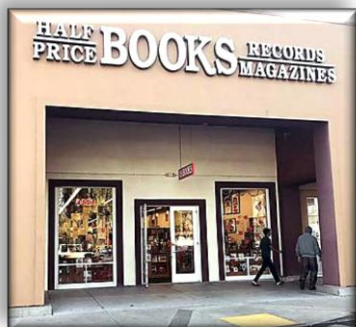
While Mother's Day is celebrated in May, you can show your love for her anytime. Actions like a phone call speak volumes. Cards, e-cards, or flowers speak the language of thoughtfulness, remembrances, and love. They bring a tear of memories any time of the year, but especially now when we can't give our moms the hugs they deserve. You know your mom better than anyone else, be creative and she will remember it forever.

By the way, Father's Day is next month; don't forget to honor your dad for all the reasons he's so special.

*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 is partnering with Half Price Books in Fremont to present “Second Saturday” — *Meet Your Local FAW Authors* monthly readings. These events are scheduled from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. with a different author featured each month.

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

If you are interested in scheduling a month to read in 2021, please contact Nancy Guarnera at [faw-hpb@cwc-fremontareawriters.org](mailto:faw-hpb@cwc-fremontareawriters.org).

Authors who are currently scheduled for 2020 and whose events are canceled due to extended SIP orders will be given preference for reading opportunities in 2021.

#### **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*

### **“Second Saturday”**

**Meet Your Local FAW Authors  
at Half Price Books**

***This FAW Event will be CANCELED  
through June and will return in July  
unless we are still required to SIP.***

# Notes from the World

## Two Not-So-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/](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://agelessauthors.com/current-contests/)** for contest information and rules.

Go to **[agelessauthors.com](http://agelessauthors.com)** for a **40% discount on an *Ageless Authors* anthology.**

# More Notes from the World

## BIRDLAND JOURNAL

Submissions limited to work by Northern California writers. Spring 2020 issue is now available to read online. Contact them for future submission deadlines.  
Check it out at [birdlandjournal.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://thewritelife.com/writing-contests)

**Poets & Writers. Website.** Searchable contest database with filters for cost, genre and deadline.  
[pw.org/grants](http://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 newsletter.** Listing of mostly pay-to-enter contests.  
[writersmag.com/contests](http://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](http://fanstory.com)

## High Desert CWC Branch Sponsoring Pandemic Anthology Short Fiction Contest

Cash prize incentives are being offered for the best entries in the High Desert Branch statewide pandemic anthology **short fiction contest** which **closes June 30, 2020**. Full details may be found on [hdcwc.com](http://hdcwc.com).

The 2020 anthology theme is a pandemic—past, present, or imagined—that affects characters in your story and their involvement in, and reaction to, those disasters. (A pandemic, as defined in the theme, is an outbreak of a deadly disease that affects a significant portion of the world's population.)

CWC members in good standing may submit up to two entries of no more than 5,000 words each with a \$15 entry fee per story. Winners (judged blind) will receive cash prizes as outlined on our website.

We're looking for good, imaginative writing to go into a book of collected short stories with a pandemic theme. The HDCWC realizes these are difficult and frequently tragic times. We also realize that writers living in bizarre times are capable of producing exceptional stories about those things in good, creative fiction.

Check out the details and send in your entries ASAP!

## Great Online Help for Writers

Check out *"The Book Marketing Bible"* by Tom Corson-Knowles; he knows what he's talking about. Right now you can catch him online for **FREE!**

[tckpublishing.com/fta-video-1](http://tckpublishing.com/fta-video-1).

This is a series of free videos called **"10 Ways to Sell More Books Online"**

## Free Online Workshops

*scriptwriters check out*  
[roadmapwriters.com](http://roadmapwriters.com)

# 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 current President 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 &  
~~Library Arts~~  
Contest

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

## **FAW ZOOM MEETING**

**MAY 23<sup>RD</sup>**

**2:00–4:00 P.M.**

Contact Scott Davidson

[scottfrombayside@yahoo.com](mailto:scottfrombayside@yahoo.com)

by May 21<sup>st</sup>

for your invitation to the meeting  
with the link to join in.

# ***FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER***

## **sPEAK**

They bought me a warbling tongue, so I could  
sing their praises  
extol their virtues  
declaim their wisdom

They bought me an iron tongue, so I could  
justify their power  
convey their anger  
distort their actions

They bought me a serpent's tongue, so I could  
repeat their lies  
ridicule their enemies  
lick their asses

But I stuttered, whispered, muted my voice  
Remained silent silent silent while I grew a new tongue.  
to sing my story  
indict my oppressors  
sentence the unjust

I grew a new tongue  
to curb their power  
reject my bondage  
proclaim the truth

I do not stutter  
I do not whisper  
I do not mute my voice

I shout my worth  
demand respect  
inspire the voiceless  
Because I am Freedom

***Tish Davidson***

## *What shall I call you?*

What shall I call you?  
A powerhouse or a giant mountain;  
keen, serene, divine.  
I like the way you walk- regal and magnificent;  
your steps strong yet subtle.  
Trumpet singing glory to wind.  
And how you lift seven hundred pounds with ease and  
not show any signs of strain?

What shall I call you?  
But mainly, I like how you control your  
strength and wisdom,  
and refuse to abuse power.  
What shall I call you?  
A teacher for us to emulate,  
Or a friend in need!  
Whoever you are, I salute you.

***Manjula Bhadraswamy***

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### **COVID virus - a personal reflection**

Why is this phase sad and happy?  
sad is more like excruciating.  
Death- a mere number,  
with a stoic attitude.  
the TV screen speaking a huge volume  
of benumbing numbers.  
a human soul...a number,  
emotionally numb, no tears.  
it's the family that loses its loved one/ones,  
is the only one that's frozen,  
while the world looks on  
with a fleeting glance of pity.  
the polluted roads are empty,  
a waft of nascent air clearing off the dust.  
  
happiness...  
is dinner at the dining table,  
an untouched family musing on lessons of humility.  
happiness...  
sticking to social distancing  
requiring the pearls of patience.  
  
happiness...  
learning primitive values  
in the absence of malice.  
happiness...  
so many unseen nuances of true happiness.  
  
Sadness is a mere figure.  
humanity obliterated by  
the rising dust of virus.  
Unforgiving, relentless, it's seconds faster than time.  
  
A fraction have I written,  
an iota  
of insolent promises amongst  
conniving, badgering, manipulative minds.  
my heart is low...pacing through the days.

**Rekha Ramani**  
**(c) 2020**

*The three haiku below were prompted  
by the photos in the April issue. If you're  
inspired to write about these photos,  
please submit your work and we'll  
share it.*

### **Roses**

Delicious colors  
Endless lovely fragrances  
Each a perfect furl

**Nancy Guarnera**



### **Trees**

Leaves drink in the sun  
Roots sip the growth-giving soak  
Seeds — infinite life

**Nancy Guarnera**



### **Connections**

Living like beaded strands  
Family, friends, co-workers  
Over-lapping lives

**Nancy Guarnera**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**November 2021**

### **FAW President's Message**

Wow, looking back to the great Shut-in of 2020, it's hard to believe we've come so far and endured so many changes in such a short time!

I was just reviewing the minutes from our last holographic virtual board meeting, held last month at the Taj Mahal, since we can go virtually anywhere now that we have the technology to travel via Virtu-view Personal Holographic Live Meeting Program.

The upcoming December Holiday Virtu-view Party will be held at the North Pole this year. Santa's got a wonderful room all ready for our special usage!

How could we have known that our little Zoom meeting would literally zoom so fast into the future that we'd be here at this stage of modern living so quickly!

Any day now we should hear from our technology guru, Scott, about the next phase of our world tour plans for all of our successful authors via the World Virtu-Cruise Line itinerary for the 2022 season. We are looking forward to all of our Book signing locations around the world, as we visit every major city in every country during our month long trip!

What a wonderful catalyst the COVID19 pandemic turned out to be for work-from-home creative minds! Who knew so much work could be accomplished in a much shorter work week, now that everyone has eight weeks of paid time off, and we can Virtu-travel anywhere we want worldwide for pennies on the dollar, and are now able to interact with people in 3-D and even touch and hug without the fear of germs! Who'd have believed this?

**Terry Tosh**

*(Inspired by a prompt suggested by Terry Tosh, FAW President)*

*April 22nd, 2020 (a poem)*

### **TODAY IS EARTH DAY.**

The spring blossoms from the cherry tree in my backyard, makes its signature announcement that she is not in quarantine. She doesn't have to be afraid of a virus that's ravaging humanity. Earth: she feels an unusual quiet in the air; the dust has settled, the usual cacophony swirls into oblivion; the voice of the twitter of birds carries over its unchained melody to a flock of trees; each leaf humming a song to soothe the soul of a planet.

**Rekha Ramani (c) 2020**

### **A Poem for International Bee Day May 20th**

Spring has sprung.  
Flowers have come.  
Where have all the bees gone?

**Penelope Anne Cole**



## The Insidious Power of Ischial Tuberosity *on Posterior Wellbeing*

If you know Ischial Tuberosity at all  
you know already he prefers  
fat-challenged women. Some  
kind of fetish attraction I'd think. Maybe  
some babysitter when he was a toddler  
was overly-friendly  
or something like that,  
or he had an anorexic mother  
who ignored him.  
Who knows?  
But you can't ignore I.T. Even if  
you're overtly rude like we've all  
learned is the way to treat  
those insistent, sniveling Harvey  
Weinstein types, I.T. will find  
a way through whatever you put  
between him and you,  
like he has some delusion you've been  
languishing for him to make contact.

Absolutely no self-awareness,  
the creep.  
Maybe his initials, I.T.,  
actually stand for his mission,  
which could just be some conspiracy  
theory. But what if?  
What if every time you sit down  
he's sending a message via your  
sciatic nerve and the dark  
web to some over-heated server  
in Iceland which  
hides a file containing your personal data,  
like the bearing-down pressure when you sit measured  
in newtons and the speed of your neural transmission  
calculated by action potentials?

**Marie Blanchard**



## CoronaV-4

Life in the time of COVID-19  
We Zoom to be heard and seen  
Daily watching the numbers grow  
Cases, deaths, people we know  
Perhaps there are too many of us  
So Earth created a nasty virus

I know, it sounds absurd  
To cull the human herd  
Right?  
But...  
Is it time to give way?

Not to live another day  
While you and I and all our stuff may pass  
The planet and everything else will last  
And perhaps...be better for it

**Nancy Guarnera**