





**TERRY TOSH**  
FAW President

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

Still in SIP, but we did have a very successful first ever Zoom General Meeting, and I want to Thank and Congratulate everyone who made the effort to attend! We even had a visitor who joined in after seeing the Tri-City Voice Write up! I was happy that we had 28 attendees, including those of us that signed in as one person, but were actually two people using one computer. That number is on par with many of our regular "pre-lockdown" days. Way to go, team!

I encourage everyone to try this in June, as it will be the last of this official year, and Election Day for our board members. We would like as many members to attend as possible. July will still be a break; although it's doubtful at this point that a picnic is in the cards.

Once again, I trust you are all staying safe and as sane as possible.

Please be aware of the mental and emotional strain that SIP can cause! If you need a break, get outside and take a walk or ride a bike, take drive, skateboard, hover board, walk your goldfish...anything to break the stress.

We look forward to reading your new works, so please submit to Ink Spots even if it's an excerpt from your current larger work, or just random thoughts you've written down, recently or in the past...hey, even a to do list if it's interesting enough. You might start a trend, who knows?

I trust everyone has received your new renewal invoice in the mail. Thanks to Anita for putting it together and adding the options for annual meeting donations and the opportunity to give to a fund for those that may need assistance to cover their fees.

We are very happy to have a wonderful group of members that have received compliments from our speakers; they find us to be an enthusiastic, attentive and appreciative group to work with during their presentations. We have lots of activities and opportunities to grow and use our talents to help each other become successful in our literary endeavors. Your annual dues provide access to our many useful resources: critique groups, the Writers' Salon, publication of your creative work in our newsletter, excellent speakers, etc.; all for the current rate of \$45.00/yr to renew. We hope you will!

Thanks, again, for everyone's continued support in participation and in renewing for the coming year, which will get underway with our August meeting in whatever format we can use at that point. Your involvement and efforts are immensely appreciated.

***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  
Meeting Room  
37324 Fremont Blvd  
Fremont

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

MEETINGS

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

General: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

42 Silicon Valley Rm 106  
6600 Dr. Martin Circle  
Fremont

**CANCELED UNTIL  
FURTHER NOTICE**

**zoom**

**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 Penelope Anne Cole** who has had two pieces accepted for the next Tri-Valley Writers Anthology: a poem entitled "I Am Old," and a short memoir, "Christmas Gifts Galore." ***Congratulations, Penny!***

**Kudos to Carol Lee Hall** who has entered "In time of COVID-19" – A Video & Essay Contest sponsored by **DingDong TV** serving the Bay Area and Silicon Valley. Use this link [Thanks to Pacifica by Carol Lee Hall](#) to go to Carol's video and the rest of the DingDong contest site. Watch the videos and "vote" for your favorites – you can vote for as many of them as you want by clicking "like." Do this now; "voting" ends soon. The winners will be chosen by a panel of judges and receive cash prizes. *(Of course, Carol would appreciate your vote!)* See her essay for the contest in this issue's Writers' Corner. ***Congratulations, Carol and Best of Luck!***

**Kudos to Terry Tosh** who, in his President's Message in the April Ink Spots, suggested the following writing prompt: Write a short essay on the future look of FAW after the coronavirus pandemic is over (August 2021). We share our newsletter with the newsletter editors and presidents of all the other CWC branches. One of his peers, Linda Hartmann from the Mt. Diablo branch had this to say about his piece: *"Well done!! I loved the optimism throughout your writing, the embracing of Zoom with no need for mentioning it as an entity, and the exponential growth of our time and travel potential, the ability of 3-D holographic use and the hugging with no fear of germs! Do I hear a round of APPLAUSE? I do! I hear it... loudly! Oh... look - it's a STANDING OVATION!!"* (See the May issue for Terry's "wild imaginings.") ***Congratulations, Terry!***

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

*"Tell Me a Story,"* our collaborative story project, is now almost 7,000 words long and 16 of our members have contributed. The working title is **"A Time, A Place . . . and The Right Person."**

We're in the G's on the FAW mailing list, and we're about halfway through the list now. Those who've participated seem to have enjoyed the experience and are anxious to read the story once it's complete.

We're considering serializing the story and sending it out to you in the next few weeks. Keep an eye on your email. 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. We'll need a title, so once you've read enough of the story to inspire an idea, send us your suggestion(s).

We hope you'll consider participating when we contact you to take your turn. Happy writing!

## Fremont Area Writers

## "Fourth Monday" **Writers' Salon**

**June 22nd 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.**

*For Zooming in June 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 June 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. Luanne Oleas is scheduled for July at HPB: we will keep you posted on this.

The **"Fourth Monday" Writers' Salon** is continuing to meet and is likely to be using Zoom in June for the meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Check with Tony Pino before the next meeting; contact info for him is on page 5. Keep an eye on your email for an invitation from him.

The Board 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. On **Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>** we will **Zoom** our June **General Meeting** with **guest speaker Tim J. Myers**, award-winning poet, children's author, artist and professor. If you weren't able to make the May meeting check out the recap in this issue and join us in June!

**We will continue to publish Ink Spots** for you as always; and you should be receiving your **Weekly SIP NOTES** on Mondays. If you decide to send us a **SIP NOTE**, please send it to **nguarnera16@comcast.net**. Please put **FAW Weekly SIP NOTE Submission** and **your name** in the **Subject field**. Thanks!

If we have something pressing to communicate to the membership, we'll send out an email to everyone.

Check out **page 5** in this issue for another opportunity to do some writing with **"Tell Me A Story."** This collaborative project is moving along nicely. So far, 16 members have contributed and we have almost 7,000 words written. We're in the G's now and we're almost halfway through the list. I hope that most of you will choose to participate. Those who have contributed have had fun with it, and are anxious to see where the story goes. We may start serializing it, so we can all enjoy the story as it develops. We'll need a title eventually; suggestions are welcome.

Remember, we're always interested in your creative work for publication in the newsletter.

**Stay safe, healthy and happy! Nancy**

## Submission Guidelines

Please send all submissions for **Ink Spots** to **inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org** by **July 1<sup>st</sup>** for the **July issue**. Remember to put **FAW Ink Spots Submission** and **your name** in the **Subject field** of your email. Thank you for sharing your writing with the rest of us!

### SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

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

**No special formatting. Please use the return key ONLY at the end of each paragraph. Don't double space between sentences. Thanks!**

# ***Your Weekly SIP NOTES***

**WEEK #6 MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> TISH DAVIDSON**

## ***A SIP Dinner Party***

For the past six months I have been part of three couples who have tried to find a date to get to-gether for dinner. Someone always had a con-flict—vacation plans, volunteer commitments, new grandchildren to welcome into the world, health problems, surgeries, more health problems. Time passed. The reasons continued. Dinner never happened.

Then along came Shelter in Place. Who would have guessed it would be the perfect time for a dinner party—a virtual one. Consider the advantages to virtual dining. No need to clean the house. No expense of buying groceries for a crowd. No need to find a recipe to accommodate guests special needs:

- lactose intolerance
- gluten free
- eat only organic
- vegetarian
- vegan
- allergic to seafood
- allergic to nuts
- on the paleo diet
- on the keto diet
- on any diet

To dine virtually, pick a date and time. Each couple cooks their own food to meet their special needs. At that time, they set up their laptop on the table where they are eating. To connect, each diner or couple sets up a free Zoom account and they choose a host for the dinner meeting. Everyone connects eats and chats, and voila—virtual dinner!

***Tish***

**WEEK #7 MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> SCOTT DAVIDSON**

## ***Where has all the time gone?***

Once you were forced to shelter in place, I can imagine you thinking about all the extra time you would have. No more going to the mall. No commuting. No grocery shopping (nothing there anyway.) You could finally get caught up on all those things you didn't have time to do before.

Hasn't worked out that way, has it?

Wow, I can finally read that stack of books by the bed. Wow, I can make all those recipes I had been meaning to try. Wow, I can binge watch that series on Netflix, and catch up on the movies. Wow, I can wash the walls and vacuum the ceilings. I can do virtual tours of a bunch of museums.

Works great if they make the day 50 hours long. That would leave time for sleep also.

We are flooded with emails and articles giving us suggestions on filling up our copious free time. Pay too much attention to them and you'll find that when things open again, you're further behind.

This is nothing new to me. Before I retired, I walked around the house and made a list of the things I wanted to do, which could range from cleaning out a drawer to reading my 2,000 unread science fiction books. Do that, and then you can figure out what's most important to you, and close your eyes to all the "these 20 books that are great to read" articles.

Do that and you might even find some time to get some writing in. That's what we're about, isn't it?

***Scott***

***"EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING..."***

Earliest known appearance is found in a book titled *Comus: A Masque Presented at Ludlow Castle* by John Milton, 1634



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

## Celebrate, Be Kind and Smile

Roses are blooming, hummingbirds and bees are darting around lavender stems; it's time to smile and relax with the beauty of nature. Father's Day is 6/21, the third Sunday of June. Many of the Covid-19 restrictions are partially being lifted. Restaurants, parks, and possibly beaches are starting to open. If you feel comfortable getting out, it would be one way to celebrate Father's Day. Remember to let your dad know how special he is to you.

Now, when Covid-19 started in mid-March, I surely hoped we would be in a better place by June, the mark of getting halfway through the year. Covid-19 is still here, and maybe we were on the way to see hope for the summer. However, sad, so incredibly sad, we are now struggling with yet another national catastrophe. The beginning of peaceful protests turns into horrific violence by nightfall. I am **not** going to discuss how this got started. All of us have our own opinions. New curfews and worries of what's next are at the front of our daily lives.

Instead, here is the JUNE CHALLENGE: *Look, Listen, and Act*. Regardless if it's the virus in the crowds or violence in the streets, please consider where you've been, where you're going, and who you're going to visit. *Look* around to check your environment and your own health. Remember, you need to be safe and well before you can help anyone. *Listen* to conversations with a question in your mind. Is someone asking for help? Ask specifically what they need. *Act* by checking with family, friends, and neighbors. Maybe a simple phone call or a trip to the store is all that's needed. It's amazing how a little local love goes further than down your street.



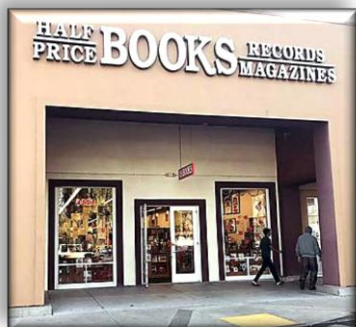
*Photo by Sue Curtzwiler*

You can make a difference. Acts of kindness that show your love and care for others will be a time of unity, strength, and wellness. Certainly, 2020 will be in the history books. We can all be a part of that history, hopefully not because we were a casualty of Covid-19 or got hurt trying to watch the protests. Rather, remember that smile you felt on your face when you saw your first rose bloom and the sparkling eyes of someone to whom you gave hope. Yes, all of this will be in the history books. Your grandchildren will read about how the world changed in a few short months. Share your love with your smile.

*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 been partnering with Half Price Books in Fremont to present “Second Saturday” — *Meet Your Local FAW Authors* monthly readings. These events have been 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@cw-fremontareawriters.org](mailto:faw-hpb@cw-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 is currently CANCELED  
through the end of June.***

***If and when it returns depends  
on the status of the Coronavirus pandemic  
and social distancing requirements.***

# 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 A Contest for Seniors

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

## *"Openings that Kill It"*

**FREE Online Workshop with Jane Cleland**

**Saturday, June 20 at 10 a.m. PT**

We'll discuss a three-step process to figuring out where to start your stories and how to layer in a narrative question that drives your plot and informs your characters' decisions.

**You can sign up here**

<https://janecleland.com/events>

## **BIRDLAND JOURNAL**

*Special summer issue of Birdland*

### **Writing in the Time of the Global Pandemic—This Moment**

If you have been moved to write during these strange and difficult times, please consider sharing your work with us. We'd love to hear from you.

**Submission Deadline: July 14<sup>th</sup>**

Visit the link below for guidelines.

[www.birdlandjournal.com/submissions/](http://www.birdlandjournal.com/submissions/)

## **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.

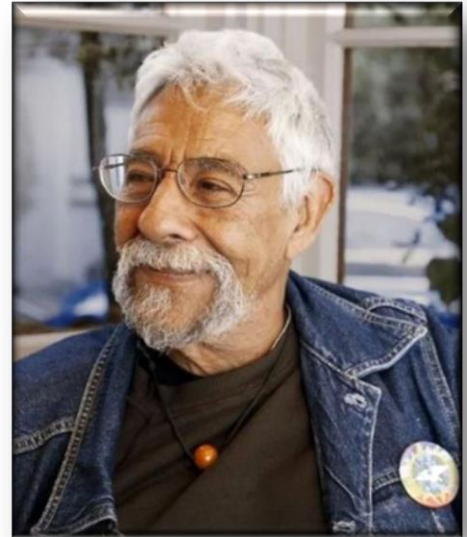
Check out the details and send in your entries ASAP!

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

# FAW May Meeting Recap

## Rafael Jesus Gonzalez

### Poet—Philosopher—Activist



How many times have you, or someone you know, said “I’m not creative,” or “I’m not artistic,” or I’m not a poet?” Raphael Jesus Gonzalez would disagree. *“Reality is consciousness!”* he explained. *“We’re all poets; we’re all artists; we’re all creative.”*

The word poetry comes from the Greek word for create—to make—he explained to his audience at the May 23<sup>rd</sup> FAW meeting. *“It is through our cultural development that we have forgotten to listen to our instincts.”*

Gonzalez shared a number of his poems with us, but first, he began with a ritual burning of sage, a customary practice to invoke the Gods when speaking in public: sweet grass is also used in this way. In essence, he *“blessed the meeting with the Truth.”*

Being both bilingual and bi-cultural, he writes 90% of his work in both Spanish and English; he stresses that we not consider these translations of each other, but rather as two distinct poems (see **“Poeta/Poet”** in *Spanish and English* on page 13) that make a whole.

***“We need a revolution of the mind and the heart.”***

Gonzalez has several “muses” that inform his poetry: the moon, flowers, dreams, and poetry itself. He’s finding flowers a compelling subject in the time of the coronavirus pandemic. As a social activist, he believes we must *“turn our voices to the events of our time,”* but in some cases —detention camps on our southern border—*“only resistance will do.”* One of his poems, about poetry and poets, **“Poets Are Dangerous,”** has two lines in it that sum up his talent and his philosophy of the subject: *“the tongue is a tool to bring down walls”* and *“justice must be rooted in compassion and love.”* (It’s interesting that just a little over a week after he shared these words, the world suddenly woke up to the notion that systemic racism is “a thing” and we really do need to do something about it...NOW.)

***“The task of poetry is primarily celebration.”***

*“Our institutions must be founded on love...Love is the only thing that will save us,”* he warned and encouraged us to envision a world with no borders or flags. He strongly adheres to the idea that *“poetry should widen the vision and empower the heart.”* It’s not surprising that Gonzalez is not a big fan of competition and finds poetry competitions “amusing.” Though he did serve as a judge for the prestigious 2019 Fischer Poetry Prize and, of course, wrote a poem about it. His poems often use the Japanese tanka form (5-7-5-7-7 syllables). His recommended reading: *Look Homeward Angel*.

*“Listening to him read, especially in Spanish, was like listening to a lullaby.”* nguarnera

To hear more by Rafael Jesus Gonzalez go to <https://rjgonzalez.blogspot.com/2020>

# FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

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**Rafael Jesús González** was the guest speaker at the May 2020 membership meeting, during which he shared many of his wonderful poems. He grew up bilingual, bi-cultural, heir to two muses speaking Spanish and English. Consequently, most of his poems are single pieces in the two tongues, Spanish and English, neither one the translation of the other. Here is his poem "Poeta/Poet."



## Poeta

poeta eres tú que lees

— grafito en una pared  
de La Habana

El poeta dice sus versos  
al deslizarse el lápiz  
sobre el blanco —  
enigmas de quimeras y dragones  
de lirios y de jaras  
de nubes pesadas como plomo  
peñascos livianos como suspiros.

Allí quedan  
ni más ni menos encantados  
que una mosca  
prisionera en una gota de ámbar.  
Allí esperan que los rescate  
otro poeta —  
tú, lector  
que descifras  
estas letras.

(10 años de aBrace, Montevideo,  
Roberto Bianchi, Ed.; Uruguay 2009;  
derechos reservados del autor)

## Poet

poeta eres tú que lees

(graffiti on a wall  
in Havana)

The poet says his verses  
as the pencil glides  
over the blank —  
enigmas of chimeras & dragons  
of lilies & of darts  
of clouds heavy as lead  
boulders light as sighs.

There they remain  
no more no less enchanted  
than a fly  
imprisoned in a drop of amber.  
There they wait to be rescued  
by another poet —  
you, reader  
who deciphers  
these letters.

© Rafael Jesús González 2020

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

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### **Stone-painting: an Invitation**

We will not bypass these rocks or stones  
without leaving word of your presence.

Our hurting hearts yearn for the message  
that splinters the fallen rocks of old thinking:

laws without love, possessions without joy,  
lust absent pleasure, lifeless money

and endless war. Each stone we leave  
will carry a sermon in covenant colors:

rainbow declarations of eternal life, salvation of the poor  
relief of the weary, consolation of the sorrowful.

In these stones newcomers will find  
a celebration of faith and everlasting ecstasy.

Painters, pick up your brushes  
and your love,  
and follow us.



**Tony Pino**  
**March 1, 2020**

### **DREAMING**

I drift  
nearly awake  
caught in the final vestiges of dreaming  
simultaneously knowing and not knowing who I am  
a wanderer resisting reality  
preferring the dream

**Nancy Guarnera**  
**© 1-16-2019**

### **We March**

In the heat of the night,  
we march.

To the beat of the drum,  
we march.

In the sight of the goal,  
we march.

Beneath a rising moon,  
we march.

To a bittersweet tune,  
we march.

To assuage someone's pain,  
we march.

To avenge someone's name,  
we march.

To stand as few proud do,  
we march.

To say farewell to you,  
we march.

**Penelope Cole**



**Just Breathe**

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

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### **Pink Peonies**

Pink peonies at the  
edge of my windowsill,  
a turf of pink nestles down  
on the thick of my eyelashes.  
My glance sweeps across the yard,  
gathering tiny floral verses,  
flaunting their scriptures  
to haunt my vision.  
My trinkets of thought  
are no match for the stippled paint outside,  
brushstrokes heaving sighs of myth,  
stoking legends in the making.  
Simplicity is an accent,  
an embroidered necessity,  
that links what's outside  
with the weathered  
flora of my soul.

**Rekha Ramani**  
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### **Believe in the Rusty Air**

the wavelength of my breathing carries with it  
the frequency, of what might be the heaviness  
of a rock.

its jutting edge catching paper,  
but the paper is strong as steel,  
refusing to dent under the pressure of stone.

I am a fossilized pebble,  
the etch of misery chiseling my years away,  
my breath morphing into rock,  
that somehow continues to linger on  
the fragile bridge of life.

**Rekha Ramani**  
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### **TEACHER**

for twenty years you have lit the way  
to the creative source in your students

no accident that the poems  
touch the deepest feelings  
the darkest corners  
love, hate, sorrow, joy, fear

insisting on the concrete  
the message will not be missed  
or misinterpreted  
"write what you know"

gently nudging each one away  
from bad habits  
echoing, over-writing  
shifting point of view  
telling not showing

sowing seeds  
tending words  
growing writers  
who aren't afraid to dive deep  
into their vast  
(sometimes hidden)  
springs

poetic therapy  
therapeutic poetry

you create the space  
you share your gift  
that we might create poems and prose  
and come to know ourselves  
in a new way

"Thank you!" will never seem enough

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

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### *Eulogy*

I will be by your side,  
And call you my own,  
Step out from below,  
Step out from above,  
And touch your shoulders,  
When you are weary and worn.  
Let me gently wipe your tears,  
And hold you close to my soul.  
My child, feel me within,  
Feel my breath, my song,  
My spirit, my soul,  
As I cling to yours and  
Surround your shores,  
On this indelible earth.

With suddenness it dawns,  
As crystal clear as dew drop,  
My face in your mirror,  
Your sorrow in my arms,  
As our memories mingle,  
In each of you,  
In each of me,  
This imperishable bond,  
Linking us together.

I am in your past,  
I am in the present,  
I am your future.

So for my sake,  
And your sake,  
Laugh, smile, delight,  
Let's fold our hands  
Together,  
Smell the scent of bread,  
Bake the love of cookies,  
Share a vivid memory,  
Swim in the hands of time,  
Hour by hour,  
Minute by minute,  
Watching you from above.

***Rekha Ramani***

© 2016



### **CoronaV-2**

Hey CoronaV  
Stay away from me  
I don't want your  
Novel form of misery  
Keep your hands off me  
My friends my family  
Just leave us be

Take your pandemic  
And get out of here  
Let me make it very clear  
We don't want you  
quite so near  
We don't want your  
Form of fear

So go  
Take your cases and death  
Your theft of breath  
And burn yourself out

Leave us alone  
Just go home  
Time for you to leave  
So we can breathe

***Nancy Guarnera***

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Coronavirus  
Hiding inside us  
Slashing and burning  
Killing and turning  
So many of us  
into dust

Sneaky nasty little bug  
You won't even let us hug

Six feet apart  
First the lungs  
now the heart  
kidney and brain

### **CoronaV-3**

And the endless refrain

Stay safe  
Wash your hands  
Cancel your plans

Doctors and nurses can't do their jobs...  
Because there aren't enough swabs?  
How many times do we have to ask  
"Hey buddy, where's your mask?"

When all's said and done  
And we're open for fun  
Who will remember  
How big the number  
How far the fall

For now...

Hide away  
Hide away  
Hide away all

***Nancy Guarnera***

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## A Salute to the Heroes at Pacifica Senior Living San Leandro

by Carol Lee Hall

**PLEASE NOTE:** FAW member Carol Lee Hall has entered a video contest with her one-minute video, "Thanks to Pacifica" Besides prizes for first, second, and third places, there is an Audience Choice award. If you would like to help Carol win this award, please go to this video: <http://www.dingdingtv.com/?p=58287>. After watching, if you like it, click the "Thumbs Up" icon on the left bottom of the YouTube screen. If you'd like to learn more about the contest or see the other entries, use this link: [http://www.dingdingtv.com/?page\\_id=57046](http://www.dingdingtv.com/?page_id=57046).

My mother, Marion, has been living at Pacifica Senior Living in San Leandro since June, 2019, after she had suffered a fall at her senior independent apartment. She is wheelchair-bound and needs assistance getting out of bed, changing, bathing, etc. Before the pandemic lockdown, she enjoyed playing bingo with her friends, sharing meals in the dining room, and participating in group morning exercises in the assisted living facility. But since the mandatory shelter-in-place orders were given, all the residents are required to remain alone in their rooms all day. Visitors are not allowed.

My sister and I had been seeing our mom at least once a week each before Coronavirus struck. We would play bingo with her and my sister would take her to nearby Chinese restaurants for dishes she can't get at Pacifica—tomato beef chow mein, chicken chow fun, won ton soup, and her favorite: black bean bitter melon. I would take her to doctors' appointments. While tidying up the apartment, we would chat with her and make sure she was happy. We always celebrated Mother's Day and other major holidays together. But all that changed with COVID.

I am thankful for the caregivers and staff at Pacifica. They have become like surrogate family to the residents. Besides attending to their physical needs, they boost their morale and care for their emotional and spiritual well-being. They take care of our mom when my sister and I can't be there for her.

Lai Phan, the social director at Pacifica, visits each resident every day to chat with them, play a game or sing a song, and listen to them. She goes out of her way to love on the residents knowing that their families can't. She arranges Facetime chats with loved ones and communicates with us too. Recently, Beth Jennings, executive director at Pacifica, and three other staff members celebrated a birthday with a resident named Ursula. She was so happy to be remembered.

In order to keep the residents and staff safe, each senior's and each worker's temperature is taken every day. Health care workers must wear gloves and masks all the time and practice social distancing with each other whenever possible. Pacifica keeps residents and their families updated on their policies related to COVID-19. The staff also teaches the residents how to remain safe and well by stressing handwashing and wearing masks. With these protocols, despite so much physical contact between helpers and residents, the possibility of the virus spreading to everyone is mitigated.

I'd like to thank these unsung heroes like Lai, Rosalyn, Jemie, Carlos, and Gladys who risk their lives simply showing up for work every day. When my sister and I can't be there for our mother, they fill the void. Lai took all the video footage inside the building because I couldn't do it myself. I would have liked to sit in on my mother's video doctor's visit, but since I couldn't, Lisa Carlson, LVN, sat with her and repeated everything the doctor said because our mother is hard-of-hearing. Gladys takes everyone's temperature when they walk in the door. Heroes like the staff of Pacifica Senior Living help the residents cope with COVID. This pandemic may seem like it will last forever, but it will eventually end. I can't wait until I can hug my mom in person again!