





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

# ***President's Message***

We made it to December, fellow FAW-ites! What an accomplishment that was, no?

Let's take a collective breath, relax, and make a pact not to let anything that comes our way this month, stress us out, ok?

For those that weren't able to get in on our November general meeting, we discussed and decided to have our Holiday Party on Zoom this year. We met on Saturday, 12/12 at 2 p.m. (*Happy Birthday, Jan!*). This was a time for everyone to practice their flash writing skills with a few writing prompts. Tish Davidson was our host and facilitator. It was great fun and an opportunity

to chat and reconnect after such a bizarre Year of SIPing. (Thank you, Nancy Guarnera for sharing your excellent terms SIP and SIP Notes. CWC has asked if the organization can register it for CWC use, and Nancy has agreed. Again, congratulations, Nancy!)

We are truly Blessed to have such a talented and eclectic group of individuals in our branch. In the Spirit of the Season, I count it a privilege to have been able to lead as well as learn from your vast collective storehouse of knowledge and wit. You are all truly amazing people, and I look forward to what you will share of your talents in the coming year.

Enjoy your opportunities as you discover them in our new norm.

Love to All of you from Anita and me.

Stay safe and healthy, and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

***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 Blvd

Fremont

**THIRD SUNDAY**  
Literary OPEN MIC

***Third Sundays***

**Sign-up 3:00 PM**

**Reading 3:10 – 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 Dyer Ave Circle

Fremont

**CANCELED UNTIL  
FURTHER NOTICE**

**ZOOM**

**ZOOM**



# ***FAW Board Members***



**TERRY TOSH**  
President



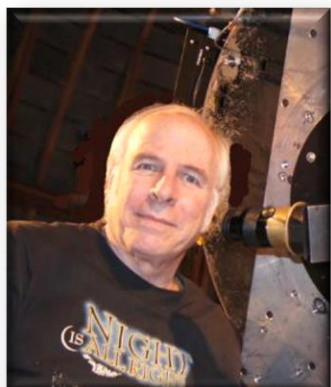
**KNUTI VANHOVEN**  
Vice President



**REKHA RAMANI**  
Secretary



**CHERYLYN JOSE**  
Treasurer



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

**BOARD MEETINGS**  
3:30 to 5:00 PM  
Tuesday before the Fourth Saturday  
Membership Meetings  
on 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**  
Ink Spots Editor  
SIP Notes



**CHERILYN JOSE**  
CWC Advertising  
& Promotions



**TONY PINO**  
Monday Open Mic



**ANITA TOSH**  
Membership  
Nor-Cal Representative  
Authors' Table/Book Exchange



**KNUTI VANHOVEN**  
Speakers Program  
Publicity



**CARMEN VONTICKNER**  
Hospitality Co-Chair

## **FAW MISSION STATEMENT**

Fremont Area Writers educates writers and the public by providing:  
Forums for educating members in the craft of writing and marketing their works **and**  
Public meetings, workshops, and seminars open to all writers and the general public  
to facilitate educating writers of all levels of expertise. (*Article II Section 1:1.1 and 1.2 FAW Bylaws*)

# KUDOS – *Members' News*

**Kudos to Jo Ann Frisch!** She has a painting (*see page 17*) included in the National League of American Pen Women's first virtual show on YouTube. The show includes work from artists of different talents: writers, poets, painters, and musical composers. The work reflects how 2020 has influenced the women's lives and how generating peace and peaceful activism makes for a better world. Videos of the artists include the inspiration for their work during the COVID 19 pandemic. Here's the YouTube link for the show and the video: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLY-UhdeTCWqdXrdT7P09mG1shxdr-NDyu>  
***Congratulations, Jo Ann!***

**Kudos to Evelyn LaTorre!** Her book, ***Between Inca Walls***, has made it to the next round of judging for the **Journey Book Awards** in Narrative Non-fiction. Final awards will be announced April 18, 2021. This means that her book was one of 58 selected in its category and is still in the running for a prize. She considers it an honor to be selected from among the many books that are published by traditional, independent and self-publishers. ***Congratulations, Evelyn!***

**Kudos to Dave Strom!** He can be seen and heard performing his story, “The Sinister Soul Surfer” part of the Super Holly Hansson series, for **Story Café** on YouTube. The **CWC SF Peninsula branch** has collaborated with the **San Mateo County Library** for video-storytelling from its Fault Zone anthology series. To see Dave and others, scroll to the Story Café section on the library’s “Between the Lines” webpage and click its YouTube link. <https://smcl.org/between-the-lines/> or watch on Dave’s blog <https://davemstrom.wordpress.com/2020/12/08/story-cafe-the-sinister-soul-surfer/>.  
***Congratulations, Dave!***

**Kudos to Knuti VanHoven!** She is participating in the **Fremont Cultural Arts Council's** annual **Las Posadas event** (Zoom this year) as producer, director and actor. She's featured in **"A Country Christmas" on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** The full Las Posadas event runs from December 15<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup>. All performances begin at 7:00 p.m.; admittance at 6:45 p.m. This event is **FREE**, but **Advance Registration required** by noon, day of the performance. Email to register at: **LasPosadasFCAC@earthlink.net**. You will be registered for all performances and can attend any or all evenings. A link to the Zoom event will be emailed to registered attendees. Attendance is limited to 100 per night. Register now! For more info go to: **<https://fremontculturalartscouncil.org/events/las-posadas>** ***Congratulations, Knuti!***

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# FAW • MEMBER • ANNIVERSARIES

*Congratulations to the following members celebrating their 3rd and 5th year anniversaries in 2020!*

# THREE YEARS

Rekha Ramani  
Anita Tosh  
Terry Tosh

***Your commitment  
to FAW & CWC  
is most appreciated!  
Thank you!***

# FIVE YEARS

Terry Connelly  
Paul K Davis  
Jo Ann Frisch  
Janet Salinas  
Knuti VanHoven



# *A Word from Our Editor*



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

**W**elcome to our December 2020 issue of *Ink Spots*; it contains the latest FAW news, poetry, prose, essays, and articles written by our members. It also contains information from other branches of the California Writers Club and from the literary world beyond.

If you are an avid reader of *Ink Spots*, you've probably noticed that we have "departments." Some examples: Notes from the World, Kudos, FAW Writers' Corner, and SIP NOTES.

This is your newsletter and I would truly appreciate your participation. If you've had a success, submit it as a **Kudo**; finished a poem or a short story, submit it for the **Writers' Corner**; have some tips, tricks, contests, websites, or events that would appeal to writers, submit them for **Notes from the World**; have a review of a webinar, class or book you'd like to share—you get the idea! This is your organization and your newsletter; please consider contributing to both. If you'd like to submit a continuing series, or have an idea for

a new department, let's talk. Send me an email at the Ink Spots email address below.

Send submissions to [inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org). Please put **FAW—Ink Spots Submission—Your Name** in the **Subject** line of your email. See below for Guidelines. Thank you!

Ink Spots is emailed to members around the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month (*excluding July*) and is available on the FAW website [cwcfremontareawriters.org](http://cwcfremontareawriters.org). If you have not received a copy of the newsletter by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, and you've checked your SPAM/JUNK folder and it's not there, contact me at [inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org) and I'll resend it to you. Please put **FAW—NO NEWSLETTER—Your Name** in the **Subject** line of your email. We email Ink Spots to all the different branches of the California Writers Club, as well.

As we head into 2021, expecting that it will be much better than 2020 has been, let's keep in mind that things will change for the better, only if we change for the better. Perhaps we can use this time while SIPing to contemplate changes we as individuals can make that will move all of us in the direction of a safer, healthier and happier 2021 and for all the new years to come.

**Enjoy this month's issue—Merry Christmas, Happy Solstice, Merry Kwanzaa, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year! Cheers! Nancy**

## ***Submission Guidelines***

### **SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**

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

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

### **WORD COUNT:**

**Feature articles** (Presidents Message, Featured Member, etc.): **300 words max.**

**Creative Submissions:** **1,000 words max.** (unless you are willing to have longer pieces serialized)

**Kudos:** **75-80 words max.**

**FORMAT:** Text – Word.doc/docx    Photos – JPEG

# November Speaker's Recap

## ECOPOETRY...

*Encourages Awareness and  
Individual Action*

By Sue Curtzwiler

**L**ucille Lang Day is a poet and writer bringing awareness to the importance of the ecosystem. Day is extremely qualified; being a trained biologist before she began writing, and has several advanced degrees in a wide range of fields. She is the founder and director of Scarlet Tanager Books and co-editor with Ruth Nolan, of *Fire and Rain: Ecopoetry of California* (2018). Day is passionate about poetry, and feels that ecopoetry is a type of activism, that grabs your attention just as much as the media or rallies. The following is a summary of her presentation to FAW on November 28, 2020.



**Lucy Lang Day**  
[lucillelangday.com](http://lucillelangday.com)

Ecosystems around the world are in a critical state, having been challenged for centuries. These challenges are due to a combination of ever-intensifying natural disasters—droughts, mega-storms, wildfires—as well as the continual impact of humanity. As humans struggle to create better lives for themselves, and pursue wealth and power, our environment suffers the consequences.

In her book, *Fire and Rain: Ecopoetry of California*, a collection of 149 poems from contributors ranging in age from 18 to 96, she focuses on California's struggles with eco stability. In her presentation, she reminded us that California is not alone in this struggle. During the last 50 years, global temperatures have been increasing faster than at any other time in human history. Our climate is changing. When we live in or near a forest, or on a coast or by a river, the results of wildfires and storms can be devastating to humans, property and animals, from the tiniest insects to the largest trees—sequoias—the giant redwoods. Little can escape the destruction caused by fire and water.

It's time to peel back the curtain of sequoia bark and look inside nature to better understand environmental issues. Fire and rain are important eco phenomena. Did you know that only the heat of fire will release the seeds of a redwood pinecone? Rain nourishes the ground and fallen trees bring new life. The eco-cycle needs to be able to continue. Here are a few words of a poem that Day read: "No big redwoods, no leaves to make oxygen exchanges,..."

Poetry can address the importance of the biosphere. Native Americans and other indigenous peoples around the world understand the importance of the environment and our connection to it. Chief Seattle saw the world as divine, even stones are important. In the Bible's book of Genesis, Adam and Eve had plants and trees that yielded seed, which was their food source.

In today's technology, humans do have the power to change the structure of seeds/plants, and our animals with supplements, gradually altering our food source. Day said, "Remember, with this power and knowledge that comes from God, or not, there comes the responsibility to be good stewards and use this power wisely." We can't continue to encroach on Earth's ecosystems, intentionally or otherwise, and expect the global balance of life to continue unchanged.

# ***Your Bi-Weekly SIP NOTES***

**WEEK #25 SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> TERRY TOSH**

## **The Splendor of a Moment**

Have you ever caught a glimpse of something, not necessarily anything important, or earthshaking, just...something?

A certain something that exudes a spiritual fragrance of joy or peace...or any number of the fruits that our God has allowed mankind to partake.

I think I'll just name it "The Splendor of a Moment." Yeah, can you capture that?

You're sitting in a spot of extreme beauty, or maybe not even that, maybe just driving along in your car—or just sitting, gazing off into the cosmos of your thoughts and there it is—a moment. Just a moment in time. You are suddenly overwhelmed by the beauty of life—in a plant, a place, a scene. Anything, or even what anyone else might consider nothing. That Splendor of a Moment only lasts about that long; a moment. Then it subsides into the mists of your subconscious, maybe never to be reborn in your own time.

The Splendor of a Moment can only remain, it seems, at the apex of an experience for that instant. It can't go on any longer than that, at least in this lifetime. Perhaps this little Splendor of a Moment is God's gift to Mankind as His way of allowing us a glimpse of Heavenly realms? It would be an unfathomable potential, wouldn't it?

Didn't God say we only look through a glass darkly—that we cannot begin to realize just what God has in store for those who love Him and keep His commandments? Don't overlook that point!

Remember, please try to remember one of your Splendor of a Moment experiences.

Sometimes God will remind us of that moment anew, almost as a rebirth in our hearts and minds. It may be in a word reheard, or a place revisited, or a smell revived in our souls. Instantly, we traverse the portals of time and place, once more to relive that Splendor of a Moment—just a moment—just for now.

**Terry Tosh**  
3/19/17

*Season's Greetings!*

**WEEK #26 OCT. 5<sup>TH</sup> NANCY GUARNERA**

## **the change is coming**

they toil in the field  
planting seeds  
in the mind and in the heart  
searching for fertile soil

they watch for signs  
of germination  
in the mind and in the heart  
tending new growth

they water and weed  
as the fruit ripens  
in the mind and in the heart  
preparing for the bounty

they rejoice with the harvest  
for the change is coming

**nancy guarnera**  
© 1993

**WEEK #27 OCT. 19<sup>TH</sup> SCOTT DAVIDSON**

## **Reading**

When I was in high school, I realized that I didn't know anything. While I was learning plenty from my excellent classes and fine teachers, it wasn't enough, so I set upon a program of reading everything I could find.

I read cosmology, I read biology, I read history. I read very ancient history, I read the history of the Middle Ages, I read about the Revolution, and both World Wars. I read about movies, and classical music, I read philosophy.

I read plays – Shakespeare of course, but also Shaw, Thornton Wilder, George S. Kauffman.

All this reading paid off. It got me on Jeopardy. But there is so much more. I read Joyce's Ulysses. I read Richard Burton's translation of the Arabian Nights. Dirty. I just read the Decameron. Even dirtier. That was written two thirds of a millennium ago during another plague, and it is the tale of the ten stories each told by ten people sheltering in place over a period of ten days.

I doubt anything we write will last 670 years. But we all can use this shelter in place time to break the walls we are behind, and travel to other times, other places, other planets. We can dive into the atom or we can swim with blue whales.

As for me, I'm still working on knowing everything. It is taking longer than I thought.

**Scott Davidson**





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

**SMILING EYES**  
**WITH A SPARK OF GRATITUDE**  
**FOR CHRISTMAS**

A Quick Note! While these Spark articles are meant to address our FAW writing community, I am purposefully writing this to include FAW and beyond our borders.

Let's think of how we can reach out to others during the last days of 2020 to take us into 2021 with an abundance of gratitude. Thanksgiving was different, and Christmas will be as well. But it's possible to find the silver thread that ties us all together. Our family, friends, and neighbors held tight together when the shutdowns and curfews first over-whelmed. There was joy: the joy of watching our new gardens grow, maybe that spare room that got a custom makeover kept us encouraged, and maybe we finally finished that story or poem languishing in our bottom desk drawer.

You can make a difference! You can share your newfound passion to make those silver threads of creativity wrap your friends into a golden bond adorned with a shiny red bow.

**Nurturing is a natural outpouring of love and concern.** A phone call or an email could be received just in time to help someone feel special; an invitation to a neighbor to take a socially distanced walk with you, or to have a cup of coffee or tea on Facetime or Zoom could make someone's day. Watch the amazing smiles and listen to the laughter come alive with just 15 minutes more than your regular routine.

Little sparks and nudges here and there, make a difference. When you drive through a fast-food place, think ahead before you reach the window; give the servers, tired on their feet all day, a compliment. Try adding something like, "It's nice to see you today." Or give the person at the drive through window a tip. You get the idea. Something that gives them a spark, a little more attention than the regular routine "Thank You."

**Most important**, what would **YOU** like to do? What's sparking inside of you to greet 2021 with a smile and an open heart? Remember, while we need to wear a mask, your smiling eyes will shine through!

***Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Solstice,  
Happy Kwanzaa, and Happy New Year.***

*Sue Curtzwiler*

# 2020 Holiday Social Recap

Well, it's 2020, and our traditional FAW Holiday Party, most recently held for several consecutive years at the beautifully decorated home of founding members Bob and Kathy Garfinkle, had to be cancelled due to COVID and SIP orders. So, the Board discussed an alternative plan to gather together to celebrate the holidays. The plan, suggested by Tish Davidson, was presented to the membership, and it was decided—this year Fremont Area Writers would meet on Zoom for a Holiday Party. On December 12, at 2:00, almost 20 FAW members met for our first Holiday Social Write-In. We broke into small groups, and each choosing from three different prompts provided by Tish, spent eight minutes writing. The prompts were intended to facilitate getting to know one another better when shared them. We drank our holiday beverages and nibbled at our holiday noshes, and got to know each other a little bit better. Then participants were randomly assigned to new groups, and the process repeated. It was fun and interesting getting to know more about the extraordinary people with whom we share the passion of writing.

The event was successful; it facilitated writing and getting to know each other better. Well done Tish (and Scott, our Tech md...minor deity)! This format was so well done, and well received, that Tish has offered to facilitate similar events in the future...and not just as Holiday Socials. More on this later, as plans develop.

Here's the list of prompts used at the Social, and Terry Tosh has submitted one of his shares. Enjoy!

And, if you weren't able to join us on the 12<sup>th</sup>, have a very Happy Holiday season!

## The Prompts

*I Never Thought I Would Meet... Everything Changed When... The Holiday When I Was Far from Home...*

*No One Would Ever Guess That I... Oops, I Didn't Want to Go There... I Never Thought I'd Be Grateful...*

### *I never thought I would meet...*

someone who would look twice in my general direction, with that "special look."

Well, to be honest, I wasn't really sure just what that "look" was all about, but I'd heard a lot about it.

Then, one day I was standing in the soccer field of the high school I attended and I noticed a couple of female friends of my very recent "ex's." She and I had just called it quits. There sure wasn't that "look" involved in that relationship.

Anyway, these girls were walking home, and had stopped to chat. The subject of the upcoming Christmas Dance came up. I was shocked when one of them said she wasn't going. I was shocked; I couldn't believe that someone so angelic hadn't already been invited!

I blurted out, "You want to go with me?"

She laughed. I was mortified, until she explained that she and her best friend (my ex) had just been joking about my "ex" getting invited by my best friend, and me inviting her! Would you believe that is exactly how it happened?

I have definitely seen that "look" quite often over the past 50 years that we've been together.

Keep the Faith!

*Sincerely,  
Terry Tosh*

# Notes from the World

## CONTESTS ★ NEWSLETTERS ★ ETC.

**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**.

**Free Write. Blog.** 20 contests for 2019. Mixture of pay-to-enter and free contests. [getfreewrite.com/blogs/writing-success/2019-writing-contests-the-complete-guide](http://getfreewrite.com/blogs/writing-success/2019-writing-contests-the-complete-guide)

**The Writer. Website and free newsletter.** Listing of mostly pay-to-enter contests. [writersmag.com/contests](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)

## FREE Writing Webinars w/ Author Jane Cleland

Award-winning mystery author, Jane Cleland is offering **FREE** Zoom webinars on the craft of writing for all writers. These are interesting and helpful in understanding different aspects of writing.

Sign up at [Jancleland.com/events](http://Jancleland.com/events)

**January 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM PT**

***"Set the Stage:***

***Using Setting to Add Intrigue & Suspense"***

We'll talk about how settings can drive your plot (crucial) and add dramatic tension (also crucial).

**February 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM PT**

***"Thematic Writing: How to Use Figurative Imagery, Atmosphere, and Allegories to Add Richness and Depth to Your Writing"***

We'll discuss strategies to add thematic heft by integrating symbolic imagery, atmospheric descriptions, and visual and word allegories.

Jane Cleland writes crime fiction, middle grade, espionage, and the long-running Josie Prescott Antiques Mystery series. She contributes craft articles to *Writers Digest* and teaches professional writing at the university level.

## Genre-specific Websites

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# *More Notes from the World*

## **CWC 2021 LITERARY REVIEW CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

**Opens on December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**Deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**For more information, go to:**

**<https://calwriters.org/publications/#submit>**

## **Terrific Resource for Writers in the Age of COVID-19**

The **Gotham Writers Workshop** in New York City has put together a series of free talks about writing. Each talk features a writer in a particular genre and an agent who deals with that genre. The first season covered everything from historical fiction to graphic novels to writing query letters.

**Season 1 is archived at:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIOByuSHCqP7V9mSsoqU5Fojjys2LsvYi>**

**Season 2 recent:** (both are available online)

**December 2 Flash Fiction**

**December 10 Short Genre Fiction, Part 1**

Check out these free talks on your genre!

## **Writing By Writers**

### **ONLINE Boulder Generative Workshop**

**March 19-21, 2021**

**A weekend of inspiration, craft and  
the generation of new work.**

### **SHORT SHORT WRITING CONTEST**

**Win FREE tuition to the ONLINE workshop**

**Rules:** Fiction, non-fiction, memoir, or poetry.

Must contain your favorite type of soup, a geological formation, a color specific to horses (or a horse identified by its color), a song lyric or title from any time before the year 2000, one item you'd evacuate in the event of a fire, and the name of a state won by Joe Biden/Kamala Harris in the 2020 election.

**Word Limit:** 250

**Submission Deadline:** January 1, 2021

**<https://www.writingxwriters.org/>**

## **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)**

## **Free Online Workshops**

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

# More Notes from the World

## Invitation to CWC branches to submit to the 2021 LITERARY REVIEW

We have a submissions manager, a managing editor, a starting acquisition team, and an art director/production manager. All volunteers! Our state webmaster has updated and posted the submission rules and forms. So we're ready to go. The submission window opens Dec 15, 2020 and CWC members have until March 15, 2021 to send in their very best work for consideration for the 2021 Literary Review!

To quote a luminary of the Literary Review: "We have no particular theme, most content is acceptable. We do look at the technical stuff. When assessing fiction and memoir, we chew over story and character development, realism, pacing, grammar, and reader engagement. With essay, we add information, persuasion, and factual interrelationships. For poetry, we want to be moved with an emotional experience. Writing, they say, is easy. Good writing is a challenge to imagination, memory, and skill. Minor errors can be fixed." And we add to the genres above: non-fiction which needs character, scene, truth, and perhaps some story. Note this year's addition of humor. We all need it after this year. Let's have somethings to giggle or belly laugh over.

If any of your branch members would like to be part of the acquisition team, please have them contact the managing editor at [elisabethtuck@yahoo.com](mailto:elisabethtuck@yahoo.com). This year it is perfectly fine to judge and to submit. Submissions are not sent to judges in the branch from which they originated. Pieces are read and ranked by at least three readers; then results are calculated blind by the managing editor. We rely on everyone's honest effort. Judges can read as much or as little as they like from whatever genre they find comfortable. They will not need to confer with each other. Join us!

## "Four Things I Wish I'd Known at the Start of My Writing Career"

**Synopsis:** by *Anita Tosh* of A FREE webinar by Jane K. Cleland, 11-14-20

Jane Cleland is a traditionally published author of thirteen murder mysteries featuring Josie Prescott, a New Hampshire antiques dealer. She has published several self-help books as well, and teaches writing at the university level. In this webinar, she outlined four things she wished she'd known when she started writing.

**Number One:** The importance of building meaningful relationships. Jane took time to talk about the difference between networking and building meaningful relationships. She sees networking as looking for someone who can help you, but when you build a meaning relationship, you are looking for someone you can help. To wrap up this idea she encourages us to be nice to everyone. Those who you've helped may someday have the opportunity to help you.

**Number Two:** Knowing more about the business side of being a writer. For her, this is why having an agent is so important. To find a good literary agent, she suggests *Jeff Herman's Guide to Literary Agents*. Use this resource to find an agent who's looking for you. If you write fantasy, an agent who handles cookbook writers is unlikely to be a good fit.

**Number Three:** As much as this may not be in your ballpark, you must learn how to promote your work. Some of the things Jane suggested were, giving free samples (i.e. a free chapter, a bookmark, a webinar, or a free book, etc.), connect with libraries, and be sure to have a website, and consider social media, as well. The more followers you have, the more books you are likely to sell; followers can become faithful readers.

**Number Four:** Learn as much as you can about your craft. Be aware of the pace of your story and your "voice." The more you understand your craft (your job), the better writer you will be.

If you would like more information on Jane Cleland and her upcoming webinars see page 12 and check out her website at: [janecleland.com](http://janecleland.com).

# ***GUEST WRITERS' CORNER***

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## ***Swan Lake***

There's a bridge breaking  
A sound escaping  
An appetite for change  
But a slipping grasp for things to stay the same.  
An earthquake  
The tension building between tectonic plates.  
A calm before a storm  
A silence before a swarm.  
Magma reaching the peak  
the burst before a shriek.  
A slip before a fall  
The heat before a brawl  
And I've experienced it all.  
I can predict  
When the earth is about to shift.  
Whether a wind turn or explosion  
I will see the omen.  
It's not bad, just new  
And I can't wait for this one to come true.  
I've been waiting at the gates  
For them to shatter so I can escape.  
Once they do  
There's no going back to what we once knew.  
I live in the tornado center  
It is my only purpose and endeavor.  
My soul is inside  
Begging for me to meet its eye.  
When the sky is pink and the grass is blue  
That's how I know you will meet me too.  
Travel to the lost lands  
And I'll be there as it turns to sand.  
Yes I've been living on this edge  
I was raised here and never fled.  
It was dark for some time  
But I befriended anticipation and now I'm fine.  
Waiting for the shoe to drop  
Ties the stomach in knots  
Not anymore, this fun never stops.

I had fear  
But in this moment it disappeared.  
I'm strapped in  
So tell me when this rollercoaster will begin.  
Your world's about to come tumbling down  
Grab some popcorn, let's stick around.  
It's amusing that you're more afraid  
Of your own disaster that's about to invade.  
The birds are flying  
The moon is rising  
And yourself you're still surprising?  
I grew up under a tidal wave  
Below your bricks I had to stay  
But you dug your own grave.  
I chase fires  
Taking pictures and notes as I desire.  
My new profession  
I used to close my eyes without question  
Hiding in the attic  
But now the lightning has me ecstatic.  
You would hide from your demons if you could  
And there goes the snap of the wood.  
Familiar to me  
I'm so much stronger than you will ever be.  
The blood in my body is boiling  
Something that you've been avoiding.  
Instead of creating a tragedy  
This movement is a masterpiece.  
Not your shredded circumstance  
This is a ballet dance.  
No eggshells,  
Just spells,  
No destruction,  
just bells.  
Your bridge is about to break  
And underneath is my Swan Lake.

***Celeste Burke***

*Celeste Burke, a guest, attended our November meeting on Ecopoetry and shared her compelling poem with us.*



# FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

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## FOND MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS

*by Shirley Ferrante*

Even though I won't be able to entertain family and friends this holiday season because of you know what, I will decorate my house for Christmas. I confess, I did succumb to a purchase of an artificial tree. After the tree is up, I'll just gather some dry needles from the pine tree in the front yard and sprinkle them around the bottom of the tree for effect. You have to admit it's better than having to sweep up tons of needles after Christmas. Since I don't think I'll make new memories this year, I've reflected on some warm memories of Christmases past.

The yearly trips to Santa's Village in Scotts Valley to enjoy Christmas themed rides: alas, the village is now condominiums. Fun parties sponsored by local San Bruno Ave businesses in San Francisco. Santa arrived to hand out Christmas stockings. A clown and a magician entertained amid multi-colored lights, streamers and balloons. But what I remember especially about these parties is the huge package of multicolored hard Christmas candy given out. Delicious! A kid's delight, a parent's dismay, and a dentist's bonanza. I recall Christmas on Market St. and Union Square in San Francisco. The window displays featured animated snowmen, reindeer, children, and Santa with Rudolph; and the City panoramas outlined in twinkling lights and lots of sparkling snow and bling.

My fondest memory, though, was at The Emporium department store on Market St. in the City. Early one December Saturday morning mom announced, "We are going downtown; I have a surprise for you."

Mom and I board the Bryant St. city bus which runs from San Bruno Ave. to Fifth and Market. We disembarked there for The Emporium department store. I held my mom's hand as we entered the elevator and she told the operator "roof please." When elevator doors opened, for me, it was like the scene in the Wizard of Oz when Dorothy enters Oz from her crashed farmhouse. As we stepped onto the roof, I was enveloped in the scents of popcorn, cotton candy and roasted nuts. There before me was a Merry Go Round, the beautifully painted horses pumping up and down and around and around. There was a Ferris wheel with enclosed cabins, boats to steer round and round in a giant tank of water, and Santa with his perky green and red clothed elves. After my visit with Santa, my mom handed me a ticket which entitled me to a gift; a modeling clay set. All too soon, it was time to go home.

Today in the Westfield shopping center on Market St, in San Francisco, if one should notice, there is a mounted inconspicuous brass plaque reading "The Emporium," to indicate the site of that once wonderful department store from my childhood.

### Ribbon Candy

Colorful strips of candy  
Folded like ribbons  
Peppery sweet on my tongue

*Nancy Guarnera*

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

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### **Colors of a Dream**

I, too, have a dream,  
and it spreads out miles before me  
like rainbows spewed from the breath of whales  
or the rivers of Appalachian red in October,  
the cloak of a Chinese goddess  
striding the ocean in a sparkling sun,  
or Joseph's coveted coat of many colors.  
This dream can only be seen from a distance  
when coastal clouds collapse and  
tumble to the beaches  
and join the feeling fog.  
The high become low  
and the meek feel the love  
they've never had

**Tony Pino**

### **Morning Shower**

This morning I stood in the shower  
ape-like  
and flabby with hair all over,  
so naked and loveless in my old age.  
  
Yet through the slit-window  
over the showerhead  
were the emerald fronds  
of the paradise birds  
  
arcing in the glinted-glow  
of early morning light.  
What right do I have, in my time-bent age,  
so naked, ugly and unlovable  
  
to have this emerald vision  
and this rain of deflected gold?

**Tony Pino**

### **Giving Thanks to the Listening Ear**

I give thanks to the one  
who listens,  
when they offer silence,  
and play the notes of a reverie  
in every pause of my speech.

I try to vibrate words  
like the folds of an accordion,  
but they somehow don't soothe  
the soul of the listener.  
She seeks to be listened to.

so I step back into the woods,  
and try to catch the scent of bark  
from her words,  
like falling leaves that  
nestle on the shelves of my soul.

I let her voice  
dribble like rain,  
each drop crying for help,  
not realizing she needs help.

I am bursting with thought,  
advice igniting like lightning,  
only to be caught  
in a cogwheel of anger,  
the thrust of resentment,  
brandishing me with its sword.

just to be there,  
listening to her pounding voice,  
letting my tongue  
curl into sleep.  
Wisdom emanates quietly.

and this to you my dear  
is my gift to you this year.

Thank you for a lesson taught  
from the listening ear.

**Rekha Ramani**

(c) 2020



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

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**“A New Day Together” by Jo Ann Frisch**

From the National League of American Pen Women art show “Meet the Artists” on YouTube (see page 5)

**Our talents run deep and wide; gifts bestowed by Life, to share with our world.  
Here are such gifts from two of our members, who chose to share more of their talents  
With us and the world in the waning days of 2020.  
Thank you, Jo Ann and Amber!**

Amber DeAnn wants to encourage us all to invigorate ourselves with a bit of humor as often as possible. Check out these two links. One is Amber sharing a rap song she's written, and the other is a YouTube video of a Grandma reading a book to her grandchild. (Grandma reading doesn't sound that humorous, you say...well, all I can say is laughter can be infectious...the good kind, the healing kind.)

The Spiritual Meaning of COVID **by Amber DeAnn** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0SDJCo0XXk&t=12s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0SDJCo0XXk&t=12s)  
The Wonky Donkey Grandma [www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=wonky+donkey+grandma](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=wonky+donkey+grandma)



# Coming in 2021

## General Meeting – January 23<sup>rd</sup> – 2 to 4 pm

*Our first meeting of 2021 with speaker Jesse Byrd, children's author.*

You don't need a Zoom account to attend, but you do need to have Zoom on your smart phone, tablet, laptop, or computer—something with a camera and sound. Here's a link for a tutorial to help you set this up: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>.

You will receive an email invitation with a link to use for the meeting the week before the meeting.

Need help with Zoom? Contact Scott Davidson [scottfrombayside@yahoo.com](mailto:scottfrombayside@yahoo.com) by Wednesday,

January 20<sup>th</sup> for help getting set up on Zoom. Put **FAW Zoom Help** in the subject line.

Please start logging into the meeting by 1:50 PM. See you on January 23<sup>rd</sup>!

## Welcome to THE PROMPT PALACE

**Here we go again . . . another opportunity for writers to help writers write.**

Anyone can suggest prompt ideas: put FAW—Prompt Palace—Prompt in the subject line of your email and send it to: [inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.org). We'll add it to the list. If you use one of The Prompt Palace prompts, and you'd like to share your work with the rest of us, put FAW—Prompt Palace—Submission in the subject line of your email and send it to: [inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.org), and we'll publish it in the Writers' Corner.

A walk in the woods    Are humans *really* smarter than animals?    Skin deep  
What was that noise?    When I was young and stupid...    I wish I could or was...  
Hanging on by the tips of my fingers...    Oh no! I just drank the Kool-Aid  
Power is...    My most embarrassing moment was...    When I was little...

WISHING YOU A HAPPY,  
HEALTHY & PEACEFUL  
2021 NEW YEAR!