



Ink Spots



The Newsletter of Fremont Area Writers *The "Centennial" Branch of the California Writers Club*

Nancy Guarnera Editor-in-Chief

Vol. 105 January 2021

inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org

Visit us at <http://cw-c-fremontareawriters.org>

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FAW General Meeting on Zoom – January 23rd

Guest Speaker

Jesse Byrd

WRITING:

From Passion to Profession

by Knuti VanHoven

Jesse Byrd, a 6'8" former college basketball player, who's become an international award-winning creator of children's books, including: *Real Jungle Tales*, *Sunny Days*, *Dream Catcher*, and *King Penguin*, is also a tireless advocate for the arts. He serves on boards at PBS, among others, in this endeavor.



Check out Byrd's Blog: Jesse B. Creative
jessebcreative.com > blog-1

Fremont Area Writers' credo is *Writers helping writers*; Byrd's calendar of public speaking and performances attest to his dedication to that cause.

When asked what topic he wanted to share with us at our meeting on January 23rd he said, "I'd love to spend our time touching on the following:

- Ways of turning your passion for writing into your profession
- Breaking down my sector of children's books (in regards to creating and publishing them)
- The state of diversity in publishing, and some potential solutions."

Byrd's enthusiasm for his mission runs as deep as his talent; don't miss this presentation.

The meeting will be held on Zoom at 2pm. Admission is free to all, and everyone is welcome. If you're a first time writer, or want to improve your writing skills, or know Byrd's work and are a fan, join us on Zoom on the 23rd.

For a Zoom invitation to the meeting, please contact scottfrombayside@yahoo.com.



TERRY TOSH
FAW President

President's Message

Ah, yes, 2021, I don't even know where to start.

Last year's January message may be worth revisiting in hindsight; after all, that's 2020, right? Here's what I said then:

Ah, yes, 2020. You know, I've been longing for the day to finally arrive, when I could proudly shout out, "2020, year of VISION!"

Then, days before the opportunity is finally upon me, I get a revelation.

Hey, it's not necessarily about vision, unless it's In FOCUS!

Uh, huh. Good point, I reply to myself. Without focus, vision is unclear and distorted.

So my new battle cry for 2020 is, "GET FOCUSED!" (See December 2020 issue for the rest of this message.) Now, back to 2021...

2020 opened opportunities to get focused—just not in the ways we may have imagined at the time. No excuse could be found for "over-commitment," I think. Less than a month in, 2021 seems to be giving 2020 a run for its money!

All in all, I'd say we did see a lot of growth and creativity in 2020. New ideas and challenges surely presented themselves, and our talented pool of members stepped up to the plate, for sure. Are we ready to meet 2021's challenges? I think so.

Kudos to everyone who stuck it out and joined in on the new "Zoom" era. Yes, you *can* teach "old dogs" new tricks! I think we were blessed in some twisted way to have had this craziness to disrupt our existence. So many lessons learned and challenges met. Seeing possibilities we might never have noticed without a push.

Let's hope that 2021 will turn out to be easier to navigate, but let's still plunge ahead and try new things and get out of our comfort zones by stepping up even further this year and trying out new projects in a volunteer capacity. Or, if that doesn't work for you, how about offering to tutor or mentor a fellow member in some capacity?

As a reminder, this is the year that we honor a member of our leadership team for outstanding support above and beyond the call, with the Jack London Award. Watch for more details regarding this in the coming weeks.

Also, it's never too early to consider running for one of the elected offices or taking on the responsibility of a committee chair. Some of those will be up for renewal. Of course, membership renewals are coming up at mid-year.

Please at least consider taking on an assistant role to help out in some capacity. With the "new norm" it should be a great time to ease into the learning process. I do have someone that will be learning and helping me in the coming months. We'll tell you more about that. Watch for clues in the coming weeks...stay tuned!

Whatever you decide, I sincerely wish you much success and growth in 2021.

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 4:00 – 5:30 PM
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 Pk 106
6600 Dumbarton Circle
Fremont

**CANCELED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

Zoom

Zoom

FAW Board Members



TERRY TOSH
President



KNUTI VANHOVEN
Vice President



REKHA RAMANI
Secretary



CHERYLYN CHIN
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



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 ART CAREY who is among 25 writers shortlisted in the **Six Word Wonder 2020** contest, which attracted more than 1,000 entries. Winners will be published in *Six Word Story*, due out in February. Here are his entries: "Not the *red* button, Mr. President!" "No! Not *That* button, Mr. President!" "Watch! I avoid an explosion by..." and "Fuggedaboutit! No mask, No eating lunch!" **Congratulations, Art, and Good Luck!**

KUDOS to DAVE STROM who did some performing in December 2020. Dave performed his story "What Goes Up" (in the CWC Peninsula anthology *Fault Zone: Uplift*) for the San Mateo Library's Story Café (<https://smcl.org/between-the-lines/>). Super Holly saves the day, then meets someone she cannot save. (<https://davemstrom.wordpress.com/2020/12/28/story-cafe-what-goes-up/>).

Dave was interviewed by the wonderful Fairy Princess Lolly of Fantasy Arts Entertainment Productions (<https://faeproductions.com/>); he answered questions and performed two stories: "The Intellecta Rhapsody," and "The Malevolent Mystery Meat."

(<https://davemstrom.wordpress.com/2020/12/18/my-interview-on-fae-productions/>)

Congratulations, Dave!

General Zoom Meeting – January 23rd

Our guest speaker will be 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.

Need help with Zoom? Contact Scott Davidson scottfrombayside@yahoo.com by the Wednesday, before the meeting. Put **FAW Zoom Help** in the subject line. Start logging by 1:50 PM. Thank you.

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. 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, 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... I wish I could or was...
Hanging on by the tips of my fingers... Oh no! Did I just drank the Kool-Aid?
Power is... My most embarrassing moment was... When I was little...

A Word from Our Editor



Nancy Guarnera
Editor-in-Chief *Ink Spots*

Welcome to our January 2021 issue of *Ink Spots*. I hope this finds you and those you love, healthy and happy. Hope you are all wearing your masks and social distancing.

I'm not sure about the rest of you, but I'm simultaneously feeling a sense of relief, as well as a sense of foreboding. I took a breath four years ago and couldn't exhale...until last night. But, two weeks ago, a truth I held to be self-evident was shattered as I watched from the comfort of my "couch," the sacking of our Temple of Democracy. I am left wondering if my country can rise above this time of disunity and, with the good will of those who love her, become a more perfect union as we move forward.

Our **General Meeting on Zoom** will be held on Saturday, January 23rd from 2:00 to 4:00 pm; watch for an invitation from Scott Davidson. Our featured speaker will be award-winning children's author, Jesse Byrd.

The "Fourth Monday" Writers' Salon will be on Zoom on January 25th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Check with Tony Pino before the next meeting for an invitation if you don't get one. His contact info is on **page 9**.

You should be receiving your *Bi-Monthly SIP NOTES* on the first and third Mondays of each month. If you decide to send us a **SIP NOTE**, please send it to me at nguarnera16@comcast.net. Please put **FAW SIP NOTE Submission** and **your name** in the **subject field**. Thanks to those of you who have already submitted! I need more, so contribute observations, journal entries, poetry, short essays...the more inspiring the better. COVID fatigue is setting in, and we all need some inspiration to get our positive, can-do mojo back up and running. It looks like we're in for a challenging time in the coming months.

"Tell Me A Story" is almost finished. It should be in your hands by the end of the month. Sorry for the delay.

On **page 14** in this issue, look for an invitation to an FAW Zoom Social; and opportunity to do some writing and build our FAW community by getting to know each other better. Thanks to Tish Davidson for hosting this!

Remember, send your creative work for the **Writers' Corner**; your shout outs for **KUDOS**; and your prompt suggestions for **The Prompt Palace** (our new feature, to help stimulate ideas for your writing—see **page 5**), to the newsletter email address inkspots@cw-cfremontareawriters.org for publication in *Ink Spots*.

Stay safe and healthy! Nancy

Submission Guidelines

Please send all submissions for *Ink Spots* to inkspots@cw-cfremontareawriters.org by **February 1st for the February 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** (e.g. February 1st for the February issue, etc.)
Please submit your work as attachments, rather than in the body of your email.

WORD COUNT:

Feature articles (Presidents Message, The Spark, features, etc.): **350 - 450 words max.**
Creative Submissions: **1,000 words max.** (unless you are willing to have longer pieces serialized)
Weekly SIP NOTES: **350 - 400 words max.** **Kudos:** **75-100 words max.**

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

Please **DO NOT** use special formatting. **ONLY** use the return key at the end of each paragraph.
Please don't double space between sentences. Thank you!

Your Bi-Weekly SIP NOTES

WEEK #28 NOV. 2ND SUE CURTZWILER

**Red Sky,
Oh My.**

Close windows, doors,
Clean floors.

Time to eat,
Veggie treat.

Stay healthy,
Dance briskly.

Overwhelmed,
Take charge at the helm.

Don't aimlessly wander,
Take time to wonder.

If you start to stray,
Then, start to pray.

Don't give up,
Give thanks and look up!

Sue Curtzwiler
9/13/2020 ©

WEEK #29 NOV. 16TH 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



Reka Ramani
FAW Board Secretary
(Poet)

*"I have sung through sorrow and
risen from a sanctuary of ink."*
Rekha Ramani

Meet Our New FAW Board Secretary

Rekha Ramani was born in New Delhi, India. She spent her childhood through adult years growing up and getting an education in Bangalore. She immigrated to the U.S in 1989. She lives with her family in Fremont, California.

Rekha was introduced to creative writing in her early forties. At the time, she was dealing with some serious issues with depression and poetry sparked a spurt of new talent in Rekha. It was a glorifying release into a new realm of life. She published her first book, *Reborn in Rapture* in 2005 and her second book, *From Here to Serenity* in 2017.

Since her first book, Rekha has her own Facebook poetry page where she regularly writes and posts her poems. *Raising a Sanctuary* is her third book which she self-published.

Rekha hones her talent with every poem she writes. She considers her art a work in progress. Her writings are spontaneous and speak from the heart.

Thank you, Rekha, for volunteering for this very important position.



Sue Curtzwiler
Volunteer Coordinator

H.O.P.E.

Health, Opportunity, Purpose, Expectation

HOPE will prevail in 2021. The world has a lot to look forward to in this New Year. We have the hope to live our lives as they were before the COVID-19 shutdown became status quo. People can continue working at home, families spending time together, and young people building small businesses.

Health:

The Covid-19 vaccine is here, giving us a chance for the pandemic to become manageable. It will depend on how many people will accept and get the vaccine; it will take several months to determine its efficacy. Personally, I anticipate watching the number of cases steadily decline.

Opportunity:

As writers, poets, artists, and comics, we can have opportunity and influence, even a responsibility, to encourage each other and the community. It is our chance to surround our environment with positivity and enjoy happiness again.

Purpose:

Has there been a shift in your vision, your purpose? Did you learn something from 2020 to bring into 2021? Consider the reason, and why you want to do something. For example, why did you choose a fiction fantasy for your novel, or the poem you wrote to share the simplicity of a rain-drop, the hope of a new day with the sunrise, the science of a vaccine, or the wonder of stars in a clear night sky? Share those creations with the world. That is your purpose.

Expectation:

The most important part of hope is the expectation. Hope is the fulfillment of a desire. Right now, there is the desire to see COVID-19 under control—and the desire to enjoy the fulfillment of sharing dinner and a movie with family and friends, gathering at our choice of worship, and going on a vacation without the fear of getting gravely ill, or unknowingly taking this dreaded virus, or its mutations, to our loved ones. It's time to say HELLO, WELCOME to 2021. Resiliency will continue to reign. Creativity will continue to bloom.

Sue Curtzwiler

Notes from the World

Two More FREE “Jane Cleland” Writing Webinars

Award-winning author Jane Cleland is offering two more **FREE** Zoom craft webinars to all writers. If you're available, these will be interesting and helpful in understanding different aspects of the craft of writing.

Saturday, February 20, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PDT

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

Saturday, March 13, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PDT

“The Perception Gap: *How to Use Your Characters' Views of the World to Create Compelling and Twisty Plots*”

Sign up in advance at Janecleland.com/events to register for these webinars. You'll receive a link to the webinar the week before the event.

*Jane Cleland is an award-winning author who writes crime fiction, middle grade, espionage, and the long-running Josie Prescott Antiques Mystery series, all published by St. Martin's Minotaur. She contributes craft articles to **Writers Digest** and teaches professional writing at the university level.*

Fremont Area Writers “Fourth Monday” Writers' Salon

Monday January 25th 7:00 – 9:00 PM

For details on Zooming, contact Tony Pino
up.dragonfly.com@gmail.com or 510-745-0761

More 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

Winning Writers. Free newsletter. Lists free contests (many age or location restricted) as well as pay-to-enter contests. Lots of poetry contests. winningwriters.com

The Write Life. Website. Lists free contests (with a few exceptions.) Includes book, short fiction, essay, and poetry contests. Many contests are very specific, e.g. book by first generation immigrant, book of military fiction. thewritelife.com/writing-contests

Poets & Writers. Website. Searchable contest database with filters for cost, genre and deadline. pw.org/grants

Submishmash Weekly. Free newsletter. A curated arts newsletter with select publishing opportunities including contests, publications seeking submissions, and artist residencies. Run by the submission platform Submittable.com.

The Writer. Website and free newsletter. Listing of mostly pay-to-enter contests. writersmag.com/contests

Fan Story. Paid site. Seven-day free trial. \$9.95/month or \$69/year. Feedback on writing you post and almost daily contests that can be entered at no additional fee. fanstory.com

Terrific Resource for Writers in the Age of COVID-19

The **Gotham Writers Workshop** in New York City has put together the **Inside Writing** 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.

Seasons 1 & 2 are archived at:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLI0ByuSHCqP7V9mSsoqU5Fojjys2LsvYi>

Season 2 (most recent presentations)

Inside Writing: Satire and Parody

Inside Writing: Comics and Cartoons

Check out these free talks on your genre!

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

Free Online Workshops

scriptwriters check out
roadmapwriters.com

More Notes from the World

Submission & Volunteer Call for 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 is open 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 some things 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. 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!**

CWC 2021 LITERARY REVIEW CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS NOW OPEN DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2021

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

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>

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

HAPPY

All I do is twitter,
amid my flock in the trees,
I behold humans in my sight,
and wonder what they Tweet.

I sit on a riddle of eggs,
the colors of the setting sun,
all I know is to give them warmth,
and listen to their little beaks thrum.

They say I have exotic feathers,
my voice as vibrant as spring,
they wish they could snap me up,
but I'm happy to have my wings.

Rekha Ramani (c) 2020

STAND

It's time to stand
It's time to be counted
Add your voice to the millions
Speak...write... shout...sing...
A word...a song...for Democracy...
For the Truth...for the Light
For everyone who has come before
For those who have laid down their lives...
Do not wait for someone else
To stand for you
Now is the time
We (are) the people
We the People...STAND!

Nancy Guarnera ©1.21.21

What Do They Know

a ventilator on his nose,
masked gladiators surrounding him,
gown, shield, double gloves and all.

-their scepter of commitment,
breathing down his neck-

a clear window separating
him and the pure oxygen
of his loved ones outside.

Only too soon the window starts
fogging up
and in its place
floats a cloud of pain,
with the heavy accent of aloneness.

the somberness of a virus
gets lost in the gaiety of the selfish.
red lipstick thrown bare and nostrils flaring
naked, the gatherers in a
political convention wiggle their
tongues and egos
to the lash of a narcissistic madman.

a child looks into its father's eyes,
from a screen,
an ache of not knowing
pervades the hospital floor.
the sound of life waning
heralds bugle calls sweeping
through the hearts
of one family...his.

he takes leave of life after
dampening bedsheets
with sweat,
-for at least two months-
carrying the scent of his family.

they take leave of faith,
when a nation leaves them in the fray.

- and many, many more-

Death knows love better than some.
it bids adieu to heroes unstrung.

Rekha Ramani (c) 2020

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

Young and Silent

I was a boy under water,
and silent
when I was young.
I couldn't talk to anyone
because I was fearful of the gods above me.
On the rippling
water's surface
were critical aunts and mouthy uncles
taunting cousins and
embarrassed parents.
The glare entering the water
hurt me, burned my eyes, and
I shut up,
empty of words,
but embraced by water.
And all around me
was the silent, listening sea,
my only love, my deep
consolation, blessing me,
and calling me up
out of the deep
and into the blazing air
where now I speak
and the gods listen.

Tony Pino

Jupiter and Saturn,

Dec 21, 2020

On the hill above Ohlone,
wrapped against the cold
we look past
power lines
and search the western sky,
wanting, wanting to witness these
giants meeting up,
maybe even acknowledging
each other's presence
by dipping,
bowing,
defying gravity to move close enough,
close enough to call
and hear across the space between.

Do these giants,
so poison, so massive that proximity
invites annihilation,
do they long to break out of orbits
the Law of Physics decreed before their births?

Will they dare to move even closer?
dare so that separateness,
can be soothed,
soothed as each hears his name
emerge from the mouth of his brother,
moments
before the end?

Marie Blanchard

INSURRECTION

Armchair captives watch
As invaders storm the Temple
The birds ignore us

Nancy Guarnera

*"I look to a day when people will not be judged
by the color of their skin,
but by the content of their character."*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

~From the "I have a dream" speech

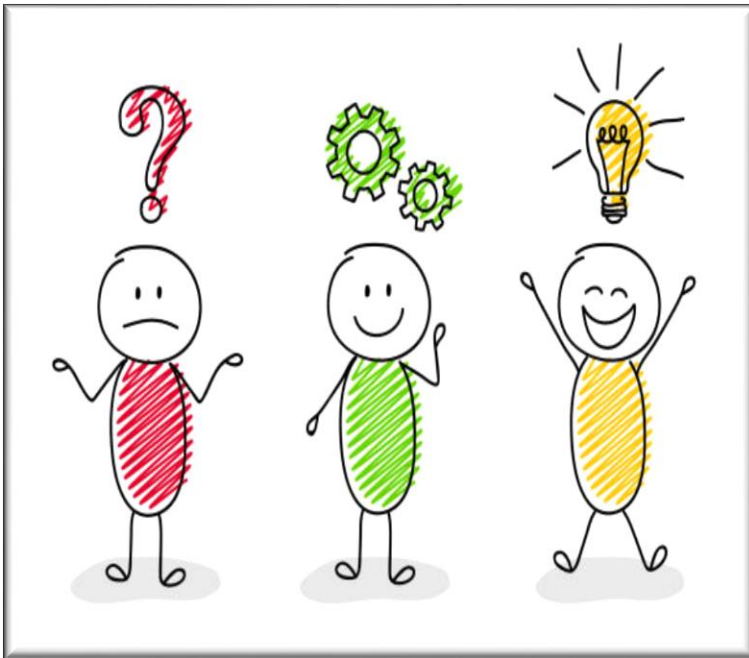
NEW Writing Opportunities

You Are Invited to an FAW Zoom Social

Saturday, February 13th from 2-4 pm.

**Get to know other members through
impromptu writing**

When you sign in, the computer will randomly assign you to a room with several other FAW members. Once everyone is gathered, you will get three writing prompts. Choose one and write for 8 minutes. You can write memoir, fiction, or poetry, but the writing prompts are designed to encourage you to write about yourself so that we can get to know each other better.



After you write, there will be time for all four people in the room to read their responses to the prompt and chat, then the computer will reassign everyone to a different room, the prompts will change, and the process will repeat.

All Members will get a Zoom invitation on the Friday before the social.

Example prompts from the holiday social in December: I never thought I would meet... Everything changed when... I never thought I would be grateful...