



Celebrating National Poetry Month!

# Ink Spots



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

Nancy Guarnera Editor-in-Chief

Vol. 108 April 2021

inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org

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

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**FAW General Meeting on Zoom – April 24<sup>th</sup>**

*Guest Speaker*

**Jen Glantz**

**Turning Rejection Letters  
Into Acceptances**

*by Knuti VanHoven*



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

Jen Glantz's website promotes her as a "Headline making CEO, Author, Podcaster, Speaker, Educator, Determinista, and the sidekick who always brings a sizzling slice of pizza." This woman of many talents will speak to the Fremont Area Writers branch of the California Writers club on April 24<sup>th</sup>. She is the author of *Always a Bridesmaid for Hire*.

Ms. Glantz has appeared on CNBC and Good Morning America. She's also a prolific, and sometimes quirky freelance writer, with over a thousand articles to her credit that have appeared in publications ranging from the New York Times to Glamour Magazine. Recent coverage—Jen's wedding!

The meeting starts at 2:00 PM. Glantz will be sharing some of the tactics she's used to achieve her success. *"Every rejection letter contains important information that gives you what you need to know to succeed next time. I'll be talking about how to recognize that information and use it to turn rejection letters into acceptances."*

The meeting will be conducted on Zoom. It's free and open to anyone who wants to improve their writing skills or help others to achieve that goal.

You should receive a Zoom invitation to the meeting on the day of the meeting. If you don't, email [scottfrombayside@yahoo.com](mailto:scottfrombayside@yahoo.com) by Saturday, April 24 at noon and request one.

For more information about Jen Glantz, check her website at [jenglantz.com](http://jenglantz.com). Take her online Quiz while you're there and learn what your superpower is. Capes and tiaras anyone!

For information about Fremont Area Writers go to [cw-c-fremontareawriters.org](http://cw-c-fremontareawriters.org).



# President's Message

## Hi Team!

I hope all is well with you and I'm happy to say that we had a lively discussion and presentation in our March meeting with Mary Anna Evans, award-winning "Fay Longchamp archaeology mystery" writer. There were some great shout outs including congratulations to Nancy Guarnera for winning the Jack London Award, to Bob Garfinkle for selling 1,000 copies of his 3-volume book *Luna Cognita* and to Tony Pino for being able to tap into his previous work reflecting the Martin Luther King Civil Rights era. Do you miss the Open Mic? Well, stay tuned. There was a lot of interest with the idea of using YouTube to create an Open Mic alternative. Finally, watch

## TERRY TOSH FAW President

for announcements regarding membership renewal dues and nominations for various offices and chairs.

Do you have a few pink slips? Don't be distressed! Instead, please join us for the April meeting. We have the pleasure to present Jen Glantz who will share her tips of how to be resilient and turn those pink slips into an open door of freelance opportunities.

Ponder a few lighthearted ideas. How did we get the name of April? This fourth month of our inherited Roman calendar is named after the Greek goddess of love and beauty, Aphrodite. Embrace the emergence of daisies and the sweet peas, known as April's flowers.

Activities are plentiful: April Fool's Day, Easter, Earth Day, Arbor Day, and the best month to watch a natural light show of meteor showers. As poets and writers, let's not forget that April 2021 is the 25th Anniversary of National Poetry Month.

Spend early sunny mornings stretching and walking briskly in your patio. Look intently at the spots of color in your yard and breathe in the whiffs of fragrance. Now, sit in your favorite lawn chair, sip a beverage – coffee, herbal tea or homemade-lemonade, and relax. Take time to read your favorite poems or *write some of your own*. Combining an early start with stretching and relaxing will give you the energy to start a great day. Smile with "Good Morning, Sunshine!" written in your heart!

Keep the Faith!

**Sincerely, Terry**  
assisted by Sue Curtzwiler

## 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  
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 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



**CHERILYN 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 Myrle Raymundo
- 2013 Carol Hall
- 2015 Art Carey
- 2017 Shirley Ferrante
- 2019 Jan Small
- 2021 Nancy J Guarnera



# ***FAW Chairpersons***



**ART CAREY**  
Signage  
Facility Liaison



**SUE CURTZWILER**  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Hospitality Co-Chair



**SCOTT DAVIDSON**  
Webmaster  
Zoom Manager



**TISH DAVIDSON**  
CWC Representative  
Social Write-In Host



**AMBER DeANN**  
Facebook Page  
Social Media



**BOB GARFINKLE**  
Historian  
Past President



**NANCY GUARNERA**  
Ink Spots Editor  
Current Projects



**CHERYLYN 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

## **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*)

# 2021 Jack London Awardee

## Nancy J Guarnera

***Submitted by Terry Tosh, FAW President***

I met Nancy the first time I attended an FAW general meeting, in May of 2017. I was there to support my good wife, author Anita Tosh, at the invitation of Jan Small (the 2019 Jack London Award Winner for Fremont Area Writers). Turns out, Nancy was also a relatively new member, with just a few months' head start on us.

Nancy has always been very outgoing and thought provoking. Her energy and expertise is second to none in our group, and every idea that she has introduced over the past four years has been a wonderful success.



It all started when she took on the responsibility for Hospitality. With the Board's approval, she initiated Welcome Bags full of FAW materials to give to our first time visitors at meetings. When she and I, and several other FAW members, attended the NorCal conference Building Better Branches, we shared her idea with the conference as a whole. The Welcome Bags were a big hit with other branches and many of them have since instituted this practice at their own meetings.

Nancy knows how to take a concept from inception to fruition, and is always at the forefront of her creations throughout the implementation process. Her accomplishments include monthly reading and book-signing events at Half Price Books for our published authors, and monthly Open Mic sessions at a local Starbucks open to all our members and the general public.

In addition to all of these significant endeavors, in 2018, when our newsletter editor of nine years decided it was time to retire, Nancy stepped up and became her assistant, taking on more and more responsibility as the months went by. In June 2019, Nancy single-handedly took on the production of our newsletter, *Ink Spots*, and became its Editor-in-Chief.

When COVID raised its ugly head, and these successful public events came to a screeching halt, Nancy went to work on alternative concepts to keep the communications flowing amongst our members: it started with her creation of "SIP Notes" (Sheltering in Place). The Notes encourage us to write and allow us to "be together emotionally while we couldn't be together socially." These essays, poems and stories submitted by our members at will, have been distributed through membership-wide emails on a weekly, and now bi-weekly basis. They have been so popular, she includes them in our newsletter, *Ink Spots*, and they are now up on our website. We have so many of these that we are considering creating a SIP Notes anthology.

She also conceived and initiated Tell Me A Story (TMAS), a collaborative writing project to which all FAW members were encouraged to contribute. Nancy started the story and then guided it through the submission and editing process with contributions from 23 of our members. She has kept us writing and "playing" together during the pandemic.

In addition to these projects, she produces most of our printed materials: brochures, monthly flyers, posters, member anniversary certificates, newspaper ads, etc.; and is one of our contacts for our local free paper. She also represents FAW as our correspondent for the CWC Bulletin and writes our report three times a year.

In my estimation, Nancy has been the catalyst to our group's success through good times and bad, she's always ready to give advice and guidance as needed and never fails to inspire those she comes into contact with.

We are very proud to have Nancy on our team, and extremely pleased to say she was the 100% vote nominee for this year's 2021 Jack London Award! Nancy, thank you for all you do for FAW; we look forward to your continued service in the future.

# KUDOS – Members' News

If you have an accomplishment related to your writing, or some other aspect of your life, and would like to share it with FAW members in this space, please send it to [inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org). Please keep it to 100 words or less. Put **FAW—KUDOS—Your Name** in the subject field of your email to us. Thanks!

**KUDOS to Penelope Anne Cole** whose memoir, "Turtle Liberation," has been accepted for SF Peninsula's Fault Zone Anthology for this coming winter. **Congratulations, Penelope!**

**KUDOS to Bob Garfinkle**, FAW's co-founder and past president, who has **sold 1,000 copies** of his 3-volume lunar observer's handbook, *Luna Cognita* during the first 9 months since its publication by Springer last year. Also, the work has been nominated for a **Pulitzer Prize** in their General Fiction category. Bob is now the Vice President of the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum in the Niles district of Fremont. Now it's back to work on his unsold novel. **Congratulations, Bob!**

**KUDOS to Evelyn LaTorre**, who followed Lizbeth Meredith's instructions on how to get on podcasts... and was interviewed on **Persistence U** podcast on March 29. She explained how her persistence resulted in getting to know the man in her life before their marriage, and in having a successful 55 years with him. On April 13, she was on the **Choosing Your Reflection** podcast.

On May 1, Evelyn will conduct a workshop for the California DKG Key Women Educator's convention, titled: **Write and Publish Your Memoir**. **Congratulations, Evelyn!**

**KUDOS to Tony Pino**, who met Martin Luther King in 1962, has been giving lectures on various aspects of King's social principles for an organization called J.E.W.L. which is dedicated to the preservation of Black /African American History, especially oral history, in the Santa Clara Valley. Tony has given two such sessions on King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail," and on his "Beyond Vietnam" speech. J.E.W.L. has asked him to provide another lecture in April on King's final speeches in support of the Memphis sanitation workers' strike in 1968, including his final masterpiece, "I've Been to the Mountaintop." **Congratulations, Tony!**

**KUDOS to Anita Tosh** whose newest book, *The Book of Jeremy* (YA Christian) is now available in paperback through the publisher: <https://store.bookbaby.com/book/The-Book-of-Jeremy>. Or you can pre-order the e-book through any of several outlets, (Amazon, B&N, Apple, Google, and Kobo). You can also find it here at Book Bub: <https://www.bookbub.com/books/the-book-of-jeremy-by-anita-tosh>. **Congratulations, Anita!**

**KUDOS to Tish Davidson** who was recently featured as one of three experts on an episode of the documentary television series *Science Histories* shown on NHK TV, Japan's public broadcasting network. The program concerned the life and work of Hideyo Noguchi (1876–1928), a Japanese vaccine researcher who spent his career at the Rockefeller Institute in New York. Davidson was asked to assess Noguchi's rise to fame, controversial research methods, and his contributions to the field of vaccine research because she had written about Noguchi in her book *Vaccines: History, Science, and Issues* (ABC-CLIO, 2017). **Congratulations, Tish!**



**It's National Poetry Month!**

**Please enjoy some poetry this month!**

**We have a delicious variety starting on page 18.**



# A Word from Our Editor



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

**W**elcome to our April 2021 issue of *Ink Spots*. I hope this finds you and those you love, healthy and happy. Hope you're all wearing your masks and social distancing. Please get vaccinated when it's your turn.

I want to take a moment to thank all of you for choosing me to be this year's recipient of the 2021 Jack London Award in recognition of my service to FAW. Service has been a large part of my life through the years and I celebrate having the opportunity to use my talents, skills, knowledge, and experience to support an organization that supports writers.

As much as I appreciate the recognition, I want to thank you for answering my call for assistance. Without your continued contributions to the newsletter, to SIP Notes, and TMAS, my goal to keep us together emotionally during the pandemic, when we couldn't be together socially, would likely not have been as successful. If our published authors hadn't so willingly participated in our Half Price Books experience, and our writers hadn't shown up for the Starbucks Open Mic, our out-reach to the community would not have been as successful. It really does take a village, and I'm very grateful to be a part of the FAW village.

Zoomed **General Meeting** will be on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00 pm; our featured speaker will be author **Jen Glantz**, always a Bridesmaid, finally a Bride! *The "Fourth Monday" Writers' Salon* will be on Zoom on April 26<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Contact Tony Pino for more info (*See page 18*). The **FAW Zoom Social Write-In** was a big hit again this month and will be continuing. Watch for flyers and (*See page 10*).

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](mailto:nguarnera16@comcast.net). Please put **FAW—SIP NOTE Submission—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. Spring flowers are opening, and it feels like our lives are, too. Please, keep wearing your mask and social distancing, as appropriate.

Remember, send your creative work for the **Writers' Corner**; your "shout outs" for **KUDOS**; and your book reviews/recommendations (*See page 6*), etc. to this email address: [inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.org) for publication in the *newsletter*.

*Stay safe and healthy...*  
*Cheers! Nancy*

## Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Please send all submissions for *Ink Spots* to [inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.org) by **May 1<sup>st</sup> for the May issue**. Remember to put **FAW—Ink Spots Submission—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. May 1<sup>st</sup> for the May 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.): **450 to 475 words max.**  
**Creative Submissions:** **1,000 words max.** (unless you are willing to have longer pieces serialized)  
**Weekly SIP NOTES:** **400 to 475 words max.** **Kudos:** **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 and don't indent. Thank you!

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

**WEEK #33 JAN. 4<sup>TH</sup> TONY PINO**

## **Aspen Tree**

My neighbor has an aspen tree  
its leaves have become gold  
at this autumnal moment,  
a transformation I'd never noticed  
until this portentous year.

Yesterday, a large black crow  
stood at its top, where it  
surveyed the neighborhood;  
its black wings folded and opaque,  
so deep, so absorbent

they seemed like a tunneled  
opening to a distant universe,  
one where light entered  
but didn't return, and around it  
all the brightness

of earth's thinking  
compressing into one solid, stellar ball  
distant and now unattainable,  
its value known only by a crow  
on an aspen tree, steeped in gold.

**Tony Pino**

**WEEK #34 JAN. 18<sup>TH</sup> SCOTT DAVIDSON**

## **Writing and the Path to COVID Vaccines**

Much as I enjoy reading SIP Notes, I'm tired of sheltering in place. Thanks to the amazing and safe new vaccines now being administered, we might be out of the woods by this summer. At last! I know I'll be taking mine as soon as I'm called, though I don't mind essential workers being ahead of me in line. They deserve it.

These vaccines were developed all over the world. Those developing them had a background of knowledge in viruses, genetics, and how the cell works provided by over 100 years' worth of science. Not only did the work cross borders and cross years, but it crossed disciplines. A vital part in developing the vaccine was to understand the virus by decoding

its DNA, which was done using powerful computers and algorithms developed by biologists and computer scientists.

How was this information disseminated across time and distance? By the kind of writing I used to do—scientific papers. Papers are the repository of scientific knowledge and are how scientists disclose their results and findings. I've published a few dozen, hardly any, reviewed hundreds and selected a bunch as program chair for several conferences and as a journal editor.

Scientific papers, like other writing, have structure, which depends on the field. In my field, computer design, papers begin with an introduction laying out the problem being solved, then previous work, then the solution, then results and finally a conclusion and the inevitable future work.

Once a paper gets finished, it goes through quality control—called peer review. Other scientists read it. When I review papers, I look for prior work that was missed, that the proposed solution could work, and that the results are complete without anything important being omitted. Bad papers get rejected and most papers must be revised to meet the comments of reviewers. There are always comments. It is not a perfect process, which is why papers must provide enough information to let others reproduce the work if the work is important enough.

Papers allow scientists to build on the work of others; that's why science keeps advancing and getting closer to the truth. Don't believe it? The computer you are reading this on was built on a mountain of scientific papers about semiconductor physics, computer architecture, operating systems, software engineering, networking, and lots more, stretching back to the 1940s. Science works.

Trust me, scientific papers—most of them anyway, are not as much fun to read—or to write—as a mystery or science fiction story. But our very lives depend on them.

**Scott Davidson**

***Have you had your poem today?***



# ***Book Recommendations***

Some people say that writers are voracious readers. While we may not be able to prove this, it makes sense. Here's your opportunity to share your favorite books with others. They can be books for fun, books that changed your life, or books on writing craft, etc. If you decide to submit, **max word length 150** and please email to [inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.com](mailto:inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.com) and put **FAW—Book Review Submission—Your Name** in the subject field.

## ***FIGHT LIKE A GIRL***

**by Aiki Flinthart**

*Fight Like a Girl* is an essential tool for anyone who incorporates fight scenes in their stories. The author knows what she's writing about: she has a complex background in martial arts. Flinthart explains the differences between the ways men and women fight, think and react. Most importantly, this is a step-by-step guide in how to stage, pace and write fight scenes.

I am currently writing my first fantasy novel. The female protagonist wants to be a warrior, which means training against the male students in her university. The information in the book helps me understand how women move, think and react. The book is so well organized that it's easy for me to search for what I need, when I need it.

*Publishing info: ISBN-13 978-0-9945928-2-8  
Computing, Advantages and Training P/L*

**Submitted by Terry Connelly**

## ***TANGLED UP IN BLUE: Policing the American City***

**by Rosa Brooks**

Rosa Brooks is a law professor at Georgetown University and the daughter of activist Barbara Ehrenreich (author of *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By In America*). Her childhood and adolescence were spent participating in demonstrations and sit-ins, activities her mother considered suitable family entertainment. Brooks is one of the last people you would expect would want to join Washington DC's Metropolitan Police Department, but that is exactly what she did, and she has written about her experience in *Tangled Up in Blue*.

Washington's MPD has a program for part-time volunteers, but unlike most police departments, the MPD puts its volunteers through the same police academy training as its regular officers, although the training is spread over a longer period of time. After successfully completing the program, volunteers can perform all the duties

of full-time cops. They go on patrol, first with a partner, later on solo shifts, carry guns, make arrests, respond to all sorts of emergencies and pseudo-emergencies, and fill out reams of paperwork. The only difference: they are required to work just 24 hours per month.

Brooks mixes the story of her police experience with her uncomfortable relationship with her mother who cannot understand why her daughter wants anything to do with cops. She chronicles both stories in clear, readable prose. Through example, she shows how in low-income areas an absence of social services forces police officers to fill the roles of social worker, psychologist and domestic peace keeper, as well as handling true crimes. Many of the people she writes about become entangled in the criminal justice system because of well-meaning, but rigid laws. For example, when two adult sisters disagree and one slaps the other and the police are called, the situation by law becomes one of domestic abuse, and the police are required to arrest the sister they believe to be the aggressor. The questions Brooks raises about how police are trained and the way they are deployed are thoughtful and balanced, which makes the book well worth reading.

*Penguin Press 2021*

**Submitted by Tish Davidson**

## ***PIECES OF ME***

**by Lizbeth Meredith**

I was bowled over by Meredith's riveting memoir, *Pieces of Me*, about rescuing her young, kidnapped daughters from an abusive ex-husband and neglectful father. My emotions, much like hers, bounced between hope, elation, and despair then back again as the young mother battles governments, naysayers, and her own demons. I'm continually amazed at her mental toughness, born of the love for her children. The generosity of the Alaskan and Grecian communities who helped her, renewed my faith in humanity. The final chapters are particularly valuable in explaining how trauma, especially in childhood, lodges not only in the mind, but in the body as well.

**Submitted by Evelyn Kohl LaTorré**

# ***FAW & CWC Information:*** **— PLEASE READ —**

## **Fremont Area Writers**

**“Fourth Monday”**

## **Writers’ Salon**

**Monday April 26<sup>th</sup> 7:00 – 9:00 PM**

*For details on Zooming, contact Tony Pino*

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

## **General Zoom Meeting — April 24<sup>th</sup>**

***Our guest speaker will be Jen Glantz—Author and Determinista***

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](mailto: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.

**Here's the link for the NorCal events calendar.**

**Use it to find out what other branches are doing and when—  
guest speakers, conferences, special events, and more.**

***<http://cwcnorcalwriters.org/events/>***

## ***A Very Important Reminder***

Any CWC member can attend meetings of any other CWC branch for the same fee that the branch charges its own members. This applies only to meetings, not to conferences or special events. If you are interested in attending a monthly meeting at another branch, check the events calendar for branches in Northern California. It can be found at <http://cwcnorcalwriters.org/events/>

# **FREE CWC Workshop FREE**

## **— PLEASE READ —**

**CWC Vice President Roger Lubeck**

*will Speak to CWC on Zoom about*

**Preparing and Giving Professional Presentations**

**Tuesday, May 25, at 6:00 PM**

## **“Dos and Don’ts” of Professional Presentations**



**Roger C. Lubeck, PhD** is vice president of the California Writers Club, immediate past president of Redwood Writers, and president of *It Is What It Is Press*.

Roger’s publications include: ten novels, two business books, short stories, poems, two contest-winning stories, two produced ten-minute plays.

**Roger’s blog is <http://www.rogerinblue.com>.**

Roger will share his insights on what makes for an effective professional presentation based on his 25 years as a business speaker and workshop leader focused on leadership and management, combined with 15 years of teaching university classes on psychology, and 10 years conducting workshops on writing, self-publishing, and book promotion.

Roger’s career includes author, business consultant, workshop leader, retreat facilitator, professional speaker, publisher, photographer, speechwriter, assistant professor, researcher, parent trainer, pigeon wrangler, and dogcatcher.

His topic is essential to the overall Mission Statement of the CWC in assisting writers to market their work, we are offering this Zoom presentation at no charge to the state-wide membership of the CWC.

**Registration for this FREE meeting is required and may be made with this link:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScv53EcGAbnFuE2RAfdqDPq7fA2RBtHslQ4fJ3QboS5X83Ehg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScv53EcGAbnFuE2RAfdqDPq7fA2RBtHslQ4fJ3QboS5X83Ehg/viewform?usp=sf_link)  
or by visiting

**[www.hdcwc.com](http://www.hdcwc.com)**





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

## RESILIENCE

**S**tep outside and feel the warm sun on your face. Each day life brings new challenges to your front door. Resilience and strength will get you through them. Exercise and an attitude of gratefulness will help your body and your brain develop strength to bounce back—resilience. During this last year, you may have found a new friend—yourself, your inner core is right inside of you. It's a great feeling to realize that you're not alone. You, yourself, and no one else—no TV, no radio, no computer, no cell phone (for a while). Instead, you can hear the birds sing, you can focus, and meet the challenges life hands you. Did you notice your new friend was right there with you? Though getting to know yourself is great, it doesn't require isolation.

April should be about fun! Normal springtime events of enjoying the sunshine, being with friends, and doing things that you haven't done for a year or longer. April may just be all or some of that. But, it can be even more.

I realized as the last week of March stepped right into April, I had just attended two seminars about resilience, one was faith based, the other was about losing weight—I saw the connection. Friends, learning new skills, and sleep! These tools allow us to be focused; they unlock the cobwebs of our imagination. Get ready...your next chapter, a new poem, a great idea for a short story or a novel is waiting to burst through and to inspire you and your readers. Building resilience is exercise for your brain, and just like strengthening your muscles, it's something you have to work at it...it doesn't just happen.

*The challenge:* What new adventure will you choose to accept? Combining the insight that you can learn from your inner core and your friends creates a winning team. I have heard many of you talk about your love of gardening, cooking, walking, bird watching, and much more. So, what will you do in April and May? Share them in your SIP Notes or write a poem/short story for *Ink Spots*? It would be a boost to all of us to hear what you've learned in the Spring of 2021.

### **Poetry Recommendation:**

[https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The\\_Poetical\\_Works\\_of\\_Elizabeth\\_Margaret\\_Chandler/Summer\\_Morning](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Poetical_Works_of_Elizabeth_Margaret_Chandler/Summer_Morning)

### **Summer Morning**

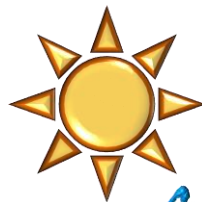
by Elizabeth M. Chandler

*The Female Poets of America*

Second Edition 1858

By Rufus Wilmot Griswold

Philidelphia: Barry & McMillian, Successor to A. Hart



*Sue Curtzwiler*

# Notes from the World

## Two More **FREE** “Jane Cleland” Writing Webinars & A **FREE** 3-Hour Workshop with Jane

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

Sign up in advance at <https://janecleland.com/events> to register for these webinars. You'll receive a link to the webinar the week before and the day of the event.

**Saturday, May 15, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PDT (1 hour)**

**“Whisper, Don't Shout”**

**Saturday, June 12, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PDT (1 hour)**

**“Writing Crime Fiction: Even When You're Not”**

**Tuesday, June 22, from 10:00 to 1:00 PM PDT (3 hours)**

**“Plotting Your Novel: How to Create Compelling & Twisty Plots”**

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's recently published the 13th book in the series, *Hidden Treasure*, and her 14th book, *Jane Austen's Lost Letters*, has been accepted by her publisher. Cleland contributes craft articles to **Writers Digest** and teaches writing at the university level.

## Terrific Resource for Writers in the Age of COVID — **FREE**

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=PLIOByuSHCqP7V9mSsoqU5Fojjys2LsvYi>

Season 2 (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, began accepting submissions in June 2020. 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

## ★ 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.com](http://Submittable.com).

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

From CWC—South Bay Writers

**FREE**

## A HAIKU CONTEST

Open to all CWC members

Submit up to 5  
haiku, senryu, or zappai  
without titles

**PRIZES: \$50, \$30, \$20**

**DEADLINE: May 15, 2021**

For more details, see  
SBW newsletter, WritersTalk pages 6-7

<https://southbaywriters.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/WritersTalk-2021-04-April-Issue.pdf>

(Your editor recommends WritersTalk)

From CWC—Berkeley

## A POETRY WORKSHOP

**April 25: "How to Submit Poetry:  
A Workshop with Poet Keith M. Gaboury"**

For information about the workshop go to:  
<https://cwc-berkeley.org/submit-poetry-workshop/>

**\$10 for CWC members (limited "seating" on Zoom)**

To register for tickets go to:  
<https://www.ticketsource.us/california-writers-club-berkeley-branch>



# *More Notes from the World*

## **TCK Publishing.com**

**2021**

### **Readers' Choice Awards Contest**

**Voting from January 1, 2021 to November 13, 2021**

Details at <https://www.tckpublishing.com/2021-readers-choice-awards/>

Winners will be declared and prizes awarded on November 30, 2021

Additional list of poetry contests

<https://www.tckpublishing.com/list-of-poetry-contests/>

Additional list of book awards contests

<https://www.tckpublishing.com/book-awards-contests/>

Explore this site for contests, some free/some fee, in every genre!

## *Reedsy Learning*

### *Free Writing Classes, Webinars and A Blog*

[https://blog.reedsy.com/learning/courses/writing/show-dont-tell/?utm\\_source=mailparrot&utm\\_campaign=learning\\_show\\_don\\_t\\_tell](https://blog.reedsy.com/learning/courses/writing/show-dont-tell/?utm_source=mailparrot&utm_campaign=learning_show_don_t_tell)

Reedsy has lots of free classes and webinars for writers, as well as many archived blog topics.

**Check it out!**

## **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>

# FAW EVENTS

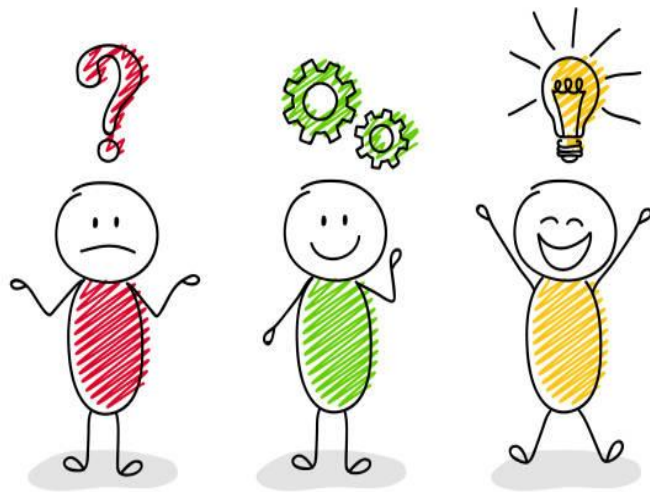
**You Are Invited to a Zoom Social Write-in**

**Saturday, May 8 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm**

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

## How It Works

Once everyone is signed in, the computer will randomly put you in a Zoom room with several other FAW members. There will be three writing prompts. Choose one and write for eight minutes. You can write memoir, fiction, or poetry, but the prompts are designed to encourage you to write about yourself, so that we can get to know each other better. After



you write, everyone in the room will read their responses to the prompt and chat about them. The writing is *not* critiqued. Next, 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 write-in. Feel free to invite any non-members who might be interested.**

**Example prompts from last write-in:**

A teacher who changed my life

The best place I ever lived

Whenever I hear that song...

# March Speaker Recap

## Mary Anna Evans

### The • Writing • Life

by Sue Curtzwiler w/ Nancy Guarnera



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

While driving to Florida on highway 10, mystery writer, Mary Anna Evans saw an abandoned, dilapidated plantation house in the woods. The author thought, *This is it! This will be the setting and the cover of my first novel series.* Although the house would be inherited by the protagonist, there would be no money in inheritance and years of taxes to pay she couldn't afford. The house had been built with slave labor. Passionate to save the house, her main character, an archeologist, considers selling the artifacts from the house on the black market to save the plantation. Her protagonist has both internal and external conflicts.

Evans' journey to becoming a writer is an unusual journey. She grew up in Hattiesburg, Mississippi and fell in love with reading at an early age. For a while she wanted to be an astronaut. After completing degrees in physics and chemical engineering, she taught math during the '80's. Writing was woven into whatever time she had after working all day and planning around her family's schedule. Her first novel, *Wounded Earth*, was written during bed rest while pregnant and self-published. It got her an agent, and her writing career took off.

Her first traditionally published novel, *Artifacts*, was quick to find its audience and kicked off her award-winning thirteen book Faye Longchamp archeological mystery series. Somewhere around the sixth book in the series Evans' enhanced her academic credentials by completing her Master's in Fine Arts-Creative Writing from Rutgers University. Currently, Evans teaches professional writing at the University of Oklahoma and continues to write. *"Writing can be so isolating; I wanted to teach to be connected to others."*

She is co-editing *Bloomsbury Handbook of Agatha Christie*, the first book compiling all the research that developed the Agatha Christie mysteries. She is thrilled to be working on this tribute to Christie. *The Physicist's War*, about World War II, is her new series featuring a Rosie the Riveter-like character, a physicist who takes a job making munitions during the war. She has written memoir, essays, non-fiction articles, and short stories as well. Her work has been published in a variety of different types of publications.

Asked how she found her literary agent, Evans explained that she used her engineering organizational skills to research writing agencies and agents. Her primary resources were *The Writer's Market* and *Jeff Herman's Guide to Book Publishers, Editors & Literary Agents*—the two main resource books used in the industry. Her criteria: a New York City agency that would accept new writers and were looking for thrillers.

Her first novel, *Artifacts* was self-published. The agent she worked with then published her future novels of the Faye Longchamp series and, coincidentally, is the same literary agent who published some of Jack London's writings.

With regard to her editing process: she is continually polishing her work and making it better. One way she does this is to make several passes through her manuscript, each time looking for something different: staying true to and maintaining her Big Picture; what might benefit from more, or less, information; and typos. She, like many other authors, encouraged us to pay attention to our characters' sensory awareness: "the icy wind stung her exposed cheek" or "the smell of rotting meat always made gag." Check your dialog for incorrect language usage; are your characters using jargon and showing their education, or lack thereof, appropriate for a realistic depiction of who they are? The setting and time period must be maintained, so it feels like a specific time and place throughout, and not just feel like anywhere and/or anytime.

You can find more about Evans at her website: [maryannaevans.com](http://maryannaevans.com).



# FAW Members on Social Media

## ● Cherilyn Chin

Cherilyn is a professional aquarist and marine biologist. For the past 12 years, she's maintained her award-winning blog, "**Ocean of Hope: Marine Animals Voice Their Wishes on Ocean Conservation Issues**," and has 8,500 followers on Twitter. She also writes children's fiction and non-fiction books about the ocean. She's a website developer, strategic content copywriter, and digital marketer at **Wordsmith for Wealth**.

<https://protecttheoceans.org/wordpress>    Twitter @protectoceans

<https://wordsmithforwealth.com>

## ● Terry Connelly

Twice a week Terry posts her own writing ranging from essays, personal stories, poetry and short fiction. On her second blog she posts prompts twice a week, to help get you started.

[tconnellyswritingposts.com](http://tconnellyswritingposts.com)    [connellyswritingprompts.com](http://connellyswritingprompts.com)

## ● Rekha Ramani

Rekha has a **Facebook** page devoted to sharing her poetry called, "*Poetry: Sweet and Bittersweet*," with a standing invitation to FAW members, as well as non-member poets, to post their poetry.

## ● Anita Tosh

Anita writes YA Christian fiction often with a focus on the "end times." She's recently published her third book, *The Book of Jeremy*. It's now available for sale; see **KUDOS** in this issue on **page 6**.

Website & Blog: [booksbyanita.com](http://booksbyanita.com)    Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/111394698919>

YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn2Eh1NyNnca6V0pAZNUSRA>

## 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@cwcfremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.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@cwcfremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.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 drink the Kool-Aid?  
Power is...    My most embarrassing moment was...    When I was little...

# FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

\*\*\*\*\*

## Happy National Poetry Month

Computer manuals are things we hardly ever read, and for good reason. They are incomprehensible at best and laughingly illiterate at worst. But what if they hired some famous writers to write these manuals? We might want to read them then. Here are two poetic examples, perhaps from a *Microsoft Windows manual*.

From *Design & Test of Computers*, 1999.

I have permission to republish my own work.

**Scott Davidson**

### ***Directories and Files:***

#### ***"Looking through a Disk on a Snowy Evening,"***

***by Robert Frost***

Whose files these are I think I know.  
Their contents are a mystery though.  
I could open them up to see,  
But this would be way, way too slow.

The icon shape can relate to me  
What kind of file this has to be.  
If I know the code, then it will tell  
How to view it efficiently.

Can I use PowerPoint, Excel?  
Is it text or HTML?  
Down directory tree I run  
To find the file in lost file hell.  
My folders hide from the sun.  
There's a million if there's one.  
A chock-full disk is not much fun,  
A chock-full disk is not much fun.

**Scott Davidson**

### ***Your Desktop:***

#### ***"As You Run It,"***

**by William Shakespeare**

All the world's a screen  
And all the files and programs simply icons.  
You click to open and to close them  
And to choose among the many options.  
On the desktop five modes. Bottom left is START.  
Settings and Run and even Find is here,  
And below is the taskbar, with all programs  
you have opened displayed, just one click away  
from their full size. And then the channels  
to send you where you don't want to go today  
but which cannot be removed. Then the shortcuts  
which you can add or delete, to make you  
feel as if you were in control. And the very last  
the clock at the lower right, a fine service  
to tell you of the time lost surfing the Web,  
watching YouTube, and playing Solitaire.

**Scott Davidson**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### *April!*

#### **National Poetry Month!**

##### *April 1st*

poems begin in anonymity,  
before a name is pondered on.

##### *April 2nd*

You bring me good news,  
and calm the restless tides.

##### *April 3rd*

Spring brings in hope,  
on a day that's dull as lead.

##### *April 4th*

Today is Easter Sunday.  
to spruce the season of spring.

**Rekha Ramani**

© 2021

### *An April Noon*

Somewhere between spring and summer,  
Arises the April noon, steeped in wonder,  
The spirit in the air is her best in bloom,  
Arriving silken and sheer, away from doom.

Petunias and pansies preen their petals,  
In pots of stippled gold, and dreamy castles,  
The clay stays steady, here to hold and bask,  
Floral, festive pottery behind an April mask.

Behind life's gloom, encompassing us all,  
Can you hear the flutter, dance of nature's call?  
Lulling the sadness, a wave of cheeriness rings,  
Bells that toll, and resonating voices that sing.

When forgetfulness helps us wash away  
Unpleasant memories that refuse to sway,  
April spawns her joyous thoroughfare,  
Her petals abloom, with happiness to spare.

**Rekha Ramani**

© April 2nd, 2015 National Poetry Month

### *Another Grief, Another Loss*

Another grief and loss to bear.  
So very sorry for your loss, I pray.  
Be comforted knowing you loved deeply  
and were truly loved in return.

Each loss of a beloved is a heart hole.  
Grief overwhelms with burning tears.

I count all of them.  
All in their small ash box shrines.

I miss each and every one of them.  
I feel their loving spirits, near me.

© **Penelope Anne Cole**

### **An April Acrostic**

Anticipation of weather congenial  
Planning adventures forthcoming  
Rapturous thoughts of outdoors  
Intense relief from forced isolation  
Love's warm embrace

**Terry Tosh**

4/3/21

**Read Your Poems  
Every Day!**



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

\*\*\*\*\*

### **CIRCLES**

If you don't know what to do

go in circles.

Dogs understand this principle.

Done slowly, in a small space,

it's the perfect way to tamp down

lumps in a potential nap spot.

If you speed up and actually try to catch your tail,

you won't.

But that's not why you play the game, is it?

You do it to feel yourself developing stamina

and improving your sense of balance.

And it makes you feel kinda happy.

And you learn that running in ever-larger circles

allows you to survey your territory

and meet your neighbors

who may play with you or

If you're lucky, they'll rub your tummy

and help you find your way home.

**Knuti VanHoven**

© 2021

### ***For The Blunder We Committed***

Vaccination Covid-19 is out

Isn't it news to celebrate?

Lonely days, frozen nights, silent tears:

Secluded towns, deserted roads, closed doors-  
shall be forgotten soon.

Then the incarceration and stifled air,  
Let us not speak of them.

Time shall heal the Lock-down,  
Self-quarantine and, Social distancing.  
Shortage of N95 masks, Kleenex Wipes,  
Purell Sanitizer with pump dispenser-  
let us forget them.

Rotten memories and isolated camps-  
shall fade away.

For we are soldiers; and survivors  
We kept marching, heads down, eyes blind.

Spending nights talking to your lone mother  
over telephone-  
listening to her stories of Plague and exodus,  
of Spanish flu and bravery.

Shedding a tear or two for the death  
of your friend  
stranded in Taiwan.

Overindulgence in virus news- shall fade away,  
for we are soldiers; and survivors.

A father bidding farewell to his five year old  
wrapped in plastic.

An old couple dying hand in hand:

A nurse waving goodbye to her family  
through a glass wall,

mass burial of dead bodies in New York,  
like some maggots, worthless.

The coldness and emptiness-  
shall be remembered, forever.

For we are human and we have emotions!

Yet we kept marching, heads down, eyes blind.

**Manjula Bhadraswamy**

**Happy Belated  
Earth Day!**