



# Ink Spots



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

Nancy Guarnera Editor-in-Chief

Vol. 109 May 2021

[inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org)

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

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### **FAW General Meeting on Zoom – May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

#### *Guest Speaker*

## Angie Chatman

### *Chasing Your Writing Dream*

*by Knuti VanHoven*



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

Some people may think writers graduate from college and choose a specialty, then never write about anything else. That's not the case for Fremont Area Writers' June speaker, Angie Chatman. Ms. Chatman didn't even *start* her writing career until after she'd topped forty, but now she's a freelance writer, editor and storyteller with published articles on business, technology, education, race, and social justice, particularly food insecurity. Her work includes features, Q&A, business profiles, blog posts, web content, and advertising copy!

On May 22, at 2PM, as the featured speaker for the FAW branch of the California Writers Club, Ms. Chatman will tell us why she made the necessary changes to her life to become a writer, and how she accomplished this. She'll talk about her various projects and share writing tips as well.

Her articles have appeared in *Business Insider Magazine* and **Business Education Forum Magazine** and her stories and essays can be found in *Papyrus*, *The Rumpus*, *Blood Orange Review*, and others. She has told stories on the stages of *The Moth* and *Story Collider*. She lives in Boston, but has given presentations as far afield as Pennsylvania and Minnesota.

This Zoom event is **FREE** to the public, and open to anyone who wants to help others develop their writing skills, or hone their own.

For a Zoom invitation, contact Scott at [scottfrombayside@yahoo.com](mailto:scottfrombayside@yahoo.com).

For more details, check out [angiecwriter.com](http://angiecwriter.com) or [cw-c-fremontareawriters.org](http://cw-c-fremontareawriters.org)



**TERRY TOSH**  
FAW President

# President's Message

## Hi Team!

Summer is approaching and just as rapidly, if not even more quickly is our annual election! I hope you have put some thought into what talents you can share with your fellow artists by stretching a tad out of your comfort zone and volunteering to shadow or assist in one or more of the functions of running this awesome group. You know who you are—those of you who have yet to go the extra mile by adding just a smidgeon of help to the multitude of opportunities that make up the backbone of this organization. Please remember, we are "writers helping writers" and we all have a talent to share. If you have not yet shared your gift(s), now is a good time to start.

Speaking of sharing gifts, what a phenomenal speaker we had last month! Although my new job training prohibited my being present, thanks to Scott, I was able to hear the recorded zoom session with Jen Glantz and what a treat it was! You can read the recap of it in this issue of the newsletter, or you can also request a copy from Scott.

Thanks to everyone that covered for me, it was much appreciated. I regret that there was a glitch in our plan to have our first in a series of our FAW members to share her works, and background with us. Caroline Ahlswede will hopefully have that opportunity again in the May session.

Congratulations, once again, to our members on the KUDOS page from our April Newsletter, some great stuff is happening and we hope for some fantastic progress in every endeavor.

I also hope that everyone will do their best to attend the **FREE ZOOM SESSION** being offered to all CWC members on **Tuesday, May 25 at 6:00 pm**. It is a wonderful opportunity to glean some insight and techniques in public presentations. You should already have seen the registration details by now, but if not, the specifics are on our website in April's Ink Spots (*page 11*) and in this issue on the same page.

I want to wish all of us the best in the endeavor to overcome this pandemic and that we can finally start having some actual "on site" meetings, again...wherever we may land. No word yet about location, but there are some hopeful possibilities being pursued. Stay safe and stay tuned as more details come forth.

**Keep the Faith!**

***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 4:00 – 5:30 PM  
Stacks  
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



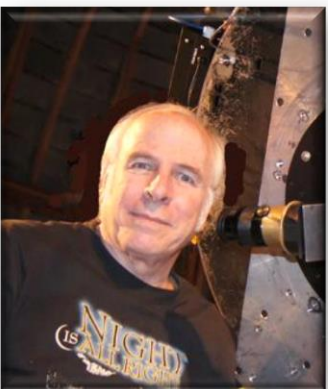
**KNUTI VANHOVEN**  
Vice President



**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 Myrla 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



**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

## **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*)

# **CWC News**

## **Ina Coolbrith Award – 2021**

*Periodically, the CWC Central Board bestows the Ina Coolbrith Award to honor a member for exemplary service to the California Writers Club and/or the Central Board. The last time it was awarded was in 2018.*

**Barbara**  
**“Rusty” LaGrange**

**HIGH DESERT  
BRANCH**



### ***Congratulations, Rusty!***

The Ina Coolbrith Award is prestigious; it is only awarded to those members considered worthy of recognition for their commitment to volunteer service at the state level to all of the CWC and its Central Board. According to the CWC website, the last time this award was presented was in 2018.

Every odd year, the CWC recognizes outstanding volunteer service by an individual from each branch. The merit of the award reflects service and positive contribution to our writing community, independent of writing achievement. The Jack London Award is considered one of the highest distinctions given to a member by the state organization and is chosen by the members of the recipient's individual branch.

This year, 2021, Barbara “Rusty” LaGrange is the recipient of both the Ina Coolbrith and the Jack London Awards for her years of dedicated service to the organization. She is a member of the High Desert Branch.

The Ina Coolbrith Award is given to the recipient once in the member's lifetime, in this case, honoring Rusty's dedication in producing a digital magazine, ***The Bulletin***, which shares news of the CWC's 22 branches three times a year. Ina Coolbrith, the first librarian of California, helped young Jack London achieve his love of books and championed his writing abilities. Coolbrith was also California's first poet laureate. Her home in the Bay Area was a popular salon for writers and artists in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

At the branch level, Rusty has edited her branch's newsletter, ***The Inkslinger***, for ten years, producing an exceptionally informative and visually exciting circular. She's active in the **Poemsmiths**, a group of poets in the HDCWC, and helped promote the return of the **Adult Poetry Division at the San Bernardino County Fair**. For two years, Rusty was a team member of the HDCWC writers who taught writing workshops for inmates of the Federal Correction Complex in Victorville, California.

Her other activities include the Lucerne Valley Museum board, her portable Kid's “Touch It” museum, and enjoying retirement with Jeffrey, her husband of 40 years.

# 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 Evelyn LaTorre** who has a recent guest post on <https://www.sarahfoil.com>; it's all about her writing process, which takes place on her memory foam bed. She calls it, "Writing my Memoirs on my Memory Foam Bed," or "My memory foam mattress helps me write my memoirs." Look for it in this month's Writers' Corner. *Congratulations, Evelyn!*

## Fremont Area Writers

**"Second Saturday"**

### Social Write-In

Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup> 2:00 – 3:30 PM

*For details on Zooming, contact Scott Davidson*  
[scottfrombayside@yahoo.com](mailto:scottfrombayside@yahoo.com)

## Fremont Area Writers

**"Fourth Monday"**

### Writers' Salon

Monday May 24<sup>th</sup> 7:00 – 9:00 PM

*For details on Zooming, contact Tony Pino*  
[up.dragonfly.com@gmail.com](mailto:up.dragonfly.com@gmail.com) or 510-745-0761



# A Word from Our Editor



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

**W**elcome to our May 2021 issue of *Ink Spots*. I hope this finds you and those you love, healthy and happy.

Quick reminder that **Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm** has a **FREE** workshop for ***Dos and Don'ts Professional Presentations*** with **VP of CWC Roger Lubeck** on **page 11** for details. You must register in advance for the Zoom meeting.

Mark your calendar for a **FREE** 3-hour workshop on **Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 am to 1:00pm PDT** with author, **Jane Cleland** on **"Plotting Your Novel"** on **page 13** for details. Register in advance.

Remember that this **Saturday's May 22<sup>nd</sup> General Meeting** will be open for nominations for FAW Board positions. Nominate yourself and others, with their permission, until **June 26<sup>th</sup>** at the **FAW Board Elections** held at the **June General Meeting**.

Our new year starts on July 1, 2021 and dues can be renewed by May 31<sup>st</sup> for inclusion in a raffle for a free membership. For more information, check your invoice mailed to you by Anita Tosh.

Zoomed **General Meeting** will be on Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00 pm; our featured speaker will be engineer, author, storyteller, **Angie Chatman**. The **"Fourth Monday" Writers' Salon** will be on Zoom on May 24<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Contact Tony Pino for more info (**See page 6**). The **FAW Zoom Social Write-In** was a big hit again this month and will be continuing. Watch for flyers and (**See page 6**).

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—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/movie reviews/recommendations, etc. to this email address: **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** by **June 1<sup>st</sup> for the June 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, 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.** **Book/Movie Reviews** **350 & 500 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 #35 FEB. 1<sup>ST</sup> REKHA RAMANI**

## **Poetry: I Heart from the Bottom of My Soul**

I learned the craft not by going to Literary school, no artsy form of an Arts Degree. I wasn't skilled in vocabulary, punctuation or the fluent tongue. I often missed hyphens and would forget to cross my t's and dot my I's. I missed clauses in my brain and scrambled fervently for the right words. Friends from childhood fumbled with their memories and strained to remember if I was ever good at the spoken word in the English language. Hmmm they would twitter..."I really don't remember you being...so and so"

I don't want to go into a rhetoric on how I found my foot on the ladder of poetry. But if anyone wants to meddle with their soul, and hunt the intricacies of the mind, well, poetry offers you ample fodder to feed an appetite to vent. The magic is, the more lyrical you are, the lighter you feel. I aged like wine in the world of metaphors. I discovered literary device as I coursed along.

I touched the true meaning of God in poetry. The divine intervention capturing me in disbelief, no essay could encompass. I could turn poetry into song. Anger into honey. Irises into vision, and allow the wind to soothe my mind.

Unfortunately, poetry is at the bottom of the literary field. It's rare, pious and poor. Often missed by the ignorant eye. Definitely not up for grabs. I consider it antique. Dust disguising its pure, rich interior. It most often speaks of sadness and frailty, giving us a sense of its sobering beauty.

To end this note with an accent of simplicity, which poetry is so much about, I gained speech, song, and meaningful gifts that are so much to my soul, more than physical comforts and the clamor of daily living.

Hope you too dive into poetry one day, and test its waters.

**Rekha Ramani**  
*January 2021*

**WEEK #36 FEB. 15<sup>TH</sup> ANITA TOSH**

## **Time to Zoom**

A forced stay-cation is not so bad. We are getting plenty of sleep. We can relax in bed as long as we like and not have to rush off to work. Why, we can even stay in our jammies all day if we like.

We are catching up on many household projects; the freezer is cleaned out, the laundry is done, the dog is exercised, closet is cleaned out, the dog had her walk, the walls are washed, the gutters cleaned, the dog is walked, the floors swept and mopped, the dog is walked, well you get the idea.

I am even trying out some recipes. I've made bread, biscuits, cornbread, and even tortillas. Boy, our dog was hungry tonight.

Then I got a text. There was going to be a zoom meeting for all the families and teachers of the preschool where I used to work. What? If I join the call I'll have to comb my hair and put normal clothes on! I don't think I am up to this. And besides, I need to walk the dog. Here doggie, doggie. Wake up, doggie.

**Anita Tosh**

## **Help Wanted**

### **FAW Needs You**

**The following non-elected Board positions need to be filled:**

**CWC Rep** – attends & represents FAW at CWC Central Board meetings, files reports

**NorCal Rep** – attends & represents FAW at CWC NorCal meetings, files reports

**Volunteer Coordinator** – finds & assigns volunteers to assist FAW committee heads

**Hospitality Chair** – welcomes, maintains contact & encourages newcomers to join FAW



# Books & Movies

Here's your opportunity to share your favorite books and movies with others. They can be just for fun, ones that changed your life, books on writing craft, etc. If you decide to submit, **word length 175 to 350**. Please email to [inkspots@cwc-fremontareawriters.com](mailto:inkspots@cwc-fremontareawriters.com) and put **FAW—Book Review Submission—Your Name** in the subject.

## A Book for the Ages:

### ***All Quiet on the Western Front***

by Erich Maria Remarque

The following review may sound like a turn-off, but I request that you read on. It's about a book no one should miss. It defines the entire 20<sup>th</sup> century, and still reverberates. The writing is fiercely truthful, confrontational, and sometimes macabre. It concerns a group of young boys whose youth was stolen by an older generation to fight, suffer and die in a man-made hell of savage bombardments, screaming horses, corpse rats, flying bodies, and starvation. Erich Maria Remarque's book was so impactful that Adolph Hitler wanted the writer assassinated. He ordered all the books destroyed, and then banned the academy-award winning movie. He had Remarque's sister beheaded—and *we all know that he wanted a re-run of the whole conflict*. Much of the language that came out of that war—"wasteland," "lost generation" and the image of death, working its way out of a dying face—emerged from Remarque's book. (No, it wasn't from Hemingway or Fitzgerald).

Did I say "macabre?" Yes. How about the conversation in a shell hole between protagonist Paul Baumer and the French soldier he had just killed? How about the bombardment in a churchyard cemetery when the dead emerge from their coffins to protect the young soldiers?

This book affected me personally, because I was a soldier once, and it describes those valleys of fear and loathing many of us dread. Loose talk of war affected my generation and me; we were forced into decisions that were absolutely unnecessary and they affected our lives forever.

This book is a must-read and an education in itself.

Submitted by  
**Tony Pino**

## The Book & the Movie

### ***The Princess Bride***

by William Goldman

When I was a young adult, and still taking summer vacations to the New Jersey shore with my family, every day we would take an early morning stroll along the beach to the local "corner convenience store" for a newspaper and pastries. One year I'd forgotten to bring a book to read, so I checked the bookrack at the store for something light and frothy. There was *The Princess Bride: A Hot Fairy Tale*. I'd already enjoyed *Boys and Girls Together* by Goldman and decided if he'd written it, this book, about true love, was probably just the escapist entertainment I needed. It was, in fact, perfect. The film is every bit as captivating as the book, with a cast of very well knowns. It's in my top ten favorites movies.

The movie overflows with memorable quotes and laugh-out-loud moments. It's the perfect summer read with almost every genre (comedy, drama, romance, action adventure, fantasy, and suspense) lurking between its covers. To this day, a friend and I encourage each other to, "Have fun stormin' the castle," whenever we part company. Perhaps you have heard someone say, "Hello. My name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die." And, "Inconceivable!" as if they don't quite know what the word means. If you've never read the book or seen the movie, then you'll just have to watch or read it to find out what an ROUS is, and what "As you wish," really means. Who is the six-fingered man and what is this MLT that Miracle Max is so fond of? Can someone be *mostly* dead? Read the book...watch the movie; you'll be glad you did.

As a writer who grew up with TV, this quote from the book resonates for me more than I'd like to admit. "When I was your age, television was called books," says a grandfather to his grandson.

It's time for me to read and/or watch this one again!

Submitted by  
**Nancy Guarnera**

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

## **REMINDERS & MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2:00 to 4:00 PM

General Meeting on Zoom

**NOMINATIONS for FAW BOARD of DIRECTORS**

\*\*\*

Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> 2:00 to 4:00 PM

General Meeting on Zoom

**FAW BOARD ELECTIONS**

### ***General Zoom Meeting — May 22<sup>nd</sup>***

***Our guest speaker will be Angie Chatman—Writer and Storyteller***

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 —**

**TUES  
MAY 25  
6:00 PM**

**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)**





**LET'S GET READY**

**FOR**

**JUNE ELECTIONS!**



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

**S**pring cleaning and sprucing up the backyard are in full force during May. As your yard starts its annual blooming, consider it a reminder to think of some new personal goals; making changes in your routines to use your imagination and your talents in new and exciting ways.

This month's President's message introduces our upcoming election in June. Everyone is encouraged to consider nominating themselves, or someone else, to run for office. Remember, FAW is an organization of writers helping writers; one way to accomplish this is by stepping up and taking on a leadership role in our branch.

Terms of these offices run from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Currently, the Bylaws for FAW state that each of the four offices: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer are open for nominations with prior approval of the nominee, and that candidates for these offices should be reported out to the membership at the May and June General meetings. Voting to fill these four positions will take place at the General meeting on June 26th. Nominations can be made anytime between now and the election. Contact a member of the Board to offer a nomination, or you can nominate candidates at either the May or June meeting.

There are other positions on the Board that are available, but are not "elected" positions. If you would like more information about these openings and/or would be interested in volunteering for one, contact any Board member for details. I can be reached or this information at [smcurtzwiler@comcast.com](mailto:smcurtzwiler@comcast.com). Your involvement benefits the branch and all its members.

*Cheers to everyone!*



*Sue Curtzwiler*

# *Notes from the World*

**TCK Publishing.com**

**2021 \* 2021 \* 2021**

## **Short Story Awards Contest**

**Submission Deadline: August 31, 2021**

**Short Stories: 3,000 words max**

Use this link for more details and to submit your stories

<https://www.tckpublishing.com/2021-short-story-awards-contest/>

**Submission Fee: \$12/story    Prize: \$1,000**

## **Another FREE “Jane Cleland” Writing Webinar & A FREE 3-Hour Workshop with Jane Cleland**

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, 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 AM 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.

# 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)

## 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*

## **North Street Book Prize**

### **For Self-Published Books**

*Submission Deadline: June 30, 2021*

**Grand prize: \$5,000   Winners in each category: \$1000**

**Entry Fee: \$65 per book   Choose from seven categories:**

*Mainstream/Literary Fiction \* Genre Fiction \* Creative Nonfiction & Memoir \* Poetry*

*Children's Picture Book \* Graphic Novel & Memoir \* Art Book (new!)*

Any year of publication is eligible. All self-publishing platforms are eligible. 200,000 words max.

**FOR DETAILS:** <https://winningwriters.com/our-contests/north-street-book-prize>

## *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/>

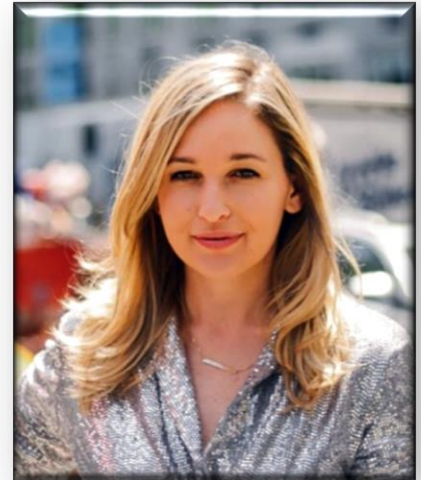
**Horror Writers Association** <http://www.horror.org>

# April Speaker Recap

## JEN GLANTZ

### *Finding the YESes in a rejection*

by Sue Curtzweiler



Jen Glantz is the world's first professional bridesmaid and the founder of **Bridesmaid for Hire**. She's the heartbeat behind the blog, "The Things I Learned From," and the author of the Amazon-bestselling eBook, *All My Friends are Engaged*, and a second e-book, *Always a Bridesmaid (for Hire)*. She can be found in New York City wearing old bridesmaid dresses to the grocery store, or on first dates; chowing down on a slice of one-dollar pizza; and trying to persuade the New York Public Library to forgive her overdue book fines.

Our April speaker is a powerhouse of positive energy, determination and motivation. She's identified her passion, her goals, and her "why" about writing. She has used her life experience of always being a bridesmaid (12 times in one year) to write two successful e-books; and founded a business that uses her talent for knowing what people need and want, and being the "friend" that can provide it for them at a moment's notice.

She will easily admit, success doesn't happen overnight, there's a lot of learning (not failing) along the way. For writers, at the top of the priority list is to learn how to work with editors, and how to read the rejection slips they will send to you from time to time. There's a lot of important information in a rejection notice that you can use to improve your work and turn it into a positive experience for the next submittal. In addition, if you're starting a business, get more than one opinion on how to proceed; tailor that advice to you and your dream. Don't let one person tell you to give up your "want."

Glantz's purpose of this presentation was to teach us the importance of rejection and how to use it. She shared a few personal growth stories; she was painfully shy and bullied for it. Reading and writing were her escapes. At six years old, she was an avid reader, in love with library books, poetry, and writing her own poems. At age 14, she wanted to work on the school paper. She submitted her portfolio and waited to be accepted. Instead, she was rejected. Her teacher was blunt, "Jen, you're not a good writer. Stop this dream and do something else." Instead, she listened to her mom and did not let one person's opinion change her course. Determination won. Using the same portfolio, she got a job as a student reporter on a local newspaper in Boca Raton, FL. When she saw her name in the by-line, she promptly slapped that success story on her teacher's desk!

Two years out of college, in New York City, there were several rejections from **Huffington Post**, but she remained resilient. "It's important," she explained, "to give your writing a home, a place to be seen." **Thought Catalog** (a sub-division of HuffPost) offered her a job to write three times a week using their blog—her writing now had a home. And **Thought Catalog** would publish her first book, *All My Friends Are Engaged*.

Glantz's purpose was to teach us how to use rejection. She treats rejection slips as a foot in the door. You don't want to get over it (the rejection), you need to get through it. Grieve, sulk with it; and learn the art of letting go. Then, be clear about what you want. That is how you learn and finally succeed. You have to ask yourself the question, "What do I want to pursue? And WHY?" It's important to know what to expect from what you want. Once you know, your path takes on clarity and you can begin to create a plan. If you want to start a business, it will help to have a "business plan." If you want to be a writer...first, you will need to write...what will you write and when...? What's your plan? Traditional or self-published? Paper or e-books? So much planning. Where and how do I find an agent? Check your expectations? Creating a plan can be an excellent motivator, as well.

Being her authentic self is a "want" in everything she does. Why? Because it makes her happy! It is perhaps the most important thing Jen shared with us. Be true to yourself. You can find Jen at [jenglantz.com](http://jenglantz.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 web-site 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)

## ● Evelyn LaTorre, EdD

Evelyn loves to travel and write about her experiences. Besides travel adventures, the blogs on her website share the first chapter of her prize-winning book, *Between Inca Walls*, her adventures in other countries, and her cousin's drowning on the Costa Concordia cruise ship. You can also find recent recordings of her interviews. Website:

<https://www.evelynlatorre.com>; Facebook: **Evelyn Kohl LaTorre, Author**; and Instagram: **evelynkohllatorre**.

## ● 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.

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?**    **My most embarrassing moment was...**    **When I was little...**



# **FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER**

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## **It's Time to Move**

*by Penny Anne Cole*

My daughter is packing up her and her boyfriend's stuff. They're moving out at the end of the week. It's time—it's past time. They've lived with me nearly eight years—since high school. I was okay to have her here, help her through community college, which took longer because she couldn't pass placement tests—had test anxiety. She took all the basic courses over again, plus repeated some. Then she had a major car accident that took her a year to recover from. All in all, it was a long six years to get her AA in Painting. Then she transferred to SJSU in Studio Arts, and 3-D Art minor. She'll graduate next summer. He's working half time, so he'll need another year. I'm glad for them to move out. They need their independence and privacy—time to be more responsible and help his dad with his property. Yes, it's good they're moving out. Then why am I stressed and crying?

It's not just the pandemic. I'll miss the good times we've had. I'll miss our shared dinners and watching TV together and our talks in the backyard after my daily walks. I'll miss hearing about their days and plans. I'll even miss their friends stopping by, too often. But it's time for them and for me.

I can stay here in this expensive, crowded, noisy, and polluted valley. Or I can sell and move. I just can't live close to my girl. Even selling my house, I won't have enough to buy a house around here with a yard big enough to walk in. And still have money left for the care I will eventually need.

I tell myself on days that it's somewhat quieter and less smoky, less full of fumes, that I can live with the problems here until I move to assisted living. No place is perfect. And then I ask, but why should I have to settle? After selling, I should be able to find a good house—maybe even a dream house—in a quieter, more peaceful place, with less traffic, less fumes, less daily construction.

I see my dilemma as straddling water, one foot on a boat, the other on the dock. The boat is moving toward possible new and exciting adventures, the thrill of the unknown. While the dock is stability, familiarity, routine, safety—"home"—but with known drawbacks. Yes, it's the devil you know vs. the devil you don't. It's a hard decision, and once made, it's irrevocable—there's no going back. Can I handle the excitement, adventure, the changes? What am I giving up? Do I want the same life that I've had for these past twelve years? Or is it time for newness, change? But what can I handle at my age? I've already tried to leave this area twice before.

I'm tutoring until June, so I'll have time. Then I'll need hip surgery with two months of recovery. So, probably not selling before the end of summer. I've narrowed my choice to Stockton, where I went to college. But it's almost an hour and a half from the Bay Area and Katy. Here I have church friends, writers club folks that I enjoy, and most of our family. But after not seeing them for over a year, I'm probably okay to move and make new friends. I have some old friends in Stockton already. There's also an affordable assisted living facility there. But first, I have to get through this week when my girl moves out. I'll have a quiet house to myself. I'll be able to spread out, clean, organize, and spruce up the house to sell. I'll be all right. It's just hard to leave this place, our sweet home for twelve full, eventful years. But change is upon me, adventure beckons once again. It'll be okay.

## Kruse Rhododendron Reserve:

### NOT TO TOUCH

*by Paul K Davis*

Driving toward Gualala, we noticed a sign saying "Kruse Rhododendron Reserve," and decided we could stop there on our way home.

A couple days later, we watched for the Kruse sign. Not around this curve, and not around the next. We thought we had missed it. At last, there it was. But no entry gate or fancy sign, just a one-lane gravel road into the hills, with trees all around, and a creek down the slope to our right.

We stopped, hoping to get some good photos. Up the road were tall redwoods. Beside the road were giant horse-tails, a kind of plant distantly related to ferns. I had read about them, but this was the first time I recall seeing one. They looked just like I expected from the books.

I wandered up a small creek to a fallen tree. Some fungi were growing from the decaying wood. I looked closer. Two or three kinds of lichen, in patches.

And, what is this, a small shiny patch here. I'm thinking maybe a slime mold. Again, I only have book knowledge. These amazing creatures live like giant amoebas, but reproduce with tiny mushroom-like fruits. They eat bacteria and microscopic algae. They inhabit the ground, and litter, and decaying wood. They move, but only a few inches a day. They may change direction depending on what they encounter.

I assume it doesn't know I'm watching. But, then again, if it can change direction, maybe it would notice my finger in its path. I decide not to touch it. What I think it would most want is to be left alone. I should help preserve its habitat.

Back home I consult my books again. Slime molds may spread themselves out among portions of food in an optimal fashion, which is a standard difficult problem for computer algorithms. They are the most distinctive beings I have yet seen. Only amoebas are listed among their close relatives.

I also note that the Kruse Rhododendron State Natural Reserve is part of the California State Park system, to which I regularly purchase an annual pass. Yes, I am helping preserve their habitat.

**Happy Asian American Pacific Islander Month!**

## **Memoir Writing on a Memory Foam Mattress**

**by Evelyn Kohl LaTorré**

In the early 1970s my brother-in-law, Mark, published a pornographic novel. No one I knew had read it, except my sister. She said that Mark's book contained graphic sex every few pages because an agent told him that sex sells. It didn't for Mark. At a family gathering shortly after the publication, a small group of us surrounded the proud new author. My devoutly religious mother was curious about Mark's creative process.

"Where do you get your ideas for your books?" Mom asked, naively. "Do they come to mind when you're in bed?"

Those standing nearby who'd heard about the book's steamy sex scenes stifled their chuckles. Mark muttered something that satisfied Mom's curiosity and I steered the conversation away to something less embarrassing.

I smile recalling my mother's question now that I'm about to begin my third memoir. I'm writing from my favorite place—in my bed. The most creative phrasing for my books happens when I'm installed in my double-wide bed with my laptop sitting on my crossed legs. I've completed two memoirs supported by the bed's ten inches of memory foam. Leaning into the bed's tilted, adjustable, upright back, I feel as if I'm caressed by the warm, sturdy arms of a lover. My mind relaxes and remembrances from my past bubble up into consciousness.

Of course, sitting relaxed and ready to recall, doesn't bring me all I need to write about the captivating parts of my life. Journals, letters, and assorted memorabilia that I've saved over the past decades, stimulate my memory of significant events. New reminiscences arise as I read entries from my diaries and Peace Corps journals.

When I re-read my earliest writing for the first time fourteen years ago, I recognized my adventures in Mexico, Montana, and Peru might make an interesting book. I spread my ten journals over my bed and read. Ideas percolated up from my unconscious as soon as I slipped into my comfortable two-sided foam envelope. In August 2020, after numerous rewrites, *Between Inca Walls* was finally published.

As I completed that first memoir, I discovered I didn't want to stop writing. Long forgotten memories about my life demanded to be found and connected. And the readers of my first memoir wanted to know what happened after my wedding in Peru. So, I took to my bed again and kept writing the next phase of my story.

The unconscious part of my psyche awakened, but this time no journals existed to help me recall my life's important happenings. Then, hidden away in a bottom desk drawer, I stumbled upon a packet containing the Christmas letters I'd sent out every year for the past forty-two years. My heart leapt when I read them. They revealed the important events in my life that had happened each year.

Day after day, sitting comfortably on my memory foam magic mattress, forgotten incidents and feelings emerged from deep within my soul. I saw how unusual experiences throughout my life connected to explain who I'd been and who I'd become. I relived the joy of my children's births and the sorrow of my brother's death.

This time, the writing process was easier. I'd learned the craft of writing an intriguing book. When writing my first book, I'd joined the National Association of Memoir Writers (NAMW.org), the CWC (California Writers Club.org), read scores of books on writing, and taken numerous classes on the writing craft. For ten years, I'd participated in writing critique groups. Now, during the pandemic, I found groups of other writers on-line who could critique my chapters.

After developmental, copy, and proof editing, I had another memoir I could be proud of. I thank the journals, holiday letters, fellow writers—and my memory foam bed.