



# Ink Spots



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

Nancy Guarnera Editor-in-Chief

Vol. 110 June 2021

inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org

Visit us at <http://cwcfremontareawriters.org>

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## FAW General Meeting on Zoom – June 26<sup>th</sup>

*Guest Speaker*

**Kelley A. Way**

**Legal Q&A for Writers**

*by Knuti VanHoven*



**kawaylaw.com**

On Saturday, June 26th you're invited to FAW's 2:00pm monthly Zoom gathering to meet Attorney Kelley A. Way. One of their most popular speakers, this marks her fourth return, to share stories about estates gone wrong, contract problems that writers and artists never saw coming, and what (if anything) could have been done to prepare them to protect their legal rights to their own original works. **DO NOT** miss this opportunity for free legal advice.

Attendees are invited to bring their own real-life, creative rights and copyright legal questions to ask Kelley. Or, if you'd prefer, send your questions to Knuti Vanhoven, FAW Vice President at **knuti.sings@gmail.com** and she will make sure Kelley gets them.

This is the fun part. In her past appearances, Kelley's Q&A segments were like watching a tennis pro focus on an airborne ball, then just slam it right back across the net. Her answers have been easy to understand, precise and to the point...and very helpful.

Admission for the meeting is **FREE** and open to anyone who wants to improve their writing skills or help others to achieve that goal.

For your Zoom link, email **scottfrombayside@yahoo.com** and put "FAW General Mtg." on the subject line.

For more details, check out **kawaylaw.com** or **cwcfremontareawriters.org**



**TERRY TOSH**  
FAW President

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

It's finally arrived...my last message as your current FAW President. I can't believe it's already been three years since that mind-boggling day that I actually said, "Ok, I'll give it a try."

Thank you, Jan Small, for your encouragement and vision to see something in me that I wasn't so sure about myself! Yes, I had some leadership and theatre training in the past, but this new challenge was in a field that I had no previous experience, nor, indeed, any particular interest in, other than to support my sweetheart in her endeavors to further her skills as an author. Yes, I had published some off-the-wall poetry and short essay ramblings, but just for fun.

Anyway, what a ride it has been, jumping in headfirst and learning as the need arose. Thank you, Bob, for your direction and support over these past few years.

***Knuti VanHoven***, as VP, you've been a Godsend with your ability to step in at the last minute when life got in the way and I couldn't be there. You were a huge support to me when I most needed it; I knew I could leave things in your capable hands and all would be well. And of course, month after month, you've found phenomenal guest speakers for us, something I could always count on. A HUGE Thanks to ***Nancy Guarnera***. You were right there from the get-go, letting me know just how awful my submissions would appear if I didn't have help, and I was quite happy to let you work your magic on my messes! (Thanks for letting me take the credit.) ***Tish and Scott Davidson*** have been invaluable resources for me, as well. I sincerely appreciate you both for letting me pick your brains and get your opinions on a plethora of issues. I know you two are extremely busy and I am extremely thankful for your wealth of knowledge and input.

The list of names and encouragement goes on and on, literally touching on every member locally and some statewide. I thank you all for making my tasks bearable, even easy, because of your kindness and support. This is not a farewell speech, per se, as I fully intend to stay involved in other facets of our club, as well as available to help and support any future leaders that step up and tryout their wings.

Lastly, thank you, ***Sue Curtzwiler***, for being willing to move out of your comfort zone and willing to be coachable. You have been a tremendous asset to my work as you let me guide you over the past several months. I anticipate your upcoming election to the office of President, and know that you will do your best. I will be here for you, as will everyone in our group.

Here's to a successful, COVID-free 2021-22 year, full of promise and excitement. (Maybe even a new meeting location, soon?)

Love to all of you,  
Your soon to be "former President"  
Keep the Faith!  
Sincerely,

***Terry Tosh***

### ***FREMONT AREA WRITERS MONTHLY CALENDAR***

**FOURTH MONDAY  
WRITERS' SALON**

***Fourth Mondays***

**7:00 – 9:00 PM**

**ZOOM**

**MEMBERSHIP  
MEETINGS**

***Fourth Saturdays***

**General: 2:00 – 4:00 PM**

**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**  
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*)

# 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 Marie Blanchard**, whose short, non-fiction piece, "Finding Rebecca," was accepted by the "Personal Voices" section of the Spring, 2021 issue of *Dialogue Journal* of Kalamazoo College, two years ago. After hearing nothing for a year she assumed they'd decided not to publish it and never followed-up. Recently she heard from the editor: "You haven't responded to me and a deadline is approaching. I'm using my personal email now in case my messages have been going to your junk folder." When Marie checked her Junk/Spam folder, there they were...two emails from the journal about her accepted submission. **The moral of this story...check your junk folder every time you check your email. You never know what you might find there.... Congratulations, Marie!**

**KUDOS to Tish Davidson**, whose "invited" blog post on "the pros and cons of traditional publishing" can be found on the *Nonfiction Authors Association* website, use this link: **Expert Round-up: For those nonfiction authors who've been traditionally published, what have been some of the pros and cons?** Tish recently read about the rise of Black newspapers from her book *African Americans in Business* as part of the Hayward Public Library Zoom celebration of Juneteenth. **Congratulations, Tish!**

**KUDOS to Pat Doyne**, whose poetry video, "The Great Wave of Kanegawa" is available to view on the [haywardartscouncil.org](http://haywardartscouncil.org) website as part of Hayward's "Celebrate Women" exhibition. This piece is in the **National League of American Pen Women** show. Pat also has a solo show of her watercolors and colored pencil pieces on exhibit as well. **Congratulations, Pat!**

**KUDOS to Nancy Guarnera**, who recently won **Third Place** in the CWC South Bay Writers Haiku Contest. Her winning haiku was printed in the June issue of *WritersTalk* on page 6 and her additional submissions are on page 7. Nancy has also been chosen to receive the **2021 Jack London Award** for her dedicated service to the FAW branch of CWC. She and the other branch awardees will receive their awards at a special luncheon held in Oakland in October of this year. **Congratulations, Nancy!**

**KUDOS to Evelyn LaTorré**, whose book *Between Inca Walls* has survived 8 levels of judging by the **Chanticleer International Book Awards (CIBA)**, moving from Semi-finalist to Finalist and finally to **First Place winner** of the new genre division, **Hearten Book Awards**. Evelyn was one of seven finalists. The medallion she received says her award is for "uplifting, inspirational and humorous works and memoirs." **Congratulations, Evelyn!**

**KUDOS to Dave M. Strom**, who's on the **Story Café YouTube** site again, performing his work, "The Intellecta Rhapsody!" a Super Holly Hansson adventure. Go to the **San Mateo Library** site <https://smcl.org/between-the-lines/> and scroll down to the Story café Links. For a direct link to Story Café YouTube try this link: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLuc5tf7EL6P4qSU8-WPDu8wjCw4\\_Vw5tr](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLuc5tf7EL6P4qSU8-WPDu8wjCw4_Vw5tr). Dave has also won **First Place** in the **San Mateo County Fair Literary Arts, Short Story/Science Fiction /Fantasy Adult**, for his story, "Super Holly Hansson in: The Wicked Word Witch!" Along with several other Literary Arts winners, Dave performed some of his story at a Literary Stage reading. **Congratulations, Dave!**

# ***FAW – Things to Know***

## **Fremont Area Writers** **“Second Saturday”** **Social Write-In**

**Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup> 2:00 – 3:30 PM (3rd Saturday)**

*For details on Zooming, contact Scott Davidson at  
scottfrombayside@yahoo.com*

## **Fremont Area Writers** **“Fourth Monday”** **Writers’ Salon**

**Monday June 28<sup>th</sup> 7:00 – 9:00 PM**

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

## **FAW GENERAL MEETING ON ZOOM**

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

**FAW BOARD of DIRECTORS**  
**FINAL NOMINATIONS & BOARD ELECTION**

All members are encouraged to attend and vote!



# A Word from Our Editor



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

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

This month we elect new officers for our Board. I'd like to take moment to celebrate current President, Terry Tosh, who will be stepping down as president, and up again as our CWC Representative. Thanks for your continuing service, Terry!

Terry took on the FAW presidency without knowing much about CWC /FAW or what the position entailed; a brave thing to do...and very helpful to FAW. Over the past three years he settled into the position. He was willing to step up when no one else would.

On a personal note, I want to thank him for the help he has given me over these three years. He's talked me down off the ceiling more than once. He's done what good leaders do; he's listened to me, he has encouraged, supported and appreciated me; and he's reminded me that measuring others by the standards I set for myself, will always be a losing proposition. Thanks for all you have done for me, I'm looking forward to continuing our work together to build a better branch!

**General Meeting** will zoom on **Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00pm**; our featured speaker will be Attorney, **Kelley Way** for a legal Q&A, and we'll be voting for our 2021-2022 FAW Board. **The Writers' Salon** will Zoom on **June 28<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00pm**. Contact Tony Pino for more info (*See page 6*). The **FAW Social Write-In** was a big hit again this month and will be continuing. Watch for flyers and (*See page 6*). The next Write-in will be held on the third **Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 3:30pm** (*regularly on the second Saturday*).

Our new year starts on July 1, 2021 and **renewal fees are due by June 30<sup>th</sup>**. Follow the instructions on the invoice you received by snail mail from Anita Tosh.

We're starting a new feature, **Anagram Alley**, in this issue (see the last page). Each month we'll have several of these for your pleasure. Anagrams will be the name of a famous author and one of their famous characters. Your mission: unscramble them and match the author with the character. This issue has one set of names to get you started. Send your answers and how long it took you to solve and we'll print your name and times along with the correct answers in the next issue. If this takes off, perhaps we'll announce a champion periodically. We hope you enjoy this!

## Newsletter Submission Guidelines

We are shifting the publication date for *Ink Spots* to the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. We are skipping the July issue; traditionally a vacation month. **The next issue will be published on August 1<sup>st</sup>**. All submissions are due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the publication month. Submissions for the August issue are due on or before July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Please send all submissions for *Ink Spots* to [inkspots@cwc-fremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cwc-fremontareawriters.org) 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:

All submissions are due on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the publication month. July 10<sup>th</sup> for August 1<sup>st</sup>  
Please submit your work as attachments, rather than in the body of your email.

### WORD COUNT:

**Feature articles** (President's 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. Use the return key **ONLY** at the end of each paragraph.

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

**WEEK #37 MAR. 1<sup>ST</sup> SUE CURTZWILER**

## **A Drive Down Memory Lane**

BIG HINT, don't wait nearly 30 years to visit memory lane! It might be so different you can't see it, or maybe it won't be there at all. That was my experience this last Sunday as I needed to get out of Fremont and see something different – *ya know*, the Covid-19 blues. I never got out of the car--I couldn't because the streets are so narrow with those dividing lane poles, I didn't see a place to park. Clearly SJSU is a walking campus.

I thought I knew every nook and cranny of the campus and surrounding areas after nearly four years of rushing to awkwardly collapse in those awful chairs on time, well okay, a few minutes late. Sunday's effort to visit memory lane turned out to be a memory culture shock.

What happened? Nothing, I mean nothing except the car garages were recognizable. New dorms towered into the sky everywhere. Even the inside quad of campus, the old ivory covered tower, or the walkways that wound in and out around the buildings and lush gardens were not visible. The entrance to the campus blended with everything else. The other day, a friend told me there is only one remaining original brick building. This makes me sad. Spartan City, living quarters for married couples, which was on the sidelines of the football field, was demolished while I was student. As an infant, I lived next to the 49-yard line (so I was told) as Mom and Dad were attending classes in 1949. Now, when I go back again to walk through the inner quad, I probably won't find anything familiar there either.

It's really a shame when you can't go back and revisit a time in your life that was important. Yes, I will go back soon to find a parking place, take a lunch bag and walk inside the campus. Don't wait for whatever you want, do it now, or as is reasonable, even during this Covid-19 era. Take care my friends.

**Sue Curtzwiler**  
2/24/21

**WEEK #38 MAR. 15<sup>TH</sup> NANCY GUARNERA**

## **Time to Blossom**

One thing about Spring, that may be more obvious in places with distinctly different seasons, is the shift from dormancy to bloom. While it looks like not much is going on in the bare and dead-looking trees, bushes and empty flowerbeds, nothing could be further from the truth. Within the earth, the stems, the twigs, the trunks and branches of trees...sap is rising — the hum and bustle of life is on the move. Even with snow still on the ground in other parts of the country, the crocuses and hyacinths will be poking their heads up to catch the first weak rays of sun, and the trees will be in bud. Just as a significant unseen change is happening in nature during this time of year, one that we can sense, but not yet see, I believe that change is beginning to happen in us humans, as well.

In some form or another, we've been **Sheltering In Place** for a year now, and pandemic fatigue has overcome many of us. But, I sense the sap is rising. I can't quite explain it. Perhaps it's the vaccines, and the "righting of the distribution ship" that needed to take place before we could start getting them; or the reality that checks are in the mail; or the greening of the hills; perhaps the expression of "fun" had by our members who attended February and March's Social Write (thanks, Tish and Scott). Whatever it is, I feel like we humans may be turning the COVID corner (or at least rounding a curve), ready to begin living life again. Ready to bloom in our new soil and to move on to happier, healthier lives with new insights encouraged by this experience we have all shared together.

I went to get my second "shot" on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March and it was wonderful to see trees blooming; to feel the sun and air on my skin again. I don't get out much...even to the backyard. No excuse really, just a painful activity for me. Something I "should" do more, but tend not to.

I used to love change, now I'm not as enamored with it as I once was. I wonder if it's because I'm getting older ...and because doing much more than sitting, is a physical challenge from which I must "recover."

But...

*(continued bottom of next page) ►*



# Book & Movie Reviews

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, 325 max. Please email to Ink Spots email address and put **FAW—Book Review Submission—Your Name** in the subject field. The opinions stated here are strictly those of the individual, and do not represent either CWC or FAW.

## Whale Day

by Billy Collins

I seldom read poetry,  
Because I am extremely linear.  
Not so very surprising given  
That I am a natural programmer

But I do love to read Billy Collins  
And his latest book  
**Whale Day** out in 2020  
And full of amazing poems

Collins is the master of putting  
All parts of life in his poems. One,  
"The Card Players" for example, stars  
Cezanne, Beatrix Potter and Bugs Bunny

Though pre-COVID, Death is a theme here.  
In "Life Expectancy" he realizes  
That the robin might outlive him  
And the worm she hunts too, if lucky.

That insight struck me hard,  
Now that my friends have begun to vanish,  
And others are on their way, it seems,  
But still Billy writes, and I should too

So, get **Whale Day** and read it,  
And give it to a non-poetry reading friend.  
They might get hooked on it,  
Just the way I did.  
and/or watch this one again!

Submitted by

**Scott Davidson**

*(Continued from previous page)*

## WEEK #38 MAR. 15<sup>TH</sup> NANCY GUARNERA

even still, the light is changing, the sun is getting  
closer and warmer, and I have moments of desire to  
move—walk to the backdoor, and wander out onto  
the patio to see how the avocado and apple trees are  
doing. And the pomegranate bush. Watch the clouds  
float by. I even want to sing and dance!

I can feel things changing all around me, whether I  
can see them or not. Most of all I can feel my own sap

## Crash

by Rachel Michelberg

It's amazing how a book that recounts so many devastating situations can also be so amusing and entertaining. Just when she's in the prime of her music career, the protagonist faces crisis after crisis brought on by the sudden mental, physical, and emotional disabilities of her husband, with whom she has fallen out of love. The author berates herself, often in the present tense, so cleverly that her traumas feel immediate and unsurmountable to the reader. Rarely have I ever read a memoir written with such honesty and vulnerably. This is a must read for caretakers, potential caregivers, and lovers of memoir.

Submitted by

**Evelyn LaTorré**

## Rage

by Bob Woodward (2020)

In an even-handed look at the Trump presidency, Bob Woodward set out to write a fair and balanced book, and his editor insisted upon it. On occasion, he seems more than fair. Woodward's often-surprising look in to the inner workings of the Trump white house, is based on seventeen on-the-record interviews, in addition to first-hand witness accounts, as well as documents. He covers the early days of Trump's presidency up to and including his handling of the COVID- 19 virus, and what he knew and when he knew it.

Submitted by

**Joyce Cortez**

rising; pushing me to bloom, to fruit. I think I'll send something to the CWC Lit Review, now that they've extended the deadline to April 15<sup>th</sup>, it's been a while since I've had something published (except in the newsletter). Perhaps some of you will take a chance and submit something as well.

Let's blossom together as we leave the dormancy of the pandemic behind and start living life again. The whole world is waiting for our new creative expression. Let's not disappoint.

**Nancy Guarnera (March 2021)**

# ***FAW & CWC Information:***

**— PLEASE READ —**

**FAW Needs You    Help Wanted    FAW Needs You**

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

**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 contacts & encourages newcomers to join FAW

*Please speak to a Board member if you are interested in one of these positions  
or being of service in some other capacity.*

## ***General Zoom Meeting — June 26<sup>th</sup>***

***Our guest speaker will be Attorney Kelley A. Way, for Legal Q&A***

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/>

# The SPARK



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

## It Only Takes A SPARK...

One October Saturday, leaning heavily on my cane, I hobbled into the back room of Round Table Pizza and found a place to sit near Jan Small, who invited me to visit Fremont Area Writers. The discussion that day was about self-publishing vs. using an agent. Complicated. Then a writing exercise, on the spot. Really? I was a little intimidated. This club sounded like work was ahead, I was looking for relaxation. Nonetheless, I was intrigued and stimulated to know more. Deciding to join FAW had a few nuts and bolts to work out, almost literally. I had both knees replaced the following year. When I returned, I realized I wanted to be a part of FAW. People always greeted me with open arms and friendly smiles.

A few months later, I answered the call to help with hospitality and other events. December of 2019, I had some ideas, like small kindling to create a spark starting a campfire and submitted my first article to *Ink Spots*. What a surprise when our editor, Nancy Guarnera, asked if I'd consider making this a monthly column. I said I'd try it out a few times. The intent was to "Spark" and encourage you to think outside the box. In truth, it became the "spark" — the "jolt" I needed to start writing even small stories. It was work, and a lot of fun. I struggled, and still do sometimes, to be creative. The commitment to produce a monthly story taught me to be continually aware of my surroundings, to be up-to-date on what's going on in FAW, to be inspirational, or thought provoking, but always to be genuine.

Most important, I thank each of you for your kind words and suggestions; Jan for inviting me, Terry for asking me to help with events and encouragement. And, of course, Nancy, thank you for your teaching through our editing sessions. I couldn't have done this without my FAW friends. So now, 19 months later, it's time for me to take on something new. This will be my last "Spark" article. I will miss doing this, but I'm looking forward to what comes next.

I know that all FAW volunteers will experience the love and patience I've enjoyed. This is not a "goodbye" message; I'll be here. If you need to contact me about hospitality or volunteering, use [smcurtzwiler@comcast.net](mailto:smcurtzwiler@comcast.net), and please put FAW in the subject line. Thanks!

***Cheers!***



***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**

## **FREE “PLOTING YOUR NOVEL” Workshop** **3-Hours with Jane Cleland**

Award-winning author Jane Cleland is offering a special 3-hour **FREE** Zoom workshop for writers. If you're available, and you're working on a novel or wanting to write one, Jane will help you with the intricacies of plotting as well as understanding different aspects of the craft of writing that support this basic aspect of novel writing.

Sign up in advance at <https://janecleland.com/events> to register for these webinars. You'll receive a link to the workshop shortly before the day of the event. Don't miss this...register early.

**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 13<sup>th</sup> book in the series, *Hidden Treasure*, and her 14<sup>th</sup> book, *Jane Austen's Lost Letters*, will be available in December. 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>



# *More Notes from the World*

**CALL  
FOR  
POETRY**

## **The Poemsmith Critique Group**

of the

**High Desert California Writer's Club**

is publishing an anthology of poems:

**CALL  
FOR  
POETRY**

## ***FROM SILENCE TO SPEECH: WOMEN OF THE BIBLE SPEAK OUT***

*All CWC members are invited to submit their poetry*

There are about 250 named women in the Bible. Poems can be about a woman or from the voice of the woman (Persona poems). We ask that each be no more than one page in length and that you put the text of what is considered the traditional Bible, Old or New Testament, any version, under the title to show plausibility or for your reader's further reading.

Your poem can be serious, funny, light or dark, in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> person. It can be any style—free verse or traditional (haiku, sonnet, abecedarian, ekphrastic—many Bible women are portrayed in art—villanelle, even erasure or prose poem). So find a woman that intrigues you or fascinates you and write us a poem!

Send 3-5 poems only in Times New Roman 12 pt (Previously published okay)

Title of Poem, "by" and your name, text reference (Ex: Genesis 18:9-15)

Send by attachment (Microsoft Word Doc) to: [mh\\_thompson@hotmail.com](mailto:mh_thompson@hotmail.com)

Judges will be Poemsmiths of the High Desert

**Submission deadline: June 30, 2021**

Although you can write about any woman (or group of women), we need poems on the following women (don't forget unnamed women):

**Bathsheba \* Abigail**

**Delilah (and also the mother of Samson)**

**Deborah, the judge**

**Mary (Jesus' mother and John's mother)**

**Naomi (and the daughter-in-law who did not follow her)**

**Esther \* Zipporah (wife of Moses) \* Hannah (mother of Samuel)**

**Lydia, Apphia, Aquila, Prisca, Phoebe, (women who prophesized & taught for Paul)**

**Tabitha (Dorcas) \* Lot's wife and Lot's daughters**

For Resources, Poemsmith Linda Boruff suggests this website: [womeninthebible.net](http://womeninthebible.net)

If you have questions, contact: [mh\\_thompson@hotmail.com](mailto:mh_thompson@hotmail.com)

# May Speaker Recap

## ANGIE CHATMAN

### *Chasing Your Writing Dream*

At forty, Angie Chatman could no longer ignore “the hints from the Universe” and finally left corporate America to pursue the writing life. She loves to write; it’s her happy place. For her, success is no longer measured in dollar signs or selling a million books (though she would not eschew such things)...it’s doing what she loves doing and being happy. And after years of telling her three children they could do and be anything they wanted, she realized it was time to take her own advice. It was time to walk her talk, and be true to her authentic self. So, with her husband’s encouragement and support—once he realized she was happiest when she was writing—she took the leap from engineering and the corporate world into the writer’s life, and has been writing ever since; that was twenty years ago. She finally “listened to the voice in her head and the pain in her heart.”



***angiecwriter.com***

Her first step...back to school to hone her craft and develop her skills. She also goes to writing conferences and residencies, takes classes in subjects she might not normally have an interest in—she just finished a grammar class, or she might take a class in a genre she wouldn’t normally choose. She belongs to writing groups and is part of a large writing community in the city where she lives; and she takes the opportunities that come her way to share her work at venues like the Moth Radio Hour on NPR to develop her visibility and reputation. Perhaps most important have been “Grandma weeks.” Her mother has supported her and her writing dream for years by taking Angie’s three children for weeklong visits while they’re on summer break; giving her writing daughter the support and time she has needed to pursue her dream.

With degrees in engineering and business, questions arise regarding the incompatibility of engineering and writing—the battle between the brain’s right and left sides. When this happens, she quotes one of her writing professors who also started out as an engineer. “You build a story—paragraph by paragraph—just like you build a building—brick by brick.” A reminder that in both cases, we are building something that requires a strong structure. If we don’t create a strong structure, the building collapses or the story falls apart and does not satisfy; our audiences are unhappy in both cases...not the desired outcome.

Angie lives her writing life guided by this axiom: Writing is an art, Publishing is a business. While she doesn’t ignore the publishing part, she’s less concerned with that part of the process than the writing part. She admits that rejection can hurt her feelings, but she has learned not to take rejection so personally. She references the movie *The Godfather*: “It’s not personal. It’s strictly business.” She reminds herself that the bottom-line for publishers is money. If they don’t think they can sell your book, they will reject it. It may be the best book ever written, but they have to be able to sell it. It’s important to research the publishers you send your work to, if they don’t publish work like yours, it’s unlikely that they will accept it. As a freelance writer of creative non-fiction and fiction, Angie spends time researching the publications she submits her work to, limiting the likelihood of rejection. She does remind us that when our work is accepted, we must be prepared to “kill our darlings”...meaning that once an agent/editor gets their hands on our manuscript, they will make changes and often cut things we feel are important to the story. Angie reminds us, “Our job is to write the best book, story or essay we can and then let it go.” Once artists let their work go, they no longer control how others see or perceive it...it belongs to the world. Her final words, “Just write, and be happy.”

To read Angie’s work and learn more about her and her writing, go to her website ***angiecwriter.com*** and follow her. Check out her piece titled, “Ode to Pound Cake”—it’s delicious!

# ***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 LaTorré, 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**.

## ● **Luanne Oleas**

Luanne writes literary and women's fiction, when she's not creating social media links. Her most recent foray is in promotional videos on Youtube, but her blog (Pondering Life in Silicon Valley) and other links are also updated periodically. Follow Luanne at **WEBSITE**: <https://luanneoleas.com>    **BLOG**: <http://blog.luanneoleas.com/> **AMAZON AUTHOR'S PAGE**: <https://www.amazon.com/-/e/B07PBNM6NB> and *Social Media* — **FACEBOOK**: personal) <https://www.facebook.com/luanne.oleas> (author): <https://www.facebook.com/Luanne-Oleas-Author-114940863384719/>    **TWITTER**: [https://twitter.com/bike\\_writer](https://twitter.com/bike_writer)    **Youtube Promo Videos**: *A PRIMROSE IN NOVEMBER*: <https://youtu.be/Gtnk5FHpEeE>    *FLYING BLIND, A Cropduster's Story*: <https://youtu.be/X0HFzceXdoU>

## ● **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.

## ● **Dave M. Strom**

Check out Dave's creative and tech writing blogs and his videos at: <http://davemstrom.wordpress.com/> <http://davemstrom.weebly.com/>    <http://www.youtube.com/user/davstrom>

## ● **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>

## ● **Fremont Area Writers**

**FACEBOOK**: <https://www.facebook.com/FremontAreaWriters/inbox>    Here are new people liking our page - <https://www.facebook.com/FremontAreaWriters/notifications>    Here are the number of new follows - [https://www.facebook.com/FremontAreaWriters/community/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/FremontAreaWriters/community/?ref=page_internal)



# **FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER**

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## **A Conversation with COVID Fear**

It's a bit of a mess  
this world that we're in  
but it's chaos, confusion  
and self-draining thoughts -  
that're doing us in.

We have nowhere to go  
but up through the roof,  
now dash away, dash away  
FEAR  
It's time to go.

We don't love you dear,  
you've stayed way too long  
You're an unwanted guest

now get on out of here.  
We've lives to rebuild and  
and thoughts to clear out.  
We've no time to hang out  
in your dark little world.

Our fun is still waiting  
for it's time to come out —  
and play in the gardens,  
and romp with the dog  
and snuggle with kids  
and talk to the moon

We've no time for regrets  
complaining's no good  
The past is—well—past  
It's the future now  
that we need to explore

For love can push mountains  
of anger/hate goo  
into the ethers to  
clear out our angers and  
regenerate us too.

The world is still waiting  
for us to step forth  
and transform our dread  
so the sun can come out.

There's a bright world ahead.

**Amber DeAnn**

## ***Father's Day***

Gone fourteen years now  
today I still feel the loss  
of you in my life

**Nancy Guarnera**

## ***Mother's Day***

Gone for twelve years now  
Is a tiger's life as grand  
as you thought it would be?

**Nancy Guarnera**

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## The **H**ighs and **L**ows of a Hack

by Evelyn Kohl LaTorre

I stared at the incoming email message on my AOL website, "How are you?" read the email—from me! "Where did that come from?" I mused to myself. The message looked suspicious. I hadn't sent an email to myself. Someone must be trying to get me to click on the link and get into my AOL email account. Though curious, I didn't click on the message. I sat staring and pondered: *How had that happened?* I backtracked in my memory the last emails I'd opened. Was it the link that said, "Update your computer now," or a friend's message that might have asked, "How are you?" I couldn't remember. Once again, I had to recognize a difficult truth: technology mystifies me. However, it happened, it threw my internet world into turmoil.

Twenty calls came in from concerned friends. Then, a steady flow of email warnings poured in suggesting my email had been hacked. My body tensed. My pulse increased. I felt ashamed and angry recognizing the disruption to friends because my computer had somehow contacted them with a message from someone other than me. My internet world spun into turmoil. I responded as quickly as I could.

Within thirty minutes of seeing the fake message in my email, I changed my password. But that didn't stem the flood of warnings from the hundreds of people in my email address book. Some thirty reported receiving the **"How are you?"** message from me. The savvy ones said they'd ignored it but warned me of a hack. Those friends who answered it, received a second message: **"Glad to hear from you and sorry for bothering you...I'm stuck out of town and need help to buy an Apple iTunes gift card for my Niece for her birthday... I would gladly appreciate this done today."** Others were told to **"...purchase the cards from any nearby CVS or Groceries Stores. I'll pay back as soon as I return. Please let me know if you can handle this."**

## FROM THE SHELTER

Another platinum morning  
breaks through the louvers  
of my quarantine shelter

a film projector, the early light  
admits bicycles, dogs and children  
—all the joyful traffic of summer.

Gardeners come and go;  
geraniums and roses  
spill their glory onto the local lawns

it's summer! blazing summer!  
another platinum day  
on the San Francisco Bay.

But I've heard there's another light,  
one that strikes even brighter—  
a sight I hope never to see.

Not of God, but of dark possibility.  
There's nothing sweet about it.  
It's fearful and burns the eyes

it wakens our children with terror  
and soon their childhood dies.  
Only a very brief error;

not even time for sighs.

*Tony Pino*

Some twenty friends were ready to help me by purchasing the gift cards. I felt gratified that so many were so willing to come to my aid, but chagrined that they'd been so gullible as to believe I'd ask them to purchase something for me. I wondered how, seeing the poor sentence structure of the messages, the people could have believed the message came from me. Maybe they thought I had written in a hurry.

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**Happy Pride Month!**

## FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

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### The **H**ighs and **L**ows of a Hack

by Evelyn Kohl LaTorré (Cont'd from p. 19)

I typed a quick note telling my emailing friends NOT to respond to the "help me" message. I gave the same directive to the scores calling me, after I'd apologized. I felt ashamed and embarrassed. *How had I allowed this to happen? I knew better. My friendly laptop and AOL online service provider had betrayed me.* Friends and acquaintances must all be receiving the same fake communications from me. I needed to tell them to ignore the messages.

Maybe a Facebook notice would help. I couldn't think of any other way to warn people about the fake inquiry from me. I put up a sentence telling my FB friends that my AOL account had been compromised. I knew, because of algorithms, only 10% of them would see my warning—and then only if they happened to be on the site when I posted it. Most of my FB friends were not on my AOL address list anyway, so this ploy didn't help.

Incoming messages began pelting my laptop like hail. My home and cell phones joined the storm and rang in rapid-fire succession; most wanted to know if I'd sent them the message. Some thought I sincerely wanted to know how they were. A few responses informed me about the current events of acquaintances I hadn't heard from in decades. A former Peace Corps colleague in Colombia reported that the country had run out of COVID vaccines. She had a worse predicament than mine, but I only had time to warn her not to respond further or the scammer would follow-up. Another former coworker wrote "It looks like you are enjoying retirement." If I'd had time, I'd have responded, "Most days I do, but not today." I was touched that so many were eager to connect and help me, but I hoped more would recognize the hack.

My fingers flew across the keyboard to copy and send to the hoards contacting me, "DO NOT open that fake email from me that you just received." I hoped my warning would reach these respondents before they clicked on any more of 'my' messages.

Maybe AOL could intervene. I called. After explaining my dilemma to a couple of AOL personnel, I

was transferred to a technical expert, but I couldn't answer all the questions he asked in his slightly Indian accent. I called my 49-year-old son, Tim, fluent in computer-ese, and requested him to take control of my laptop. After ten minutes, the three of us agreed that AOL wasn't responsible for my problem—and that "No, I wouldn't subscribe to AOL's \$50 security package," having what they offered would not have prevented the hack, and couldn't get rid of it. I ended the call because my landline and cell phones were ringing off the hook.

My husband handled the landline calls I could not get to because I was on my cell phone. One cell phone call came in from another former Peace Corps friend in Arizona. She too wanted to know if I'd emailed her asking for help. Then, because she was out walking and had plenty of time, we chatted. I hadn't heard her voice in over 40 years. Too bad the scammer couldn't appreciate the friendliness I felt from all these long-lost friends.

Some, after discovering the messages were fraudulent, sent the scammers a piece of their minds. "There are a few of us who know each other and have gotten your messages," one friend reprimanded. "We are all aware that you are a scam and you have been reported. STOP, STOP, STOP this nonsense."

Another had a sermon for the evildoers. "You are not Evelyn. You are scamming people. Don't you know how precious you are? Don't you know God has a plan for your life and this is not it?"

I was happy I had such concerned and generous friends; but unhappy that some were so gullible not to recognize this familiar email scheme to steal their money. I sincerely hoped none of them would go so far as to respond to the third message from "me" asking that they, "**Open the back of the cards and email me the pictures showing the PINS.**" That email listed a fake g-mail account to respond to under my name!

But a couple I'd just had lunch with three days before, fell for all three messages. I saw Doug's incoming email headline: "Got the dough!"

(Continued next page) ►



## FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

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### The **H**ighs and **L**ows of a Hack

by Evelyn Kohl LaTorré (Cont'd from p. 20)

He had gone to his local CVS store as directed, purchased two gift cards for a total of \$400, and taken and sent photos of the numbers. His wife had urged him to call me to check on the legitimacy of the email request, but he didn't listen to her. My heart went out to this generous friend who wanted to help me and purchased the gift cards for 'my niece.' But, I had to stop his folly.

My son had control of my laptop, so I couldn't email Doug. I was fielding one incoming call after another on my cell phone and our landline, so couldn't call out. I yelled to my husband to use his cell phone to call Doug and tell him to stop all his good-faith responses to the hacker. Luckily, Doug responded, raced back to CVS, and was able to nullify the cards he'd paid for, and for which he'd already sent the cards' numbers. He was unable to get his \$400 back until he supplied the storeowner with proof of a police report. The police gave our 81-year-old friend a case number, but added that "there are so many of these scams that we don't have time to do anything about them."

Tim said the scam was most likely from a Russian or North Korean bot. I didn't care who it came from, I just wanted the problem gone. After searching my computer, he eventually found the three messages embedded somewhere and erased them. I relaxed and contemplated what I'd learned.

I have many friends willing to help me—but who are also unaware that scammers are in cyberspace looking for gullible targets. Before updating your computer, check that the directive is from a legitimate source. Check the address of any incoming email that looks suspicious before clicking on it. Go to the listed website first, to make certain a suspicious-looking email is legitimate. Government offices like Social Security and the IRS will not contact you via email.

The funniest response to this entire episode came from a fellow Peace Corps author. My friend Bill wrote, "I knew the email didn't come from Evelyn, because she didn't plug her latest book in it."

## Anagram Alley

Do you like word games? How about anagrams? Welcome to "Anagram Alley."

Thought we'd try this for a few issues to see if you enjoy doing them. If you decide to play, consider timing yourself. When you figure it out, send your answers and how long it took you to finish (5min. 35sec., 2hrs. 4min. 15sec., etc.), to the **Ink Spots email** address (on the front page), and we'll publish it in the next issue. There are two names below, one is a famous author, and the other is one of that author's famous characters.

**Can you figure out who these famous folks are?**

WHO  
ARE  
THEY?

GRACIA HASHETTI  
EMMA SPRILS

WHO  
ARE  
THEY?

(Look for answers in August 1<sup>st</sup> issue of *Ink Spots*.)