



# Ink Spots



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

Nancy Guarnera Editor-in-Chief Vol. 112 September 2021 [inkspots@cwc-fremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cwc-fremontareawriters.org)

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



*photo by Terry Tosh*

# ***September General Meeting***

— September 25<sup>th</sup> — 2 to 4 PM — Zoom —

## **Writing Realistic Police Procedurals**



*submitted by Knuti VanHoven*

All of you who are interested in realism in police dramas or protocols in real-life police action, mark your calendars for 2 PM, Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, because **Fremont Area Writers'** speaker is the man with the answers. Why does Adam Plantinga think he's such an expert on the subject? Because he is.

**Adam Plantinga** knows more about police procedures in the real world, than almost anyone. In fact, he literally "wrote the book" on the subject. Its title is ***400 Things Cops Know***. It was nominated for an Agatha, won the 2015 Silver Falchion award for best nonfiction crime reference and was hailed as "truly excellent" by author Lee Child. *The Wall Street Journal* called it "the new Bible for crime writers."

He followed that up with his second book: ***Police Craft***.

Lou Fancher reported in the San Jose Mercury News that "The short essays that make up his new book, ***Police Craft; What Cops Know About Crime, Community and Violence*** (Quill Driver Books, \$16.95, 237 pages), cover law enforcement's most volatile topics, including use of force, special operations, death and dying, racial profiling, police and street culture, interrogation techniques, the collection and preservation of evidence and more."

Plantinga was a Milwaukee police officer from 2001 to 2008. He is currently an SFPD street sergeant and will be sharing his vast knowledge with us in a Q&A session. "Whether your questions deal with realistic portrayals of criminal investigations or the events of the past year," Plantinga said, "I'll try to answer them."

The meeting starts at 2PM. Please connect to Zoom at least 10 minutes early. Email **scottfrombayside@yahoo.com** for your Zoom link.

The meeting is **FREE** and open to anyone who wants to improve their own writing or help others with theirs.





**TERRY TOSH**  
FAW President

# President's Message

**Hello, my great FAW friends!**

It's really weird to write this message for the September newsletter three weeks before we have our August meeting, and only 1 week after scurrying to draft the August message at the last minute, but things will settle down a tad, me thinks, and it will soon be old hat.

I feel somewhat like I've been asked to predict the future, since we moved the newsletter submission deadline to the 10th, and the newsletter then gets published on the first of the following month, but in the immortal words of someone, "It is what it is."

At the time I write this, we are not much closer to getting together in-person anytime soon, so I will guess that our search is still on for just the right place for our needs. The Artist Walk has potential, though there are some drawbacks—like insufficient parking and the uncertainty that we could be displaced at any given meeting date, if they schedule an event on the same day...as well as the uncertainty of seating and tables.

Anyone who has an idea for a new venue, please give us a shout, and we'll check it out. (Yes, I know it, I'm a poet.)

So, anyhow, here we are, rushing headlong into the "Holiday Madness" period of the year, and who knows what waits around the next corner? Let's all hope, together, that it's good stuff for all of us and the world, with plenty of success stories from our club members, and wonderful new opportunities for everyone. Perhaps we could take a few minutes during our meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss what we might want to do this year for our Holiday Party. It's never too early to start planning a party.

Mark your calendars for our October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting; Joan Gelfand will be discussing the craft of writing.

I do feel confident enough to predict that Nancy has once again outdone herself with *Ink Spots*, and deserves all of our admiration and thanks for her masterful achievement.

Thanks for your support as we move forward.

**I appreciate every one of you.**

**Terry Tosh**

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# A Word from Our Editor



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

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

We have made a **change to the newsletter's publication schedule**. You will now receive *Ink Spots* on or around the first of the month. The new submission deadline for each issue is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the publication month (**September 10<sup>th</sup> for the October issue**). Let me know if you need extra time and we can discuss it.

You'll notice that the newsletter looks a bit different. Going forward we will feature a photo on the front cover of each issue. Consider this photo, as well as others throughout the newsletter, as visual prompts to encourage you to write (two in this issue). If you do write, consider submitting your work to the Writer's Corner. While anyone may submit a photo for a prompt, submission does not guarantee publication. Please follow **Submission Guidelines** below.

In addition to expanding submissions to include photographs, we've done some rearranging. You'll find the pages with the Board and Committee Chairs at the back of the newsletter. Some now have contact info.

*Ink Spots* now has a **Table of Contents**, which you'll find on **page 3**. We hope this helps you navigate through the newsletter and makes it easier for you to find that which you seek.

We've started a new department, **Puzzles & Brainteasers** on **page 13** in this issue. I enjoy anagrams, so we begin with literary anagrams. Each month we'll have several of these for your pleasure. You're looking for famous authors and one or more of their famous characters. Your mission: unscramble them and match the author and character. Send your answers and time to solve (if you wish) 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. If you have other literary puzzles or brainteasers, submit them for the Puzzle page. We hope you enjoy this. We're keeping your brain agile!

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](mailto:inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.org) for publication.

**Stay safe and healthy...**

**Cheers! Nancy** (**I•S** indicates an article written by the *Ink Spots* editor)

## Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Please send all submissions for *Ink Spots* to [inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.org). Remember to put **FAW—Ink Spots Submission—Your Name** in the **Subject field** of your email; this makes it so much easier to find your email. Thank you for sharing your writing with the rest of us!

### SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

Submissions are due on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the publication month unless otherwise arranged.  
September 10<sup>th</sup> for the October issue.

Please submit your written work and photos as attachments, rather than in the body of your email, if possible.

### WORD COUNT:

**Feature articles** (President's Message, 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 300dpi

Please **DO NOT** use special formatting. Use the return key **ONLY** at the end of each paragraph.

Please don't double space between sentences and don't indent. Thank you!

# ***FAW – September Meetings***

## **Fremont Area Writers**

### **“Fourth Saturday”**

## **Membership Mtg on Zoom**

**Saturday September 25<sup>th</sup> 2:00 – 4:00 PM**

*Meeting is open to CWC/FAW members and the general public;  
writers of all skill levels are welcome.*

*Guest Speaker: Adam Plantinga, SFPD street sergeant and author*

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

## **Fremont Area Writers**

### **“Tuesday before 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday”**

## **Board Meeting on Zoom**

**Tuesday September 21<sup>st</sup> 3:30 – 5:00 PM**

*Meeting is open to FAW members to observe their Board in action.  
Comments and questions will be addressed at the end  
of the meeting with prior notice.*

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

# ***FAW – September Meetings***

## **Fremont Area Writers**

### **“Second Saturday”**

## **Social Write-In on Zoom**

**Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup> 2:00 – 3:30 PM**

*Get to know others through personal writing with prompts.  
Members will be sent a Zoom invite. Non-members should  
contact Scott Davidson (see below) for an invite.*

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

## **Fremont Area Writers**

### **“Fourth Monday”**

## **Writers’ Salon on Zoom**

**Monday September 27<sup>th</sup> 7:00 – 9:00 PM**

*Open to FAW members and the public.  
Share, listen and support writers as they read their work.  
For a Zoom invitation link contact Tony Pino (see below).*

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



# 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 Cherilyn Chin**, whose article "Microplastics and Plankton" was published in *Plastics and Microplastics: A Reference Handbook* by David E. Newton. The following is a link to the book for more info: [https://smile.amazon.com/Plastics-Microplastics-Reference-Handbook-Contemporary-ebook/dp/B098KMPNM1/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?keywords=plastic+and+microplastics&qid=1629850333&s=books&sr=1-1](https://smile.amazon.com/Plastics-Microplastics-Reference-Handbook-Contemporary-ebook/dp/B098KMPNM1/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=plastic+and+microplastics&qid=1629850333&s=books&sr=1-1) **Congratulations, Cherilyn!**

**KUDOS to Bob Garfinkle**, who will have an article on controlling phosphate in a freshwater aquarium in the Nov/Dec 2021 issue of "Tropical Fish Hobbyist" magazine. Bob also was a recent presenter on two astronomy Zoom meetings, enabling him to promote his 3-volume set of *Luna Cognita* to a worldwide audience. It has sold over 2,000 hardback copies and 100 eBooks since March 12, 2020. **Congratulations, Bob!**

**KUDOS to Evelyn LaTorre**, will be launching her new memoir *Love in Any Language, A Memoir of a Cross-cultural Marriage* at Towne Center Books in Pleasanton via Zoom at 6pm on Tuesday, October 5. Register in advance for this meeting at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZMrf-qrrzouG9HwLG0J2IHvzFJXj0fqYERP> Books available at [townecenterbooks.com](http://townecenterbooks.com). **Congratulations, Evelyn!**



## CWC Central Board Report

*submitted by Terry Tosh, FAW President and acting CWC Central Board Representative*

On Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, I attended my first CWC Central Board meeting; it was held on zoom. I was a bit nervous being the new guy, but was pleasantly surprised to find it was much like our branch board meetings, but without the pressure of being in charge and doing the preparation that I do as president. It was interesting to witness the lively interaction of the various personalities as they challenged each other on protocol and details.

This particular gathering was rather a whirlwind of an agenda, as it was also the Election Day for the CB officers. There were three changes to the Board: Roger Lubeck is now president of CWC, Donna Rosenthal, our former president, is now vice president, and Constance Hansted is now treasurer. You will have likely see an account of the details in the most recent CWC Bulletin.

I had planned to use the recorded session to fill in specifics of the agenda, as I was spending most of my time observing instead of taking notes. (This is new to me, and I forgot that I should have been jotting down more details.) Unfortunately, the Zoom administrator forgot to record it, so we missed getting to share a remarkable speech made by Roger. Many of us from FAW heard much of his background when we attended the Zoom presentation that he recently gave on how to prepare and give professional presentations.

Some agenda items: Roger is also the leader of the MRMS review team. They are working diligently to find a potential replacement for the antiquated system we use as the statewide database. It is a formidable task and will definitely be an ongoing project. We are still planning to hold the Jack London Awards presentation in-person in Oakland on October 17<sup>th</sup>. CWC is still looking for someone to step-up and take on the Bulletin, as Rusty LeGrange has decided to step down after years of service. Please let me know if you have any interest in being of service to CWC by taking on this responsibility.

Next meeting of the CB will be held at the live event in Oakland on October 17<sup>th</sup>. If anyone has anything they want me to address with the central board, please let me know by October 13<sup>th</sup>.

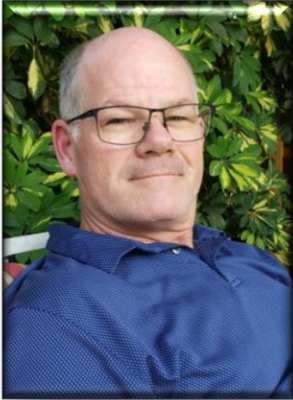
Regarding policies and procedures, I have the latest changes made at the state level, and will be glad to share them as requested. We will discuss further issues that involve our FAW concerns at future Board meetings.

# August Speaker Recap

## BECOMING A PUBLISHED AUTHOR

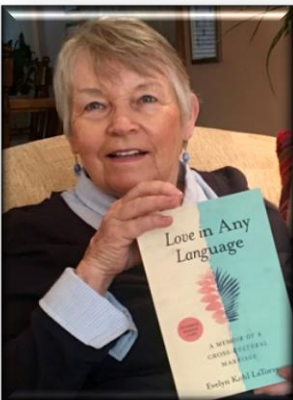
*From beginning to end . . . and beyond*

On August 28, FAW members had the pleasure of hearing from three of our own—Chris Cook, Evelyn LaTorre and Urmila Patel. Each is taking the journey from writing to publishing and beyond, and shared with us the many experiences and lessons learned during their process. Here are some highlights from the meeting. **I•S**



**Chris Cook** shared his experience finding and working with an editor for his manuscript, a sci-fi thriller entitled *Schrödinger's Brother*. After workshopping his book with his critique group, Chris took his book to the SF Writers Conference to network with other writers, as well as, editors, agents and publishers. One of the opportunities was a sort of speed dating for writers and editors. You give an editor a page of your manuscript, they read it and give you a "Yes, I can help you," or a "No, we're not a good fit." One of the editors he talked to was Mary Rakow who does both developmental and line editing. While sci-fi is not her usual genre, she was sufficiently intrigued to want to work with him. After overcoming his initial sticker shock (\$3,000)...Rakow charges by the word...he decided that it was just something he had to do; and he's glad he did. *(continued on page 9)*

**Urmila Patel** had a number of obstacles to overcome in her attempts to find a publisher, one of which was a language barrier; the other was her lack of knowledge regarding the publishing process. Not to be thwarted by a lack of information, she went to Google and started researching the publishing industry. She eventually found a congenial editor, but misunderstood what he was prepared to do for her. He edited her book, *90 Days Out of Uganda*, but the rest of the publication process was left to her. Cost was an issue, so she looked at other books and using them as examples, she designed and formatted her book herself. She knew what she wanted on the cover, she had visualized it for quite a while, but didn't have the tools or the skills to create the dynamic cover she had in mind. She knew she would need to pay for professional cover design. Urmila's search led her to 99 Design and the cover she'd envisioned. *(continued on page 9)*



**Evelyn LaTorre**, once her first memoir, *Between Inca Walls*, was finished, decided that her time was better spent writing her second memoir. Finding a traditional publisher that would do the things she had no interest in doing, was the path to publication for her. She developed contacts through her years with FAW and other writing groups and organizations, and eventually decided to work with a local hybrid publisher, She Writes Press (SWP). Unlike traditional presses, with a hybrid press, the author pays a fee to get their work published. SWP accepted her already professionally edited manuscript and handled the parts of the pre- and post-publication process that she didn't know how to do, or want to do. SWP recommended she hire a publicist to help her with marketing and promotion. She did, and has found this person's assistance to be well worth the money. From social media, to podcasts, to book launches, Evelyn is enjoying promoting her work, especially when someone else does all the leg-work. *(continued on page 9)*



## August Speaker Recap (continued)

\*\*\*\*\*

**(Chris Cook continued)** Rakow asked if he had specific concerns he wanted her to address; he gave her three. Should he keep the prologue? Was there sufficient depth to his characters? Was his ending strong enough? He gave her a choice of font and font size, which she very much appreciated. Rakow read his manuscript once and then sat with it for a few weeks, before reading it a second time. The result: a 30-page write-up of comments from the editor: 11 pages of response to his three initial concerns and general developmental edits, and 19 pages of pointed comments and line edits. Chris was re-considering self-publishing, but the report with a complimentary acknowledgement of his writing skills, gave him the confidence to continue pursuing traditional publishing. **Hurdle & fix:** writing the ending to his book, his critique group bugged him to keep writing.

**(Urmila Patel continued)** Here are a few of the steps she encourages everyone to take when they're ready to publish: copyright your work before you give it to anyone to read; get an ISBN#; have a professional edit it... the cost is worth it. **Hurdle & fix:** writing her story was painful at times, so she'd take a day or two off....

**(Evelyn LaTorre continued)** Evelyn reminded us that two of the most important "selling points" of a book are its title and its cover. She went to the mat with her publisher over her first book's title. She won that battle. She also explained that as scary as pitch sessions can be, once you've done a few and get the hang of it, they can be fun and are critical in "selling" your book to an agent or a publisher. **Hurdle & fix:** organizing her material was tough, until she remembered that most writing is rewriting...her first draft didn't have to be perfect.

*"I get feedback from strangers who have been bowled over by something I've written. It's like having a fan club and it feels great! It's very satisfying." Evelyn Kohl LaTorre*

### CORRECTIONS from speaker Kelley A. Way: August 2021 issue / June 2021 Speaker Recap

Last month's speaker Kelley Way's middle name is Anne. It was misspelled in the Recap as Ann. Apologies Kelley.

The following are points of clarification from Kelley regarding copyright, trademarks and registered trademarks:

1. p. 8, third paragraph from the bottom - it says to search **uspto.gov** to see if something is a registered trademark or patented. This is technically correct, but patent law doesn't cover pen names. *(I can't think of a reason why an author would need to look for a registered patent, though I suppose it's possible. KAW)*
2. top of p. 9 - patents don't have a symbol like trademarks and copyrights do. The TM and R marks are both for trademarks - the R is for registered trademarks, the TM is for unregistered trademarks, and the C is for copyrights.

Visual Prompt



*photo by Terry Tosh*

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

**— PLEASE READ —**

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

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

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

**Hospitality Chair** – welcomes, introduces, contacts & encourages newcomers to join FAW

**NorCal Rep** – attends & represents FAW at CWC NorCal meetings, writes reports for newsletters

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

## ***General Zoom Meeting — September 25<sup>th</sup>***

***Our guest speakers will be Adam Plantinga SFPD Street Sergeant***

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. Log in to the meeting 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/>

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

**WEEK #41 MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> TERRY CONNELLY**

## **A Dose of My Own Medicine**

I don't consider myself the mask police, but I am aware of who isn't wearing one when I'm out hiking. When such an individual approaches, I make sure mine is on properly, but I don't correct their behavior. Likewise, I say nothing when I'm at a store or the gym and catch someone wearing theirs incorrectly. It seems that the most common error is not covering the nose.

Perhaps they don't realize that we send droplets into the air with every exhalation. But, rules are rules, right?

I have reported a few individuals at the gym and have requested that staff walk the gym floor on a regular basis to ensure compliance. My health and that of others is at stake.

Now that we're fully vaccinated, we've been on our first weekend trip out of Alameda County to visit relatives. They live in an area that resists compliance with any laws, so I was not surprised to encounter folks not wearing masks of any kind. It made me both angry and sad. It's one thing to not care about your own health: it's entirely another to not care about what you might inflict on others.

Coming home Tuesday, we stopped for lunch at a fast food restaurant that had tables out-doors. My fingers got quite messy. When I was finished, I tossed our trash and went inside to clean up. A woman, who appeared to be in line, waved her hand in a circle when she saw me. I assumed she meant she wasn't in that line, but the one for food.

As I washed my hands, I glanced at myself in the mirror and discovered, to my embarrassment and horror, I had not put my mask on before entering!

I made a promise to myself that I will no longer look askance at those who are not compliant. After all, they might not be aware that their mask had slipped, or like me, had simply made a mistake!

***Terry Connelly***

**WEEK #42 MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> CHERILYN CHIN**

## **Saving the Oceans**

Wouldn't you know, my computer crashed after I wrote my SIP note! Here's what I remember saying:

As an introvert, I've found staying home a good thing. I always tell myself that I'll write more, especially because I (supposedly) have more time. I try most mornings to write for at least 15 minutes upon waking, but I fail miserably when my emails beckon. I get sucked down that hole and I skip writing for the day.

But I discovered the other week I have a first draft of my middle grade children's novel about a Hawaiian girl and boy who discover that their beloved coral reef has bleached and they have to solve the mystery of why.

I hand write my first drafts and only recently typed up a few pages. I quickly realized I have a 30,000 word first draft, the low end of a middle grade novel. I'm not done by any means, but I can edit while I type up my manuscript.

I have put up a few blog posts on my ocean conservation blog, "Ocean of Hope," which I invite you all to check out. It's been a labor of love for me for the past 10 years! I welcome any feedback and suggestions for future posts.

**<https://protecttheoceans.org/wordpress>**

***Cherilyn Chin***

**We're still  
in the thick  
of things...  
Send us your  
SIP Notes!**



# Book & Movie Reviews

Here's your opportunity to share your favorite books and movies. They can be just for fun, ones that changed your life, books on writing craft, etc. If you decide to submit: **250 max. word count**. Please email to the **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.

## On Writing

by Steven King

If you have not already read it, Steven King's *On Writing*, (2000) is an inspirational memoir of the craft and passion of writing. To me, the must-read chapter is "Toolbox," in which he likens the writer's toolbox to the one his Uncle Oren built. It weighed 80–120 pounds. He always carried his full toolbox with him because, "It's best to have your tools with you. If you don't, you're apt to find something you didn't expect and get discouraged."

King recommends writers build their own toolbox and build up their muscles to carry it with them. In the top level, place your vocabulary and grammar. He suggests, "if some (of your tools) are rusty, clean them off." Some of my favorite quotes from this section are: "Bad grammar produces bad sentences." "Must you write complete sentences each time, every time? Perish the thought." (Note the example he provides.) "You should avoid the passive tenses"—King wrote over five paragraphs on this point. "Adverbs (those ending in -ly) are not your friend," and best: "...do as well as you can, and remember that, while to write adverbs is human, to write he said or she said is divine."

King provides book titles to improve our grammar skills. A former high school Business English teacher, he provides plenty of examples, helpful lessons, and tips. One more quote. "Words create sentences; sentences create paragraphs; sometimes paragraphs begin to breathe." Let *On Writing* breathe fresh life into your writing.

Review submitted by  
**Joyce Cortez**

## Tracks

by Robyn Davidson

*Tracks: A Woman's Solo Trek Across 1700 Miles of Australian Outback (1980)* is a thrilling physical and spiritual adventure undertaken by a woman on her own.

In 1977, refusing to bow to the prospect of a soul-numbing life, Davidson decided to do something very different, something "BIG but personal"—a walk across the Australian outback, from Alice Springs to the Indian Ocean, by herself. Her only companions: four camels and her dog, Diggity. At times she was joined by various indigenous people, and one pesky National Geographic photographer, who would fly in for periodic visits to document her progress.

Global interest in the "camel lady" generated by the Geographic, motivated Davidson to write *Tracks*, to explain the mystical nature of her journey and "connection to the land."

Survival in such a harsh environment was unpredictable; her trek was unprecedented. Against all advice from family, friends and strangers, this "barely-formed," 27-year-old woman braved one of the most unforgiving desert landscapes on the planet...on foot.

Davidson's stunning memoir inspired me to go on a "walkabout" of my own. Sometimes sharing another's adventure, via the written word, can be as empowering as living it yourself, motivating one to step into the unknown with unexpected confidence and certainty. Davidson's story was in the National Geographic (May 1978) and was in theaters with Mia Wasikowska and Adam Driver in 2013.

Review submitted by  
**Nancy Guarnera**

# Puzzles & Brainteasers

## Anagram Alley

Do you like word games? How about anagrams? Welcome to “**Anagram Alley.**”

Word play is a great way to keep your brain sharp and your mind focused while having some fun.

If you decide to play, please exercise your brain, and DON'T use the solution algorithms available online.

When you've solved some or all of them, send your name and your answers to **inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org** and we'll publish your name. **Deadline** is the 25th of the month before the publication month (ex. *January 25<sup>th</sup> for the February issue*).

Below you'll see some names; some are famous authors and the others are famous characters in books written by those authors. We're throwing in a mix and match element as well, so, be prepared to match the authors and their characters as you solve each anagram. We've given you a few clues as well.

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

*(Look for answers in the October issue of Ink Spots.)*

WHO ARE  
THEY?

Penny Serther \* Michelle Tartgram \* Henry St. Wingamee

Sarah C. Tarleto \* Jana Breske \* Heather Noni Whantal

HINTS

3 authors, 3 characters, all Americans, 3 men, 3 women,  
at one time international popularity second only to the Bible, Pamplona,  
New England, a romantic pentagon, Academy Award-winning movie,  
sin, olé, guilt, journalist, a southern romantic triangle

**Please note:** These names do not necessarily conform to the number of words in an author's or character's name — there may be two where there are three and three where there are two. Initials may be buried in the anagram, or included where there are none in the actual name. Assume nothing!

Here are the answers from the August 2021 issue of Ink Spots. Congrats to Terry & Anita Tosh who sent in their correct answers. They have no idea how long it took them, and only finished with a couple of extra hints, which they recommend I give to all of you going forward. Thanks for playing Toshes!

SEAN TAJUNE \* ANEBEL BINTZ HEET \* MYRA ZILFRAC TWILDIM  
Jane Austen \* Elizabeth Bennet \* Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy

NILS GRADJE \* CANDIE H DUFELLOL  
JD Salinger \* Holden Caulfield

MERLEEM VAN HILL \* CATHI ABANAP \* LEW HEATH  
Herman Melville \* Captain Ahab \* The Whale (a.k.a. Moby Dick)

# *Notes from the World*

**Tom Howard / Margaret Reid**

## *Poetry Contest*

**Submission Deadline: September 30, 2021**

**TOM HOWARD PRIZE:** \$3,000 for a poem in any style or genre

**MARGARET REID PRIZE:** \$3,000 for a poem that rhymes or has a traditional style

**10 HONORABLE MENTIONS:** \$200 each (any style)

Sponsored by *Winning Writers* and co-sponsored by *Duotrope*

*Use these links for more details and to submit your poems*

<https://winningwriters.com/our-contests/tom-howard-margaret-reid-poetry-contest>

<https://winningwriters.submittable.com/submit/58274/tom-howard-margaret-reid-poetry-contest>

## **FREE 1-hour Workshops w/ JANE CLELAND**

Award-winning author Jane Cleland is offering **FREE** Zoom workshops on the craft of writing for writers of every skill-level. If you're working on a novel or wanting to write one, Jane will explain today's publishing world, and how to navigate it on August 14. On September 18, she'll discuss the importance of dialogue, and how it helps advance your story and adds to character development.

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 these...register early.

**Saturday, September 18, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PDT (1 hour)**

**'What did you say?' "Writing Dialogue that Sings!"** - *Effective use of dialogue*

**Saturday, October 14, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PDT (1 hour)**

**"Openings that Kill It"** - *Three-step process to deciding where to start your story*

Jane Cleland is an award-winning author who writes books on writing craft, crime fiction, middle grade, espionage, and the long-running Josie Prescott Antiques Mystery series, all published by St. Martin's Minotaur. Her 14<sup>th</sup> book in the Josie Prescott series, *Jane Austen's Lost Letters*, will be available in December. Cleland contributes craft articles to **Writers Digest** and teaches writing at the university level. She knows her stuff!



# *More Notes from the World*

## 2021 Tri-Valley Writers Conference

Saturday October 16, 2021 8:00AM to 6:00PM

Four Points by Sheraton in Pleasanton, CA

**CRAFT \* MARKETING \* SELF-PUBLISHING**

**Keynote Speaker: Rhys Bowen**

New York Times bestselling author

International best sellers: *Above the Bay* & *The Tuscan Child*

Winner of multiple Agatha, Anthony and Macavity awards



Early-bird Registration Ends: September 24, 2021 Early-Bird Price: \$120 for CWC members

Registration closes & payment must be received: October 12, 2021 Regular Price: \$150 for CWC members

**For more information, and to register for the conference, go to:**

<https://www.trivalleywriters.org/conferences/tri-valley-writers-conference-2021/registration/>

**For more information on Rhys Bowen go to: <https://www.rhysbowen.com>**

## **TCK Publishing.com**

**2021 \* 2021 \* 2021**

### **Non-Fiction Writing Contest**

**Submission Deadline: December 31, 2021**

**Submission Length: 8,000 words max**

**Use this link for more details and to submit your non-fiction work**

<https://www.tckpublishing.com/2021-tck-publishing-nonfiction-writing-contest/>

**Entry Fee: \$12/submission**

**Prize: \$1,000 & publication on the TCK publishing website**

# *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*

## Attention Poets & Poetry Lovers

*Check out the Poetry Center of San José*  
**open mics \* speakers \* poetry slams \* anthologies \* etc.**  
*[www.poetrycentersanjose.org](http://www.poetrycentersanjose.org)*

### *Reedsy Learning*

**FREE** Writing Classes,  
Webinars and  
A Blog

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

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

**Check it out!**

### Genre-specific Websites

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **FAW MONTHLY ZOOM MEETING CALENDAR**

SECOND SATURDAY

*Social Write-In*

2:00 – 3:30 PM

TUESDAY BEFORE

4<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY

*Board Meeting*

3:30 – 5:00 PM

FOURTH SATURDAY

*General Membership Mtg.*

2:00 – 4:00 PM

FOURTH MONDAY

*Writers' Salon*

7:00 – 9:00 PM



# ***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**.

## ● **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**    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

\*\*\*\*\*

## Kabuliwalla

Yes this was the title  
of a Hindi story that we  
were assigned to read  
in 10th grade...  
about a dry fruits vendor  
from Kabul who would cross  
over to India to sell his  
fragrant ensemble.  
It was a very poignant story.  
Innocent Kabul, way back in  
1980 where I, scrolling through  
text, absorbed in this  
old fashioned tale, never  
could have imagined,  
the delicate earth that gave  
birth to succulent Afghani  
dates, is now drenched in blood.  
More blood, more bullets:  
the fate of women and children,  
abandoned to the hands of evil.  
Afghanistan, her heart bleeding,  
now even more,  
as she folds into the walls of hell.

Fear beats to the rhythm of terror.  
Huddled within homes with  
fragile walls,  
hearts splintered, tremble and  
quake.  
will a world watching stay  
watching?  
will a world hearing, actually listen?  
Our Earth spins, beautiful in blue,  
serene and silent in the cosmos.  
all she knows, like the land of  
Afghanistan, there are many  
children in her veins,  
clamoring for Her  
silence and peace.

*Rekha Ramani (c) 2021*

*Kabuliwalla- pronounced Kaabuli-waalaa  
(language of origin-Hindi)  
means- a native coming from Kabul*

Haiku from August and September Photo Prompts (Photos by Nancy Guarnera left, Terry Tosh right)

JAZZ



golden-eyed poser  
frozen in time daring me  
to capture your soul

**Nancy Guarnera**

© 2021



SUNSET

corals, pinks, purples  
melt together in night sky  
trees embrace with joy

**Nancy Guarnera**

© 2021

## My Writing Life with FAW

by Evelyn LaTorre

I doubt I'd have two published books that are selling well without the Fremont Area Writers. For the past eleven years, the organization has helped shape my writing life. I have loved to read and write ever since learning how as a child. But it wasn't until I collaborated with Bob Garfinkle in 2009 to get the Fremont Area Writers started, that I could see myself as a published author.

I recall when Bob, our founder and first president, had only three of us on the FAW Board. At various times over the last 12 years, when needed, I served as Secretary, Treasurer, and NorCal and CWC representative. In the beginning, we often had less than 15 members present at our pizza parlor gatherings in Centerville. Later, over 40 members could be counted on to attend at the larger DeVry University facility. Our speakers instructed me on how to write, design, and publish books. Program VPs arranged for presentations by experts like publisher Andrea Brown, editor and book judge Charlotte Cook, and the founder of a new e-book platform called Smashwords, Mark Coker.

I joined critique groups with FAW writers like Art Carey, Tish Davidson, and Nancy Curteman. They, and so many other members (most recently, Jan Salinas and Joyce Cortez) patiently read and reread my pieces about growing up in Montana and my adventures in Mexico and Peru.

In collaboration with Carol Hall, and other dedicated FAW members, I helped plan workshops by experts like Brooke Warner, Jordan Rosenfeld, and Martha Alderson. I drank in their examples of quality wordsmithing and eagerly read their books on the writing craft. Listening to authors on the National Association of Memoir Writers' monthly phone conferences, has kept me inspired. Critique workshops, with professionals like Charlotte Cook, showed me how page-turners are written. Charlotte later served as my developmental editor.

Other CWC chapters added to my ability to write prose. At a weekend retreat, sponsored by the South Bay Writers, I recognized how the numerous chapters that I'd completed could be organized. The narrative arc that appeared, surprised me. I came up with what I thought was the perfect title, *From Montana to Machu Picchu*. But it was soon changed by the publisher I discovered, She Writes Press. SWP is known for its attractive titles and eye-catching covers. My manuscript was accepted with a title change to *Between Inca Walls: A Peace Corps Memoir*.

Brooke Warner founded her hybrid publishing company (one where the author pays a fee) because as an acquisitions manager, she saw her boss decline to publish good manuscripts written by women. SWP accepted my edited manuscripts without further changes. I trusted the company's expertise to design a quality product. They would do what I didn't know how or didn't want to do. And SWP books are distributed through the same channels as traditionally published books. Brooke encourages her 800 authors to support and advise one another. I've learned that a book doesn't automatically sell, even if it is well written. Authors often must publicize their own books. SWP recommends hiring a publicist, which I've done.

Through SWP and FAW, my knowledge of the art and business of being an author has expanded 100-fold. Life in the fast lane of writing, publishing, and promoting my two books continues to be exhilarating. I am grateful to everyone who has contributed to my enjoyable writing life.

The Writers' Corner accepts author recommendations, essays, commentary, etc., as well as, poetry and prose. If you might be interested in writing a recurring column, please email the Editor and we'll discuss it. [inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.com](mailto:inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.com)



# ***FAW Board Members***



**TERRY TOSH**  
President  
toshmanii@yahoo.com



**KNUTI VANHOVEN**  
Vice President



**REKHA RAMANI**  
Secretary



**CHERILYN CHIN**  
Treasurer



**BOB GARFINKLE**  
Past President

## **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

**BOARD MEETINGS**  
**3:30 to 5:00 PM**  
**Tuesday before the Fourth Saturday**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
**on ZOOM**

# ***FAW Chairpersons***



**ART CAREY**  
Signage  
Facility Liaison



**SCOTT DAVIDSON**  
Webmaster  
Zoom Manager



**TISH DAVIDSON**  
Social Write-In Host



**AMBER DeANN**  
Facebook Page  
Social Media



**BOB GARFINKLE**  
Historian



**NANCY GUARNERA**  
*Ink Spots* Editor  
Special Projects  
[inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org)



**CHERILYN CHIN**  
CWC Advertising  
& Promotions



**TONY PINO**  
"Fourth Monday"  
Writers' Salon  
[up.dragonfly.com@gmail.com](mailto:up.dragonfly.com@gmail.com)



**ANITA TOSH**  
Membership  
Nor-Cal Representative  
[nanatosh56@gmail.com](mailto:nanatosh56@gmail.com)



**TERRY TOSH**  
CWC Representative  
[toshmanii@yahoo.com](mailto:toshmanii@yahoo.com)



**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*)