



# Ink Spots



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

Nancy Guarnera Editor-in-Chief

Vol. 113 October 2021

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

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

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Visual  
Prompt

from the Lizard Lounge

*photo by nguarnera*

# October General Meeting

\* October 23rd \* 2 to 4 PM \* Zoom \*



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

## The 4 C's – Craft, Commitment, Community & Confidence

*submitted by Knuti VanHoven*

Want to finish the writing project you began back before you got stuck somewhere in the process? Could you use a little coaching perhaps? Help is on the way!

At 1:45 PM on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, you'll want to meet **Joan Gelfand**, an award-winning, prolific author, writing coach, and effective marketer of her work. Joan's most recent books are a collection of her poetry called *The Long Blue Room*; her novel, *Extreme*, a high-suspense tech romance with a brilliant female protagonist; and her writers' guide, *You Can Be A Winning Writer—The 4 C's System to Author Success*.

The last is a no-nonsense, easy to understand paperback, that covers basic nuts-and-bolts writing tips, information about writers' workshops, background on how famous authors initially hooked up with their publishers, and publishing industry tips.

Joan comes highly recommended by one of Fremont Area Writers' favorite speakers, Mary Anna Evans, for her writers' craft lectures.

Does she know whereof she speaks? Well, she was the Winner of the Cervena Barva and Chaffin Fiction Awards. Her work has appeared in The Huffington Post, Vanity Fair, Rattle, PANK! The Meridien Anthology of Contemporary Poetry, The Los Angeles Review of Books, Chicken Soup for the Soul, and over 200 literary journals, blogs and magazines, so...YES!

Want more credentials? She's also a member of the National Book Critics Circle, she's worked for California Poets in the Schools, Poetry Out Loud, Chiat/Day Advertising and other Bay Area companies. She currently coaches writers and teaches in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Can you afford to miss FAW's October Meeting? Probably not.

PS: Our thanks to Tony Pino for persuading her to come. We love you, Tony!

The meeting starts at 2PM. Please connect to Zoom at least 10 minutes early. For your Zoom link, email [scottfrombayside@yahoo.com](mailto:scottfrombayside@yahoo.com). For more info on our speaker got to: [joangelfand.com](http://joangelfand.com)

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

Hey, Everyone!

I hope this missive finds all of you doing well, and keeping a positive and upbeat spirit as we get through another challenging year together.

There has been lots of good news interspersed with the bad stuff, but I prefer to focus on the good and chalk up the bad to learning life's unpleasant lessons. Sometimes that isn't a very easy task.

I write this epistle from a relaxed position in my rocking recliner, although I should be at my part time job working. Yes, I managed somehow to strain my lower back muscles (about a week back). Sorry, bad pun but it actually was about a week ago, so I couldn't resist.

Anyhow, it reminds me that we all have our weaknesses and need to be thankful that we are able to still keep in touch and even stay productive in the age of zoom and suchlike.

We are rapidly approaching our first public meeting of the statewide CWC board, since the lockdowns began in early 2020. This gathering of CWC board and presidents and awardees, on October 17th, will be to celebrate and award our wonderful, hard-working fellow members chosen for the bi-annual recognition for outstanding service performed at the branch level. As everyone who has been a member of this Fremont Area Writers club well knows, our Superstar this time is our great friend and fabulously hard-working Nancy Guarnera! Everyone please take an extra moment to thank Nancy and congratulate her once again for her wonderful contributions.

Also, at this point, we are still searching for the perfect combination of cheap (free) and technologically workable facilities in which to resume our meetings onsite.

If anyone has any ideas or friends that might have some possible options for us, please let us know as soon as possible. We do plan to go "hybrid" if at all possible, in order to accommodate those of you who may not be able to attend in-person, so we will need to have the proper area to support this need, as well.

There are lots of meetings and learning going on in the background at both the state and local levels, in order to train for and facilitate these and other progressive ideas to make the California Writers Club an organization of which we may all be proud. We'll update everyone as we work out solutions and new, innovative ways to support our motto, "writers helping writers." Thanks for being a great part of this wonderful work.

Have a productive and fun-filled Holiday Season!

**Terry**

## Table of Contents

<i>Visual Prompts</i>	1 & 7
<i>October General Meeting</i>	2
<i>President's Message</i>	3
<i>A Word from Our Editor</i>	4
<i>FAW Meetings</i>	5-6
<i>KUDOS – Members' News</i>	7
<i>June Speaker Recap</i>	8-9
<i>FAW &amp; CWC Info</i>	10
<i>SIP Notes</i>	11
<i>Book &amp; Movie Reviews</i>	12
<i>Puzzles &amp; Brainteasers</i>	13
<i>Notes from the World</i>	14-18
<i>Members on Social Media</i>	19
<i>FAW Writers Corner</i>	20-25
<i>FAW Board Members</i>	26
<i>FAW Committee Chairs</i>	27



# A Word from Our Editor



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

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

Just a quick reminder, the new submission deadline for each issue is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the publication month (**October 10<sup>th</sup> for the November issue**). Let me know if you need extra time, and we'll discuss it.

Please keep in mind that word length for creative submissions is 1,000 max. I may make occasional exceptions to this. If it's possible for you to serialize a longer piece, that would be preferable to running a piece that's more than two or three pages long.

In addition to expanding submissions to include photographs, we are also now including artwork submissions. These will function as visual prompts as well as showcasing that we are, in some cases, photographers, artists and illustrators, as well as writers. Please submit photos and artwork as jpeg files.

*Ink Spots* now has a **Table of Contents**, which you'll find on **page 3**.

We hope this helps with navigation through the newsletter and makes it easier for you to find what you seek.

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. Please put the following in the Subject field of your email: **FAW—Submission—Your Name**. This makes it much easier to find your email if I have to go looking for it. Thanks!

I had some software problems in the final stages of preparing this issue that caused unexpected delays. I believe I've figured out what the problem was, but I'm not sure I know how to fix it permanently. If you have experience with MS Word 2010, please check with me, I may need some help with this. Thank you!

*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.  
October 10<sup>th</sup> for the November 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 – October Meetings***

## **Fremont Area Writers**

### **“Fourth Saturday”**

## **Membership Mtg on Zoom**

**Saturday October 23<sup>rd</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: Joan Gelfand, Author and Writing Coach*

*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 October 19<sup>th</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 – October Meetings***

## **Fremont Area Writers**

**“Second Saturday”**

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

**Saturday October 9<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*

## **Fremont Area Writers**

**“Fourth Monday”**

### **Writers’ Salon on Zoom**

**Monday October 25<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 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@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.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 Angelica G. Allen**, whose The New Decade Edition of her Millennial Fiction (sub-genre of Seventh-Day Adventist Christian Fiction) novel, *The Summer of Oh Nine*, is now available for purchase in hardcover online at the **Barnes and Noble website**, and the First Edition of this same novel is available for checkout at the **Fremont Main Library**, the **Union City Library**, and the **Dublin Public Library** of Alameda County Library system. **Congratulations, Angelica!**

**KUDOS to Art Carey**, whose sci-fi short story, "The Black Marble," will appear in **Third Flatiron's** new anthology, *Things with Feathers, Stories of Hope* available on October 15<sup>th</sup>. **Congratulations, Art!**

**KUDOS to Nancy Guarnera**, whose article on Rusty LeGrange, this year's recipient of both the Jack London Award for service to the High Desert branch and the Ina Coolbrith Award for her service to CWC, appeared on the front page of the August issue of the CWC Bulletin. **Congratulations, Nancy!**

**KUDOS to Evelyn LaTorre**, who, on October 5<sup>th</sup>, launched her second book, *Love in Any Language: A Memoir of a Cross-Cultural Marriage*, at the **Towne Center Books in Pleasanton** on Zoom. An article about her new book was published in the September 21<sup>st</sup> issue of the *Tri-city Voice*. **Congratulations, Evelyn!**

**KUDOS to PennyAnne Cole**, who has had three pieces accepted for as many anthologies, they are as follows: a short memoir, "Oakland California to Happy Valley and Back," was accepted for the *Redwood Writers Anthology 2021*, another short memoir, "Turtle Liberation," was accepted by *SF Peninsula* for their *Fault Zone Reversed Anthology 2021*; and a short story, "Night School Outing," was accepted by *Napa Valley Writers* for their *Anthology 2021*. **Congratulations, Penny!**



Visual Prompt



photo by Paul K. Davis

# September Speaker Recap

## WRITING REALISTIC POLICE PROCEDURALS

with

**ADAM PLANTINGA**



On September 25<sup>th</sup>, FAW members spent time with someone who not only writes non-fiction police procedural books, but is also a police officer who both knows and does the job. SFPD Street Sergeant and police procedural author, Adam Plantinga, helped us walk in the shoes of today's police. Love them or hate them, the police do one of our country's most dangerous and demanding jobs. Here are some highlights from the meeting. In today's volatile environment, if you're writing about the police, the job they do, and how they do it, it's especially important to get the details right. **I•S**

**A**dam Plantinga has been in law enforcement for 20 years. Currently, he works out of Mission Station in the Mission District of San Francisco. He's a street sergeant, who finds his work both challenging and fascinating. It was this fascination that motivated his decision to write **400 Things Cops Know**, so that folks who don't know what the job really looks and feels like will have some idea of exactly what goes into policing. It was also an opportunity to pass on to other officers what he's learned along the way.

Published in 2014, his book has been nominated for an Agatha Award, and received the 2015 Silver Falchion Award for best nonfiction crime resource. He's been interviewed on Dr. Phil's podcast, and *The Wall Street Journal* called his book, "The new Bible for crime writers." *The S.F. Chronicle* and *The Boston Globe* both have given it favorable reviews, and the author of the Jack Reacher series, Lee Child, called it, "Truly excellent—a mix of hardboiled autobiography and street-wise poetry."

He grew up in the Midwest; his dad was a minister, his mom a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and his parents raised him to value service to others. From an early age, he wanted to be a police officer; he thought of them as superheroes and knights. As a young adult fresh out of college with an English degree, policing seemed like a good career option. He would be of service by helping people, there'd be interesting experiences to write about, and the adrenaline rush was appealing. With five months of police academy training under his belt, Plantinga spent the next seven years working for the Milwaukee Police Department.

When asked what brought him to California to the SFPD, he smiled and admitted he'd followed the woman he'd fallen in love with when she moved to the West Coast. They are now married, have two young children and a chow puppy. One of his daughters may be following his career path, as not too long ago, she dressed as "a police man girl" for Halloween and carried a set of plastic "hand-cups." He openly shared his life in policing with us and with a fair bit of humor considering the seriousness of his subject.

Plantinga believes policing is "a noble calling, when it's done right." As writers, it's important for us to know the difference between what's right and real, versus what's wrong and ridiculous. While he says "there is occasionally swooping in to save the day," as one might see on TV or in a movie, there's also a fair bit of "stumbling," as well. He estimates that it takes a good five years for an officer to become generally proficient in the job; even then, there's lots more to learn and experience.

In *400 Things Cops Know*, he writes about how auto thieves operate; where drug dealers hide their stashes; and how to tell if someone is carrying a concealed weapon; and that's just *three* of the 400 things cops know.

He shared a story about working undercover for the Vice Department doing prostitution stings. Plantinga suggested that this was not the best undertaking for a minister's son. It turned out that chatting up the ladies of the night was not one of his strengths. Vice did not invite him back, but he says he's content being a street sergeant on patrol.





## September Speaker Recap (continued)

\*\*\*\*\*

While he answered lots of specific questions, he suggested that one great way to find out about policing, besides reading his books, is to talk to cops. He suggested inviting one for coffee and a donut, or even breakfast. Most people enjoy talking about themselves and sharing their stories, police officers are no exception. Or, you can also schedule a ride-along if you're willing to sign a waiver and wear a vest. For the most courageous, some communities have citizen academies that one may attend and are much like the real thing.

He answered a question about differentiating between someone under the influence of drugs and someone with a mental illness, and whether they're treated differently. He explained that because some of the indicators and behaviors are very similar, it can be challenging at times to tell the difference. However, in some jurisdictions once the difference has been established, the mentally ill are processed through a different court, often with different outcomes depending on the crime.

More and more emphasis is being placed on de-escalation now, and many departments have instituted intensive crisis intervention training for their officers. In part, due to the Black Lives Matter movement, it's becoming less acceptable for cops to rush into a situation with guns blazing.

Of course, Plantinga isn't just a police officer...he's an author, too. Without his dogged determination, those of us who would find *400 Things* of great value to our writing would not have had this resource to consult. His journey to publication was not an easy one. After querying 90 agents, with no success, his 91<sup>st</sup> query looked promising, but just didn't come together. The 92<sup>nd</sup> told him the contract was in the mail, but it never arrived and all further attempts to contact that agent went unanswered. Then he met a California State Trooper, who referred him to a small press in Fresno, Linden Publishers, which had published his book. Just like that (90+ queries later), Plantinga found a publisher. Keep his story in mind the next time you receive a few rejection letters...and don't give up. (It's rumored that Plantinga may hold the records for most rejections, as well as, stick-to-itiveness.)

His second book, *Police Craft* (not his first choice for a title), was written mostly on BART, going to and from work. This collection of short essays has chapters on Policing the Community, Special Operations, Predators, Racial Profiling, Use of Force, Homicide, Explosives, K-9, and Swat...and lots of jokes about the rivalry between cops and firefighters.

He shared some marketing tips with us, many of them tried and true, but he did remind us that "sometimes little things can lead to big things," and that "not every contact we make has to be about sales or selling something. Sometimes you actually make a friend." He advises that we remember when we're asking someone for a favor—buy my book, give my book a recommendation or a positive review—we should consider what's the value to them if they help us. If you're asking for someone's support for your writing, be appreciative of their time and assistance, and be generous with your time and support with other writers when they come to you for help.

It's clear that policing, and perhaps writing, as well, is a calling for Plantinga. Though as much as dealing with general felonies (burglaries, robberies, carjacking...), keeps him engaged and busy, "the 14-hour workdays and the Pepto, caffeine pills, and aspirin" he's taken at times are a definite downside. So, too, is his young daughter's observation: "*Daddy, you're always in a rush, and you don't get to spend time with the family.*" It's clear that the sacrifices police officers (and their families) make to serve their communities are great, and often they go unappreciated by the public. Next time you talk to a police officer, thank them for their service, and graciously accept the speeding ticket. **I•S**

*We thank Adam for his service to the community and for sharing his knowledge and experience with us with humor and authenticity, as we pursue our commitment to be "writers helping writers."*

*If you have questions for him, Adam would be happy to hear from you.*

*You can reach him at [adam.plantinga@gmail.com](mailto:adam.plantinga@gmail.com).*

# ***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 — October 23<sup>rd</sup>***

***Our guest speakers will be Joan Gelfand Author & Writing Coach***

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 #43 JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> DIANE MORNINGLIGHT**

## **every living creature breathes the breath of God**

every living creature breathes the breath of God:

the wren, the mouse, the reed, blue flowers and their seed,  
still white cranes reflected in the marshy bay;  
black dancing lambs' ballet; butterflies that breed  
in stately grace, their breath like priests who kneel and pray.

holographic ocean waves contain the whole;  
contemplative lives complete creation's flow;  
mother holds her baby, breathes his scent and soul;  
planets sing harmonic joy, sweet and slow.

this gift, this breath, cradled in bright living grace,  
shimmering creation, exquisite life delight.  
each living being held with love, sustained in place,  
letting self be breathed, offers deep insight:

every living creature breathes the breath of God.

***Diane Morninglight***

**WEEK #44 JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup> TISH DAVIDSON**

## **Juneteenth**

Juneteenth has just passed, and with it becoming a federal holiday, I realized how deficient my education still is about the African American experience. For people my age, all mentions of African Americans in history books stopped after the Civil War. History galloped on to World War I, the Great Depression, and then World War II without a mention of people of color. Maybe college history was more comprehensive, although I will never know. A Medievalist taught the only history class I took in college. We never got beyond the fifteenth century.

Happily, not long ago, my book group read *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson, a book that won the National Book Critics Award in nonfiction. This book changed the way I now think about American History.

The book is the story of the Great Migration of African Americans away from the South. It changed my perspective in two ways. First, I gained tremendous admiration for Wilkerson and the research she did. She managed to find three people from three different decades and economic classes and tell their individual stories of leaving the South for the cities New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. This was an amazing bit of scholarship, complete with documentation, which read like storytelling, not history. I think we would all relate to history more strongly if it told the stories of people, not events.

The second way it changed me was that it brought home, in human terms, just how pervasive and casual racism was in the South. Pervasive, I may have realized, but the casual viciousness of the racism these three people and their families experienced daily was shocking and made me reconsider what I thought I knew about American history.

It is my hope that Juneteenth will do something similar—tell the story of African Americans, their joys and sorrows, and all that their lives have been, to help the rest of us realize how little we know, and ultimately, make us want to know more.

***Tish Davidson***



# 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.)

## Revolutionary Mothers

by Carol Berkin (2005)

This a fascinating journey back to revolutionary days and the unsung women instrumental to the success of the war against Britain. Women who supported the boycott of British goods in opposing the Stamp Act of 1765. They pulled spinning wheels from the attic to relearn the art of home-spun clothes and refrained from drinking British tea. Women who acted as spies and couriers, hiding messages in their petticoats, tearing up and swallowing the message if caught. Women willing to destroy their own homes rather than aid the enemy. This book offers a more complete historical view of life during the American Revolution.

*Review submitted by*  
**Joyce Cortez**

## Dewey

by Vicki Myron with Bret Witter (2008)

This is a tug-at-your-heart, sweet story about a kitten abandoned in a small-town library's book return box.

Dewey Readmore Books becomes the library's ambassador, stealing hearts worldwide. His story is interwoven with the author's as it was in real life. Endearing and humorous, a wonderful weekend read to lift the spirits.

Beware, though; keep some tissues handy for the ending.

*Review submitted by*  
**Joyce Cortez**

**READ MORE BOOKS**

## Quotients

by Tracy O'Neill

O'Neill writes a fascinating story that mirrors our own fractured present, a time when facts reassemble into contrasting truths and truth itself seems a quaint, outdated notion.

The two main characters, Jeremy and Alexandra, carry us on the backs of their relationship from 2005—year of the London train bombings, to 2014, the year Malaysian Airlines flight 370 disappeared—and raise the question of how any love relationship can survive the personal secrets which define its boundaries, let alone cohere in the midst of the complex events, surveillance systems, and the asocial “social” media which surround it.

The very short, sometimes one-page chapters in “Quotient” are grouped into sections, the names of which indicate the plot's development, e.g., Divisor, Dividend... on through Quotients and Remainder. The reader collects fragments, relying on patience for the puzzle's pieces to come together. Some readers will drop away, unwilling to work through confusion created by “facts” that swirl and morph. However, for me, O'Neill's writing is so original, her characters so well drawn, her descriptions so spot-on, that I could not stop reading. Two tiny examples: “Alexandra looked at her mother with the remote control in her lap and the dry, loose gullet.” And, “A gull's cry died in the soar above.”

Yes, we all have encountered similar images evoked by writing. But, have we encountered them in just this way, writing that causes us to pause for a moment in wonder? In sum: Tracy O'Neill will win the prizes; John Grisham will garner the most readers. But, I bet I know which author Ed Snowden is reading!

*Review submitted by*  
**Marie Blanchard**

# 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@cw-fremontareawriters.org** and we'll publish your name. **Deadline** is the 25th of the month before the publication month (ex. *October 25<sup>th</sup> for the November 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 hints, as well.

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

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

**WHO ARE  
THEY?**

**Esher Erobert Wacheti \* Ryum Grem \* Chrylu Ben Friken**

**Glenda Lee Emilen \* Waran Kimt \* Cleo Munt**

**HINTS**

*3 authors, 3 characters, all Americans, 3 men, 3 women,  
an abolitionist, 2 Christians, a science enthusiast, a humorist, a journalist,  
a juvenile delinquent, several movies, controversial subject matter,  
end of the world, 19<sup>th</sup> century, 20<sup>th</sup> century, both 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> centuries*

**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 September 2021 issue of Ink Spots.  
Congrats to Terry & Anita Tosh, and Scott Davidson who sent in their correct answers.*

**PENNY SERTHER**  
**Hester Prynne**

**SARAH C. TARLETO**  
**Scarlet O'Hara**

**JANA BRESKE**  
**Jake Barnes**

**HEATHER NONI WHANTAL**  
**Nathaniel Hawthorne**

**MICHELLE TARTGRAM**  
**Margaret Mitchelle**

**HENRY ST. WINGAMEE**  
**Ernest Hemingway**

*The Scarlet Letter*

*Gone with the Wind*

*The Sun Also Rises*

# Notes from the World

BREW A FEW PINTS OF CLASSIC CRIME

THE Wolfe Pack + Alfred Hitchcock's  
MYSTERY MAGAZINE



## Proudly Announce THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL Black Orchid Novella Award Contest

Each entry must be an original, unpublished work  
of fiction in the traditional deductive style  
exemplified by the Nero Wolfe series that:

- Does not include characters from the original series
- Emphasizes the deductive skills of the sleuth
- Contains no overt sex or violence

★ **First prize:** \$1,000 and publication in Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine\*

Entries must be 15,000 to 20,000 words in length, and must be postmarked by May 31, 2022. The winner will be announced at the Wolfe Pack's Annual Black Orchid Banquet on December 3, 2022. Please visit [www.nerowolfe.org](http://www.nerowolfe.org) for official rules and procedures to submit your novella. With questions, contact Jane K. Cleland: [jane@janecleland.com](mailto:jane@janecleland.com). \*If no acceptable candidates are received, AHMM and The Wolfe Pack reserve the right to declare no winner in any given year.

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## **FREE** Online 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 take you behind the curtain and share her years of experience with writing craft and it's many intricacies, as well as the world of traditional publishing, with its agents, editors and marketing...Oh my!

Sign up in advance at  
**<https://janecleland.com/events>** to register for  
these webinars. You'll receive a link to the work-  
shop shortly before, and on the day of the event.  
Don't miss these...register early.

**Saturday, Oct. 9, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PDT**  
**"Openings that Kill It"** *Three-step process  
to deciding where to start your story*

**Saturday, Nov. 13, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PDT**  
**"Plotting w/ an Unreliable Narrator"**  
*Five types of unreliable narrators*

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 this December. Cleland teaches writing at the university level, and contributes craft articles to **Writers Digest**. She knows her stuff!

**<https://janecleland.com/events/>**

Check out  
**[winningwriters.com](http://winningwriters.com)**  
for contests with big money prizes



# ***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=PLIOByuSHCqP7V9mSsoqU5Fojljs2LsvYi>

**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



# *More Notes from the World*

## 2021 FLASH FICTION POETRY CONTEST

CO-SPONSORED BY

The Fremont Cultural Arts Council & Half Price Books

**SUBJECT:** Any recognized form of poetry, on any subject.

### **RULES:**

- 300 words or less, including title
- 12-point minimum font size
- In English
- Fits on one 8 ½" x 11" paper when printed
- Maximum of three entries per person
- Open to any age and residency
- Author name and contact information on the back of the submission or included on separate sheet.

**Submissions must be received by e-mail or postmarked by midnight, Monday, October 4, 2021.**

**VOTING:** Accepted poems with the poet's name concealed will be posted at Half Price Books on Friday October 8, 2021 through Saturday, October 9, 2021, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Voting will be done by patrons at Half Price Books on October 8 and 9. (no purchase necessary but Half Price Books appreciates your business!) **Voting closes Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm.** Ballots will be available at Flash Fiction Contest table. **Please come to enjoy the poems and vote!**

**WINNERS:** Will be announced **Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. in Half Price Books** and posted on the Fremont Cultural Arts Council website the week following. Contestants do not need to be present to win, but we'd love to congratulate you in person!

**PRIZES:** 1<sup>st</sup> place \$50.00 cash & \$25 HPB gift card; 2nd place \$40.00 cash & \$25 HPB gift card; 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$30.00 cash & \$25 HPB gift card; 4th place \$20.00 cash & \$25 HPB gift card; 5th place \$10.00 cash & \$25 HPB gift card. (Prize amounts may differ in case of ties or other unforeseen circumstances at the discretion of the Fremont Cultural Arts Council Arts Council).

# ***FAW Members on Social Media***

## ● Angelica G. Allen

Angelica is a Seventh-Day Adventist Christian author of **Millennial Fiction and Poetry** books, genres targeted to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to millennials. These SDA Christian genres were created by the Fremont, Bay Area native, and are defined as having Seventh-Day Adventist symbolism, coded languages, lyrical writing, illustrations, and emotional storytelling in her U.S. Copyright. You can learn more about these books on her Website:

**AngelicaGAllen.com** Like her author Facebook page **@AngelicaG.Allen** and follow her on Instagram: **@AngelicaGAllen** where she posts a new poem in her Reels section every Wednesday!

## ● Cherilyn Chin

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

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

<https://wordsmithforwealth.com>

## ● Terry Connelly

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

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

## ● 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 into 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*: <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' CORNER

\*\*\*\*\*

## LAST ROLL OF BREAD

The security guards care more about protecting merchandise than protecting me and my well-being

A human being

*A HUMAN BEING*

My soul is priceless yet

The security guards care more about protecting a machine

A piece of property

*A PIECE OF PROPERTY*

whose owner you will never see

"Security Security"

*Clean up on aisle 920*

*Sweep away and arrest the robbery:*

*A homeless man a human man*

*A VETERAN*

*Stealing for the last roll of toilet paper although he was drafted and died a boy in vietnam*

**@AngelicaGAllen**

*(Angelica G Allen writes Millennial Poetry – a Sub-genre of Seventh-Day Adventist Christian Poetry)*

## THE DREAM

She screamed, I woke.  
Another scream, a third, closer.  
Heart racing, was it me?  
Must have been a dream.

From his side of the bed  
A dark figure rises  
And walks out the door.  
I wait wondering who screamed.

Drifting to sleep I remember  
It couldn't be him.  
He died four years ago.

His kiss, warm, moist, nether region stirring.  
Breath quickens, heart pulses, yearning.  
I wake cold. Dawn rises, empty.  
He's gone.

No one to tell my stories to.  
"I don't think you've heard this one."  
Too late, he's forever gone.

**Jo Ann Frisch**



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

\*\*\*\*\*

### A FISH OUT OF WATER

on day two of the trial  
he reminded me of a fish out of water  
only this was a man  
so I shouted you're killing him  
from the **curb**  
if only my shouts were **heard**  
if only life was **preserved**

America, I am a fish out of water  
trying to breathe underneath a **knee**  
only this is my right  
so I called the police on **police**  
DIALING from the new **century**  
if only my beliefs **mattered**  
if only liberty was not **murdered**

the bag was gasping of air with  
a fish out of water  
there he lay, on top **afloat**  
I caught him while relaxing on my **boat**,  
Memorial day, a smiling **sun**  
dark skins running against no **one**

life was simple  
life was **true**  
until the trial approached day **two**

I did not laugh in the prosecutors face  
defense could not pin anger on **me**  
I am a man too my demeanor replied  
Not a memory not a **testimony**  
  
you honor bear no honor  
Look at my chest,  
near bare and **scared**  
but I am neither here nor am I **there**  
paint this image of my life  
behind glass behind bars  
behind masks behind false **laughs**  
echoing in sirens  
as he lay afloat  
cuffed on a gurney  
cuffed in an **ambulance**  
not in route to the hospital  
does my life not deserve another **chance**

**@AngelicaGAllen**

#### **Halloween-**

Halloween is here  
Superheroes, ghosts and ghouls  
Trick-or-treat for sweets

#### **Holiday-**

Pumpkin spice is nice  
In my coffee and pie slice  
A noise...cold as ice

#### **Four-**

Scratching at my door  
Do I answer...nevermore  
Then...a creaking floor

#### **Pack**

My lights once aglow  
Blink off, on, then off and out  
Halloween makes me scream

**Nancy Guarnera**

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

## When Are You Going to Cry?

*by Robert A. Garfinkle*

The moment I walked through the dead leaves scattered across my front lawn that fall day and entered my home I sensed something amiss. No music. No lights on. No dinner on the table. A cool and foreboding darkness pervaded the house.

"Honey," I called as I set her birthday present on the kitchen table. "Rosey?"

I peered out the kitchen window. Perhaps she was on the back deck tending her flower boxes. Nope. I headed toward the bedroom. As I neared the guest room door, I heard a whimpered "Honey" from within. I opened the door and saw my petite wife, cross-legged on the couch, her head propped up by the flower-print pillow on her lap. Around the edges of it, I could see the opal whiteness of her bare body. A slight breeze puffed the shade away from the window-sill and gently allowed it to thump against the wood ledge behind the couch. In the subdued light, a halo surrounded Rosey's uncombed hair that draped around her angelic oval face. Even in the pale light, I could tell by the frightened expression frozen on her face that her 'little problem' had progressed. I could no longer fool myself into believing she was going to return to normal.

Rosey's doctors had informed us almost two years before that the causes of a breakdown are sometimes hard to determine. During the period when she should have been home raising children, Rosey had put in long stressful hours at her office job. Shortly after her thirty-sixth birthday, I noticed slight changes in her, but nothing that would cause alarm. Her bouncy step gradually evolved into a stooped shuffle, like a person forty years older. The perpetual smile on her lively face disappeared. Her blue eyes lost their sparkle as her body and spirit slumped into a pit of muddled depression. No matter how hard the specialist and I tried, we failed to get Rosey to reveal what caused her such distress.

I guess what shocked me the most was that in the fifteen years I had known her, she had always been the strong and steady one in her family. When her sister had slit her wrists, Rosey had rushed home to assist Julie's recovery. When her mother lost a breast to cancer, Rosey flew to Chicago to console and nurse her back to mental and physical health. I did not have to think long about who was going to come here to help Rosey, because he was already standing in the guest room doorway.

Rosey glanced up at me, lowered her head, and timidly held out her hands.

What I grasped were cold and clammy. I had become accustomed to the coldness, but this time they felt like she had just taken them out of the freezer. I kissed one, then tenderly rubbed it with my fingertips. I lifted her chin and softly asked, "What's happening? What're you going through right now?"

She had heard those questions so many times before—she just shook her head. "Nothing?" I asked.



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

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The corners of the delicate mouth curled down. Her cheeks contorted into an embryonic cry, but her eyes refused to cooperate.

"Let it out." I comfortingly patted her head. "Don't hold back."

In the frailest voice I had ever heard, she said, "I can't." As though weak with fatigue, her whole body shook. "I can't do it."

I put my ear next to her lips, so I could hear better.

"I've been trying all day." She sucked in two shallow breathes. "It hurts."

"Where?"

Her lips quivered. Her glassy eyes drifted from side to side like those of a black cat pendulum clock. After a moment, she held out her hands, palms up.

I touched her palms. "Here?"

"My wrists."

"I don't see anything, Rosey."

"They hurt. Believe me. They hurt," she pleaded in a clear, yet weak voice.

"I believe you." I sat next to Rosey, pulling her close. I remember the lightness of her head as she rested it against my shoulder. In my attempt to soothe her, I said, "I'm sorry they hurt. Just because Julie cut hers doesn't mean you're going to do the same thing. Your wrists look fine." I pretended to be a doctor performing an examination. I held them up to her. "See. No cuts. You believe me now?"

She shook her head. Again, her face twisted into a dry cry.

"When are you going to cry?" I shouted and pushed her hands into her lap. "You've got to let go and start telling me what's wrong with you. You scare me when you act like this."

"I want to, but Daddy'll be mad at me." Her voice reminded me of a plaintive, wailing five-year-old.

"Your daddy can't hurt you anymore. He went far, far away, so you can tell me. He'll never know." I began to feel like I was talking to a five-year-old.

"I'm sorry for what I did, Daddy. Don't get mad at me. Please."

Her continued child-like talk frightened me. Again, I groped for a way to help her overcome her delusions—get her back to realize she was nearing forty, not regressing toward her own birth. She babbled a few incoherent baby sentences, then stopped and shivered. I put my arm around her and held on as tightly as I could. I felt the frailness of her body and wanted to cry out for her but restrained myself. One of us had to remain strong.





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

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A few minutes with her head resting on my shoulder, I heard her breathing in the steady, slow rhythm of sleep. Carefully, I lowered her so that she was lying on the couch. But she needed a blanket. Standing at the linen closet, I could see into the bathroom through the slightly open door. Reflected in the mirror, I saw her lying in the bathtub, her head resting against the tub rim. One hand hung limply over the side of the red-stained porcelain and blood had flowed onto the floor. "What in God's name...?" I shoved the door open and stared in wide-eyed total disbelief. A veiling of fluid that should have been inside Rosey coated her body. For a moment, all I could mutter was, "No. This can't be happening...."

I touched her to reassure myself that what I saw in the tub was really my wife, not a hallucination. Her arm was stiff and cold. Coagulated blood had pooled in the cup her hand had formed as the muscles contracted in death. I suddenly realized something that terrified me like nothing ever before, or since. If Rosey was really there with me, then who, or what, was I talking to in the guest room?

I dashed back to see and found an empty couch, except for a pale pink rose with large porcelain-like petals. The flower lay where her head had been. I thrust my fist to my mouth and stood motionless for a moment. My heart was thrumming in my temples, as though it had risen to my head. Carefully, I stepped to the couch and picked up the flower. Its intense coldness stung my fingers. I dropped it. Like my life, the pink rose shattered on the hardwood.

It has taken me several years to get over losing Rosey, but tomorrow, her birthday, another rose will appear on the guest room couch, and I'll have her back again, if only for a few moments.

Maybe then, I'll cry.

## **My First Paying Jobs**

**by Terry Connelly**

As a fourteen-year-old, back in the mid-sixties, I was expected to babysit. Considering that we lived out in the country, there were few options for any young person, let alone a girl. It wasn't what I wanted to do but when my parents told me to do something, I had no choice.

My parents found me my first job. A family up the street from us had a baby. They needed a babysitter and I was volunteered. It made no difference that I knew nothing about babies: they hired me anyway. After a quick tour of the boy's room, the parents left. As instructed, I fed him a bottle. Thankfully, that went okay. Shortly, thereafter, however, things went wrong.

The stink began accompanied by a series of ominous-sounding gurgles. I understood that I had to change his diaper, so I toted him into his room and placed him on the changing table. When I undid the diaper, urine shot into the air. I covered him up, waited, then pulled the diaper away.



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

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More urine! And more. When I figured he was finished, I tackled the bigger issue, the poop. It was awful. And, like the urine, just as I got him cleaned up and a new diaper in place, he squirted out more. And more and more until I'd used up every diaper.

Those parents never hired me again.

My next job had a much better beginning. The kids were in bed when I arrived. I was allowed to watch the color TV, something we didn't have at home. The one problem was that the only programs I could find were horror shows. Every little creak of the house and scrape of a branch terrified me. I called home and begged my dad to come rescue me. They never asked me to come back.

I met a mother when out delivering papers who asked me to sit her three boys. Her regular sitter wasn't available. I was too inexperienced to understand the coded message. The boys were perfect angels until the parents left. All hell broke loose! They refused to comply with anything I told them to do. They threw food, stripped, and then ran around the house. When I finally got them into the bath, they splashed water all over the floor, making huge puddles that later I had to sop up. The boys were still up, well past bedtime, when the parents returned. I refused any future job offers.

My last assignment was with a sweet toddler. She was easy to take care of and did everything I asked. She fell asleep almost as soon as I got her in bed. The parents had given me another job: ironing. They had an entire basket full of clothes that were badly wrinkled. I finished around eleven, the time the parents were supposed to have returned.

I turned on the TV and tried to stay awake, but I was exhausted. I woke up with the father looming over me with a scowl on his face. He drove me home without a word until it was time to pay. Instead of giving me the agreed-upon amount, he shorted me by about five dollars, a huge difference in those days. And he never said thanks, even though I had done everything they asked.

That ended my career as a babysitter.

*(from a September Social Write-in prompt)*

### **The Night Watch** The Night Watch

Gloaming's last rays fade  
Dark watchers of the night wait  
Dinner swims below

**Nancy Guarnera**



Haiku inspired by visual prompt photo by Terry Tosh

# ***FAW Board Members***



**TERRY TOSH**  
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toshmanii@yahoo.com



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Vice President



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## **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@cwc-fremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cwc-fremontareawriters.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*)