



Ink Spots



The Newsletter of Fremont Area Writers

The "Centennial" Branch of the California Writers Club

Nancy Guarnera Editor-in-Chief Vol. 114 November 2021 inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org

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

Happy Thanksgiving!



Visual Prompt

"Harvest" artwork by Jo Ann Frisch

November General Meeting

* November 27th * 2 to 4 PM * Zoom *

Children's Author,
Illustrator, Graphic Designer

TOM ROMANO

submitted by Knuti VanHoven

Tom Romano is our speaker for November. He writes children's books about endangered species, most recently, one is about a little girl, and I mean little! Her name is Lil' Oriole, she's six inches tall and flies on the backs of birds to meet and learn about endangered animals and the things they must do to survive. It's a very creative way to mix real information with whimsy. He writes books on the craft of writing, as well.

Tom, like many of us, hasn't managed to find an agent to represent him. Instead, all five of his books have been direct deals with publishers. How did he manage this? Come to our next meeting, November 27th, where he'll tell you all about it.

Like many of the writers I talk to for these FAW appearances Tom is very modest. Even though he's done many presentations for his main outlet, Barnes and Noble, he wasn't sure we'd like him.

When I told him the date of our November meeting, he demurred...because he's going to be in New York City that week. His publisher is currently hiring a full cast of actors, and that week they'll do the first promotional recording of Tom's new play, which is based on the true story of a Lutheran clergyman who became involved in the WWII plot (known as "Valkyrie") to assassinate Adolph Hitler.

He didn't think I'd be interested in that, but, of course, I was!

I was also interested in his pathway to writing. By training, Tom is a graphic artist who has done everything from zoo brochures to illustrations and book cover art.

He lives in Ashland, Oregon, and loves the outdoors. He's concerned about the plights of endangered species. When he realized that there was a way he might be able to help, his children's book concepts were born. Lil' Oriole is the most recent.

It's all been ambitious work to create and even more to sell these projects. How did he do it? He's a man with stories to tell.

To hear them, join us next month at 1:50pm, on Saturday, November 27th, to meet Tom Romano. The meeting starts at 2:00pm. Please connect to Zoom at least 10 minutes early. For a link to the Zoom meeting, email scottfrombayside@yahoo.com.

The meeting's **FREE** and open to those who want to improve their own writing or help others with theirs.



Lil' Oriole
romangraphics.net



TERRY TOSH
FAW President

President's Message

I thought it would be interesting to reprint my faux message from last year as a Pre-Ramble of my actual message...

FAW November 2021 President's Message (written in 2020)

Wow, looking back to the great Shut-in of 2020, it's hard to believe we've come so far and endured so many changes in such a short time!

I was just reviewing the minutes from our last holographic virtual board meeting, held last month at the Taj Mahal, since we can go virtually anywhere now that we have the technology to travel via Virtu-view personal Holographic live meeting program.

The upcoming December Holiday Virtu-view Party will be held at the North Pole this year. Santa's got a wonderful room all ready for our special usage!

Who knew that our little Zoom meeting would literally zoom so fast into the future that we'd be here at this stage of modern living so quickly!

Any day now, we should hear from our technology guru, Scott, about the next phase of our world tour plans for all of our successful authors, via the World Virtu-Cruise line itinerary for the 2022 season. We are looking forward to all of our Book signing locations around the world, as we visit every major city in every country during our month-long trip!

What a wonderful catalyst the COVID19 pandemic turned out to be for work from home creative minds! Who knew so much work could be accomplished in a much shorter workweek that every person now has 8 weeks of paid time off, and we can Virtu-travel anywhere we want worldwide for pennies on the dollar, and are now able to interact with people in 3-D and even touch and hug without the fear of germs! Who'd have believed this?

Now for reality:

Fast forward to the actual November of 2021 and here we are still dilly-dallying with this thing!

At least we are in the process of looking for a facility in which the brave warriors can once again meet in the flesh, albeit masked and social-distanced. Sigh...

Oh, well, life must go on, one way or another. People still need to read, even more so with the need to keep at least our minds exercised.

(continued on page 7)

Table of Contents

<i>Visual Prompts</i>	1, 12, 20
<i>November's Speaker</i>	2
<i>President's Message</i>	3 & 7
<i>A Word from Our Editor</i>	4
<i>FAW Meetings</i>	5-6
<i>KUDOS – Members' News</i>	7
<i>October Speaker Recap</i>	8-9
<i>FAW & CWC Info</i>	10-11
<i>SIP Notes</i>	12
<i>Book & Movie Reviews</i>	13
<i>Puzzles & Brainteasers</i>	14
<i>Notes from the World</i>	15-18
<i>Writing Craft Article</i>	19-20
<i>Members on Social Media</i>	21
<i>FAW Writers Corner</i>	22-28
<i>FAW Board Members</i>	29
<i>FAW Committee Chairs</i>	30



A Word from Our Editor



Nancy Guarnera
Editor-in-Chief *Ink Spots*

Welcome to our November 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 10th of the month preceding the publication month (**November 10th for the December 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. 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 and 300 dpi.

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

Keep in mind that our next issue is our "holiday issue" and creative works about Christmas, the Winter Solstice, Hanukkah, Yule, Kwanzaa, Bodhi Day, and Human Rights Day are encouraged and welcome. We also remember Pearl Harbor in December. There's a lot to write about; and non-holiday stuff is good, too! Please, share your writing with us. Help make this newsletter something we all want to read.

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. 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 10th of the month prior to the publication month unless otherwise arranged.
November 10th for the December 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 & Artwork** – JPEG format and 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 – November Meetings

Fremont Area Writers

“Fourth Saturday”

Membership Mtg on Zoom

Saturday November 27th 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: Tom Romano, Author & Artist/Illustrator

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

Fremont Area Writers

“Tuesday before 4th Saturday”

Board Meeting on Zoom

Tuesday November 23rd 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 – November Meetings

Fremont Area Writers

“Second Saturday”

Social Write-In on Zoom

Saturday November 13th 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 November 22nd 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@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 Terry Connelly, whose short story "Swept Away" was chosen for publication in the 2021 CWC Literary Review. **Congratulations Terry C.**

KUDOS to Pat Doyne, whose poem "Bang!" was chosen for publication in the 2021 CWC Literary Review, and another poem, "Delilah and the Game-Changing Haircut" has been accepted by the High Desert Branch of CWC for their anthology on women in the Bible. Nine more of her poems will be published in **Everything Has Its Place, Vol.4**, which should be available on Amazon next month. In addition, one of her poems published in **Synchronized Chaos**, "The Great Wave Off Kanegawa," was nominated for Sundress Publication's "Best of the Net 2021."

At the **Adobe Gallery in Castro Valley**, Pat's had one watercolor featured in the exhibit "Art on the Rebound," which just ended. You can view the "Rebound" exhibit at the website artinc.org. In addition, she has a solo exhibit of watercolors and colored pencil works at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts, from now through December. Two more of her watercolors will be shown at the Lindsay Dirkx Brown Gallery in San Ramon's Community Center from Nov. to Dec. 2021. The gallery is located at the corner of Alcosta Blvd. and Bollinger Canyon Road. More of her works are viewable at sfbotanicalartists.com/pat-doyne. **Congratulations, Pat!**

KUDOS to Jo Ann Frisch, who has two art pieces in the **National League of American Pen Women** show (Nov. to Dec. 2021) at the Lindsay Dirkx Brown Gallery, in the San Ramon Community Center, 12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon, CA 94583, (925) 973-2500. The pieces are a watercolor painting: *A New Day Together*, and a pastel piece: called *Night Owl*. The public is invited. **Congratulations, Jo Ann!**

KUDOS to Anita Tosh, whose having fun with **matchmaker.fm**, the website that connects authors with podcasters and radio hosts who need people to interview (they're looking for you, book authors). In September, Anita had three radio / podcast interviews and in October, she had four. She's noticed visits to her website and book sales have both increased dramatically since doing these. If you have a published book, she recommends this as a great way to get your story out there where people can hear it. Another plus, it's free. **Congratulations, Anita!**

KUDOS to Terry Tosh, whose poem "From the Sixties to the Sixties" was chosen for publication in the 2021 CWC Literary Review. **Congratulations Terry T.**

(President's Message: continued from page 3)

There's lots happening out in the open-air world, judging by the increasing traffic congestion and hustle-bustle.

Personally, I was never sidetracked much, as I experienced COVID in the earlier days and survived without medical assistance and the fear-factor. I did give blood later at the Red Cross, and was confirmed to have antibodies added to my natural immune system. Thank You, God!

At 66, I still work part time, ride my bicycle, and keep active. I refuse to let fear torture my mind.

We were blessed as a group to have many great zoom sessions this year. I, as well, was extra blessed to have meetings with CWC board and separately with the other Presidents from across the state! There's a lot of good momentum going on to usher our Club into the next level of excellence.

Thanks to everyone who volunteers in our branch for helping to keep it afloat and energized. We could use more help from those that haven't yet stepped out and given it a shot, as I truly believe you can do it. You can really help our whole state club to blossom and grow while you do the same.

Give it a try, lots of potential things to be tried. Even if you don't find one that fits you, we are always open for new ideas, using skills you may already possess!

Here's to a bright Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday. I hope that we will have an opportunity at least to gather for a social event in early days of December. Watch for more to come on that.

I love and appreciate you everyone!

Terry

October Speaker Recap

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

with

JOAN GELFAND



As writers, we each experience challenges to our work process. Our October speaker, Joan Gelfand, poet, author and writing coach knows this and contends that these challenges tend to fall into one of four different categories, what she calls **The 4 C's**. These are **craft, commitment, community, and confidence**.

As a writing coach, Joan devotes herself to helping writers succeed in achieving their individual goals. To do this, she needs to know about the writing life of her clients. She needs to know what their goals are and what issues they are having in achieving them. Knowing this, it wasn't a surprise when she started her presentation with a request: *"Tell me about your writing life. What are your accomplishments; what are you working on; what problems are you having with your writing; and what are your goals?"*

Members at the meeting shared their answers to her questions. As we went around the Zoom, it became clear that most, if not all of our issues fit into one of the 4C's categories. Plotting, character development, rhythm, and pacing are Craft issues. After hearing about our many accomplishments, Joan decided to skip a discussion of Craft for this presentation.

Multiple unfinished works in various stages of development... "How do I decide which to work on first and finish with the intent to publish?" is an issue with Commitment. Joan advises that we identify our goals, commit to a plan to achieve them, and stick with the plan. Choose an individual strategy that will work for you. If you're working in several different genres, and your goal is to publish and sell your work, choose the most salable genre. "The first book is always the hardest. Once you get the first one done and sold, and your promotion process down, you know what works, and the second is much easier." Not only will it make it easier to commit next time, it builds confidence, so there will be a next time.

"I feel like I'm working in a vacuum. I've written and rewritten so many times, I can't tell anymore if what I have is any good." This is about building community, Joan explained, and was pleased that we have FAW, CWC and our various critique groups to support us. Building community for promoting your work, once it's published, is the other part of the third C. Writing is an individual process, which can lead to isolation. But it helps to have a critique group or a writing partner, or a coach to give you feedback and encouragement when you need it.

The first three "C's" working together can help with the final "C" — Confidence. This is about taking a step outside your comfort zone. That first step often gives you just enough confidence to take a few more steps, and soon you're moving toward your goals with so much confidence that you can't imagine ever wondering if you have what it takes to be writer. Instead of folding after your first rejection letter, you can't wait for the next, so you can yell, "Next!" Sometimes it can take more than 100 rejections to find the right



September Speaker Recap (continued)

(continued from previous page)

agent/editor/publisher who's looking for you and your book (remember Adam Plantinga's search for a publisher...). Sometimes these letters have information in them that can help improve your work, as well.

To help build confidence in promoting ourselves, which we must do if we want to sell our work, Joan emphasized creating your writer's resume. "Every writer should have this." It should include your published works, your associations and memberships (CWC and FAW, etc.), and volunteer experience—supporting others—in the world of writing. Getting reviews of your book is essential to selling your work, especially if you've self-published or used a small or hybrid publisher. There are websites you can use to assist in getting your work "likes" and reviews. While it may have once been true that Amazon only promoted your books if you had 5 star reviews, Joan suggested that the company is now suspicious of nothing but five star reviews. The trick to being noticed by Amazon is to break the 50, 100 and 500 reviews marks. Once you've achieved a specific number of these, Amazon will start "serving" your books to their customers. She's seen this happen with her own books, when they are sharing space with Steven King's books.

Another of Joan's musts: reading and reviewing our colleagues' books. "Liking" their work on social media, recommending them to our "followers" and giving them good reviews on Amazon, Goodreads, Linked-in, and other platforms. Remember that the big publishers always check writers' numbers, looking for the next NYT best seller. If they see you're being read and selling your books on your own, you've got a foot in the door. This is why promoting your work is so important...if you want to make money with your writing.

Someone asked Joan about writers' block and what she would suggest to combat it. "I believe in supporting writers, not finding fault with them." She encouraged us not to feel guilty about not writing, but did give us a few suggestions. One, sit at your computer for 10 minutes each day and wait. You may find that 10 minutes leads to an hour of writing. If not don't worry about it and certainly don't shame yourself.

If you're working on a long piece, and you're blocked, put it aside and choose something smaller to work on...like a review. Magazines are hungry for these and will pay for them. Write a poem or a short story, something that takes less time, but gets you writing. A short story starring one of your novel's secondary or minor characters might give you ideas for additional longer projects, or even encourage you back to your blocked project. Figure out what works for you. Don't forget, you can always go for a walk....

One last word of encouragement from her, "Never forget to make notes of your good ideas," these may be your future big projects-in-waiting!

You can learn more about Joan Gelfand by going to her website joangelfand.com. (T•S)



NA*NO*WRI*MO

November is

National Novel Writing Month

People all over the world are writing novels this month. Let's join them!

For more details and to get in on the action, go to nanowrimo.org.

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 — November 27th

Guest speaker: Tom Romano—Children's Author, Illustrator & Graphic Designer

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 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/>

Important CWC Information:

— PLEASE READ —

High Desert — CWC **Free** Workshop

Mastering Meetup.com & Other Tips for Club Growth

The methods for reaching today's socially conscious and tech-savvy audience may require different steps than things that worked in the past. Does your CWC Branch have a **MeetUp.com** account or have you been considering one? What outreach changes have you made during the pandemic?

Whether you are a branch organizer or a writer, if you want to know more about reaching a wider audience, ***join us on Zoom for an interview with a marketing professional on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 6pm.*** We have arranged for this expert to share his insider knowledge and guide us toward success in this format designed to increase your branch membership.

Brian Gaps is the CWC branch president and 2021 Jack London recipient for Orange County. He will share techniques used to grow club membership in a year in which most branches lost members. Equally vital to the future success of the club is that the new member's average age is an estimated 25 years younger than the club's traditional membership.

The OC club's Meetup.com group exceeds 900 members and email guest list has climbed toward 200 opt-in subscribers converted from social media platforms. Average Zoom attendance consistently meets or exceeds pre-pandemic live audience sizes.

Brian is currently a senior copywriter working in the advertising and marketing industry. He is a former partner at a boutique digital agency and co-hosted a marketing radio show on KLAA AM830. He taught an 11-year-old how to build a YouTube channel that has reached over 50 million views.

Statewide CWC president, Roger Lubeck, observed during the recent Jack London Awards ceremony, "This is the guy other branches should listen to."

The High Desert CWC (HDCWC) will present this event at no charge to CWC members wishing to attend.

Visit **www.hdcwc.com** for more information and the link to this program. You may also sign on with this link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86220784034?pwd=TThCMWhyc0FYbjRid1JmUnZiWit6Zz09>

Meeting ID: 862 2078 4034

Passcode: 375034

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,86220784034#,,,,*375034# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,86220784034#,,,,*375034# US (Tacoma)

Your Bi-Weekly SIP NOTES

WEEK #45 JULY 17TH GEORGE KWONG

Bittersweet

I was asked today how my year was.
Surprisingly I couldn't answer right off
You would think having just a few days left of school,
I would have a quick, ready response.

Unprecedented could be one word
Never imagined that I would be distance teaching
And virtual learning as well
An unplanned journey.

Revitalized could be another word
No paper copies, what!
Had to become a technology-based teacher
Not something I am good at - yet.

Overwhelmed is a rather strong word
Inundated might be softer
I found my buoyancy
Partially submerged but floating still.

Doubts often clouded my mind
Is what I am doing enough?
Will they be able to learn this way?
Am I a good enough teacher?

Disappointed is a feeling that I have
Not necessarily in my students
Not necessarily in myself
Just the overall ness of everything

Emotions oscillated,
happy one moment, sad the next
Mostly kept under control
But with extreme duress.

Exposed would be another descriptor
I cannot hide my color
They don't know that I am a teacher
All they see is Asian.

Shrouded are my students
Hidden behind a dark Zoom cloud
Unseen voices heard
But personal connections were obstructed.

Hopeful that this year meant something
Both academically and personally
That it's just a speed-bump
On the fast track to success.

Uneven - even now
As I try to write this
A bit unbalanced
Scale keeps tipping.

Drained and somewhat depleted
Don't want to run on idle
Or staying parked
I need a clutch play.

Nostalgic, poignant, sentimental
Impressed, plaintive, compassionate
Understanding, forgiving, high expectations

My answer - bittersweet.

George Kwong

Visual Prompt

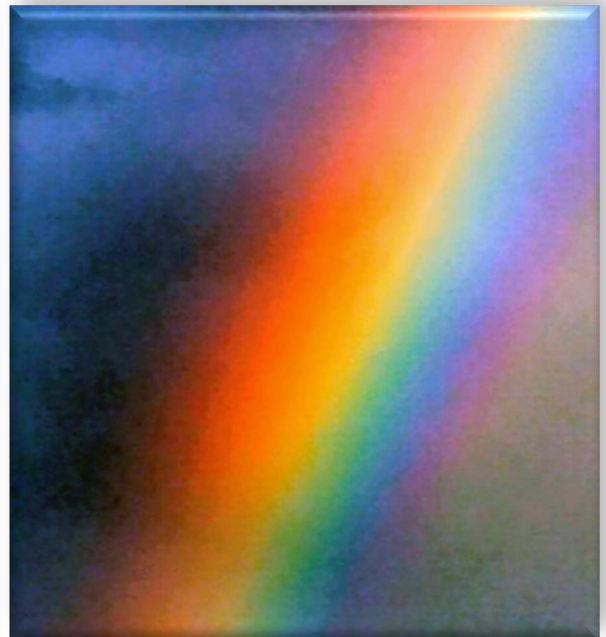


photo by nguarnera

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.)

Undaunted

by John O. Brennan (2020)

In *Undaunted*, by John O. Brennan we gain a deeper understanding of the man and the office of Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Brennan's career spanned the administrations of Jimmy Carter to Barack Obama.

He wrote this memoir to share his experiences and perspectives on the fascinating and often mysterious world of national security and to correct some of the mischaracterizations and falsehoods that have been propagated over the years—about the CIA, the national security community, and individual government officials, including him.

He provides insights into episodes of our history, such as his time in the newly-formed Counterterrorism Center during Operation Desert Storm, the inside scoop on targeting Osama Bin Laden, and the controversy of enhanced interrogation techniques used at Guantánamo Bay and the subsequent formal investigation. Brennan seems to provide an honest self-assessment and an open opinion of others he interacted with during his service.

An enjoyable read, I found this book most enlightening.

Review submitted by
Joyce Cortez

READ MORE BOOKS
WRITE MORE BOOKS

Battlegrounds:

The Fight to Defend the Free World

by H.R. McMaster (2020)

Battlegrounds: The Fight to Defend the Free World, by H.R. McMaster, is a thoughtful insight into international relations between the United States and other nations, broken into sections, by country.

McMaster looks at Russia, China, South Asia, the Middle East, Iran, and North Korea. He provides a history of each country's politics and international dealings, particularly with the United States.

I found the history interesting, but sometimes difficult to follow, much less remember, in part due to my unfamiliarity with the foreign names. He looks at past and current policy, what worked, and failures due to "Strategic Narcissism." He offers his opinion on the best way to work with those countries in the future.

I found this a slow, often difficult read, but well worth the effort in reaching the concluding chapter. I learned to skim through much of the history, picking out the main points, and to overlook the points he repeats to drill home his messages. A book best suited to world history buffs and as a reference to current events that pop up to better understand international issues.

Review submitted by
Joyce Cortez

READ MORE BOOKS
WRITE MORE REVIEWS

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. *November 25th for the December 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 December issue of Ink Spots.)

WHO ARE
THEY?

Vally Phista * Salim Tacoy Utola * Achome Phines, Jr

Ronn H. Notjoth * Rose Gothe Redwen * Nojoc Knald

HINTS

3 authors, 3 characters, 2 men, 4 women, 3 American authors, first American novelist to become an international celebrity, poet who wrote one novel, an abolitionist / feminist / transcendentalist, movies / play / TV, buried in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, suffered from depression, part of “The Crowd,” 19th century, 20th century, 19th & 20th century cross-over

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 October 2021 issue of Ink Spots.

Congrats to Terry & Anita Tosh and Steve Gibson (our proofreader) who sent in their correct answers.

RYUM GREM
Meg Murry

CHRYLU BEN FRIKEN
Huckleberry Finn

CLEO MUNT
Uncle Tom

MICHELLE TARTGRAM
Madeleine L'Engle

WARAN KIMT
Mark Twain

ESHER EROBERT WACHETI
Harriet Beecher Stowe

A Winkle in Time

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Uncle Tom's Cabin

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 for official rules and procedures to submit your novella. With questions, contact Jane K. Cleland: 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 its many intricacies, as well as the world of traditional publishing, with its agents, editors and publishers...Oh my!

Sign up in advance at

<https://janecleland.com/events> to register for these webinars. You'll receive a link to the workshop shortly before, and on the day of the event. Don't miss these...register early.

Saturday, Nov. 13, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT
"Plotting w/ an Unreliable Narrator"

Five types of unreliable narrators

Saturday, Dec. 11, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT
**"Writing Characters that Resonate
w/ Emotional Truth"**

Creating relatable characters

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 14th 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

for contests with big money prizes

More Notes from the World

CWC Redwood Writers Poetry Contest

Open to all CWC Members

Deadline: December 15th 2021

Winners receive cash prizes and be published online and featured in the 2022 Redwood Writers Poetry Anthology, *Crossroads*

For details go to redwoodwriters.org and click on the Submissions for Poetry Contest box.

Narrative

Contest Deadlines in November 2021

Fall 2021 Story Contest — Deadline: November 30th

To submit: www.narrativemagazine.com/fall-2021-story-contest

Below 30 Contest (ages 18-30) — Deadline: November 19th

To submit: www.narrativemagazine.com/30-below-2021

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

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

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

Poets & Writers. Website. Searchable contest database with filters for cost, genre and deadline. 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.

The Writer. Website and free newsletter. Listing of mostly pay-to-enter contests. 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

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

FREE Online Workshops

scriptwriters check out
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

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

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

4TH 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

Writing - Editing - Publishing

DOES MY BOOK REALLY NEED EDITING?

submitted by Anita Tosh

Hello my fellow FAW writers. I wanted to pass along some editing services that have been helpful to me. The short answer to the above question is YES. You better believe it. It doesn't matter if you are a great speller or the worst. We are all human and make mistakes.

Having your friend or family member check your book is not the same thing. I had five great readers go through my first book— before I learned about editing—and it still has so many errors! Proper editing puts the professional shine on your book.

Editing can get costly, so, shop around. Here are some places you can find editors at reasonable prices.

Fiverr.com

Prices begin at \$5, but don't expect to find editing at that price. Look for an editor who does the particular kind of editing you need.

Bookbaby.com

They offer many services: Every kind of edit plus artwork for your cover, publishing, and distribution. You can pick and choose or get a package deal. If your book is already edited, you can get it published for around \$2400. Editing depends on the length of your manuscript. Each edit is generally \$2000 to \$5000 or more depending on word count.

Reedsy.com

This is a great resource for anything an author may be looking for to get your book ready for publication. The cool thing about Reedsy is each person offering to work for you has their resume, experience, and rating right there for you to see. You can contact up to five for a job and compare things like pricing and availability before choosing the one you want to work with.

Reedsy also offers free workshops on many writing topics.

EDITING DETAILS

Not all companies or editors call edits by the same name.

1) Developmental or Content Editing

This may have another name, but it's the first step in the editing process. This looks at the whole story.

In this edit, you may be encouraged to delete whole scenes, even whole chapters. This edit is first, because you pay for edits by word count and you don't want to pay for a scene to be copy or line edited and then find out it should have been cut.

This edit also deals with structure, content, story arc, and logical flow. If your story has holes in it or details in chapter 13 contradict chapter 4, your Developmental Editor should find it.



Writing - Editing - Publishing

(continued from previous page)

2) Line or Copy Editing

Once your story has been whittled down and put in a reasonable order, your next edit will look at it line by line to check for grammar, spelling, punctuation, and even word choice. Maybe you used a word five times on one page. Or maybe the word used is confusing and needs clarification. This is the picky part of the editing.

Sometimes these services are cut up in different ways. For example, Reedsy offers:

Editorial Assessment

Developmental Editing

Copy Editing

Proofreading

These are four separate edits, and you pay for each one by word count.

I hope this helps to clarify the editing part of book preparation.

Happy Writing!

Anita

Visual Prompt



"Big Love" photo by Paul K. Davis

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 **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** 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

George Kwong writes plays to use as teaching tools for his students. This is a recent one from the last school year. His students performed it in class on Zoom. The subject was idioms, and Among Us was the most popular video game at the time.

WHAT'S THE CODE?

by George Kwong

Background:

It's the new year but it's just like the year before. On March 13, 2020, Schafer Park became a distance learning school. Who would have believed at that time that we would have started the 2020 - 2021 school year exactly the way the last one ended. Here we are in distance, virtual, off-campus, at-home, (you get the idea) learning.

Scene 1:

Narrator: Students are lolling around in the Zoom waiting room. When will Mr. Kwong let us in? Why hasn't he admitted everyone?

Emmanuel: Finally, Mr. Kwong. Let's **cut to the chase**, what took you so long?

Allison: I was waiting so long. You need to **get your act together**.

Jamileth: We should **give him some slack**.

Kaily: We're in class, yet his screen is **black as a stack of black cats**.

Leonardo: Kaily, you **hit the nail on the head** - Mr. Kwong, are you there?

Susan: Maybe, he wants us **to get a taste of our own medicine**.

Julian: You're beginning to **scare the living daylights out of me!**
(starts to weep) I need a tissue. Does anyone have a tissue?

Scene 2:

Narrator: It's now 9:30 am and the rest of the class is joining in the morning Zoom session.

Makena: The ELD lessons are **as easy as ABC**.

Julian: Why would you say that? You're **barking up the wrong tree**.



FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

(continued from previous page)

Leonardo: How did you guys get into the Zoom session? I think we're **in hot water**.

Aurora: Why do you say that? **Spill the beans!**

Emmanuel: We've been in class for 30 minutes and we haven't seen Mr. Kwong yet. It's like **Elvis has left the building**.

Roberto: Hasn't he said anything? Is he **giving us the cold shoulder**?

Mr. Kwong: Welcome everyone to another day. It's **down to the wire** for your explorer reports and presentations.

Jesse: **Top of the morning** to you!

Mr. Kwong: **And the rest of the day** to you!

Julissa: Your camera isn't on. You always **cut a dash**.

Liliana: What does that mean? It's as **clear as mud**.

Victor: Can we **cut with** the idioms?

Sean: Not when you're **a cut above**!

Mr. Kwong: Thanks Sean. **Birds of a feather flock together**.

Katelynn: Mr. Kwong, let's **cut a deal**. Stop with the idioms!

Lindsey: I agree. I am **not cut out for this**!

Alecia: No. Keep going. **I'm game**.

Hailie: I think I am going **to cut class** today.

Emma: Why! You can't **cut the mustard**!

Tysell: Everyone, **cut it out**!

Isaac: We can't **cut corners** if we want to learn.

Emely: Let us all **cut our losses** and move on.

Zoe: Oops! I think I just **cut one loose**.

Dustin: I think I just **cut the cheese**, too.

Katalina: I'm late. **What's cutting**?



FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

(continued from previous page)

Luis: It's like we're all **cut from the same cloth**.

Alex: I hope that I **make the cut**.

Daisie: Hey, it **cuts both ways**.

Ivan: I am going **to cut in**.

Mr. Kwong: I think I am going **to cut up!**

Scene 3:

Narrator: Class continued - during the breakout rooms when students were supposed to discuss dividing fractions.

Emma: Why hasn't Mr. Kwong turned on his camera? It's **an enigma**.

Katelynn: It's **a hard nut to crack**.

Tysell: Be careful what you wish for. **Curiosity killed the cat**.

Dustin: Ivan, what do you think? **Cat got your tongue?**

Ivan: **My lips are sealed**.

Narrator: In another breakout room, same type of conversation.

Julian: I don't get it. That's **the last straw**.

Roberto: What do you mean? He's trying to **keep us in the dark**.

Jamileth: I **heard on the grapevine** but don't know if it's true.

Emely: So you're going to **let the cat out of the bag?**

Aurora: Hurry before Mr. Kwong joins our breakout room,
dish the dirt!

Mr. Kwong: How is everything going? (just joins the breakout room)
He's **like a fly on the wall**.

Julian: (trying not **to give the game away**). We're stuck on problem 5.

Scene 4:

Narrator: It's break time - everyone is excited and asking for the code to Among Us. As usual, Dustin is the impostor.



FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

(continued from previous page)

Luis: Aurora is the impostor. She's trying **to cover her tracks**.

Aurora: Why do you always suspect me? You can't see **the forest for the trees**.

Alex: I agree. I don't think it's Aurora. Stop **chasing rainbows**.
Oh no. I've been killed.

Dustin: It's not me. AAAH! The impostor's **got my number**.

Roberto: Who's that orange character? It's **keeping a low profile**.

Narrator: *The game goes on for just a couple of more minutes.
Everyone guessed that one of the impostors was Tysell
and they were correct.*

Tysell: I thought I was **in the clear**.

Ivan: I am one of the last players left. I'm **in deep water**.

Jesse: It's too late. We're all **up the creek**. So who is the last
impostor?

Mr. Kwong: (smiling - though you couldn't see it)

Break is over. **Your guess is as good as mine**.

(Unbeknown to everyone - Mr. Kwong was playing the game
and was the other impostor.)

Scene 5:

Narrator: *The morning Zoom session was coming to a close.*

Mr. Kwong: All right everyone. Thanks for joining the class today and I'll
see you tomorrow. Remember:

**Every cloud has a silver lining.
Don't judge a book by its cover.
The world is your oyster.
Be second to none.
Work hard now so you can bring home the bacon later.
Ball is in your court.**

Leonardo: Bacon sounds good. Ready to **pig out**.

Tysell: **Making a long story short**, what's with all the idioms?



FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

(continued from previous page)

Victor: Why didn't you turn on your camera at all today? You went **cold turkey**.

Alecia: I kinda like it - **you get what you sow**.

Mr. Kwong: Goodbye everyone! Check out the video - It's been **kept under Wraps**. My most recent video recording.

What was **behind the scenes**.....

The End

TUNNEL VISION

Can't see the forest for the trees
Stories crowd my memory
Stuck in the past century
The future beckons, nearly
"Come live your story
in the present reality
enthusiastically!"

by Jo Ann Frisch

Love

My love was foreign
Broad shoulders
Skinny butt
Blue eyes
Baritone
Maker of tools
And dies
German

by Jo Ann Frisch

SHORN

Mommy my red hair braided
Pigtails every morn
Matching ribbon bows
On ends worn.
Childhood forlorn mourned
From Mommy torn.
Too much work for Grandma
Pigtails shorn.

by Jo Ann Frisch

A RESENTFUL PLACE

sometimes
you do things you
don't believe in
for people you
believe in.

@AngelicaGAllen

A LIZZARDY TANGO

by Nancy Guarnera

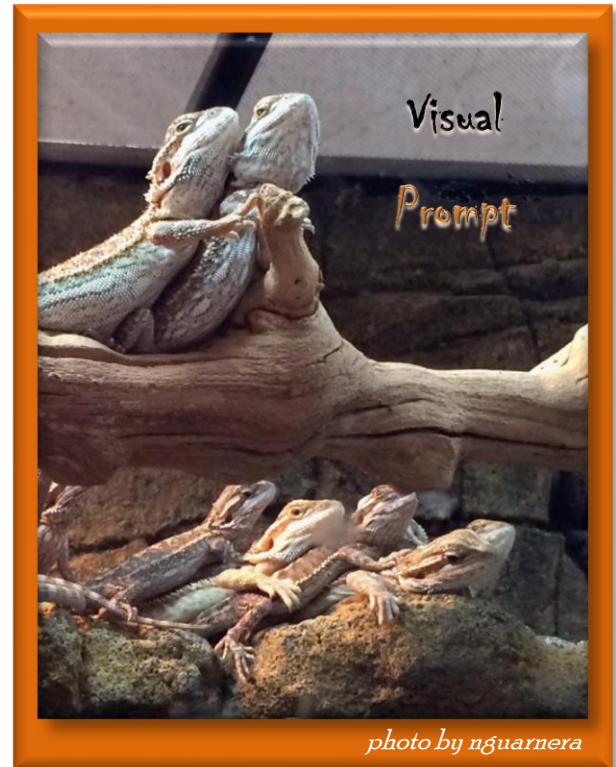
"Good Evening ladies and lizards, welcome to the luxurious Lizard Lounge in beautiful midtown Manhattan! I'm Lionel Lizzle, your host for this evening's entertainment." The disembodied voice was a whiskey-soaked, upper-crust English accent with a slight lisp and excessive bombast.

"We have a special treat for you this evening. All the way from the parched lands of Liberia, the King and Queen of Lizard Love songs and the hot... hot...hot steamy Lizzardy tango, Lizzy and Larry Lizzardy and the Do Wop She Bop Long Island Lounge Lizards." The room erupted with raucous cheers and applause. "They will be accompanied by the Lizard Lounge's house band, the Leapin' Lizards led by the incomparable Louie Lozzie." The voice paused for a sip of courage, "So, sit back...cuddle up...and lounge away the evening ladies and gents. We know you're gonna love this show."

Without warning, the lights went out on the up-scale crowd. Then, in the inky dark came the chilling click clacking of castanets, a sound reminiscent of a snake's rattle. This, you can imagine, sent shivers through the assembled reptilians. Mere seconds later, a hot spot caught the graceful fingers clicking the clackers, mesmerizing the audience. The sound of feet rat-tat-tatting on the hardwood floor joined the castanets' cadence. Ever so slowly, the spotlight widened revealing more and more of the lovely Lizzy Lizzardy, head lifted, back straight, arms up, clacking away, with a blood red rose clutched in her teeth. What a sight!

Then another spot flashed on, revealing the dashing Larry Lizzardy, arms raised, fingers snapping, mouth munching on a red rose petal. The heat was palpable. Then, as if drawn by some mysterious force only the greatest dancers seem to possess, they were in each other's arms, caressed by a single spotlight that followed them around the dance floor. They slithered and skittered across the stage to the primal passion that is the Lizzardy Tango. There was applause, lizard catcalls and wolf whistles, and much swooning as the dance progressed. Several couples had to be pried apart and told to "Get a room!" and the audience reminded that, "Such lascivious behavior was inappropriate for an up-scale joint like the Lounge." Did the audience care...No!

The crowd cheered as the dance ended with a glorious flourish, many olés and the tossing of partially eaten roses into the audience. What a perfect way to start a sublime evening!



FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

(continued from previous page)

The Lizzardys treated their slithery audience to waltzes, foxtrots, the Charleston, the jitterbug, the cha cha, and a new dance craze, the leapin' lizard. They were accompanied by Louie Lizzie and his big band, the Leapin' Lizards—the band responsible for the dance craze of the same name, now famous throughout the lizzarding world. In between dance numbers, the glittering couple sang old favorites like Mona Lizard, Blue “Lizard” Moon, Tea for Two, Moon Lizard, Boogie Woogie Bugle Lizard, Take Five, Chattanooga Choo Choo, and a few Elvis covers that had the audience twisting in their seats. All backed-up by the mellifluous sounds of the Do Wop She Bop Long Island Lounge Lizards. They even did an acapella rap of the Itsy Bitsy Spider, which by the way, was and still is a very popular item on the Lounge's tasty small bites menu.

There were several breaks during the show and the audience was invited to the dance floor to swing to a few big band numbers provided by the Leapin' Lizards and the Do Wop She Bops. Energetic music, lizard “punch,” and dancing lizards often lead to lizard licentiousness, and tonight was no exception. Lionel Lizzle, now three-sheets to the wind, did his best to cajole the crowd into appropriate behavior, but his whiskey lisp and accent made it difficult to understand most of what he was saying. Someone almost called the police, but then decided they were having way too much fun watching and engaging in the shenanigans to interfere. It was, indeed, a very *“hot time in the old town that night.”*

As the evening came to a close, with drunken, exhausted lizards lounging here, and there, and everywhere, the Lizzardy's patriotic rendition of God Bless Lizerica brought the audience scuttling to its feet with hands placed solemnly to their lips. Nothing like a rousing national anthem to sober up a crowd. There was nary a dry eye in the house.

As the song ended, the audience blew kisses to the performers and the band. Lizzy and Larry bowed to the crowd and slipped off into the wee hours of the morning to their rooms at the Rockaway Hotel. Lionel Lizzle and Louie Lizzie tossed back a last one-for-the-road shot of whiskey in the rooms they shared backstage at the Lounge, before tucking each other in. The Leapin' Lizards and the Do Wop She Bop Long Island Lounge Lizards slunk off to a downtown after-hours club, where *they* could drink and be entertained. The audience collected itself and skittered off to hide under their favorite rocks around town.

Lisa and Lowell, two under-aged lizards who had slipped in unnoticed to see the world-famous Lizzy and Larry Lizzardy, tangoed up and down the streets of New York City 'til the break of dawn, lost in a hazy dream of future stardom, wilted red roses clutched between their teeth.

(Inspired by a visual prompt from the October 2021 Ink Spots.)

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.

Thanks for your submissions!

inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org

FAW Board Members



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toshmanii@yahoo.com



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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



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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*)