



# Ink Spots



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

Nancy Guarnera Editor-in-Chief Vol. 115 December 2021 [inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org)

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

Nov. 4, 1935 – Myrla Raymundo – Nov. 13, 2021  
Founding Member of Fremont Area Writers

Myrla at the Garfinkle's  
FAW Holiday Party



Myrla's smiling face welcomed  
many of us to our FAW meetings

We say thank you and  
goodbye to our dear  
friend Myrla...

Myrla celebrating 10 years of  
Ink Spots Editorship with cake



Celebrating 10 years  
of service to FAW.  
From left: Myrla  
Raymundo, Carol  
Hall, Tish Davidson,  
Art Carey, Jan Small,  
and Evelyn LaTorre



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Celebrate the Holidays with Fremont Area Writers on ZOOM

\* December 11<sup>th</sup> \* 2 to 4 PM \*

# FAW HOLIDAY SOCIAL

## EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



When everyone has arrived, we will split into Zoom rooms of about 4 people to play some cooperative and/or individual games. People will have time to share their results and chat. After every game, the people in the Zoom rooms will change so everyone gets to visit with everyone else during the event.

*We'll get a choice of several prompts for each game. Some sample small Zoom room games:* **Given the first line of a limerick, finish the limerick** **Write an outrageous advertisement for a product or event** **Take a familiar tune and put new lyrics to a verse of it** **Respond to a mysterious photo prompt** **Magic Write participants suggest words (1 noun, 1 verb, 1 adjective) to be used by each participant in a written story - memoir, fiction, poem, etc.**

*The whole group, we will:* **Play Mad Libs with each person getting to fill in a blank** **and** **Make a story with each person adding a line**

***Bring your own food and drink, and prepare to be merry!***

You will get a Zoom invitation on the Friday before the Holiday Social.





**TERRY TOSH**  
FAW President

# ***President's Message***

***No General Meeting this month!***

***But, I want to wish you all  
a wonderful Holiday Season filled  
with **Love**, **Hope**, **Goodwill**, & **Prosperity**  
for the coming year.***

***I hope to see you all at our Zoom  
Holiday Party Social "Write In" which  
will be held on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>  
from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and will serve as  
our annual Holiday Party.***

***You should receive an invitation via  
email from our Great Hosts Tish and  
Scott Davidson.***

***Thanks, once again, for all of your  
participation in making our FAW  
branch a great group of which  
to be a member.***

***Meanwhile...  
Be safe and stay healthy and active.***

***Be Blessed,***

**TERRY**

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# A Word from Our Editor



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

Welcome to our December 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 preceding the publication month (**December 10<sup>th</sup> for the January issue**). Let me know if you need extra time, and we'll discuss it. You'll find submission requirements below.

In addition to expanding submissions to include photographs, we are also now including artwork. These will function as visual prompts, as well as recognizing that some of us are photographers, artists and illustrators, as well as writers. I look forward to receiving these submissions. (BTW—Jo Ann's artwork on page 2 is a visual prompt.)

Thanks to all of you who submitted remembrances for Myrla. I know it was short notice, but as you'll see, we've given our dear friend a memorable send off. As a founding member of FAW she has given so much to our branch; just wait till you read about all that she's given

to her community. As the saying goes, "Good things come in small packages."

You'll find a TOC on page 3 in this issue. We hope this helps with navigation through the newsletter and makes it easier for you to find what you seek.

Please send your newsletter submissions to this email address: [inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org) for publication. Put the following in the Subject field of your emails: **FAW—Type of Submission (ex. KUDOS, Book/Movie Review, Photos, Artwork, Anagram Answers, Writers Corner, etc.)—Your Name**. This will make it much easier to find your email when I go looking for it. Thank you in advance!

Keep in mind that our next issue is our first issue of the New Year. Here's your opportunity to tell us all about your New Year's resolutions. Maybe one of those resolutions is to deepen your commitment to your writing. Or perhaps you'll share how you're feeling about living through another year of COVID and its variants. Please, share your writing with us. Help make this newsletter something we can't wait to read.

***Stay safe and healthy... Have a fantabulous Holiday Season!***

***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@cwcfremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org). Remember to put **FAW—type of 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, photographs and artwork 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—  
December 10<sup>th</sup> for the January—unless otherwise arranged.

Please submit your written work and photos as attachments, not in the body of your email

### **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 – December Meetings***

## **Fremont Area Writers**

**“Fourth Saturday”**

**Members**

**No December**

**Fourth Saturday (12/25) Membership Mtg.**

**FAW Holiday Social Party on Zoom on 12/11**

and the general public;  
levels are welcome.

Tom Romano, Author & Artist/Illustrator

For details on Zooming, contact Scott Davidson at

scottfrombayside@yahoo.com

## **Fremont Area Writers**

**“Tuesday before 4th of Jan”**

**Board Mtg**

**No December**

**FAW Board Meeting**

**Next Meeting Tuesday, January 18th**

their Board in action.

be addressed at the end

meeting with prior notice.

For details on Zooming, contact Scott Davidson at

scottfrombayside@yahoo.com



# ***FAW – December Meetings***

## **Fremont Area Writers**

**“Second Saturday**

**Social W**

**No December  
Second Saturday Social Write-In  
FAW Holiday Social Party on Zoom**

*...ing with prompts.  
...invite. Non-members should  
...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 December 27<sup>th</sup> 7:00 – 9:00 PM**

*Open to FAW members and the public.*

*Share, listen and support writers as they read their work.*

*For a Zoom invitation link contact Tony Pino (see below).*

*For details on Zooming, contact Tony Pino*

*up.dragonfly.com@gmail.com or 510-745-0761*

# KUDOS – Members' News

If you have an accomplishment related to your writing, or some other aspect of your creative life, and would like to share it with FAW members in this space, please send it to [inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org). Please keep it to 100 words or less. Put **FAW—KUDOS—Your Name** in the subject field of your email to us. Thanks!

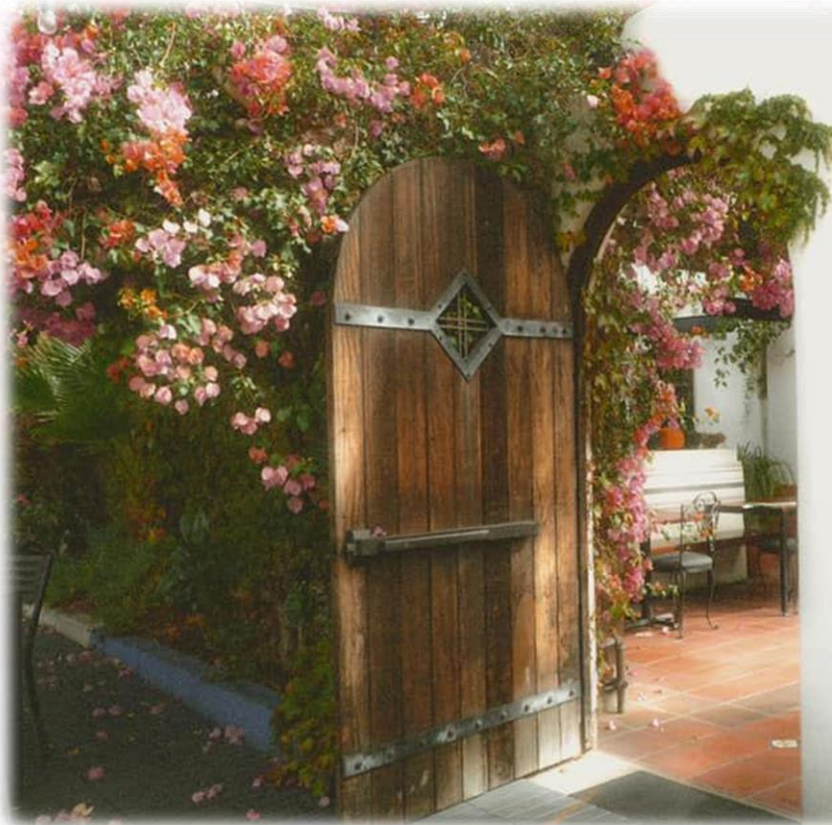
**KUDOS to Tish Davidson**, who has recently completed five encyclopedia articles on current healthcare issues for Cengage Learning's Student Overview of Health and Wellness.

**Congratulations Tish!**

**KUDOS to Evelyn LaTorre**, who was recently reviewed and interviewed by the first FAW VP in charge of programs, Jeannine Vegh. Here is the link to Vegh's website with the blog she wrote after finishing Evelyn's second book, *Love in Any Language*. The interview with Evelyn about her first book, *Between Inca Walls* is here as well. [discerninggal.com/2021/10/24/love-in-any-language/](http://discerninggal.com/2021/10/24/love-in-any-language/)

Evelyn's publisher, She Writes Press, just received an order from a travel company for 400 copies of *Between Inca Walls*. They had to do a second printing, because there weren't enough copies in the warehouse to fill the order. **Congratulations Evelyn!**

Visual Prompt



Solvang, CA photo by Jeremy Stevenson, grandson of Terry Tosh

## 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

# Remembering Myrla



**Myrla at her desk  
in the Union City Historical Museum**

## Living a Life of Service

Myrla's tiny stature belied the giant of service that dwelt within. If she could help, she did. Whether connecting people with services they desperately needed, as she did with seniors in the CAPS program, or making a first-timer at an FAW meeting feel at home in a room full of strangers, she was there for everyone. It was her mission.

I am grateful to her for who she was and what she gave to her community...and to me personally. I am grateful to have known her. I will miss you, Myrla.

What follows is a collection of remembrances from the FAW membership—thank you all for sharing. **(I•S)**

### **Myrla Garduque Raymundo: An Intense Passion for Community Service**

If you know anything about Myrla Raymundo, you know that her life was dedicated to her community. Her calm, friendly demeanor covered an intense life of community service. The following list of her civic activities is prodigious, if not jarring: Union City Historian; two-time candidate for the Union City Council; President of the Friends of the Union City Library; Founder, CEO and organizer of the Union City Museum Board; promoter of the Union City Museum; writer of two histories of that town (*Union City Through the Years* and *Union City Oral History*), including a collection of substantive interviews of town minorities and settlers; Founding Member of the Fremont Area Writers branch of the California Writers Club; creator and Editor of the Fremont Area Writers *Ink Spots newsletter*; active member of Saint Anne Church in Union City; member of the *cursillo* movement (of Oakland), with numerous positions, including District Director and Editor of *The Mariposa* (a newsletter of the Filipino Community); Columnist, *Tri-City Voice* newspaper; President of the Filipino-American Association of Alameda County; and Site Coordinator for the Community Ambassador Program (CAPS) for seniors in Fremont, CA. Sometime during this very active life, she received an MBA.

I am sure there is more to this list than the activities just mentioned, but they convey a statement I found in her writing: "It feels good to be able to make other people happy." Clearly, she walked the talk. Our friend, on whom we relied so frequently, passed away on November 13<sup>th</sup>. We will miss her, but her memory will remain. She's still out there, somewhere, helping others.

**Tony Pino and Bob Garfinkle**

### **Myrla**

The first time I attended an FAW meeting I was terrified. It meant admitting that I was a writer, something I had never done before. My fears were soon set aside because of the friendly face that welcomed me. That was Myrla Raymundo. She made me feel welcome, especially since she kept smiling at me throughout the meeting.

Every time I came after that, it was Myrla who greeted me. She encouraged me to share my writing in the newsletter, another frightening prospect.

I will miss Myrla. She was a shining star in my world.

**Terry Connelly**





# Remembering Myrla

## *Myrla's Encore*

I was born on November 4, 1935 in the Philippines. I retired at age 65 after 17 years of service with the U.S. Navy at Subic Bay in my birth country. I later worked in the healthcare industry in the United States. Today, in my “encore,” I am a Site Coordinator for the Community Ambassador Program for Seniors in Fremont, CA.

Through its volunteer “community ambassadors,” the CAPS program serves seniors in their own communities, in their own language, within their own cultural norms, and work with them where they live, worship, socialize, and learn.

Older people like me are not only young at heart, but young thinking, physically able, disciplined, and tenacious—all attributed from what we learned from our previous years. After our retirement from work, we still have those precious years to spend working to help other people. We can devote our spare time to doing good works for others. It feels good to be able to make other people happy.



*Myrla's Encore: Ready for her second act*

## *Myrla Raymundo*

### *For Myrla Raymundo*

Myrla greeted everyone with a warm, welcoming smile. She was happy and enjoyed the Fremont Area Writers. Imagine being one of the pillars of FAW who got everything started a little over 11 years ago. In addition, she created and managed our beloved *Ink Spots* newsletter for almost 10 years; that's true dedication!

I got to know Myrla at one of Bob and Kathy Garfinkle's Holiday Parties. We talked about our lives and the work we did. After a little while we discovered we had both worked at Blue Cross in Oakland. She worked in Marketing, and I worked in Medicare. Even if we had worked there during the same time, we were in different buildings, so we still wouldn't have had the chance to know each other at that time. Nonetheless, we made an unexpected connection. When we met at the meetings, we made sure to say “Hello” and give each other a hug or a pat on the back. I'm grateful I had the chance to know Myrla. I will miss her. Peace to Myrla and her family!

### *Sue Curtzwiler*



I met Myrla when I first came to FAW. She was always warm, friendly and had a smile on her face. As a “newbie” to the group, she made me feel welcome. I enjoyed getting her newsletters and was impressed to visit the Union City Historical Museum and see all the work she'd done to bring it into existence. She was a lovely lady and will be missed.

### *Jan Small*

*Myrla having a giggle with Jan Small at an FAW Holiday Party at the Garfinkle home.*

# Remembering Myrla

Myrla was always friendly, gracious, and kind. Everyone at FAW was warm and welcoming to me, just like Myrla, which was why I kept my primary membership at FAW when I joined other CWC branches. I remember Myrla showing me around the Union City Museum when we had our FAW picnic there. I thought it was very special that she cared so much about the history of Union City to found a museum and was dedicated to maintaining it through the years. She showed that same dedication to FAW over the years as newsletter editor. I do appreciate all she's done for our branch, and she is certainly missed by all of us. Thank you, Myrla.

**Penny Cole**



When I heard she was the founder of the Union City Historical Museum and the editor of its newsletter as well as FAW's Ink Spots I was intrigued by the amount of work involved in these undertakings. For more than of FAW's annual picnics, she opened the patio space of her museum for us to giggle, laugh, eat, and drink, and even took us on tours of the museum. She often reached out to me, saying, come to the museum whenever you feel like it. Myrla, all these beautiful memories will be treasured in my heart; thank you! My prayers for her...may Myrla rest in peace.

**Mila Patel**

Myrla was always willing to help. As a Founding Member of FAW, Myrla was faithful to attend all the meetings she could and would greet me with a smile and say, "Hello, my dear!" Besides being newsletter editor for many years, she was also a board officer—secretary, I believe. I remember visiting her museum and marveling at all the memorabilia she had accumulated. Myrla will be sadly missed.

**Carol Lee Hall**



**Myrla with Shirley Ferrante at a Garfinkle Holiday Party**

Myrla was an incredible lady. She was the founder of the Union City Museum. On my first visit to the museum, it was fun to wander among her collection and enjoy donuts and coffee with Myrla and her husband Ray. You could count on her to publish and bring copies of our monthly newsletter, Ink Spots, to our FAW meetings. She made sure I always had my President's Message in on time for publication. And don't forget her delicious lumpia shared at our Christmas parties. Myrla, you will be missed.

**Shirley Ferrante**

One of the things that sticks in my mind about Myrla is her generosity. I recall a Christmas party at the Garfinkles' home years ago. There was a drawing, and Myrla won a prize. She sidled up to me and thrust a piece of paper into my hands. It was a gift certificate for \$15 at a local bookstore. "No," I began, "You should...." But, she shook her head. I thanked her. Later, I bought a book. I don't recall the title, but I thought of her when I read it.

**Art Carey**



**Feasting at a Garfinkle FAW holiday party with Evelyn LaTorre (c.) and Cherilyn Chin (r.)**



# ***Remembering Myrla***

Before I joined FAW, I knew Myrla through my participation in a writing class held at the Union City library. Myrla coordinated our meetings and needs at the library. She was also the President of the Friends of the Union City Library. The leader of our small band of memoir writers, Suzanne Ortt (a former FAW member), was friends with Myrla and, through my sister, I had become friends with Suzanne. Through that association, I had the opportunity to get to know Myrla, if only a little. I saw Myrla as dedicated to the library and to the Union City Historical Museum, which she founded. She literally wrote the book on Union City's history. Two books in fact, and was working on a third at the time of her passing. At Suzanne's urging, I joined FAW, where I soon learned the integral role Myrla played in our club. Myrla's open-hearted manner made me feel welcome. A couple of years later, she calmed my nerves as I replaced her as branch secretary. Through board meetings, I learned she knew where the bones were buried. Next to Bob Garfinkle, any questions about club by-laws or procedure or motions previously passed by the board, she seemed to be the go-to person. I had big shoes to fill. I will miss Myrla's presence at our meetings, whether in person or via Zoom. The world's light dimmed a notch with her loss.

***Joyce Cortez***

Speaking of Myrla, she struck me as a soft spoken person of gentle demeanor, and it's amazing how her petite personality has been a megaphone to her tall accomplishments—editor, author and founder!

***Rekha Ramani***

I was so sorry to hear about Myrla. I didn't know her very well —just that she was generous and active with FAW as the editor of the newsletter. She opened the museum to FAW when we needed a venue for our July picnic. She was so proud of the Union City Museum that she founded, supported, and ran, and loved to share it with others. At least now, Myrla is with her beloved husband, Ray.

***Evelyn LaTorre***

Myrla was always there, steadfast in her devotion to the Union City Historical Museum and Fremont Area Writers.

She put in hundreds of hours working on the FAW newsletter, but she never made a big deal of it. She just did it month after month. But what makes me smile most when I think of Myrla were her lumpia. She made them by the dozens every year for the FAW holiday party with the same devotion that she gave to the newsletter. And they were delicious. Had she been a chef, this would have been her signature dish. We will miss her. Not just for the work she put into FAW. Not just for her lumpia. But because she was a decent, kind, hardworking person who rarely complained and made a point of making things better for others.

***Tish Davidson***

I remember Myrla telling us about the newsletter at each meeting. She would start by mentioning her advanced age (early 80's) and that she could really use some help with the newsletter. I had experience in publication design and production, but I resisted. Months went by and Myrla continued her appeal at every meeting. During the summer of 2018, I went up to her after a meeting and told her I'd like to help. She gave me a long, grateful hug and the rest is history. It didn't take me long to realize I was auditioning for the role of editor. When she knew that I knew what I was doing, she stepped down. From the very start, she told me what a great job I was doing and how much she loved me for responding to her request. She called me "my dear." I truly felt loved and appreciated by this wonderful woman. She was a giving person, and inspired, nurtured and valued it in others. Safe journey Myrla. I will miss you.

***Nancy Guarnera***



***Myrla had an infectious smile.***

# *November Speaker Recap*

## Children's Author, Illustrator & Graphic Designer: **Tom Romano**



**T**om Romano started his talk with this confession, *"I didn't originally set out to be a writer...maybe an artist ...and an occasional artist, at that."* But, years later, after many rejections and dogged persistence, he is the illustrator/author of five children's books, as well as five screenplays.

It started with his interest in endangered species. He was passionate about sharing information about these animals with children. Since then, he's written five children's books, most on this subject. He also writes screenplays; one of which is being staged as a readers' production in NYC on December 11<sup>th</sup> with possible future development as an off-Broadway play.

His first book, ***Birds of Prey and Endangered Raptors*** is full of wonderful black and white illustrations of various predatory birds. He queried many publishers in his attempt to get this book published. Eventually, he found a small publisher suggested by someone from one of his critique groups. It took time and hard work, but eventually, he was successful.

Another of his books, ***Jeweled Travelers of the Sky***, is an "exorcism" of his behavior as a child. He was an avid collector of butterflies when he was a youngster, and killed hundreds, if not thousands, of them for his collections. In this book, he encourages his young readers to enjoy butterflies by observing them, rather than collecting them. He includes detailed illustrations of the lifecycle of some of these marvelous creatures, from colorful caterpillars to their final stage as "jeweled travelers." This book is available on Amazon.

His two most recent books are, ***The Watcher in the Lighthouse***, a ghost story available in paper-back; and ***Lil' Oriole in the Land of Day and Night***, starring Lil' Oriole, a young girl, tiny in stature, who rides on the back of a bird and visits animals to learn about their lives, available in hardback. Both books contain colorful illustrations by the author. Romano has also illustrated books for other authors, as well.

When asked by aspiring writers what they need to do to get started, Tom acknowledges the many fears that go along with wanting to be a published author. His recommendation: if you have an idea that you're in love with, passionate about, run with it. If you find it hard to get started, write one sentence. Then write two sentences or a paragraph...maybe next a chapter. Be prepared to work at it. Figure out what works for you.

He believes that 95% of writing and publishing a book is hard work. It took him three to four years for each of his to reach the shelves in bookstores. He's a fan of cold-calling venues to do readings of his books, and has taken copies of his books to prospective customers at bookstores, introduced himself, and showed them the books on the spot, often making a sale in the process.

His bottom lines...don't give up on the ideas you're passionate about, be persistent, and be willing to put in the work. And don't forget to join a vibrant writing community that can support your efforts.

Tom's website address is **romangraphics.net**. He's having some work done on it, so keep trying if you get a "not available" message. You'll find his books on Amazon. **(I-S)**



# ***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.*

## **Holiday Party on Zoom – Sat. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>**

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 the day before 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/>***

# *Important HD-CWC Invitation*

— **PLEASE READ** —

High Desert — CWC **FREE ZOOM** Workshop

**CHRISTOPHER VOGLER**

author of

*The Writer's Journey: Mythic Structure for Storytellers*

**Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 6:00 pm PT**

The **High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club (HDCWC)** will host a free presentation on **"The Hero's Journey"** with famed author **Christopher Vogler** on **Tuesday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:00 pm via Zoom**. Further details and the link are available at **www.hdcwc.com**. The public is invited to attend at no charge.

Most writers have heard of Joseph Campbell's work on the hero's journey in his book *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*. Some may have read Vogler's book, *The Writer's Journey: Mythic Structure for Storytellers*, which builds on Campbell's ideas from a writer's perspective. Now you can get personal insights through Vogler's presentation and discussion with him.

Christopher Vogler is a veteran Hollywood story consultant known the world over for his landmark work *The Writer's Journey: Mythic Structure for Storytellers*, now celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition.

Vogler grew up in the St. Louis area, studied journalism at the University of Missouri, and began his career as a documentary filmmaker for the US Air Force's space program. After graduate studies at the USC film school, he entered the Hollywood studio system as a story analyst at 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox. While working in the Disney story department he wrote an influential memo on the mythological Hero's Journey pattern that became part of Hollywood story legend, influenced Disney's *The Lion King*, and formed the foundation of his book, *The Writer's Journey*.

As a consultant, he has influenced the stories of many productions including Disney's *Aladdin*, *Hercules*, *Fantasia 2000*; Fox's *Fight Club*, *The Thin Red Line*, *Courage Under Fire*; and for others *10,000 BC*, *Karate Kid II*, Darren Aronofsky's *The Wrestler* and *Noah*; Will Smith's *Focus*, *Hancock*, *Men In Black III*, *I Am Legend*, etc. He consults with major corporations on storytelling and branding, and presents workshops globally on the power of stories to change minds and lives.

The link to the Zoom meeting is below.

Join the Zoom Meeting on Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm PT.

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



# SIP NOTES

WEEK #46 AUG 31<sup>ST</sup> REKHA RAMANI

## My COVID Experience in India

Well, it wasn't I who got COVID! It was my 81-year-old bed-bound mother, in Bangalore. So, it was actually in a rush that I had to leave for India. I had to stop my subbing assignment mid-way through, AND miss my son's college graduation in Waco, TX, which was a week later.

I didn't go home to my mother's apartment as soon as I landed. I checked into a hotel, directly from the airport. Hmm.... An arrival of a different kind. By this time, my mother was already in a hospital, and her 24-hour caregiver who so kindly had taken care of her, tested COVID positive, and she was isolating in my mom's apartment. Hmm.... A different take on things this time!

My kind, benevolent uncle was doing the hectic legwork of taking care of my mother. At this time, early May, the Delta variant was ravaging India, and the environment that my uncle was exposed to was no less, around the premises of the hospital. I couldn't step out of the hotel, lest I be exposed to the virus and also fall sick. My uncle being 74 with comorbidities, was really lucky, he escaped the virus. Just imagine if he had fallen sick, I would have been in dire straits!

My experience in the hotel was tolerable. The room was clean and well maintained. But the restaurant service was awful. But the safety protocol was impeccable, which mattered to me the most. I was basically confined to the hotel room for three weeks. I used to step out once a day to have my room cleaned. How do I spend my time for three weeks without stirring out of a hotel room!

Believe it or not, I accomplished a lot! My uncle found me incredibly helpful and supportive. I was making several calls a day. By the way, it was unbelievably difficult to get a bed for my mother in a hospital with the availability of an oxygen cylinder. I got in contact with a few influential relatives, but let me tell you—influence or not, COVID wipes out your resources.

However, luck plays its part in the most unexpected of times. You could also call it God's grace. I was praying for 2 people—my uncle and my mother. 1) My uncle shouldn't fall sick and 2) my mother, being in a bed bound state, would somehow manage to look after herself in a COVID ward of 60 patients manned by 2 nurses and 1 doctor! I was praying that my mother wouldn't develop bedsores, as she has to be turned sideways periodically. By the time she got out of the hospital after eight days, she hadn't bathed and hadn't had a bowel movement. Incredibly, she survived the odds! She is a kind, com-passionate, and non-complaining woman with

an indomitable spirit and a gentle smile that could light up a hopeless world.

Meanwhile in the hotel, I had built up a daily routine for myself. Apart from preoccupying myself on what to order for my meals, also watching the cost, I got my daily bout of exercise. I would pace back and forth in my room, while listening to calming hymns. I would do this twice a day. Luckily, for me, I hadn't forgotten to pack my iPad, and got to watch some somber, yet heart-warming movies on Netflix. I can also tell you I went through a roller coaster of emotions in that hotel. The first week was especially terrible as you can imagine. And having to extend my stay for another 2 weeks (I was supposed to get out in a week), was even more frustrating.

But, even more frustrating was the restaurant service. Without getting into the details, I ended up writing a four-page complaint letter to the hotel manager. I was thrilled to put my writing skills to work :), and got very creative with my outrage! Aah! I was in no mood to write poetry, but this was the icing on the cake! :). I said goodbye to boredom in a flash :). My letter, four pages of excruciating detail, actually did catch the attention of the manager. Following that, I had great service! Large portions and just the right spice to the Indian curries.

My mother survived the COVID ordeal because she had received her double dose of vaccine, despite her age and chronic, neurological handicap. Another figment of God's grace! Ironically, a Good Samaritan in my mother's apartment building (a relative of our tenant in Bangalore) had succumbed to COVID. He was only 50. God proposes; God disposes.

I had somehow emotionally survived my 7-week stay in India. My friends in the US would reach out to me periodically. I got in touch with my friends and relatives in India. FAW also sent me kind, inquiring emails. Hugs :)

Whether COVID results in death or not, we all get through it. But, we would realize this only at the end of our ordeal. Our strengths, our pitfalls, the invisible power that leads us through this journey. There's a rebirth of hope, a renewed light, novel lessons that rain on us. I am sure the lives that COVID has taken will find themselves reborn, their spirits hovering around us, their souls very much alive. They cannot be taken from us. My mother lived for a purpose. She's had a difficult life, and it's not been an easy journey for me being her caregiver, even from afar. She's alive for a reason. Maybe I need her, and despite it all, yes I do.

**Rekha Ramani**

# ***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.)

## ***The Girl in the Red Boots***

**by Judith Ruskay Rabinor**

*The Girl in the Red Boots* by Judith Ruskay Rabinor was just the book I needed to read as I continue to work on my relationship with my two adult sons. After consuming the exercises, therapy sessions, and descriptions of mother-daughter relationships in this book, I understood better the difficulties offspring and parents have in really knowing one another. The authentic dialogue and honest emotions expressed in the therapy sessions with Dr. Rabinor make her story exceptionally readable. This book is a testament to the value of psychotherapy and introspection.

*Review submitted by*  
**Evelyn LaTorre**

## ***Between Shades of Gray***

**by Ruta Sepetys**

In October, 2019, I visited the states of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia and heard residents' stories about when they were ruled by the Soviets and over a quarter of their population was sent to Siberia. It was difficult to hear the terror and hardships of those who'd survived this terrible tragedy. When I viewed a clip on FB from Ruta Sepetys about her book, *Between Shades of Gray*, about that time, I had to read it. I wasn't disappointed. Her tale of 15-year-old Lina's ordeal brought to life and made me feel what she and her fellow countrymen endured. I devoured the book in a day and highly recommend it.

*Review submitted by*  
**Evelyn LaTorre**

## ***News of the World***

**by Paulette Jiles**

Having seen ads for the movie that appealed to me, I bought the book. Captain Kidd, widower and Civil War veteran, performs live newspaper readings throughout Texas. At one stop, he agrees to return a young white girl—kidnapped by and rescued from the Indians—to her grandparents. She speaks only Kiowa and wants to return to her Kiowa people, attempting to escape. She comes to trust Kidd on the long journey and they form a bond. To her grandparents, she is an unwanted burden, but they accept her as a laborer. Kidd must decide if he can live with what's right in the eyes of the law.

The author had me in her grip from the first sentence to the last. Her crisp descriptive narrative of landscapes and settings let us see, hear, and feel the story unfold. It didn't hurt that I could envision Tom Hanks in the lead role.

*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 learning and having fun.

If you decide to play, please exercise your brain, you can look things up online, but please, DON'T use the solution algorithms available there. When you've solved some or all of them, send your name and your answers to [inkspots@cwc-fremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cwc-fremontareawriters.org) and we'll publish your name. **Deadline** is the 25th of the month before the publication month (ex. *December 25<sup>th</sup> for the January 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 and tell us the title of the book.

We've given you a few hints...to help.

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

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

**WHO ARE  
THEY?**

**Opal Onen \* Shania Jorsony \* Sir Narny Bree Harlo**

**Hunter U. Gory \* Roger Lee Glow \* H. Jelo Shleper**

### HINTS \* HINTS \* HINTS

*3 authors, 3 characters, 4 males, 2 females, 2 Americans, 1 Brit, all three 20<sup>th</sup> Century, one used a pen name, one is famous for a Broadway play, an absurd choice, family name in title of civil rights SCOTUS case, movies / plays / TV, satire on war, garnered many “firsts,” supported democratic socialism, worked as a blacksmith's apprentice, satirical allegory*

**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 November 2021 issue of Ink Spots.**

*Congrats to Terry Tosh, Scott Davidson and Steve Gibson (one of our proofreaders) who submitted their correct answers. See correct answers below.*

**ACHOME PHINES, JR**  
**Josephine March**

**ROSE GOTHE REDWEN**  
**Esther Greenwood**

**RONN H. NOTJOTH**  
**John Thornton**

**SALIM TACOY UTOLA**  
**Louisa May Alcott**

**VALLY PHISTA**  
**Sylvia Plath**

**NOJOC KNALD**  
**Jack London**

*Little Women*

*The Bell Jar*

*Call of the Wild*



# 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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Would you like  
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Ian Johnson  
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Chat And Spin Radio **UK**

**FACEBOOK-** [www.facebook.com/chatandspin](http://www.facebook.com/chatandspin)

## **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, Dec. 11, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT**

### **"Writing Characters that Resonate w/ Emotional Truth"**

*Creating relatable characters*

**Saturday, Jan. 22, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT**

### **"The Inside Scoop w/ Special Guest Paula Munier"** *Secrets to finding an agent*

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***

## **CWC Redwood Writers Poetry Contest**

Open to all CWC Members

**Deadline: December 15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://redwoodwriters.org) and click on the Submissions for Poetry Contest box.*

## **Narrative**

### **CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES**

Story of the Week   Poem of the Week   iStory  
iPoem   Cartoons & Graphic Stories   Six-Word Stories  
Readers' Narrative   Photography

For Details: [www.narrativemagazine.com](http://www.narrativemagazine.com)

## **TCK Publishing.com**

**2021 \* 2021 \* 2021**

## **Non-Fiction Writing Contest**

**Submission Deadline: December 31, 2021**

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

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

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

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

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

# More Notes from the World

## ★ CONTESTS ★ ★ NEWSLETTERS ★ ★ ETC. ★

**Writers Weekly. Free newsletter.** 24-hour short story contest once each quarter. Topic and word length revealed after signing up. Limited to 500 entrants. \$5 entry fee. Also lists some paying markets for fiction and nonfiction. [writersweekly.com](http://writersweekly.com)

**Winning Writers. Free newsletter.** Lists free contests (many age or location restricted) as well as pay-to-enter contests. Lots of poetry contests. [winningwriters.com](http://winningwriters.com)

**The Write Life. Website.** Lists free contests (with a few exceptions.) Includes book, short fiction, essay, and poetry contests. Many contests are very specific, e.g. book by first generation immigrant, book of military fiction. [thewritelife.com/writing-contests](http://thewritelife.com/writing-contests)

**Poets & Writers. Website.** Searchable contest database with filters for cost, genre and deadline. [pw.org/grants](http://pw.org/grants)

**Submishmash Weekly. Free newsletter.** A curated arts newsletter with select publishing opportunities including contests, publications seeking submissions, and artist residencies. Run by the submission platform [Submittable.com](http://Submittable.com).

**The Writer. Website and free newsletter.** Listing of mostly pay-to-enter contests. [writermag.com/contests](http://writermag.com/contests)

**Fan Story. Paid site.** Seven-day free trial. \$9.95/month or \$69/year. Feedback on writing you post and almost daily contests that can be entered at no additional fee. [fanstory.com](http://fanstory.com)

## Terrific Resource for Writers in the Age of COVID — FREE

The **Gotham Writers Workshop** in New York City has put together the **Inside Writing** series of free talks about writing. Each talk features a writer in a particular genre and an agent who deals with that genre. The first season covered everything from historical fiction to graphic novels to writing query letters.

Seasons 1 & 2 are archived at:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIOByuSHCqP7V9mSsoqU5Fojjys2LsvYi>

Season 2 (recent presentations)

Inside Writing: Satire and Parody

Inside Writing: Comics and Cartoons

Check out these **free** talks on your genre!

## Call for *Romance* Submissions

**Belonging Books**, a new, inclusive, feminist publishing house, began accepting submissions in June 2020. Submissions can be of all lengths from and about minorities—people of color, people with disabilities, religious minorities, LGBTQ+ people, etc.—and non-traditional romance.

**Mission:** diversify and modernize the genre.  
[belongingbooksonline.wordpress.com](http://belongingbooksonline.wordpress.com)

## FREE Online Workshops

*scriptwriters check out*  
[roadmapwriters.com](http://roadmapwriters.com)



# *More Notes from the World*

## Attention Poets & Poetry Lovers

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

## Reedsy Learning

**FREE**

*Writing Classes,  
Webinars and a Blog*

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

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

**Check it out!**

## Genre-specific Websites

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

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

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

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

## What the heck is an Author's Platform, Anyway?

Anita Tosh recommends checking out this blog on the **BadRedhead Media** site for an article on what we mean when we say, "Your author's platform...." Here's the link.

<https://badredheadmedia.com/2021/11/how-to-build-your-author-platform-when-you-have-no-clue-what-that-means/>

# ***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](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](http://booksbyanita.com)** Facebook Group:

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/111394698919>** YouTube Channel:

**<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn2Eh1NyNnca6V0pAZNUSRA>**

# FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

\*\*\*\*\*

## Jacaranda

### *A Hyperbole*

Through the kitchen window I see  
graceful Jacaranda,  
bowing, then bending away  
from that wild man, Wind,  
who drunk with lust and power,  
has compelled her to dance.

He wishes to tear her away,  
force her to the ground,  
then leave her to die alone.

\*\*\*

Some years ago, a gang  
of vicious Root Borers  
infiltrated our corner of the world,  
gathering in numbers,  
to enact their annual orgy.

Jacaranda, still a maiden and flush  
with youth and beauty,  
had donned her springtime frock  
of purple flowers and green leaf-lace,  
wanting to bask in the gaze of  
passers-by.

Borers gathered quietly  
in the earth beneath their victim,  
leaving trails for brothers  
to follow and join in assault.

Assembled in the darkness,  
they laughed and mocked,  
sharing stories of past triumphs,  
squirming with anticipation.

Then, one by one they entered  
her maiden tubules, making haste  
to perform their evil acts,  
knowing she soon would die.

Her flowers wilted; young branches dropped  
to lie helpless on the ground,

Life faded, leaving only shadows  
behind as tokens of her past.

Discovering where the gang  
nurtured and trained the lewd assassins  
I vowed to expose their secrets.

I shovel-dug through days  
of sweat and pain;  
driven by anger that only genocide could calm.

My campaign lasted weeks,  
with forays into birthing places,  
and surprise attacks on teeming nurseries.

A blitz of squashing, and smashing  
proved gruesome, for war is never pretty;  
stragglers were executed by drowning.

The battle raged. Hundreds of bodies lay  
flattened, exposed to be transmogrified  
from slimy, greedy grubs,  
into sun-dried splotches on the concrete walk.

My warrior rage subsided;  
then I mourned, believing  
my desecrated lovely would die.

But youth can do miraculous things.  
Jacaranda rallied; she flourished and grew,  
changing from dying husk to vibrant beauty.

\*\*\*

Now she is Woman, wise to the ways  
of Wind and his tricks.  
I see her through the window now,  
bending and flowing,  
like Salome in her dance before the king,

**Marie Blanchard**

©2021



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

\*\*\*\*\*

### **A CALL FOR HELP**

At this point, it wasn't love  
anymore. I was holding onto  
nothing  
and he was holding onto himself  
a jail cell of yells  
calling on Christ for help  
that's what i was  
a jail cell calling  
for help the help  
the end  
I was calling for the  
ending  
I was calling to end our  
relationship

our courtship  
or whatever it is that  
we've been calling this.

**@AngelicaGallen**

### **MY FIRST JOB**

Getting out from school at 3:15pm, to be at  
work at 3:30pm  
I walked fast and fast and faster... I ran and ran  
and ran faster  
3:15, 3:20 almost there... Out of breath,  
kept running and  
running and running catching my breath...  
Got to work at 3:30pm! YaY!  
My First Job... It made me Happy!  
I could buy everything a young girl needed!  
Happy days, happy fast walks and  
runs towards Happiness

**Leticia Escalera**

### **DEGREES**

A month in the school year,  
A degree of discontent  
Has begun to settle  
Into a holding flight pattern.

Differences of degrees but not in kind,  
Struggling to find footing  
On the slippery slope  
Of unearned expectations.

There's a sense of malaise  
Permeating and propagating  
Unseen but its presence is felt  
Masked or not - it doesn't matter.

Maybe my expectations were unrealistic  
Yet reassurances seem inadequate  
Please, let it be temporary  
A moment of discrepancy.

Octobers are such rough months  
An annual reminder of aging  
An annual reflection of self-being  
An annual sense of inadequacy.

Ongoing conflicts between sides  
Being logical and thoughtful  
Or eruptions of controlled emotions  
I am not at balance presently.

My pattern of decadal midlife crises  
Showed its head mid-decade at 55  
Its tendrils are reaching out already  
A couple of years early.

This time, I won't fight it,  
Will let it follow its course  
Still a low grade, constant static  
I just wish I knew where it's headed.

**George Kwong**

# ***FAW Board Members***



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



**KNUTI VANHOVEN**  
Vice President



**REKHA RAMANI**  
Secretary



**CHERYLYN CHIN**  
Treasurer



**BOB GARFINKLE**  
Past President

## **JACK LONDON AWARDEES**

### **FREMONT AREA WRITERS**

- 2009 Bob Garfinkle
- 2011 Myrla Raymundo
- 2013 Carol Hall
- 2015 Art Carey
- 2017 Shirley Ferrante
- 2019 Jan Small
- 2021 Nancy J Guarnera

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

# ***FAW Chairpersons***



**ART CAREY**  
Signage  
Facility Liaison



**SCOTT DAVIDSON**  
Webmaster  
Zoom Manager



**TISH DAVIDSON**  
Social Write-In Host



**AMBER DeANN**  
Facebook Page  
Social Media



**BOB GARFINKLE**  
Historian



**NANCY GUARNERA**  
*Ink Spots* Editor  
Special Projects  
[inkspots@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  
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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*)