

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Ink Spots



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

Nancy Guarnera Editor-in-Chief Vol. 117 February 2022 inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org

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

Happy Valentine's Day

May you feel loved and appreciated...

Visual Prompt



Photo by Nancy Guarnera

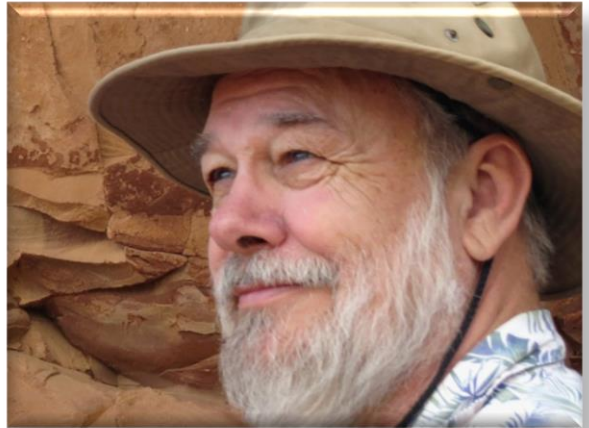
...every day for the rest of your life.

February General Meeting

* February 26th * 2 to 4 PM * Zooming *

Paul K Davis

A Writer's Guide
to Doing Historical Research



Paul K Davis, PhD
paulkdavis@earthlink.net

Paul was recently chatting after an FAW meeting with the speaker. She explained how the desire to write had led her to do historical research to realistically underpin her stories. It occurred to Paul that his motivation was often the reverse. He enjoyed doing research, and then later decided to write a play, novella or story to convey what he had learned.

Paul's education (through a Ph.D. in physics from Berkeley) and career (designing space telescopes for NASA) have been in science, but a history course he took in college, also inspired him. In retirement, in addition to membership in the Fremont Area Writers, he is active in an archaeological society and a history of astronomy study group. He has researched and written about the ancient Hittite empire, his own genealogy, women in science, development of scientific thought, and more.

He will share with us his techniques for historical research, and intends to encourage in his audience some of his love of delving into the past and figuring out what it might have been like to live in other times and places. Time travel, anyone?

Paul's historical-based writing includes: *Hattusili*, a musical play set in 1300 BCE and produced at Stage 1 Theatre; *Cinderella's Glove*, a novella set in 1290 ACE; *Our Universe: Finite vs Infinite*, a lecture series on the history of human concepts of the universe; *Princess of History*, a summary of the life of a medieval Byzantine historian; *A Scottish Maid and Her Computers*, about important women astronomers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries; some guest sermons such as "Honoring and Learning from Medieval Feminism," "Life and Legacy of Alan Turing," and "Ripples Through Time" (about Maria Mitchell); plus various detailed genealogical studies going back over a hundred generations.

Paul's email is paulkdavis@earthlink.net and he is happy to share the PowerPoint slides of this presentation and perhaps even to provide individual historical research guidance.

This FAW Zoom event is open and free to the public, so tell your friends and family. FAW members, if you don't receive a link to the meeting via email beforehand, contact and request one from scottfrombayside@yahoo.com at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. If this is your first time attending a meeting, please request a link from Scott Davidson at the email above.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn some researching tips pertinent to a topic or time period of interest to you or relevant to your writing, from one of our very own FAW members.



TERRY TOSH
FAW President

President's Message

I'm writing this February message in early January, because that's the new deadline, since we moved the newsletter publication to the beginning of the month. It makes things a little difficult to contemplate. I wasn't really born with "the gift," so mostly I'll be speculating. Hopefully, there won't be any last minute editing to deal with catastrophic occurrences...such as the cancellation and rescheduling of the San Francisco Writer's Conference, that was to have been held this month, but is now planned for July.

I think I can safely say that we will likely have some Valentine's Day themes in this edition...Right? Maybe we'll include something to celebrate Black History Month, as well.

We are still zooming, and looking forward to future "in person" gatherings, as that becomes more feasible. Zoom has allowed us to attend other branch

speaker events, an added value for our members, as well as expanding communication amongst the many branches.

I started a conversation with my peers regarding the concept of having a place on the calwriters.org site for all members to go to offer their works, as well as support each other in our collective efforts as "Writers helping Writers." Rather than searching 22 separate sites to find potential works to support, we would all submit our genres into one space and the contact information could be accessed from there. Sounded good to me, and several others, but was soundly throttled by some who insisted it wasn't feasible for sundry reasons. We'll see where this has actually landed by the time you read this.

I can also assure you that our extremely dedicated and hardworking board members have been doing tremendous work in bringing you as many fresh and exciting speakers and events that will help us all move to the next level in our writing and publishing endeavors! Without hesitation, I can say that we are ready, once again, to start the process of the next membership renewal and board election season, which is rapidly approaching.

Thanks to Evelyn LaTorre for volunteering to serve FAW as our Nor-Cal Representative, a position she's held before. Is this the year you push yourself to be of service to FAW/CWC? The year you say, "Yes, I do want to step up my involvement and help others with their writing goals!" "Yes, I will toss my hat in the ring, and take on that (fill in the blank) position on the board. Why have I put it off so long?"

I just want to be the first to Thank You for being sensitive to your conscience, and tell you that you will be SO glad you chose to be of service. "It was so much more rewarding than I could have imagined!"

Yes, much of this month's ramblings I feel confident will be exactly as I foresaw. Amazing, what?

Enjoy your sweets and don't feel too guilty about those extra calories, we can all use a little extra comfort during these challenging times.

TERRY *(The Gifted)*

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A Word from Our Editor



Nancy Guarnera
Editor-in-Chief *Ink Spots*

Welcome to our February 2022 issue of *Ink Spots*. I hope this finds you and those you love safe, healthy and happy.

I apologize for not reminding you that February is Black History Month, and if you have something relevant to this celebration and would like to share it, please submit it for publication in the newsletter in the March issue. Since February also lays claim to Valentine's Day, if you have submissions that relate to this subject area, please submit them as well.

March is Women's History Month; celebrate the month with your creative work honoring women and their contributions throughout history. Poems, short fiction, essays, etc. are welcome. Last, but not least, April is National Poetry Month; send us your poetry for publication in the April issue (March 10th is the deadline for the April issue).

In this issue, you'll find three visual prompts: both photos and artwork. You can submit your prompted writing anytime. Just reference the photo or the artwork in the email you submit with your attachment.

There are a few bits of news from CWC and NorCal: the dates for the SF Writers Conference have changed, and the NorCal events calendar has been discontinued and replaced by a statewide events calendar that anyone can access on the CWC website. This calendar will show you all the branch meetings and includes info about guest speakers. Since meetings are, for the most part, being held on Zoom, anyone can join a meeting or event anywhere in the state. This is a great way to meet other writers in California and to access speakers your branch has yet to engage.

Check out this issue's Writers Corner for a prompted piece by Dave Strom from the Holiday Party on December 8th. Dave's given us a Super Holly Hansson Christmas story. Remember: prompts can be used to create a scene or even a chapter of some longer piece you're working on...a novel, for instance. We also have two long poems, both very powerful. If you have a poem, a short story, an essay, etc. or something else you'd be willing to share with our membership, please submit it. Deadline is the tenth of the month prior to the month of publication (February 10th for the March issue). If you need a few days extra, let me know and we'll discuss an extension.

I would love to have someone take on writing the Recap of the monthly speaker's presentation; if you're interested please contact me—use the *Ink Spots* email address below. Recordings of the meetings are available to assist you.

Remember, send your creative work for the **Writers' Corner**; your "shout outs" for **KUDOS**; and your book/movie reviews/recommendations, as well as art work and photos, etc. to this email address: inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org for publication.

Stay safe and healthy... Cheers! Nancy (**I•S** indicates an article written by the *Ink Spots* editor)

Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Please send all submissions for *Ink Spots* to inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.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. February 10th for the March 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 – February Meetings

Fremont Area Writers

“Fourth Saturday”

Membership Mtg on Zoom

Saturday February 26th 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: Historical & Genealogy Researcher, Paul K Davis

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

Fremont Area Writers

“Tuesday before 4th Saturday”

Board Meeting on Zoom

Tuesday February 22nd 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 – February Meetings

Fremont Area Writers

“Second Saturday”

Social Write-In on Zoom

Saturday February 12th 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 February 28th 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 Angelica G. Allen, who was recently interviewed on the UK's Chat and Spin Radio! You can watch it on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFbllljnkgE>. She had an awesome time discussing the genres she invented and her latest release with radio host, Ron Clark. You can learn more about these genres, her next book projects, and future events on her website, www.AngelicaGAllen.com.

Congratulations, Angelica!

KUDOS to Dave Strom, whose story, "The God Glove," has been published in the CWC San Francisco Peninsula's anthology Fault Zone: Reverse (now available on Amazon). Dave packs the equivalent of the Marvel Cinematic Universe Infinity Gauntlet multi-movie story arc into 3000 words. See Super Holly Hansson tempted with the power of godhood! **Congratulations Dave!**



PLEASE NOTE:

CHANGES * NEW DATES * CHANGES
for San Francisco Writers Conference — July 21-24

For the second time in CWC's history, the San Francisco Writers Conference is offering two free passes to every CWC branch throughout the State for the all-day Poetry and Screenwriters Summits.

*** Free Tickets ***

July 21-24, 2022

*** Free Tickets ***

San Francisco Writers Conference 2022
Hyatt Regency Embarcadero, San Francisco

The free passes give you free entry to the all-day event and the privilege of mingling with top poets and screenwriters who will be teaching classes throughout that day. Interested in winning a ticket? Contact Terry Tosh at toshmanii@yahoo.com for details.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

You can also staff the CWC information booth and have FREE access to some of the workshops during the conference.

(Travel to and from, plus accommodations will be handled by those who choose to enter the give-away contest.)

For more information about the conference
go to <https://www.facebook.com/SanFranciscoWritersConference>

January Speaker Recap

Joselin Linder & *The Family Gene:*

*A Mission to Turn My Deadly Inheritance
into a Hopeful Future*



Joselin Linder
Author of *The Family Gene*

Joselin Linder wasn't a big fan of memoir; it was not her go-to genre if someone suggested she read a book. However, when she and her family discovered that some of them were carrying a deadly gene specific to their family, she chose to write a memoir telling the story of this unnamed disease and its devastating impact on her family. A convert, she now loves reading memoir and teaches it as well.

As is often the case with writing about the little known or the unknown...her family's disease for instance... she's learned a lot about genomics and has included this in her book, giving her readers a compelling personal story, as well as a beginner's course in genetics. When it's personal, science can be very compelling.

On January 22, Joselin shared her family's fascinating story, complete with photos of her many relatives affected by this gene, as well as her thoughts and experiences with writing. This was one of our better-attended events, and we're looking forward to Joselin's return in the future, to talk to us about using humor in our writing, something she teaches for Gotham Writers (For more on Gotham Writers, see Notes from the World in this issue.).

In addition to *The Family Gene*, she has written two business books and three humor books, along with many published pieces in magazines, journals, and newspapers. Before writing her book, she was a "writer for hire." She encouraged us to pitch ideas for articles to magazines and newspapers, which are always looking for new voices and content, and will pay for it. She did recommend reading some of the work that has already been published in those you're targeting.

Joselin also suggested that we ask ourselves "Why me?" (Is my story compelling and can I tell it?) "Why them?" (Does my story fit with their mission?) and "Why now?" (Is there interest in the subject?) Her book about genetic inheritance was published in 2017, when everyone wanted to know what his or her genome was. DNA testing was new and "sexy," the perfect timing for her book.

"We can tell a story about anything...with memoir, we need to find the best voice we have to tell our story." When asked about whether she makes subject and writing decisions based on salability, she answered, "Yes," and explained that if your goal is to reach as many people as possible, because you have something to say that will help or enrich the lives of others, you have to consider salability. Her comments brought to mind that we may write the best book ever written, but if no one buys and reads it, it's not doing anyone any good.

Joselin has used a number of methods to promote her book, including doing a TED talk about her family's medical challenges. This caught the attention of the National Institutes of Health, which led to doctors and researchers finally taking an interest in her family's case. She uses podcasts, like *The Story Collider*, to spread the word about her book. She has done book tours, though these are not happening much during COVID.

She encouraged us to find and make use of supportive writing communities; to not stop once we've put something out there, but to move on to our next book, story or poem; and to remain hopeful. These have served her well in her career as a writer and have given her the courage to stand up the monsters in her life. **I•S**

FAW & CWC Information

— PLEASE READ —

WHO, WHAT, WHEN & WHERE...

As of January 1, 2022, all CWC branch speaker meetings will be added to the Events Calendar on CWC's website at

<https://calwriters.org/events-month/>

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 CWC branch, check the events calendar on the CWC website.

The calendar can be found at **<http://calwriters.org/events-month/>**

General Meeting on Zoom — Sat. Feb. 26th

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.

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 – Thank you to **Evelyn LaTorre** for volunteering for this position **←←←**

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.

SIP NOTES

WEEK #49 JAN 19, 2022 TERRY CONNELLY

Remove My Cloak

I am the sole of your shoe,
The dirt that you spit upon,
The excrement of fish
That sinks into the silt
Becoming invisible.

I am the one who sits in the
Last seat, in the last row,
Who never joins a group discussion
or speaks up before the crowd,
Instead, trying to be invisible.

I am the one that you don't see,
Even when you brush against
My shoulder in a crowd,
The one that you never grace with
A smile, for to you, I am invisible.

I yearn to have a truly good friend,
Someone who likes to share secrets,
Who will hold my hand, carry my books,
Ask for my phone number so that
I will no longer be invisible.

I am tired of sitting alone, day after day,
Munching on my cardboard lunch
While others around me speak
Of adventures that I will never know,
For to them, I am invisible.

Today I ask for your attention,
Which you so willingly give to your
Chosen few, the "in crowd," those that
Raise your status, your time card, but
Never to me, for I am invisible.

I beg you to stop and ask
My name, to hold the door for me,
to invite me to sit at your lunch table,
to be my partner, my comrade
so to remove my cloak of invisibility.

I want to be seen for who I am,
A child of God
A blessed soul
A friend in waiting.

Terry Connelly



Photo by Terry Tosh

Visual Prompt

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.)

I Love You But I've Chosen Darkness

by Claire Vaye Watkins

Do you remember US Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid who grew up in Searchlight Nevada, in a situation that no one could have predicted he'd rise to become one of the most powerful political leaders in our country?

Claire Vaye Watkins, a couple of generations younger than Reid, and whose astounding giftedness is not in politics, but in writing literary fiction, grew up in a similar speck in the desert, in circumstances more likely to have landed her in Motel 6's and chronic rehab than with an MFA, numerous literary awards, and kudos from famous authors.

I Love You but I've Chosen Darkness, published in 2021, is catalogued as a novel, but is more memoir than fiction, even using the author's name as the name of the narrator and main character. Watkins is astoundingly forthright, revealing, sad, and funny in her story of self and family. This is especially so in her portrayal of her mother: a woman always resourceful, but always outside the law.

I found myself rooting for Claire and her siblings, yet sad and impatient with Claire's treatment of her husband and baby, with whom the story begins. Still, because of the author's narrative gifts, I empathized and cared for them all.

I highly recommend you read the book. Then, please, let me know your own take on it and let's discuss.

Review submitted by
Marie Blanchard

READ MORE BOOKS . . .
WRITE MORE REVIEWS

Dear Miss Breed

by Joann Oppenheim

A friend, who is writing her own mother's story of incarceration with other Japanese Americans during World War II, shared one of her favorite research books with me. *Dear Miss Breed*, by Joanne Oppenheim (2006), chronicles the experience through the letters sent by Japanese American children who corresponded with their beloved San Diego librarian. As her young patrons returned books and their library cards, leaving the library for the last time, Clara Breed handed out penny postcards to "her children," pre-stamped and imprinted with her home address. She wanted to keep in touch and know they were all right.

And keep in touch they did. She received more than two hundred letters in all. The younger children put the rosiest, most polite, sometimes comical spin on their circumstances. Older children were more forthcoming. Parents wrote of the indignities and injustice. The author inserts comments from people involved in the relocation process, comments made by the "children" contacted during her research, as well as Clara's personal thoughts recorded in the *Library Journal* and *Horn Book Magazine* articles. Oppenheim inserts historical context: many black and white photos, documents, and drawings are included.

I was struck by the Nikkei ability to rise to and above the occasion. In the words of one sixteen-year-old, "*If American soldiers can endure hardships, so can we!*" Other than the author's overuse of exclamation points, this is a well-written book.

Review submitted by
Joyce Cortez

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@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org and we'll publish your name. **Deadline** is the 25th of the month before the publication month (ex. *February 25th for the March issue*).

Below you'll see some names; some are famous authors and the others are famous characters in books written by those authors. Match the authors with their characters as you solve each anagram, and include the book title for each as well. We've given you a few hints below...to help.

Can you figure out who these famous literary folks are?

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

Who are they?

Kandis C. Scherel * Sallir Clower * Henry N'Gojo Gudner

Rich Steache * Diann Jidoo * Rafe M. Gamadeed

Hints * Authors * Hints

3 authors, 3 characters, 4 males, 2 females, 1 American, 2 Brits, 2 19th century & 1 20th century, Pulitzer Prize nominee, nom de plume, inventor, winner of the prix de Paris, photographer, pioneered serialization of longer works, army brat, known for word play, logic and fantasticality, known for comically repulsive characters, professor, pioneered the use of novel-like writing in nonfiction, teacher, illustrator, poet, and novelist, the work of all three have inspire adaptations in every artistic genre, popular Victorian novelist

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 January 2022 issue of Ink Spots. Congrats to Terry Tosh, Scott Davidson, Pat Doyne (who first brought the mistakes to my attention) & Steve Gibson (one of our proofreaders) who all sent in the correct answers. Three corrections: a missing E and a missing S, and an extra R. Apologies to all.

HENRYN ENID AGOTDO
Ninny Threadgoode

GANNA GLINEFF
Fannie Flagg

*Fried Green Tomatoes at the
Whistle Stop Cafe*

TEDLY THARCLAY
Lady Chatterl(E)y

WARD CHENEL
D.H Lawrence
Lady Chatterley's Lover

CLORISA LALAYWARD
Clar(✱)is(S)a Dalloway

ROWAN IVO FILIG
Virginia Woolf

Mrs. Dalloway

Notes from the World

Beginning-of-the-Year 2022 News from The CWC NorCal Group Board

The **NorCal Group** is comprised of representatives from all fourteen CWC branches in the northern part of California. Together, they work through CWC issues, problems, and seek solutions for our branches, as well as, work to bring more opportunities for our branch members **(new dates)**:

- ❖ In the coming year, we will once again be hosting a CWC booth at the **San Francisco Writers Conference** from **July 21-24, 2022**.

<https://www.sfwriters.org/2022-conference/> With this booth comes opportunities for our branch members to join us at the Conference through volunteering their time, participating on panels, and also in receiving free tickets for one-day events in the Books to Screen Summit and the Poetry Summit. If you are interested in attending these one-day events, contact your branch president. If you are interested in participating or volunteering in the SFWC, please contact me: **carolebumpus@gmail.com**

- ❖ The **NorCal Group** will also host a booth for the **Bay Area Book Fest (BABF)** in **May 7 & 8 2022** in Berkeley. For those who would like to volunteer to help at our booth, you will also be given the opportunity to sell your books at the booth. Stay tuned for more details.

- ❖ After missing our biennial **NorCal Leadership Conference** in 2020 (due to COVID), the NorCal Group will once again be hosting the Leadership Conference this coming September 2022. Training will be offered for all leaders in executive board positions, as well as other important roles within the branches. This may be a hybrid conference, but regardless of how it is presented, it will be essential for all CWC branch leaders take advantage of this pertinent CWC training. Put this on your calendars. Our goal is to offer all branch leaders the best tools available to help them meet the growing needs of their branches. Working together and sharing best practices assists all.

Respectfully submitted: Carole Bumpus, CWC NorCal Chair - 2015-2022

More 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, Feb. 12, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT
**"Raise the Stakes for Your Protagonist
—and Yourself"**

Specific tips and tactics for success...

Saturday, Mar. 12, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT
"Subplots Aren't Secondary"

Control pacing and support your primary plot...

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

Narrative Magazine

Contest Deadlines in 2022

Winter 2022 Story Contest (fiction & non-fiction)

DEADLINE: March 31st

To submit: www.narrativemagazine.com/winter-2022-story-contest

x x x

\$4,000 Narrative Prize (writers and poets)

DEADLINE: June 15th

To submit: www.narrativemagazine.com/great-stories/narrative-prize

x x x

For general submissions to the magazine:

<http://www.narrativemagazine.com/submit-your-work>

TCK Publishing.com

2022 * 2022 * 2022

Flash Fiction Contest

Submission Deadline: June 30, 2022

Submission Length: 500 words or less

Use this link for more details on this contest and others, and to submit your work

<https://www.tckpublishing.com/2022-flash-fiction-contest/>

Entry Fee: \$10/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

Gotham Writers Workshop — 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

<https://calwriters.org/events-month/>

Would you like to hear speaker presentations at CWC branch meetings statewide? Well, in the land of Zoom, you can. Use the link above to check out the calendar where branch events and meetings are listed. Roll your cursor over the meeting of interest to you, read the extended info, and follow the instructions to attend. This is also a way to get to know folks from other branches.

PLEASE NOTE: The CWC-NorCal calendar has been replaced by this statewide version.

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 WEBSITES

Sisters in Crime sistersincrime.org *(also open to men)*

Mystery Writers of America mysterywriters.org

Romance Writers of America rwa.org

Golden State Romance Writers
goldenstateromancewriters.org
(open to all genre fiction writers)

Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America
sfwa.org

Inspire Christian Writers inspirewriters.com

Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators
schwi.org

Women's National Book Association wnba-books.org
(also open to men)

Academy of American Poets poets.org

Poetry Society of America poetrysociety.org

National Association of Memoir Writers namw.org

American Society of Journalists and Authors asja.org
(nonfiction writers)

CineStory cinestory.org *(screenwriters)*

Scriptwriters Network scriptwritersnetwork.com

Historical Novel Association historicalnovelsociety.org

Horror Writers Association horror.org

Attention Poets & Poetry Lovers

Check out the Poetry Center of San José

open mics * speakers * poetry slams * anthologies * etc.

www.poetrycentersanjose.org

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 web-site developer, strategic content copywriter, and digital marketer at **Wordsmith for Wealth**.

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

<https://wordsmithforwealth.com>

● Terry Connelly

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

tconnellyswritingposts.com 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

My Least Favorite Christmas Gift

by Dave Strom

From an FAW Social Write-in prompt, Jan 8, 2022

Hillpatch, California. Cedar Street.
Christmas Eve. 8:32 PM.

Super Holly Hansson, mightiest superhero on Earth, sat on Great Aunt Barbara's couch, cousins on either side of her. In the living room, aunts and uncles talked. Grandma and grandpa on her father's side sat in wooden chairs and murmured Swedish to each other. The grandparents on her mother's side smirked at Holly. "Well, Miss Super Duper Save The Day, what do you think of Aunt Carolyn's gift?"

"Um, it'll make a good paperweight." Holly dropped the Christmas wrapping with one hand, and with the other hand, the 12 ounce glass bottle in the shape of a princess head. *Royalty, ugh!* Big happy anime bimbo eyes. Holly unclenched her jaw. Reminded her of Bunni Bonita, smiling just before she'd say, "Okay, my hypnotized super-strong soldiers, smush that blonde meanie Holly cuz she was mean to me! TEE HEE! GIGGLE! TEE HEE!" Worst evil laugh ever.

Holly thought of Aunt Carolyn's latest posts on Metabook. Women should be pretty for men! Stumpfinger would save America! Immigrants take our jobs! *Can they take mine, I'm sick of sexist supervillains AND heroes making cracks about my, ahem, new look! Thank the frakkin' gods Carolyn is in Montana. Worst Christmas gift ever.*

Cousin Steve elbowed Holly and murmured in Holly's ear with heartwarming sarcasm. "Doncha like tiaras?"

Little Cousin Jeff said, "Perfume stinks! Don't open the b-b-bottle!"

Little Cousin Sandy sprang across the room in two jumps, maybe she should be tested for superpowers! She babbled, "Perfume smells

A Super Holly Hansson Christmas Story



pretty! Open open open, I wanna sniff it!"

"Okay, Sandy," Holly sighed, "you win." She unscrewed the pink cap on top of the head and wondered what scent would emerge. Eau de Rethuglican? Parfum le Fundamentalist? Scent of Deep State? Holly took a sniff...and her eyes flooded with tears.

Jeff asked, "How come you're smiling and crying at the same time?"

Holly swallowed a lump in her throat. "It's strawberry. Exactly like my long lost mommy's shampoo and lip gloss." She wiped her eyes and spied writing on the bottle. *Your mom once sent me a big bottle of her perfume. Had to send some to you in a new bottle, the old one leaked. Remember Marilyn, Holly.*

She did. Mommy reading my stories, hugging me in the principal's office after I beat up three bullies, giving me a teeny sip of coffee, singing to me, kissing me goodnight. Holly took another whiff and sighed happily.

Sandy asked, "Can I smell?" Jeff said, "You do smell!" Sandy socked him.

Steve wrapped his long arm around Holly. "You okay?"

Holly leaned her head on his shoulder. "Uh-huh. Best Christmas gift ever."

Finding the Remedy

The searing pain
like a red hot fire within
has my nerves screaming.

It appeared suddenly
clutching me in its grasp
refusing any atonement,
ignoring any calming
It's an inner explosion about to blow.

My mind sits
helplessly watching the tsunami—
my logic in torment,
my emotions overwhelmed
my body constrained/alarmed by the searing fire within.

Mind asks
"How do i deal with the monster inside?
what set it off? and
what calms it down?"

The itching, burning, red hot aching loudness
drowns out any conversation

Common diagnosis— leaky gut, food sensitives, fibromyalgia, Crohns disease
fails to provide a solution.
Something is fundamentally wrong
something at the core is screaming for attention
On and on it screams

With no compass, no roadmap, no GPS,
I'm adrift in the ocean of red hot pain,
the rising ebb of gut-wrenching agony

continued on next page



FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)



continued from previous page

searching for the blue calm of the shore,
Hoping I have the courage to withstand the assault and
the inner wisdom to find the answer before i explode

I ask the question—
Dear nerves, why are you so angry?
Why do you rage so?
Silence.

My mind dives into my previous teachings, prior healings, spiritual wisdom
hoping for the magic solution —like pulling a rabbit out of a hat,

As my brain yells, “calm the nerves.”
I head for YouTube, click on the videos on clearing anxiety, clearing hidden fears,
calming the vagus nerve, finding peace.
It’s here. I can feel it. It’s hidden in the visuals, the music, tucked invisibly in the blessed
hours of content, waiting to be found.

Though the storm rages on, my soul starts to feel peace in the colors, the calming sounds,
the moving images.
I’m floating in the peace of nature.

With herbs and pain crème in one hand and sound healing in the other,
With courage and persistence rising from my loins
with a “Dammit I’m not giving in and I’m not giving up”
I pull up my courage to confront the raging.

I’ve set my objective and I’m not backing down.
I’m not succumbing, shifting course or dissolving into the storm
I’m going to win
I’m going to pull up all resources and confront, calm and win this battle.

Fasten my seat belt, set my sails for the promised land,
I dive into the land of color, sound, feelings, and the neuroscience of the nervous system.
I am going to win.
Yes, WIN.

Amber DeAnnn

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

MALICE PT. I and PT. II

911 state your emergency
"There's a black male running down the street."

Ahmaud Arbery
lay lynched upon concrete
for jogging on satilla street
&
saying not a thing
another black male is murdered
for not responding
to the white mobs taunting

"Pellet under the skin
Emmett Till' until you have heard your verdicts then,
are these your verdicts now

1.8 miles how
how how dare he jog
And keep jogging
And say nothing
Stop stop
stop I wanna talk
We just wanted to talk so

We followed him and "his long dirty toenails"

Emmett til'until
roddie asked "Y'all got him?"
the burglar from 220, the house, the residence, the construction site,
with nothing missing

travis said

"Mr. Arbery was jogging while being black so I assumed he was running from something
running away from getting caught

continued on next page



FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)



continued from previous page

we just wanted to talk
So we grabbed our guns
"angled him" between our pickup trucks
and took only a couple of shots
at him who said nothing
"Yes he was just running"

gregory then said
"He was trapped like a rat"
travis's license plate was a confederate flag
& they were not arrested on the scene
because
how how
how dare he fight for his own life after we blocked off the exits to flee
Eventually
travis, gregory and roddie were found guilty with life sentencing by a nearly all white southern jury

"He said nothing
Ahmaud Arbery was just jogging
"Yes he was just running

for a "...Long time coming"

Autopsy said the shotgun fractured his "angel wings"

Right Wrist
Chest
Armpit

Is it not a coincidence
How
All three wounds were fatal?

All three got life but can that replace a life??

@AngelicaGAllen

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

March is Women's History Month
Help us celebrate women
with your creative submissions.



Visual Prompt



Artwork by JoAnn Frisch

FAW Board Members



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toshmanii@yahoo.com



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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

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KNUTI VANHOVEN
Speakers Program
Publicity

FAW MISSION STATEMENT

Fremont Area Writers educates writers and the public by providing:
Forums for educating members in the craft of writing and marketing their works and
Public meetings, workshops, and seminars open to all writers and the general public
to facilitate educating writers of all levels of expertise. (*Article II Section 1:1.1 and 1.2 FAW Bylaws*)