



# Ink Spots



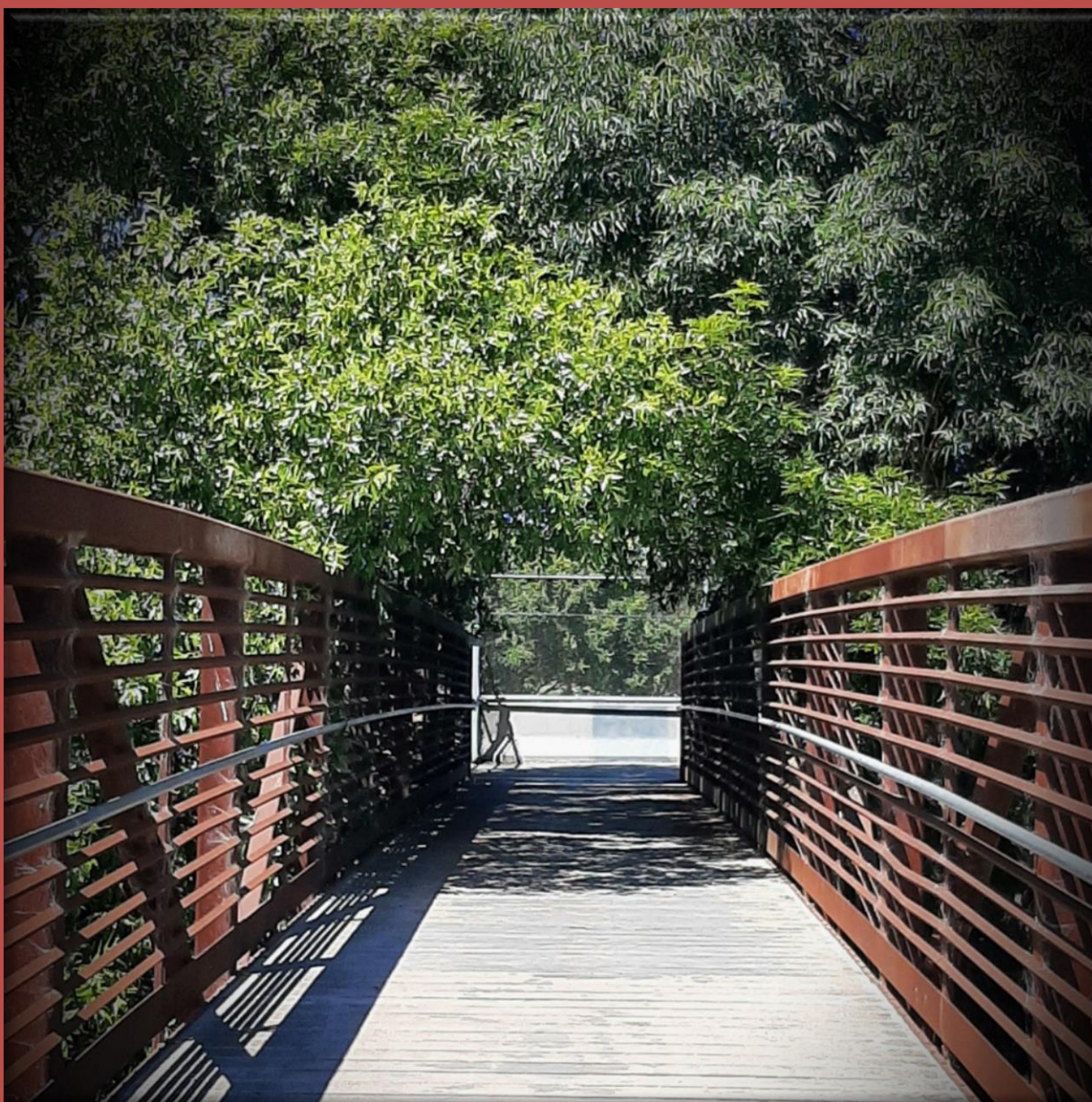
**The Newsletter of Fremont Area Writers**  
*The "Centennial" Branch of the California Writers Club*

Nancy Guarnera Editor-in-Chief

**Vol. 122 August 2022**

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

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



Visual Prompt

*Photograph by Terry Tosh*



# ***August General Meeting***

**\* August 27<sup>TH</sup> \* 2 to 4 PM \* Zooming \***

## ***Shelley Adina*** ***Book Cover Blurbs:*** ***Immediate Rejection*** ***or Instant Sale***



***Award-winning Author***  
***Shelley Adina PhD***

**O**n Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m., Fremont Area Writers will host novelist Shelley Adina at its monthly Zoom meeting. Dr. Adina is the *USA Today* bestselling author of more than 50 books under four different pseudonyms, including Adina Senft, under which she writes Amish romance. In 2021, she completed her doctorate in Creative Writing at Lancaster University in the UK. Her dissertation, a 700-page creative thesis, is about Holy City, the ghost town in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Adina is a prolific author. In May and July this year, with co-writer R.E. Scott, she has already released the first two Regent's Devices novels, a steampunk adventure trilogy set in an alt-history, Regency England and France. The third book in the series is due out in September. When Scott and Adina discovered that the historical figure Sophie Blanchard was Napoleon's real-life Chief Air Minister, planning an invasion of England by balloon, inspiration struck. A fictional daughter was invented, and her English best friend subsequently becomes the great-grandmother of the heroine of Adina's popular 22-book Magnificent Devices steampunk series.

Adina will be discussing how the "blurbs" on your book covers can result in either an immediate rejection or an instant sale. She'll explain how to use them as your opportunity to connect with the readers who are seeking books like yours. She'll be available to answer audience questions, following her presentation.

To get your link to this event send an email request to [scottfrombayside@yahoo.com](mailto:scottfrombayside@yahoo.com) with "FAW Zoom" on your subject line. You should receive the link the day before or the day of the meeting. Zoom participation is FREE to everyone, especially those who love books and writing.

Learn more about Shelley Adina at <https://www.shelleyadina.com>, and about Fremont Area Writers at <https://cwc-fremontareawriters.org>. FAW is one of 22 branches of the California Writers Club (CWC) <https://calwriters.org>.

***Everyone is welcome!***



**TERRY TOSH**  
**FAW President**

# ***President's Message***

Welcome to August, my wonderful fellow teammates.

I trust you all had a wonderful Independence Day Celebration, and watched your caloric intake, right? Me neither.

So, as I return to my attempts to keep those pounds from reconquering my body, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for renewing your membership, and for helping to keep this club moving forward. Times are crazy and emotions run wild, if we forget that "This too shall pass."

Please continue to strive to do your best to work on your projects, whatever they may be, and to make yourself available for those

who need your help and guidance. We still need volunteers to step up and offer their services in a variety of capacities, whether hosting a critique group, guiding a group to a new endeavor, connecting with a board member to help them and let them mentor you to new horizons as you stretch your wings and prepare to soar to new heights. Let's get out of our comfort zones this year and see just what can be accomplished, working together to grow ourselves and our club.

See our multitude of information and shared talents in this month's newsletter pages, and be sure to send in your written work, comments, shout outs, suggestions, photos and artwork. Don't forget to take advantage of the many opportunities we provide to help you with your writing and publication, and to spend time with other writers: the newsletter, critique groups, the writers' salon, and our social write-in.

Tell us how you spent your summer vacation, where you visited, what you learned, how you blossomed and returned fresh and ready to conquer (more than calories.)

Here's to a wonderful August and on into the holiday madness soon to follow! Yep, I said it, sorry.

Till we meet next...

Yours, faithfully,

***TERRY***

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# A Word from Our Editor



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

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

August is perhaps the saddest month of the year in this country; it has a smattering of different religious holidays, but not much else (at least on my calendar). However, there is **Women's Equality Day** on the 26<sup>th</sup>. I've been thinking about ways I can celebrate women's equality and the strides we've made.

It is said that women hold up half the sky...though we often don't get recognized for it. Given the opportunity, I'm sure we could hold up the sky in its entirety, if called upon to do so. I hope some of you, women and men, will consider using your creative talents to celebrate women's equality in some written form (poetry, prose, essay, memoir, etc.). Photos and artwork on the subject will be appreciated as well. These will be featured in the September issue of *Ink Spots*. *When asked how many women Supreme Court Justices should make up the court... Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg replied, without hesitation, "Nine!" That would certainly be an example of women's equality, considering how long there were only men on the court.* Deadline is 8/10 for the September issue.

I'm revising Submission Guidelines for *Ink Spots* and will send this out to you before the 10<sup>th</sup>. I'm doing this so you can keep it handy in case you have questions about how to prepare your submissions for publication. Very rarely have I not published a piece that's been submitted, though there have been many times when I've wondered if the writer read the instructions once listed at the bottom of this page before submitting. If you have any intention of submitting work to agents, editors, book publishers, magazines, contests, journals, etc., they will expect you to follow their submission requirements. If you don't, many of them will simply trash your submission without looking at it. They'll just move on to the next submission. They get 100s to 1,000s of submissions a year; they don't have the time to decipher work that doesn't meet even the basic criteria of their requirements. No matter how good your writing may be, they may reject you because you didn't follow directions. Let's see if we can avoid that.

Instead, get used to following guidelines, by following them for *Ink Spots*...this is your opportunity to practice in a friendly environment. The more you submit for publication, the more you'll learn there are industry standards that almost everyone follows, but there are also some requirements unique to specific publications. It takes some time to get used to both the common requirements, as well as the unique ones. It does matter if your goal is to become a published writer/author...following directions is a test you will have to pass over and over again.

Keep an eye out for the *Ink Spots* Submission Guidelines, and if you have questions about them, let's talk. We're here to help you, please give us that opportunity. Thanks to those of you who are following our guidelines!

***Stay Healthy and Happy!***

***Cheers! Nancy***

## ***Ink Spots Submission Guidelines***

### **SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**

**10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the publication month** (ex.- August 10<sup>th</sup> for the September issue)

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

**EMAIL SUBJECT LINE:** FAW — *Ink Spots* / Kudos, Book Review, etc. — Your Name (ex. Jane Doe)

***More to come soon on the Ink Spots Submission Guidelines***



# ***FAW – August Meetings***

## **Fremont Area Writers**

### **“Fourth Saturday”**

## **Membership Mtg on Zoom**

**Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup> 2:00 – 4:00 PM**

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

*August's Speaker: Award-winning author, Shelley Adina PhD*

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

## **Fremont Area Writers**

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

## **Board Meeting on Zoom**

**Tuesday August 23<sup>rd</sup> 3:30 – 5:00 PM**

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

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

# ***FAW – August Meetings***

## **Fremont Area Writers**

**“Second Saturday”**

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

**Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup> 2:00 – 3:30 PM**

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

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

## **Fremont Area Writers**

**“Fourth Monday”**

### **Writers’ Salon on Zoom**

**Monday August 22<sup>nd</sup> 7:00 – 9:00 PM**

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

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

# KUDOS – *Members' News*

If you have an accomplishment related to your writing, or some other aspect of your life, and would like to share it with FAW members in this space, please send it to [inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.org), or submit it through the **Shout Out for Ink Spots** link at [cw-fremontareawriters.org](http://cw-fremontareawriters.org). Just scroll down the home page until you reach the red Shout Out link and click on it. Please keep it to 100 words or less. Put **FAW — KUDOS or Shout Out — Your Name** in the subject field of your email to us. If you don't, it may get lost in the mail. Thanks!

**KUDOS to Sue Curtzwiler**, who has completed *Sue's Newsletter Anthology, Volume 1*. It's a collection of her articles published in *Ink Spots*. Articles were for The Spark column, Speaker Recaps from October 2020 - December 2020, and March 2021 - May 2021. Other categories were Special Articles and SIP Notes. Printed on June 19, 2022. **Congratulations, Sue!**

**KUDOS to Tish and Scott Davidson**, who have recently signed a contract with ABC-CLIO for a book tentatively titled *From the War Room to the Living Room: 50 Everyday Items Invented by the Military*. Publication is planned for 2024. **Congratulations, Tish & Scott!**

**KUDOS to Evelyn LaTorre**, who was a member of a panel featured at the San Francisco Writers Conference in late July. The panel participants discussed the value of being a member of CWC and their individual branches, and the degree to which it has helped with their growth and development as writers and successful authors. **Congratulations, Evelyn!**



Photograph by Cheryl Lyn Chin

Visual Prompt

# SIP NOTES

**NOTE #42 (Replacement) JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup> CHERILYN CHIN**

## **My Humpback Whale Snorkeling Experience**

I slid into the Atlantic Ocean off the small boat like a seal sliding off a rock and into the water. I heard my breathing through my snorkel and blinked while focusing on the deep blue beyond.

Suddenly, there they were, a 40-foot-long mother humpback whale with her 15-foot-long calf circling her. It was an astonishing sight. I have seen humpback whales and their antics above the water off Hawaii and California, but here was the gentle giant in her own environment.

They swam around us and our boat, eyeing us. No doubt they were curious about the ungainly creatures who literally came out of the blue. The mother and calf swam next to us, under us and so close that I knew with flick of her tail, it would be the end of me.

It was like a dream, one that would be long lost if it weren't for the pictures my small point-and-shoot underwater camera took. There were full body shots of the mother and calf, and body parts like flukes or the long pectoral fins filling the entire frame.

The largest animal I had snorkeled with before was the ocean's largest fish, a whale shark, and it was only as long as the calf! I remember counting the seconds as the whale shark swam slowly by, head-body-tail, gulping down water through its gills to filter out plankton to eat.

The calf needed to come up for air every few minutes, with mother in tow even though she could average 20 minutes per breath. The calf swam close to its mother the whole time they were with us, a good 30 minutes. They circled our boat many times. Our 25-foot-long boat paled in comparison to the mother. Female humpbacks can grow up to 50 feet long and weigh 35 tons!

Out of the water, the pair put on quite a show, tail lobbing (slapping their flukes on the surface of the water), pectoral fin slapping and breaching their whole bodies out of the water!

Intentions are powerful. The previous night while introducing ourselves (our group had all previously snorkeled with wild dolphins in the Bahamas with

Humpback  
Whale

Photograph by  
Cherilyn Chin



Wildquest over the years) and why we were there. I shared that I wanted to see a mother and calf pair underwater, as well as write a blog post, a children's book, and an article about the experience. I'm not saying I'm solely responsible for the long and memorable encounter—the humpback whales made that happen—but considering we only got into the water once more during the week (we heard a male humpback singing underwater!), it made this encounter even more special.

Aquatic Adventures specializes in "Passive-in-Water Whale Encounters" or PIWWE (pee-wee) on the Silver Bank Marine Sanctuary, which is halfway between the Dominican Republic (where we flew to) and the Turks and Caicos islands in the Atlantic Ocean.

From Aquatic Adventure's website, "Research indicates that the Silver Bank contains the largest seasonal population of humpbacks in the North Atlantic Ocean, if not the world. The sanctuary is only 40 sq. miles, but 5000-7000 humpback whales pass through each winter."

The Silver Bank is a calving and mating ground for humpback whales. The calves grow quickly on their mother's milk of 70% fat (Whole cow's milk is only 4% fat in comparison!). They are born 10-15 feet long and 1-2 tons in weight. The mother will not feed again until she reaches somewhere north like Stellwagen Bank off Massachusetts, USA.

I want to thank everyone on the boat, guests, and crew alike, for an amazing experience in and out of the water. For more about snorkeling with humpback whales in the Silver Bank, visit <https://www.aquaticadventures.com> Aquatic Adventure's website, and check out my website <https://protecttheoceans.org/wordpress> and leave comments or email me with any questions!

***Cherilyn Chin***



# SIP NOTES

**NOTE #51 JULY 24<sup>TH</sup> PAT DOYNE**

## MUGSHOT FOR SARS-CoV-2

Its M.O. is breaking and entering.  
See those protein spikes sticking out all over?  
Ram one of those through a cell wall,  
and COVID is inside, in command.  
It shuts off the cell's burglar alarm—  
so that armed antibodies don't show up.  
Now for the takeover move: reproduce.  
Soon legions of Stormtroopers seek new conquests.

Every human is an attractive habitat.  
Aided by leaders who should know better,  
COVID infiltrates and takes prisoners.  
Camps out at beach bashes.  
Hugs cousins at family picnics.  
Sneezes in check-out lines.  
Belts out songs in church choirs.  
Answers questions in school.  
Shakes hands at business meetings.  
Kisses loved-ones good night.  
COVID joins our celebrations,  
infects and debilitates,  
then keeps well-wishers out of hospital rooms.

COVID is a shape-shifter.  
Everyone knew that horseshoe bats harbored SARS.  
Suddenly, masses of people were getting pneumonia.  
Best guess? Sly mutation, and a world of new hosts.  
Infection spread from country to country.  
Soon there was a tidal wave of cases, worldwide,  
with a staggering death toll: 6% of billions.  
But mutations continue,  
making COVID ever more efficient,  
omnipresent, and unpredictable.

COVID hates masks.  
Hates soap, disinfectant, sanitizer.  
Hates spacing people apart—"social distancing."  
Hates rubber gloves and protective gear.  
Hates any barriers to in-your-face mingling.

COVID just loves people.

Loves to party.

Loves gyms, Zumba classes, playgrounds.

Loves hanging out with pals.

Loves cruises and tourist meccas.

Loves getting together for a drink.

Loves crowded airplanes.

Loves rallies, rodeos, ballparks, and concerts.

Wherever people gather, COVID is an uninvited guest,  
often brought by a guy with no symptoms.

So where are we now?

Is COVID just the flu?

A hoax?

An infection that will run through a population,  
killing the weak and leaving the strong immune?

Or will COVID continue breaking and entering

while the economy crashes,

the death toll rises,

and survivors show long-term damage?

When leaders swap science for votes,

the outcome is anybody's guess.

So far there is only one winner: SARS-CoV-2.

**Patricia Doyne**

© 9/2020

Photograph by Nancy Guarnera



# **FAW & CWC Information**

**— PLEASE READ —**

## **NOW RENEW YOUR FAW DUES NOW**

If you haven't renewed your FAW dues, now is the time. You can use snail mail and send a check...or better yet, you can go to the FAW website at <https://cwc-fremontareawriters.org> and click the link on the first page in the NEW section and pay with PayPal or by credit card. Renewal dues: \$45 per member per year, & \$25 if you have dual membership in FAW and primary membership with another branch.

*Thank you for supporting CWC, FAW and writers helping writers.*

## **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

*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. Check pages 24 & 25 for contact info.*

## **WHO, WHAT, WHEN & WHERE...**

As of January 1, 2022, all CWC branch meetings will be added to the Events Calendar on CWC's website below. All members are encouraged to consult the calendar for speakers of interest and attend the listed meetings. CWC members attending other branches' monthly meetings should expect to pay the same attendance fee as that branch's members.

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

*Have a Book or a Service you'd like to Sell?*

## **Check out the CWC Bulletin Ads!**

**4 Times a Year – Winter Spring Summer & Fall**

As many as 2,000 people statewide...maybe more...can see your Ad

**Deadlines are March 1, June 1, September 1, & December 1**

*Sizes and Prices Vary*

For more info go to – <https://calwriters.org/bulletin/> & scroll down to Advertising

Or call Bob Isbill at (760) 221-6367

# FAW & CWC Information

— PLEASE READ —

## Notes from a Panel July 24<sup>th</sup> San Francisco 18<sup>th</sup> SF Writers Conference

by Evelyn Kohl LaTorre



The 18th San Francisco Writers Conference was held in-person this past July 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> after a postponement from its usual February dates. The conference hasn't been held since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The event at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Market Street attracted a range of hopeful-to-accomplished writers. In-depth, half-day Master Classes on Thursday and Sunday were provided by writing and publishing experts such as Jordan Rosenfeld and Brooke Warner. Scores of one-hour sessions covered a wide range of topics like "Setting, Time, and Place in Fiction Writing" to "Craft of Writing Nonfiction." The next SFWC is scheduled for February 16-19, 2023.

The California Writers Club had a colorful booth festooned with the covers of the scores of books written by its members. CWC was further represented by a panel of five authors who shared how belonging to one or several CWC branches had benefited them. FAW member, Evelyn LaTorre, was a panel member and shared the following:

*"For the past 13 years CWC has helped shape my writing life through workshops, retreats, and the monthly programs of two branches: Fremont Area Writers and SF-Peninsula. I doubt I'd have two published books without them."*

## 2022 CWC NorCal Save the Dates

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:

- ❖ After missing our biennial **NorCal Leadership Conference** in 2020, the NorCal Group plans to host the conference on **October 1, 2022**. Training will be offered to all leaders in executive board positions, as well as other important roles within the branches. This may be a hybrid conference, but regardless of presentation, it will be essential for all CWC branch leaders to take advantage of this pertinent CWC training. Put this on your calendars. Our goal is to provide the best tools available to help leaders meet the growing needs of their branches.



# ***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.)

## ***Watching for Dragonflies***

**by Suzanne Marriott**

Suzanne Marriott's touching memoir stays with the reader long after its final present-tense para-graph. This is a book that needs to be read by anyone who wishes to know what it's like to go through the stages of a chronic illness.

Along with Michael, who has MS, and Suzanne, his wife and caretaker, we experience joy in their successful activities and disappointment in the frequent ineptness of their health care providers.

We follow the couple through years of health challenges and learn of the events that bond them together and the mishaps that appear to tear them apart. Aided by the author's journals, which include her dreams, we are treated to realistic descriptions of the couple's day-to-day lives as well as Suzanne's premonitions.

A very moving, true story.

*Review submitted by **Evelyn LaTorre***

## ***The Art of Losing It***

**by Rosemary Keevil**

Just as I was feeling sorry for myself because of a physical ailment, I read this book and was whisked away from my pain into the author's.

This heartfelt and brutally honest story took me into the anguish of the Keevil family as they struggle to survive. The author fights to overcome her young husband's death, her own drug abuse, and her difficulties in raising her two daughters.

Most of the scenes take place in hospitals, therapy sessions, or driving between them. We learn about treatments that work and some that don't.

The descriptive first person narrative plunges the reader into the emotions of this young wife and mother as she attempts to take care of her dying husband, her failing brother, and her young daughters. The book is sometimes difficult to get through, but worth it.

*Review submitted by **Evelyn LaTorre***

**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, email your name and your answers to [inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org) and we'll publish your name. **Deadline** is the 25th of the month before the publication month (ex.-August 25<sup>th</sup> for the September 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 September issue of Ink Spots.)

*Who are they?*

Gia Jencro \* Maria Dian Denel \* Zelda O'Shore

Wanda Gorisi \* Brian Mova Klovid \* Goren Dages

**Hints \* Authors \* Hints**

3 authors, 3 characters, 1 male, 5 females, 1 American, 1 Russian, 1 French, 1 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> cen., 1 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> cen., 1 19<sup>th</sup> cen., feminist, teacher, 1<sup>st</sup> book in series of 3, known by a pseudonym, novelist, poet, translator, Times list of 100 Best Novels, sold more than 20 million copies, novelist, poet, satirist, had many affairs with both men and women, smoked in public, entomologist, composed chess problems, friendships with Balzac, Flaubert and Delacroix, considered most popular writer in Europe during the Romantic Era, novel made into a film, two operas and 2 ballets, long-term relationship with Chopin, lepidopterist, cross-dressed in public without a permit in France, themes include love, gender inequality and class, descended from royalty through bastard lineage, trilingual, first novel controversial subject: SEX

**Please note:** These names do not necessarily conform to the number of words in an author'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 Anagram Alley answers for the June 2022 issue of Ink Spots.**

**Congrats to Scott Davidson, Pat Doyne, Steve Gibson, and Terry Tosh who each got them 100% correct.**

**EARL HEPER**

Harper Lee

**CATHI STUCFIN**

Atticus Finch

To Kill a Mockingbird

**TOM RIAN WARBE**

Rita Mae Brown

**LOLM TOBLY**

Molly Bolt

Rubyfruit Jungle

**MIA ADISEN TAPRUM**

Armistead Maupin

**DIANA GRAMLAN**

Anna Madrigal

Tales of the City

# Notes from the World

## AUTHORS PUBLISH

<https://authorspublish.com>

Check here for lists of publishing opportunities (*Please vet before submitting*):

<https://authorspublish.com/32-flash-fiction-markets/>

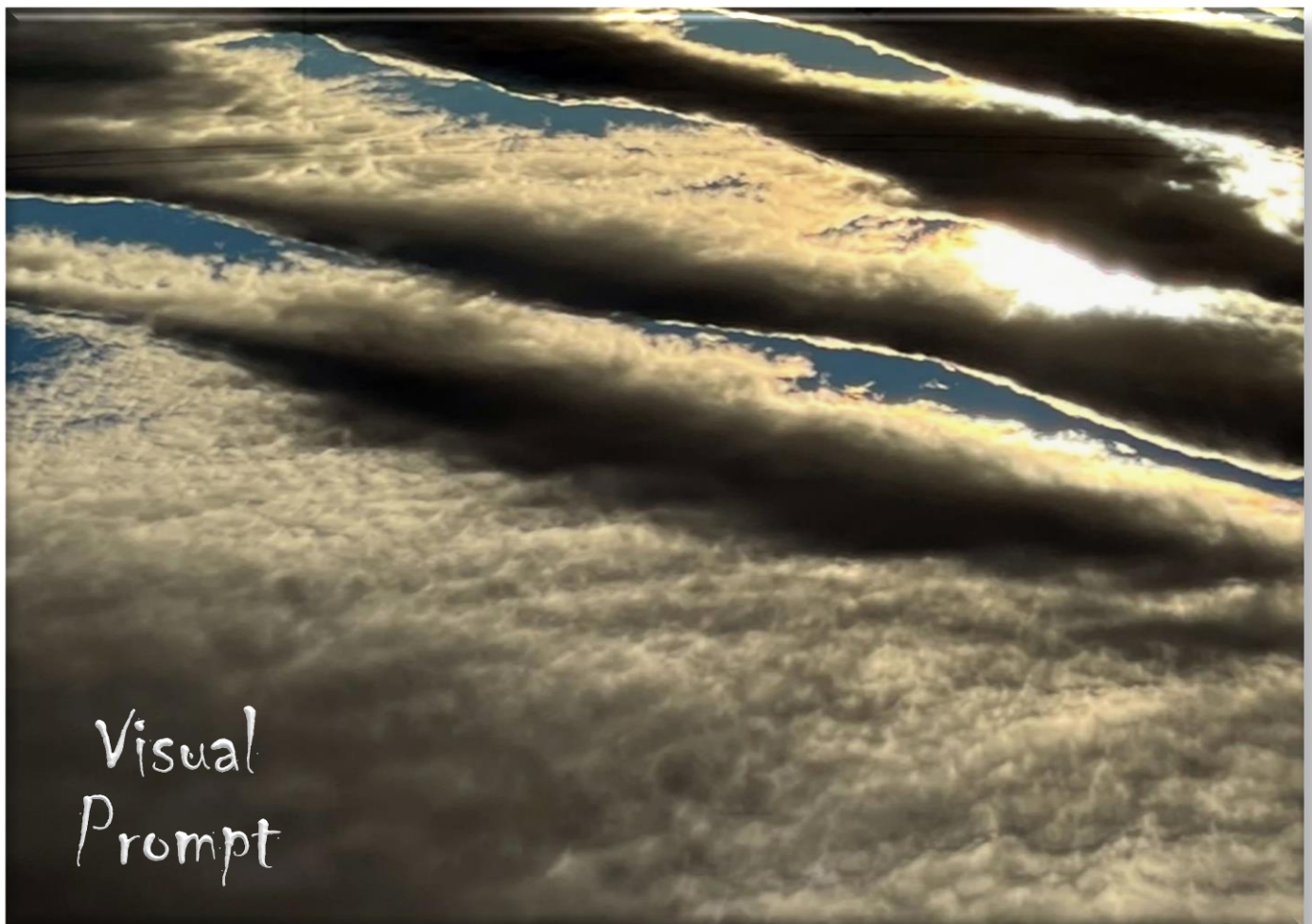
<https://authorspublish.com/25-magazines-accepting-creative-nonfiction/>

<https://authorspublish.com/51-traditional-childrens-book-publishers-seeking-submissions-no-agent-required/>

... and many more ... a newsletter and free webinars on craft



Photograph by Nancy Guarnera

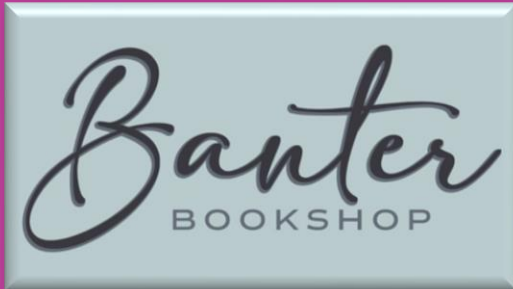


Visual  
Prompt



# More Notes from the World

*There's a new bookstore  
in town!*



**3768 F Capitol Ave.  
Fremont, CA**

*The more we support  
our local bookstores,  
the more bookstores  
there will be.*

**Are you an author?**  
Would you like  
**FREE ADVERTISING  
& FREE PUBLICITY**  
on Chat And Spin Radio?

Please visit us at:  
**www.chatandspinradio.com**  
& Click the **CONTACT US** tab  
to leave a message.

Ian Johnson  
Advertising Manager / Co-Owner  
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!

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

**Saturday, Aug 13 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT**

**"Writing the Truth: Persuading  
through Prose"**

*The nature of truth and perception...*

**Saturday, Sept 17, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT**

**"Revising your own work."**

*Your manuscript...draft to submission-ready*

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***, made its debut last 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**

**So many submission options . . .**

### **Six-Word Stories**

[www.narrativemagazine.com/sixwords](http://www.narrativemagazine.com/sixwords)

### **Story of the Week**

[www.narrativemagazine.com/story-week-guidelines](http://www.narrativemagazine.com/story-week-guidelines)

### **Poem of the Week**

[www.narrativemagazine.com/poem-week-guidelines](http://www.narrativemagazine.com/poem-week-guidelines)

### **Photography**

[www.narrativemagazine.com/photography](http://www.narrativemagazine.com/photography)

**DEADLINES: Continuous...check your category**

**For general submissions to the magazine:**

[www.narrativemagazine.com/submit-your-work](http://www.narrativemagazine.com/submit-your-work)

## **TCK Publishing.com**

### **TCK Publishing Mission Statement**

***"To build a sustainable book publishing company that helps  
as many authors as possible fulfill their dreams."***

**Our mission is to help all of our clients earn a full-time income from book royalties.**

**They have various contests throughout the year and accept submissions  
of both fiction — all genres and markets — and non-fiction.**

**They have FREE classes and webinars.**

**<https://www.tckpublishing.com>**

# *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)

## Gotham Writers Workshop — FREE —

The **Gotham Writers Workshop** in New York City has put together the **Inside Writing** series of free talks about writing. Now in its fifth season, the workshops cover a variety of tools necessary to writers in today's world. The format varies from season to season. Best of all, you get to listen and learn from other writers!

**Seasons 1 - 5 are archived at:**

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIOByuSHCqP7V9mSsoqU5FojJys2LsvYi>

**Inside Writing: A recent Special Episode** discussed the importance of using "sensitivity readers" as part of your editing process.

Check out these **free** talks on writing!

## Call for *Romance* Submissions

**Belonging Books**, an 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

**<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](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](http://sistersincrime.org) *(also open to men)*

**Mystery Writers of America** [mysterywriters.org](http://mysterywriters.org)

**Romance Writers of America** [rwa.org](http://rwa.org)

**Golden State Romance Writers**  
[goldenstateromancewriters.org](http://goldenstateromancewriters.org)  
*(open to all genre fiction writers)*

**Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America**  
[sfwa.org](http://sfwa.org)

**Inspire Christian Writers** [inspirewriters.com](http://inspirewriters.com)

**Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators**  
[scbwi.org](http://scbwi.org)

**Women's National Book Association** [wnba-books.org](http://wnba-books.org)  
*(also open to men)*

**Academy of American Poets** [poets.org](http://poets.org)

**Poetry Society of America** [poetrysociety.org](http://poetrysociety.org)

**National Association of Memoir Writers** [namw.org](http://namw.org)

**American Society of Journalists and Authors** [asja.org](http://asja.org)  
*(nonfiction writers)*

**CineStory** [cinestory.org](http://cinestory.org) *(screenwriters)*

**Scriptwriters Network** [scriptwritersnetwork.com](http://scriptwritersnetwork.com)

**Historical Novel Association** [historicalnovelsociety.org](http://historicalnovelsociety.org)

**Horror Writers Association** [horror.org](http://horror.org)

## 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)**

# ***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:

**listoutallyourproblems.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

\*\*\*\*\*

## IN BROAD DAYLIGHT

What happened to my sweet friend last week  
Should never have happened at all.  
Her love for flowers led on a hunt  
And off she went to the mall.  
Neatly parking her Prius in Lowes parking lot  
Who would have guessed what went wrong?  
In and out with shopping complete  
Judy returned to her car and sat down.  
Upon turning the engine, quiet Prius roared  
Like a freight train flying through.  
The Prius was sick. It had a bad sound  
Like the Harley Davidson bikers do.  
She slid off her seat, knew something was wrong  
Not wanting to go any further.  
Outside, there it was, now missing a part  
A thief had her catalytic converter.

**Jan Salinas**

## CONVERSATION

Bird in the tree talks to me.  
I respond,  
not sure she understands.  
She responds, and we continue  
Chatting away, like two old friends

**Nancy Guarnera**

*This is a short response to George Kwong's  
poem in the May 2022 issue of Ink Spots:*

## EDUCATION

Teaching's more than an occupation.  
Teachers guide the slow creation  
of reasoning and imagination  
to enrich young lives after graduation.

**Pat Doyne**

## A Limerick

A man once ate armadillo  
That tasted somewhat like Brillo  
At some point he woke,  
His head full of smoke  
As he searched in vain for his pillow.

**Terry Tosh**

*"When the writing is good,  
a book becomes a mirror.  
The reader will see an uncanny  
familiarity and respond accordingly."*

**Jen Knox**

— *After the Gazebo*



## **The Blue Corduroy Pants**

### **A Symbol of Love and Value**

*by Leticia Escalera Amador*

The navy Blue Corduroy Pants...radiant before my eyes...as I saw my brother wear them with a sense of pride, elegance and fulfillment. I saw him working hard for months to be able to purchase them. The waiting, the high price and all the sacrifice that entails. It was indeed worthwhile...like running toward the finish line to win the hard desired first place at the end of a race. For my brother, being able to finally buy the Blue Corduroy Pants, was a dream come true. He was overwhelmed with happiness for owning and having such a great garment in his possession.

Thus, he only used them for special occasions and he applied himself to give them extra care. For us, his siblings...no borrowing was the golden rule and don't even think about it, was the final word. My other brother didn't even dare to ask...he was banned from any possible consideration and he had no chance. Oh, No! I could not believe that this restriction was real! My mother had taught me that everything has a solution.

I patiently waited and waited until my brother came out of his dream come true phase...then I began to prepare for the moment of conquering this almost impossible goal. My only and constant strategy was to be extra nice to my him... I did every good thing you could do to earn a king's favor. After a few months of my great demeanor, I nervously ask him, if I could borrow the Blue Corduroy Pants. To my surprise...he said Yes! Am I hearing right? Did he say yes? He proceeded, but only for one day. Shaking, I said thank you and I assured him, I would take good care of them. He told me I had to return them the next day because he was going to wear them for a special occasion. I said yes! Most definitely.

I was overwhelmed with happiness...I couldn't believe I was able to convince my brother because he had a stern personality and most of the time he didn't like to share what he cherished so specially and personally. I felt loved and valued with this gesture from my brother.

I wore the beautiful Blue Corduroy Pants for a school day...it was a great moment of joy...never forgotten. The next day, he woke up just to ask me, before I left for school, if I had left his Blue Pants where he had instructed me. I said yes... and he went back to sleep. I saw him once more in the afternoon as he drove away from school.

That night around 11pm, I heard a commotion in my house coming from the living room; I tried to go back to sleep. Moments later, I was awakened by a family member entering my room sobbing, telling me my brother Ruben was in a car accident and had died... He died, she repeated as she continued to sob.

I couldn't believe this was happening. I headed toward the living room and saw my mother crying and taken by such a great sorrow and brokenness she fainted from hearing such heartbreaking news. My father was crying with such mourning, that his tears were rolling down his cheeks profusely. It was then I knew my brother had died in that car accident.

I couldn't make sense of what had happened. It was the first death in our immediate family. You're never prepared for a sudden, tragic death. You just want to numb your emotions forever. It is always difficult to understand "why" when someone young dies. He was 17 years old...so young. My beloved brother died wearing his favorite Blue Corduroy Pants: The great symbol of Love and Value.





## ARTHUR'S STONE

by Paul K Davis

A notation on a detailed map of Great Britain says, "Arthur's Stone," so, since we are touring archaeological sites from Orkney to Stonehenge, we include it in our itinerary.

The GPS takes us off the main street onto some very narrow, so-called "roads." As we are beginning to wonder how we might turn around, there it is, atop a small ridge. Another family is already there, exploring.

The Visitor Information explains that it is actually a Neolithic chambered tomb, more than 5,000 years old. This is long before King Arthur. What remains is a small (compared to Stonehenge) circle of standing stones, turned into a room by a top slab, weighing over 25 tons. Wow! How did those people do it?

The site has never been excavated. Who knows what lies below the surface?

**FAW member Paul K Davis will be making a presentation on the history of Ukraine to Big History Society on Monday, August 22nd, at 10:00 AM, via Zoom.**

**As speaker, Paul is entitled to invite guest attendees - if you are interested, email him at [paulkdavis@earthlink.net](mailto:paulkdavis@earthlink.net).**

The top slab is cracked in two, but the two pieces are still well supported. We go inside and wonder what it was like to live that long ago.

The Visitor Information also explains that several such sites in Wales and western England are associated with legends of King Arthur. This one is supposedly where Arthur slew a giant, who fell on one of the stones leaving his elbow prints.

But I wonder if this site maybe created a legend. The broken top slab looks as if a huge, and very tough, sword sliced it. Perhaps people figured the sword got stuck in the stone, and could only be pulled out by one specially blessed. Hence, Excalibur.



Photograph by Paul K Davis

## SCARS

by Terry Connelly

Some scars are invisible but powerful nonetheless. Because they can't be seen, no sympathy is offered, no concerning questions asked.

But what happens when you are told that your scars will be easily seen? Do you have the procedure or not?

That's the choice I faced when I investigated cosmetic surgery after losing eighty pounds.

The scars on my arms would run down the backside. They might fade with time or they might remain as deep red lines. I didn't care. I hated the flaps of saggy skin that smacked the water when I swam, so loudly that I could hear the whump, whump as the bags smacked the surface, despite wearing earplugs and a cap.

I believed that if I could hear it that clearly, then so could everyone else.

I hated the way my arms looked in short sleeves: huge bags of quivering flesh. I was embarrassed and humiliated; my self-esteem suffered.

The surgery would remove the bags. I chose self-esteem over scarring.

After recovering from that operation I investigated additional cosmetic surgery to remove the roll of skin

that had pooled around my waist. Even though it was always hidden under my clothes, unless I wore an overly baggy top, the bulge was visible.

Once again the surgeon said there would be scarring, most likely a deep red line that encircled my waist. My response? I told her that the only one who would see it was my husband. The benefit of the operation would be clearly visible: no roll of excess skin.

Granted my scars are visible, but the surgery removed the psychological effects caused by extreme embarrassment, by my disgust of my body.

After recovery, every time I looked in the mirror, I was shocked. Who was this woman looking back at me? She had no flabby arms, no roll of skin.

My new identity was hard to embrace. Months went by and I still did not recognize myself, did not connect that reflection with who I was now.

Two years later I am still surprised. The scars are there, but they are badges of honor, not of shame.

*(This piece was inspired by a writing prompt offered at a monthly FAW Social Write event. See note below.)*

### NOTE:

*FAW's Social Write-In is a Zoom event held on the second Saturday of the month from 2:00 - 3:30pm PT. Facilitated writing sessions, using various types of prompts, allow participants to write about, and then share, their lives in small groups. Everyone is welcome. Email Scott at [scottfrombayside@yahoo.com](mailto:scottfrombayside@yahoo.com) for a link.*



# ***FAW Board Members***



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



**KNUTI VANHOVEN**  
Vice President



**REKHA RAMANI**  
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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***



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Signage  
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**EVELYN LATORRE**  
Nor-Cal Representative



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**KNUTI VANHOVEN**  
Speakers Program  
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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*)