



# Ink Spots



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

Nancy Guarnera Editor-in-Chief Vol. 123 September 2022 [inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org)

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



Visual Prompt

*Photograph by Evelyn LaTorre*



# September General Meeting

\* September 24<sup>TH</sup> \* 2 to 4 PM \* Zooming \*

Tish & Scott  
Davidson

## *How to Sabotage Your Book in the First Five Pages*

**W**riters are repeatedly told that they must catch the attention of agents or editors in the first few pages of their work. So why would you want to hear about how to get rejected when acceptance and publication is what you crave? The answer is simply that it is easier to see the mistakes in other people's writing than it is in your own, but once you become alert to common problems, you can apply that knowledge to improve your own work.



**Scott & Tish Davidson**

Whether you are sending your writing to a publisher, agent, editor, or contest, the first five pages are critical to keeping your audience reading. Tish and Scott Davidson experienced the importance and power of the first five pages when they judged over 160 books in a contest for small press and independently published books. The first five pages of the entries ranged from the ridiculous to the sublime.

In this talk the Davidsons will focus on the ridiculous—the mistakes these writers made to get their books rejected early. There will be examples, lots of examples. Some problems are obvious. Others are subtle. All are fatal. By looking critically at the work of others, you'll learn how to write a book that gets rejected in the first five pages...then you can go out and do the opposite!

The Davidsons are voracious readers and writers. Tish Davidson just signed a contract for her seventeenth traditionally published book. She writes on medical issues and history for audiences ranging from elementary school to adult. Her new book for adolescents, *Hormones: Your Questions Answered*, (ABC-CLIO, an imprint of Bloomsbury) was released in July. *Medical Firsts: Innovations and Milestones that Changed the World* is scheduled for publication in early 2023 from the same publisher. For the past eight years, Tish has judged book contests in categories ranging from health and wellness, to action-adventure, to historical fiction. "*Judging has made me acutely aware of first-five-page problems and my own writing has improved because of this,*" she says. Scott Davidson writes, reads, and collects science fiction. For the past 25 years, he has had a non-technical column, "The Last Byte," in *IEEE Design & Test*, been on the editorial board of two journals, and judged science fiction books for an independent book contest.

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 Fremont Area Writers at <https://cwc-fremontareawriters.org>. FAW is one of 22 branches of the California Writers Club (CWC) <https://calwriters.org>.



**TERRY TOSH**  
FAW President

# President's Message

*(Me, awakening from my summer stupor...)*

*Huh? Wait, wut?*

*Good grief, it's almost August 10<sup>th</sup>.... Already?*

*OMG! I need to get my important "President's Message" ready. Umm, ahhh, what? September issue.... Already??*

*Arrrgggghhh...this is ridiculous, how can that happen? We just finished June and had a whole glorious month to take a breath, right?*

*Ok, Ok. FOCUS! You got this. Now, get out there and encourage!*

*Ahem,*

Hello, great and wonderful FAW team.

What a blessed year we are having, already. So many opportunities to share our stories and adventures, talents and lessons learned.

I was so thrilled to be a part of the exciting statewide zoom event that featured one of my most admired authors, Dean Koontz! What a jam-packed afternoon it was, getting to see and hear him "live" and to bask in the wisdom and talent and great humor as he answered questions from across our state CWC branches. I don't have space in this format to go into the multitude of great thoughts and ideas that were shared, but I am so glad I made time to attend.

By the time you read this, we will have had our August Meeting together, and have added more jewels of knowledge to our collective treasury of information and skills in whatever genre and/or facet of the writing community we happen to be a part of.

I hope you have, by now, renewed your membership, as well as your commitment to grow your personal talent by volunteering to mentor others, or to join or start a critique group. You can also take full advantage of the plethora of sessions offered throughout the state, by checking out this newsletter and the events calendar on the [calwriters.org](http://calwriters.org) website.

So many opportunities, so little time.

Please do your best to support your local branch by attending the proffered sessions, as noted in our newsletter, *Ink Spots*.

Write an article, share a discovery, or participate in the brainteaser puzzle page. Lots of interesting information about authors you may know and some you may not.

Send in your "shout outs" for the KUDOS section, and let us all share in your joy and excitement as we move forward, together, into the vast future we have wide open before us.

You Got This.

**TERRY**

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# A Word from Our Editor



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

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

I don't know if anyone else has noticed, but the light has changed. I noticed it on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August. That seems early to me. It has to do with the angle of the Earth in relationship to the sun. The best I can do to describe how I experience this is to say that the sun's light is not quite as glaring as the summer sunlight. It's a little bit weaker and not so bright.

That's how I've been feeling recently. A little bit weaker and not quite so bright. It's not surprising, I suppose. I've been living life in the time of COVID. I only go out to see my doctors, and I walk around my patio for exercise...insufficient. Though I enjoy sitting and listening to the birds discuss the many things important to them. Birds have so much to sing about.

Sometimes there's almost no noise at all; and at other times, I hear the birds, the traffic on the freeway nearby, dogs barking, small planes flying overhead, people moving their trash bins, the babies next door crying or laughing, neighbors

talking, a train whistle warning people off the tracks...a cacophony of sound that feels like a symphonic accompaniment to my afternoon meditation. It takes me out of the smallness that my life has become.

As I write this, I think how ungrateful I am being. I'm alive... since COVID, many people are not. And more are dying every day. I've lost one person, though not to COVID; given his medical challenges, it was not unexpected.

I think of 2020, 2021 and now 2022 as the lost years. It's not that I haven't been productive, just that I've lost touch with the world outside my "four walls." Don't get me wrong, I'm pleased to have had these four walls to shelter-in-place within, and a husband who has been willing to brave the world when, because of co-morbidities, I could not/should not. He has assumed the burden, though he has often not felt up to the task. I feel as if my life, like the sun light, is slipping away and I can't stop it. I assumed that the older I got the brighter my life would become...perhaps that's not how life works. I do take pleasure where I find it, and that helps. My life has become increasingly more passive...I would prefer it to be more active. Like the hummingbirds who visit me in the patio, I'd enjoy zipping off into the world again...going for a drive to the ocean, to see friends, to just live as I once did...before COVID.

## 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

### EMAIL SUBJECT LINE:

FAW — Ink Spots / Kudos, Book Review, etc. —  
Your Name (ex. Jane Doe)

*Please submit your work as doc, docx and jpg file  
attachments, not in the body of the email.*

*For additional info, please refer to the complete guide-  
lines (rev. 8/2022) recently emailed to all members.*

You should have received the new **Submission Guidelines** in your inbox on Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. If you did not, please let me know and I will resend them. I have heard from one member that she found hers in her SPAM folder, so look there, as well. Please follow these Guidelines whenever you decide to submit something for publication. *Thank you!*

**Cheers! Nancy Guarnera, Ink Spots Editor**

## Missed Attribution



*Photograph by Tina Martin*

This photograph was taken at the 2022 SFWC in July and appeared on page 11 of the Aug. 2022 edition of *Ink Spots*. At the time of publication, the photographer's name was unknown. The appropriate attribution is to Tina Martin.



# ***FAW – September Meetings***

## **Fremont Area Writers “Fourth Saturday” Membership Mtg on Zoom**

**Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup> 2:00 – 4:00 PM**

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

*September’s Speakers: Tish & Scott Davidson (see page 2)*

*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 September 20<sup>th</sup> 3:30 – 5:00 PM**

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

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

# ***FAW – September Meetings***

## **Fremont Area Writers**

**“Second Saturday”**

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

**Saturday September 10<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 September 26<sup>th</sup> 7:00 – 9:00 PM**

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

*For details on Zooming, contact Tony Pino  
[up.dragonfly.com@gmail.com](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@cwcfremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org), or submit it through the **Shout Out for Ink Spots** link at [cwcfremontareawriters.org](http://cwcfremontareawriters.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 Art Carey**, who has written the lead short story in Strange Mysteries 9, the latest publication from Whortleberry Press. It's his most recent of several he's had published in this series. **Congratulations, Art!**

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

**KUDOS to Tish and Scott Davidson**, who gave a joint presentation in August to the CWC Sacramento Branch called "From Fatal to Acceptance in the First Five Pages" based on their experiences judging small press and independently published books. **Congratulations, Tish & Scott!**



Save the Date  
**OCT 1<sup>st</sup>**  
CWC No  
Confe

The CWC No  
to host the  
**Leaders** from  
2020 c  
22. Train-  
ing v  
all leaders  
in  
positions, as  
important roles  
This may  
conference, but re-  
presentation, it will  
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 grow-  
ing needs of their branches.

**Building Better Branches**  
**CANCELED**



Photograph by Rekha Ramani



# ***SIP NOTES***

**NOTE #52 AUGUST 11<sup>TH</sup> LETICIA ESCALERA AMADOR**

*A Pandemic Day of Amor and Memoir*

## **Opie... Opie... Knock... Knock...**

With great anticipation for the moment of Gladness...  
I hear my great niece knocking at my door  
She knows I am here, and says... Opie...Opie (which means open the door)

Trying to wake up to the special knock after one sleepless night...  
I hear, Opie...Opie. Knock, Knock...

I open my door to see a tiny little girl with a radiant smile and great resilience...  
ready to play, draw, sing and talk.

It gives me Joy... So... I Opie the door every morning.  
Comes the afternoon... And once more I hear,  
Yeki, Yeki... Opie the door. Outside! Outside!

Oh no! Is it time to play again?

***Leticia Escalera Amador***

*During the pandemic, Leticia's sister sheltered in place and home schooled three of her grandchildren. Leticia helped her sister with a 3-month-old great niece until the baby was 2 years old. "Yeki" is the name her niece called Leticia while they sheltered in place together.*



**National Hispanic Heritage Month**

**September 15 to October 15**

The U.S. celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month by appreciating the community's history, heritage and contributions of the ancestors of American citizens who came from Mexico, Spain, the Caribbean, and South and Central America.

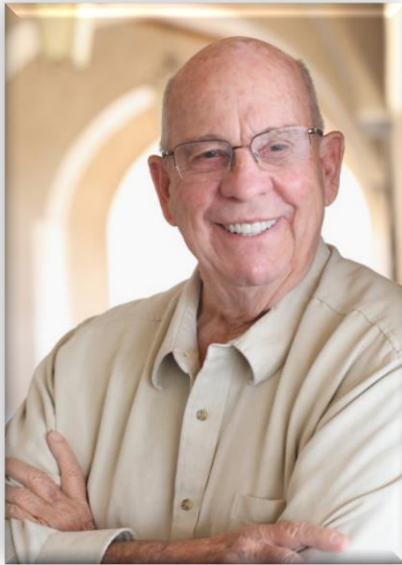
***Please consider submitting your creative work — poetry, prose, fiction, non-fiction, photographs, and artwork — that reflects the Hispanic culture and contributions. Submissions will appear in the October issue of Ink Spots. Deadline is September 10<sup>th</sup>.***



# Guest Article

## WHY IT'S ESSENTIAL TO GROW

by Bob Isbill, CWC VP & Director of Public Relations



**Bob Isbill, CWC VP**  
**Director of Public Relations**

**I**n the words of Dara Marks, author of *Inside Story: The Transformational Arc*, there is nothing in the universe that is static. We are either growing towards something (life) or resisting growth, going towards decay and death.

That is true not only of your protagonist, but also of an organization or a writer's club. Sadly, our members, like other friends, drop out, move away, stop meeting with us—it's life's process. We consider ourselves lucky if we can count on one hand the number of real friends we've cultivated. We do not need to abandon the familiar and the loyal in order to enlarge our relationships and embrace new ones. We have the obligation to tell other people about our club.

Many people have no idea that on a certain day of every month, a hundred-year-old writers club meets in your town or city! They need to know that. Just take, for example, the latest guests who have joined your club. Each one has a separate and interesting background to bring to your branch.

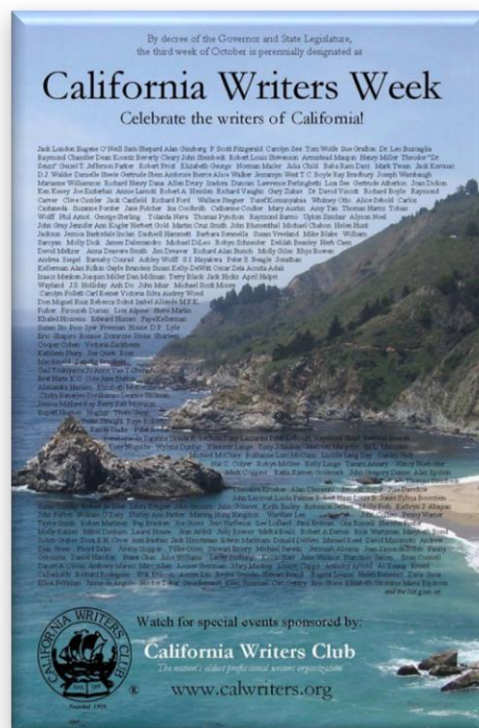
That's how we recreate ourselves and develop the quality of our meetings and our structure. Writers, overall, are great people! When was the last time you invited one? Tell them about your website and suggest they look at your branch events, past and future.

Quality guest speakers like to speak to big meetings. Attendance reflects vitality of the group and excites those who come to hear about us. Increased membership also increases networking opportunities to meet and learn from those who can and will help us.

We have a larger responsibility than just increasing the numbers and populating our gatherings with lots of people; we have a sizable message to send to our fellow writers and the community:

**We are here!**

**October 17, – October 23, 2022**



California Writers Week has been an official celebration in California for 100 years.

This year, CWC has designated the third week of October for remembering and celebrating the writers of CA.

CWC would like all its branches to join the “party” in creative ways that can make the public aware of CWC and its value to the community.

# **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 23 & 24 for contact info.*

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

As of January 1, 2022, all CWC branch meetings have been 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 of interest to them. 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*

## **CENTRAL BOARD MEETING REPORT**

*by Evelyn LaTorre substituting for Terry Tosh*

The first in-person meeting in 3 years was held at the Oakland Holiday Inn on Hegenberger Road. The minutes of the past two virtual meetings and the CWC budget were passed after minor corrections.

### **Dues**

Dues need to be collected by all branches. Those not re-registered (renewed) prior to the September 30, deadline are automatically dropped by the MRMS data system.

The CWC membership is expected to total 1,986 with 83 dual members (members in more than one branch). There are 25 lifetime members that treasurers need to renew every year or they are dropped by the data system. To date, 553 members have renewed between all 22 branches.

### **Membership Categories**

The current categories of associate and active membership are being redefined. Members don't need to be asked what they've published during the past year to remain members nor is a sample of new members' writing needed. However, branches are urged to have a list of their members' publications, so CWC can show that belonging to a CWC branch increases writing productivity. For example, Redwood Branch has 180 published writers.

### **CWC Literary Review**

The *Literary Review* will be sent out in September. The branches whose members' writing are included are urged to promote their successes.

The \$10,000 cost of publishing and sending the *Review* absorbs 20% of the CWC budget. The purpose and process are being reviewed. Alternatives and changes re. publication are needed.

We are considering that 50% of the entries don't meet the established guidelines, and 80% of all submissions come in during the last week before the deadline, so extending it doesn't help.

The Board would like the membership to voice an opinion via their president regarding their preference:

- Alternate Lit Review publication with the Jack London Awards every two years during CWC week (3<sup>rd</sup> week of October)

- Print every 3 years
- Alternate the Lit Review with sponsored classes/workshops on the writing craft
- Alternate with online, digital publications (possibly specializing in poetry, etc.)

Many whose pieces were rejected responded with appreciation for the written critiques they were sent. Branches are encouraged to have those whose work was critiqued, share in small groups the comments they received about their pieces, then show how they reworked them. In prior years, when some of the rejected pieces were reworked and resubmitted, they won inclusion in the *Lit Review* the following year.

### **Building Better Branches**

\$2000 was approved for the CWC 2021 conference to be held at the Pleasanton Senior Center. The agenda is in the planning stage. **Canceled**

### **CWC week**

Every branch needs to have some event during the **3<sup>rd</sup> week of October** to celebrate **CWC Week**, for which there will be a state proclamation. We need to get CWC's name out there and reach into our communities to let them know our value.

### **The Bulletin**

It was reaffirmed that the CWC on-line newsletter, edited by Joyce Krieg, has a high open rate, which is excellent. Members are invited to submit news articles and member spotlights of new releases. Chapter events should continue to be sent to Joyce and the Calwriters webmaster for inclusion on the state CWC calendar.

### **2022-23 CWC Officers**

President - Roger Lubeck; VP - Bob Isbill; Treasurer - Connie Hanstedt; Secretary - Elizabeth Tuck. Presidential appointments include: Membership chair - Sandy Moffitt; Parliamentarian & Immediate Past President - Donna McCrohan Rosenthal; Bulletin editor - Joyce Krieg; Finance Committee Chair - Connie Hanstedt; Committee to develop a DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) policy - Karen Gorback, chair, Gloria Pierrot-Dyer, vice-chair, and Brian Gaps; Director of advertising/PR & Publicity - Bob Isbill.

# 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: **360 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.)

## Embers

by Sandor Marai

I came across this slim, little book on one of the "free" shelves in front of the Newark Library, with *discard* stamped on its edge. I was intrigued by the front cover—both by the blurb from The Washington Post Book World and the painting of a woman in high society evening dress. Some of my favorite reads have arrived in my hands this way....my hand reaches out and the book it takes from the shelf inserts itself into my being. "Embers" is one of these treasured finds.

The novel is set in a Hungary, an area which was only one part of the huge Austro-Hungarian empire. It ends just after WWI in a sitting room of an old castle in which two old men, near their deaths, are coming to terms with the abrupt end of their friendship many years before.

The book was written in Hungary during WWII, had a short run, then was forgotten until it was translated into English from the German edition in 1996. However, the author, Sandor Marai, who immigrated to the U.S., had already died by suicide in San Diego, in 1989. Therefore, I was not surprised by his photo in Wikipedia, which seemed to me to express profound sadness and despair. Though the main character in the story, the General, philosophically comes to terms with his losses, the author in this photo looked to me like a being who could only come to terms with events beyond his control by controlling his own exit from life. The novel itself is a tapestry of decline and loss.

The story begins with the General, our main character, receiving a letter from a long-estranged friend with whom he had been inseparable from ages 10 thru 24. The friend writes that he will be arriving in the nearby village that evening. The events which had resulted years ago, in the abrupt departure of the friend, are unknown until near the end of the book. But the tension Marai builds in his slow exposition kept bringing me back to the story in spite of his style—primarily narration and monologue. I felt driven to find out what had happened.

And the reader does find out, that is, they *mostly* find out, thus ending the story on an enigmatic note. This

implying, I believe, that the courses lives take can never be fully explained. Perhaps this is the genius of "Embers."

Review by **Marie Blanchard**

## Writers on Writing

selected & compiled by Jon Winokur

This book is a gift I received from a friend. I expected masterful insights into the writing process and tips to improve my own efforts. With chapter headings such as Advice to Young Writers, Grammar, Style, and Good Writing, I dug in, ready to absorb the advice these experienced authors offered.

I discovered a compendium of quotes by a vast array of authors, including George Bernard Shaw, William Faulkner, Leo Tolstoy, Mark Twain, André Maurois, Tennessee Williams, and Truman Capote. I found wit, humor, serious musings, and poetry.

"Beginnings": "I always begin with a character, or characters, and then try to think up as much action for them as possible." John Irving

"Grammar": "Any fool can make a rule and every fool will mind it." Henry David Thoreau

"Titles": "Titles come last." Tennessee Williams

"Process": "I write the big scenes first, that is, the scenes that carry the meaning of the book, the emotional experience." Joyce Cary

"Fame":

"Fame is a bee  
It has a song—  
It has a sting—  
Ah, too, it has a wing."

Emily Dickinson

When I cull through books to donate, I consider this one, but then decide...not today.

Review 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, email your name and your answers to [inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.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 October issue of Ink Spots.)

*Who are they?*

Salim Nellen \* Sukilura Engul \* Bennie J.T. Shock

Rich Pente \* Annie Paiteson-Dexetury \* Prowsa Whark

**Hints \* Authors \* Hints**

3 authors, 3 characters, 5 males, 1 female, 2 American, 1 French, 1 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> cen., 2 20<sup>th</sup> cen., winner of 8 Hugos, 6 Nebulas, 22 Locus Awards, war correspondent, military aviator, censored for vulgarity and racist language, novelist, poet, translator, sold more than 140 million copies world-wide, Nobel Prize winner, novelist, poet, essayist, science fiction, fantasy, literary criticism, commercial pilot, aristocrat, illustrator, subjects included social and political themes, wrote series, coming of age stories, children's literature also appealed to adults, made into a film, an opera, a ballet, TV show, radio plays, stage plays, wrote and publish short stories

**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 August 2022 issue of Ink Spots.**

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

**GIA JENCRO**

Erica Jong

**WANDA GORISI**

Isadora Wing

Fear of flying

**BRIAN MOVA KLOVID**

Vladimir Nabokov

**ZELDA O'SHORE**

Dolores Haze

Lolita

**GOREN DAGES**

George Sand

**MARIA DIAN DENEL**

Indiana Delmare

Indiana

# 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/12-places-that-publish-writing-about-writing-and-publishing/>

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

<https://authorspublish.com/40-specialized-manuscript-publishers-that-accept-direct-submissions/>

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



Visual Prompts

Photographs by Robert Cabello



# Notes from the World

**Fremont Cultural  
Arts Council**  
*presents*

## **Half Price Books** **Flash Fiction Contest**

**2022 Flash Fiction Contest Topic:**  
**Fairy Tales with Magic**

**Deadline: October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Contest Date: October 8<sup>th</sup>**

**CASH PRIZES**

**Half Price Books**  
39152 Fremont Hub, Fremont, CA 94538

**Are you an author?**

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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!

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

**"Revising Your own Work"**

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

**Saturday, Oct 15, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT**

**"Astonish Your Readers with Perfectly  
Planted Clues"**

*Clues...a key to rich and satisfying subplots*

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**

# *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>**



# 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)

# 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)**

# *Notes from the World*

## **"AMERICA'S NEXT GREAT AUTHOR" — A TV SHOW —**

***Got a great idea for a book? One you want to write? Check this out!***

Submissions are now open for the pilot of "America's Next Great Author!"

"America's Next Great Author" (ANGA) is the groundbreaking reality television series geared toward anyone who loves drama on or off the page. Hosted by New York Times best-selling author Kwame Alexander, this mission-driven show is dedicated to helping writers who don't normally get a seat at the publishing table.

The pilot is a proof of concept, created to show TV Executives what the voice, concept, and feel of the show will be. At the pilot filming on October 30, 100 semifinalists will come to Newark, NJ where, one-by-one, 20 finalists will be called up to present their pitches in front of rolling cameras and a roaring audience of fellow writers.

The judging panel for ANGA includes: #1 New York Times bestselling novelist and current National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, Jason Reynolds; GLAAD Award-winning comedian, Marga Gomez; and broadcast journalist and Today Show veteran, Angie Goff. These veterans will offer critiques—in a kind and gentle manner—on everything from idea, to style, to potential in the literary marketplace. They will provide advice that writers can apply to their work, whether they get to pitch on the show or not. One winner will receive \$2,500 and a prominent role in the pilot.

Online auditions for the pilot are open now through September 15. Learn more and apply at **[www.americasnextgreaauthor.com](http://www.americasnextgreaauthor.com)**.

# **NaNoWriMo**

***is coming November 1<sup>st</sup>***

**National Novel Writing Month  
[www.nanowrimo.org](http://www.nanowrimo.org)**

**798,162  
active  
novelists**

**367,913  
novels  
completed**



# ***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**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **EARTH, HEAL THYSELF**

*by Joyce Cortez*

The Earth seemed plagued with illness. It belched smoke and gas and chemicals unknown. It burned with fever, touching off fires and heat waves. To soothe its fever, it rained and melted ice over seared skin.

It cried out for relief. God said, "Earth, heal thyself." The Earth dug deep to find the source of illness and discovered a parasite. Once, dependent on the Earth, the parasite had appeared benign. Soon variants of the parasite developed.


Some recognized the Earth's importance and revered it. Others took advantage of the Earth's boundless abundance. Danger lurked over the horizon, but few could see that far. The ones who could, admonished their fellow parasites.

"We cannot live if we kill our host," they warned. "We cannot traverse the distance to a new host." Some listened. Many didn't believe. "The Earth can replenish itself," they said.

The Earth felt torn. It once had a symbiotic relationship with this parasite. They had grown too many. "They must be culled, contained, and controlled, if I am to survive. Or it may end us both."

When the Earth suffered, the parasite suffered. Fires and floods sent the parasites fleeing. Some died. Gas and smoke scarred their lungs, killing more. Chemicals leaked into the Earth's water and soil.

Deadly water soured the parasite's liquid reserves. Parasites sucked what they could from the Earth, leaving cracks and scars. Poisoned land left parasites fewer sources of nourishment. The parasite, weakened, suffered plagues and pandemics. More died.

The Earth fought the parasite as its life waned. Yet the parasite persisted. They turned on their own. Shrinking reserves caused conflict among the parasites —the benign versus the malignant and the malignant among themselves, still spouting disbelief, still holding dominion over all things. 

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

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*(continued from previous page)*

The Earth flailed, causing tremendous storms and flooding, heaving crusted land into its oceans. Hurricanes and tornados thrashed parasites wherever they lived. The Earth convulsed lava from its sickened core, burning all in its path. It quaked, swallowing parasites deep into cavernous cracks. No hold had they, these parasites who believed they stood on solid ground.

The Earth lay still at last. A dull rotation remained. The Earth spun 'round the sun in quiet circles.

After an eon, the Earth's core recovered. The oceans calmed. The land rehydrated.

God said to the Earth, "Shall we try again?"

"We've tried this twice," the Earth replied. "This time, no parasites please."

And God saw that it was good.

### *The Garden*

there was once a garden  
flowers once bloomed here  
richly scented purples, reds and yellows  
one sniff enough to intoxicate the senses  
now asphalt and concrete cover the soil  
buzzing bees sipped from flowers here  
butterflies floated on gentle breezes  
birds sang love songs to the earth  
now the hiss of poison mist fills the air  
crystal clear water once sang on these rocks  
icy cold on the fingers and toes  
to drink was to know the meaning of salvation  
now the symbol of death is planted in the earth here  
and the water sings no more  
ancient trees once watched over this place  
arms reaching to the sun and the stars  
roots laced together in the dark earth below  
binding the planet to the heavens

now even the stumps are gone  
chewed to bits by metal teeth  
creatures once frolicked and swam here  
slithered and slunk here  
lumbered and ran here  
great and small  
mated and gave birth here  
the predator and the prey  
living and dying by nature's design  
now they are hunted for their precious treasures  
or as bothersome pests  
and the balance is broken  
there once was a garden  
a wondrous delight  
delicious smells and mellifluous sounds  
magnificent beasts and wise old trees  
once there was harmony  
once there was peace

**nancy guarnera ©1990**



# ***FAW Board Members***



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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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## **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*)