



Ink Spots



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

Nancy Guarnera Editor-in-Chief

Vol. 2 No. 1 January 2023

inkspots@cwc-fremontareawriters.org

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



Visual Prompt

Photograph by Robert Cabello

January General Meeting

* January 28th * 2 to 4 PM * Zooming *

Tanya Egan Gibson

Why Should I Care?

How to Keep Readers Invested.

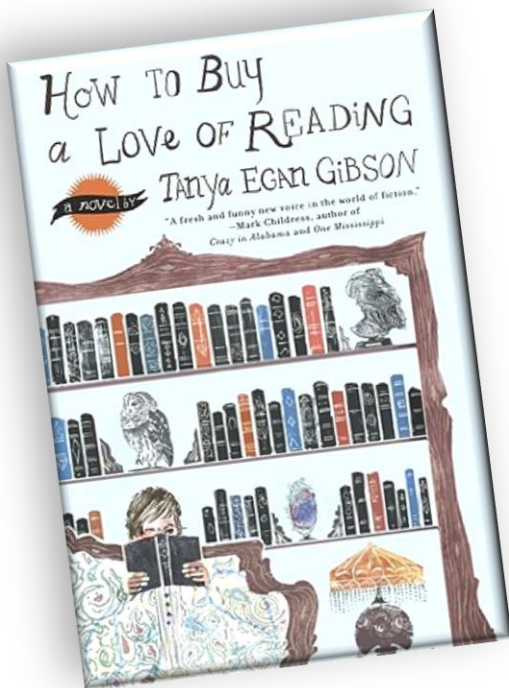
Submitted by the speaker

You care deeply about your novel, short stories, memoir, or narrative nonfiction—the characters you’ve fleshed out, and killed off, and revised countless times; the plot, over which you’ve labored for three years; the detailed setting, which you’ve researched through a hundred books and websites. But, what about your readers? Why should *they* care?

Author Tanya Egan Gibson will share how to re-read your own manuscript like a stranger, how to weed out “the boring parts” (everyone has them), how to use beta readers to your best advantage, and why an inability to pitch a book succinctly might be more than a “pitch problem”—all in the service of teaching you how to keep your readers invested in a truly engaging manuscript.



Tanya Egan Gibson



Tanya Egan Gibson is a freelance editor, writing coach, and the author of the novel *How to Buy a Love of Reading*. Her short fiction for adults and young adults has been published in *Carve* and *Cicada* and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She has written for magazines such as *The Writer*, *Parents*, and *Writer's Digest*, including an article, “10 Things Your Editor Might Not Tell You—But Should,” which has been reprinted over the years in several special issues. To learn more about her, visit tanyaegangibson.com.

Learn more about Fremont Area Writers at cwc-fremontareawriters.org. FAW is one of 22 branches of the California Writers Club (CWC) calwriters.org.

To get your link to this event, send an email request to 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.



TERRY TOSH
FAW President

President's Message

Call to Action!

I want every member to consider getting involved in our THEME (or maybe it should be considered our MISSION?) for 2023.

Here's the idea that we as a branch of CWC would like to advance starting in January of this year:

CWC has decided to publish the *Literary Review* every other year instead of yearly. This will be alternating with the Jack London Award years, which takes place in odd numbered years...2023 is JLA year, so there will be no *Literary Review* in 2023. Let's take some time to prepare our work for submission.

Another project that we, as a branch, have been pondering: publishing our SIP Notes as an anthology of our time "sheltering in place." This could then be offered to the public as a fundraiser for additional projects we could be working on, like youth scholarships and outreach endeavors.

We might also begin exploring in-person gatherings...Author Readings, Open Mics and Salons. We may even eventually find a location where our entire membership can meet in person for monthly meetings. We can all keep an eye out for possible venues.

The CALL to ACTION part of this is for everyone to think of what you can do to help with the editing, proofreading, encouraging, mentoring, and anything else needed to make these ideas a reality, and propel our branch into an even more vibrant, active and sought after branch of CWC. Please take some time to search your heart and mind for what you are willing to do as your part in this process. Also, think of what work you have that might end up being submitted for consideration in the statewide *Literary Review*.

This is also the time to be thinking of our next Jack London Award nominees. Be considering who you would like to nominate, and remember winners are only allowed once, so no one can be nominated if they have previously won. Choosing a Jack London recipient is not required, but should recognize someone who has been of outstanding service to the branch. *Ink Spots* has a list of past winners.

Please reply directly to me toshmanii@yahoo.com with your responses and thoughts regarding this message. Don't be shy, feel free to criticize or advise. We truly want to be what our motto states, "Writers Helping Writers." Contact me by our next General Meeting, Saturday, January 28, 2023.

Here's to a wonderfully productive 2023!

Your adoring president,

Terry Tosh



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A Word from Our Editor



Nancy Guarnera
Editor *Ink Spots*

Welcome to our January 2023 issue of *Ink Spots*. I hope this finds you and those you love safe, healthy and happy. I trust you are busy writing!

Happy New Year! Those three magical words.... I've been thinking about how much pressure we can put on ourselves at the beginning of a new year. Some of us make resolutions, which we probably won't keep..., and then we feel guilty. Or we overcommit ourselves, because we have so much extra new year energy, that we feel like we can do anything. We have a brand new year, a clean slate to look forward to and what seems to be endless amounts of time at our disposal (365 days). We just can't wait to fill it up. Heaven forbid we have time in our busy schedules for resting, relaxing or my personal favorite...*just doin' nuttin'*. No commitments and no demands. We're human beings not human doings!

I've been one of those people. I allowed myself to think I could do it all and eat my cake, as well. I'll never give up eating cake, but I've finally decided that I'm not going to believe that "doing" is ever more important than "being." I won't sacrifice my health and well-being so I can tell people how busy I am. I don't want to "calendarize" my every waking minute. I want to be able to spontaneously meet a friend for coffee or a meal without having to "check my calendar." After spending much of my lifetime dealing with stress, pressure and deadlines, I've decided it's time for a change. I've experienced what it's like to be footloose and fancy free, and I loved it. So, I'm now dancing to the drum of self-care. Doesn't mean I'm not going to "do" things. Just means the balance sheet will lean in the Being direction more often than the Doing side of my life ledger. Perhaps you'd like to join me...*just doin' 'nuttin', —aka 'gone fishin.'*

This issue has lots of submissions in the Writers' Corner, a reprint of an article by Mila Patel about her 50th anniversary trip to Uganda, and some very exciting member news. Enjoy!

Submission Guidelines

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

**10th of the month prior to the
publication month (ex.- December 10th
for the January issue)**

SEND TO:

inkspots@cw-cfremontareawriters.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.***

PLEASE: Don't forget to put your name on your work.

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

February...Valentine's Day and Black History month! I'm sure you have something appropriate for these occasions sitting in a drawer somewhere. Or you could write something. Consider submitting it for publication in February's issue. Deadline is January 10th. I look forward to your submission.

*If you have not received a copy of the **Submission Guidelines**, please let me know and I will resend it.*

There are two things missing from the guidelines.

First, don't forget to put your name on your written submissions...sign your work! ***Second***, if you have more than one thing you are submitting: say a Book Review, and a poem for the Writers Corner, send these as two separate emails. If you have more than one submission for the Writers Corner, or more than one Book Review, send one email but indicate the number of submissions with the type of submission—Writers Corner (2) or Book Reviews (5) in your email's Subject line. Thank you!

Cheers!

Nancy Guarnera Editor

FAW – January Meetings

Fremont Area Writers “Fourth Saturday” Membership Mtg on Zoom

Saturday January 28th 2:00 – 4:00 PM

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

Speaker: Author Tanya Egan Gibson (see page 2)

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

Fremont Area Writers “Tuesday before 4th Saturday” Board Meeting on Zoom

Tuesday January 24th 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 – January Meetings

Fremont Area Writers

“Second Saturday”

Social Write-In on Zoom

Saturday January 14th 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*

Fremont Area Writers

“Fourth Monday”

Writers’ Salon on Zoom

Monday January 23rd 7:00 – 9:00 PM

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

*For details on Zooming, contact Tony Pino
up.dragonfly.com@gmail.com or 510-745-0761*

KUDOS – *Members' News*

If you have an accomplishment related to your writing, or some other aspect of your life, and would like to share it with FAW members in this space, please send it to inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org, or submit it through the **Shout Out for Ink Spots** link at 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, your email may get lost in the mail. Thanks!

KUDOS to Urmila "Mila" Patel, whose story recounting her return to Uganda 50 years after being forced to leave her home by the dictator, Idi Amin has been published in **New Vision — Uganda**. Her memoir, **Out of Uganda in 90 Days**, tells the story of this experience. See pages 8 & 9 for the full article with photos. **Congratulations, Mila!**

KUDOS to Lally Pia, who entered the **She Writes Press and SparkPress Toward Equality in Publishing (STEP)** contest which offers a publishing contract (plus a 500-book print run) on either She Writes Press or SparkPress. Lally made it into the top five finalists, and then received word that she was chosen as the 2022 STEP prize winner. Her debut memoir, **Doctor of Doctors**, will be published in the Spring of 2024. **Congratulations, Lally!**

KUDOS to Dave M Strom, whose story, "The God Glove," has been published in the **CWC San Francisco Peninsula's anthology Fault Zone: Reverse** (available on Amazon). Dave packs the equivalent of the Marvel Cinematic Universe Infinity Gauntlet multi-movie story arc into 3,000 words. See Super Holly Hansson tempted with the power of godhood! **Congratulations, Dave!**



Photograph by Terry Tosh

More Members' News

Urmila Patel goes home to Uganda after 50 years in exile, and pens an article of remembrance. Zoom in to read the article.

32 SATURDAY VISION
August 20, 2022

series



THE DREAM THAT CHANGED UGANDA

On August 4, 1972, president Idi Amin ordered the expulsion of Asians from Uganda. This year marks 50 years since Amin issued the order. *New Vision* travels back in time to trace the footsteps of the Asians right from the beginning. In the third part of the series about the incident, **Urmila Patel**, who was forced out of the country at the age of 13, narrates her experience after returning to Uganda 50 years later

Since my book *Out of Uganda in 90 Days* was released in 2014, my craving to return to Uganda intensified.

I felt nostalgic about revisiting childhood memories; the houses I lived in, the schools I went to and places I played, especially Lake Victoria and Entebbe Botanical Gardens. They were special places in my life. I so much wanted to take in the tropical breeze and the pleasant smell of wet earth after rainfall, and watch the monkeys swinging from one branch to another in the rainforest of the botanical gardens. These were the roots where my identity was formed.

At the same time, the thought of going back to Uganda was scary. Although I have heard from people who have visited Uganda that it is now a safe place, my old memories of situations I encountered kept flashing through my mind.

We were holed up in our house in Entebbe for three days during the curfew. I peeked through a splinter of the window and saw our neighbour being dragged out of his house and severely beaten. We heard he was later killed. Other neighbours just disappeared.

But I was determined and had a mission to accomplish.

In May 2022, without much planning, I made a trip to Uganda with Dolar Vasani of *Expulsion@ 50*, a podcast series she created to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the expulsion of Asians from Uganda.

During my 15-day stay, I visited all the places my heart yearned for. It was an emotional trip. A day after my arrival, Patrick Kyalimpa

(my driver) picked me up from my hotel. I sketched out a map of 50 years ago on a piece of paper and pinpointed the areas I thought I remembered. First, it was the house with a mango tree. When Patrick made a left turn into the community, my heart felt joyful, but my mind questioned. Are we on the first, second, or third row?

"Patrick, please stop the van," I said. "I'll walk and see if I can find my house."

It was déjà vu as if the house knew I was coming. Patrick parked his van in front of my childhood house on the exact spot where the military parked their lorry 51 years ago. When a woman came out of the house and asked: "How can I help you?" my eyes fell on the mango



Patel picking mangoes from the tree that has been in the compound of their house in Entebbe for over 50 years



BACK TO UGANDA 50 YEARS SINCE AMIN FLUSHED US OUT



(continued on next page)

More Members' News

(continued from previous page)



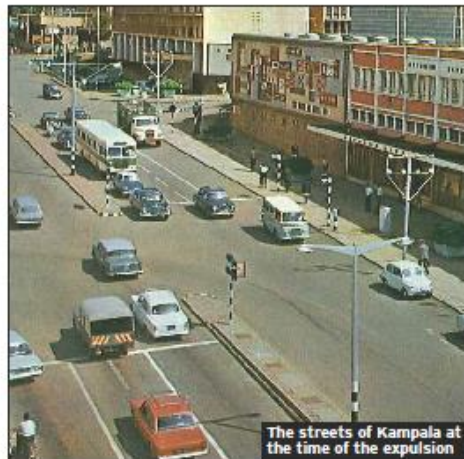
series

SATURDAY VISION 33
August 20, 2022

COURTESY PHOTOS



Patel chatting with the couple that lives in the house where her family lived before expulsion from Uganda. She was aged 13



The streets of Kampala at the time of the expulsion

tree, and a wave of nostalgia hit me. I got emotional as tears streamed from my eyes. This house on Kitumbu Road had left a mark on me. Both the house and the mango tree had been special to me. It was the mango tree that brought my siblings together, the house gave me a roof and stability.

However, memories washed over me of the many scary situations in this house at the age 13, during the overthrow of the Obote I government by Idi Amin. To my surprise, I was welcomed with an open heart by the new owners, a young couple and their four-year-old son. Back then, we didn't have any pictures of the house, but 51 years later the house has kept its original floor, doors, and windows. The rooms seemed much smaller than they appeared when I was a child. When I sat on the floor with the new owners for lunch, it felt as if I had never left this house. In the backyard I broke down and cried. All the memories of my father with my siblings and neighbours running down the hills shouting and screaming, "they are killing" came alive.

My next visit was to Entebbe Primary School, where my father was a headmaster and I was his pupil at one point. The house we lived in when we first arrived in Entebbe was still there, but the school building seemed to have moved. This left me with a disjointed memory.

I visited all the other places in Entebbe and Kampala that had left a mark on me. Some places were emotional, and in some, I could feel the vibration. The house where we lived

» My biggest takeaway was that there were more new buildings and construction underway, people's views towards life have changed, and the traditional dress gomesi was less to be seen.

in Old Kampala had been transformed into a modern building, and the building with the apartments across the taxi stand into a mall. It felt as if someone had erased me from my memory. I didn't mention the City High School I went to, to Patrick and I didn't intend to visit it. But on our way to Kololo Secondary School, where I was a student before

we escaped, Patrick made a U-turn. To my surprise, the van's bumper was close to the school gate of City High School. Another déjà vu. In the city of Kampala, I saw the poor road infrastructure, chaotic traffic jams, crowded streets with vendors and preachers preaching out loud on speakers, cars buzzing, nonstop day and night, and 80

students in one class. It was too much for me to digest. I thought I would never come back to Uganda again.

What was I expecting? Things have changed. The city's population has increased from 350,000 to four million. The country was brought to ground zero after all the Indians were expelled. Local Africans now own the businesses that Indians once owned. One thing that stuck with me was that no one rushed, and the city looked vibrant and colourful. It was the Ugandan's spirit, that never changed. I was grateful to see that.

My trip was not about sightseeing (although I've done some). It was about going down memory lane. I learned that things are different than I once remembered. The image of the house and trees where I lived has aged and Uganda is

improving slowly. The young Ugandans are determined, but need a lot of support to put their ideas to work. Some of the Indians who have returned have progressed and are giving back to their community and country.

A good example is Mahendra Mehta of the sugarcane and tea plantations in Lugazi. His company employs more than 8,000 workers and provides housing and accessible medical facilities to 40,000 members of their employees. Besides, there is a 60-bed hospital and schools that provide free education to more than 6,000 children. Another example was when we met Sudhir Ruparelia, Ramanbhai Kiswahili, and others.

My biggest takeaway was that there were more new buildings, and construction underway, people's views towards life have changed, and the traditional dress gomesi was less to be seen.

To my surprise, hardly anyone spoke Kiswahili, the language I was used to 50 years ago. They spoke Luganda. All this has changed along with it, but one thing has never changed over the years. The richness of Ugandans is in their humility and generosity. I can tell from the hospitality we received, from all the Indians, teachers, headteachers, priests at the temples and business owners and their employees, hotel staff, to strangers like us and without any expectations. They took time from their busy schedules to listen and talk to us. I did not find this in many countries I have visited.

Besides, many new people, such as James Serunkuma

and his team from *New Vision* – newspaper, TV media, and pro-boxer Vicky Byarugaba who competed in the men's light middleweight event at the 1984 summer Olympics, crossed my path. Another thing I noticed was that there were hardly any beggars such as in other more developed countries.

A trip down memory lane and revisiting places helped me understand how much I have grown and how important it is to preserve old places as they represent cultures and values. Everything I remembered had somehow become a part of me. I found the missing pieces of my childhood and have made peace with myself. That circle of my life is completed. It is time to live mindfully and appreciate what I have today. I thank my book, *Out of Uganda in 90 Days*, for helping me stay connected with my memories, and my second book, *Mila Rising*, for opening the doors to revisit the country I once called home – Uganda.

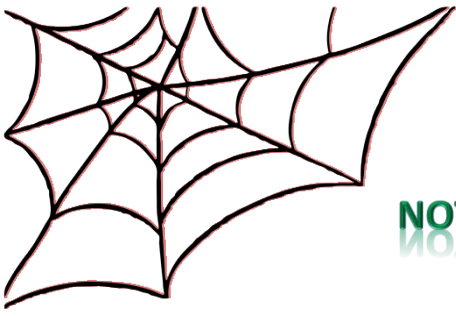
When I sat on the plane to return to my home in America, I thought that the next time I return, it will be for a different purpose. I will visit the loving family, the owners of my childhood home, and do some sightseeing and adventure tours, which I was unable to do on this trip. I am blessed to have visited Uganda.



Patel under the mango tree that stands in the compound of the house where they lived in 1971 before expulsion



TOMORROW: SUDHIR RUPARELIA AND HOW HIS PARENTS LEFT HIM



SIP NOTES

NOTE #55 NOVEMBER 25TH TONY PINO



PANDEMIC

I wait my turn
In the spider's retreat.

Wired and not yet spun,
I am unable to leave.

The bodies of the flies
that fell before me

now lie still, stiff and blue-green
below the dim-lit window.

They are metallic and unmoving,
fallen knights, burnished in
memory.

I am no hero,
have no desire to be here,

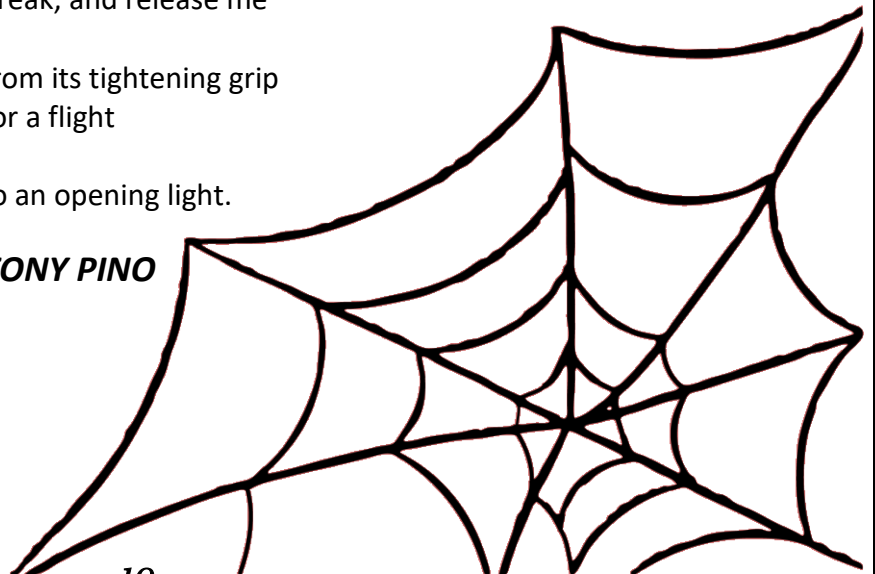
nor even remembered,
but only hold the hope

that the web will wither,
break, and release me

from its tightening grip
for a flight

to an opening light.

TONY PINO



FAW & CWC Information

— PLEASE READ —

FAW Needs You *Help Wanted* FAW Needs You

The following non-elected Board positions need to be filled:

Volunteer Coordinator —

finds & assigns volunteers to assist FAW committee heads

Hospitality Chair —

welcomes, introduces, contacts, & encourages newcomers to join FAW

*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 the last two pages in this issue for contact info.)

WHO, WHAT, WHEN & WHERE...

All CWC branch meetings have been added to the Events Calendar at CWC's website below. All members are encouraged to consult the calendar for speakers of interest and attend the 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

— PLEASE READ —

CWC Meeting Report (11-13-22)

Submitted by Evelyn LaTorre

The California Writers Club has 1,740 members in 22 branches across the state. President Roger Lubeck anticipates there will be an additional 200 members added this year. The treasury, after paying for *The Literary Review*, insurance, etc., shows the club breaking even.

Branches who need proof of **insurance for special in-person events** will find a form on the CalWriters.com website. After completing it, an insurance certificate will be issued.

One thousand nine-hundred eighty (1,980) issues of the *The Literary Review* have been mailed to all CWC members from a mailer in New Jersey which had the lowest cost. Each 280-page, 6" x 9" book cost \$3.73 to print and \$2 for postage. Additional copies can be ordered from Amazon.com for \$10 under the title, *California Writers Club Literary Review*.

The quarterly *CWC Bulletin* is calling for submissions on writing craft and opinion, etc. as well as paid advertising. Deadlines for the next issues are: March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1. Branch members are encouraged to share their publication successes and other achievements by writing a maximum of 50 words about themselves for the "Member Spotlight." Include a JPEG of the book cover and send to editor@calwriters.org.

Policies and procedures (P & P) state that candidates for CWC President must have served at least one year in the previous five on the central board. Candidates for CWC Vice-President must have served at least one year as an active member in one of the branch organizations

Policies & procedures were updated to authorize no more than four virtual or in-person CB meetings per year with three being virtual and the one in July, with elections, in person, if possible. Changes to P & Ps need to be provided three weeks before the meeting.

The **Jack London and Ina Coolbrith Awards** are to be awarded at a special luncheon following a quarterly meeting and alternate annually with publication of *The Literary Review*. CWC will publish a high-quality physical or internet publication every other year. The CWC President will appoint a managing editor(s) who will control the content. The President will act as publisher and oversee the process. *The Literary Review* may publish works previously published per the editor's decision. Branches should help writers polish their writing, so it reaches the quality required for publication.

Establishment of a board position titled **Chairperson for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** and the following statement developed by the ad hoc Diversity Committee were recommended.

As writers, we recognize the immense and storied power of the written word to inspire or crush, save or destroy, enrich or mislead, and to contribute to the advancement of peace and understanding. However, past inequities have served to exclude or limit the voices of certain segments of our society, a practice which has deprived our world of valuable perspectives. Therefore, we encourage individual branches to honor and promote diversity, equity and inclusion through any means by which they interact with their members and communities, including, but not limited to programming, publications, board representation, and outreach.

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 and we'll publish your name. **Deadline** is the 25th of the month before the publication month (ex. - January 25th for the February 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 or series name 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 February 2023 issue of Ink Spots.)

Who are they?

Tony Brimlee * Nash S. Shiksway * Faith Flech

Pamela I. Adeboy * Boots N. Brim * Zettah Bee Sprile

Hints * Authors * Hints

3 authors, 3 characters, 2 males, 4 females, 2 American, 1 British, 2 20th-21st cen., 1 19th cen., multi-award winner, wrote 1 novel and poetry, Air Force meteorologist in Korea, wrote novels, short stories and essays, feminist-started org. for women writers, used a pen name, Mystery Writers' Grand Master Award recipient, Seriocomedy novelist, governess, copy editor, art critic, worked on a sports desk, & hosted a weekly radio show, used multiple pen names, wrote 3 series, assorted stand-alone novels & 3 academic works of non-fiction, spoke French & German, young hillbilly, Writers' Digest 100 Best Writers of the 20th Century list, unusual writing process, wrote poetry "stories" w/ siblings

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 November 2022 issue of Ink Spots.
Congrats to Pat Doyme, Steve Gibson, and Terry Tosh who each got them 100% correct.

TERU X. TOS
Rex Stout

CARIDO WHIGONE
Archie Goodwin
Fer-de-Lance

NANCY DORA LETHOUR
Arthur Conan Doyle

STAN J. DORWHON
Dr. John Watson
A Study in Scarlet

FRANE STUGO
Sue Grafton

MINNEY O'SHLIKEL
Kinsey Millhone
"A" is for Alibi

Notes from the World

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

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/32-flash-fiction-markets/)

[https://authorspublish.com/
12-places-that-publish-writing-about-
writing-and-publishing/](https://authorspublish.com/12-places-that-publish-writing-about-writing-and-publishing/)

[https://authorspublish.com/
25-magazines-accepting-creative-
nonfiction/](https://authorspublish.com/25-magazines-accepting-creative-nonfiction/)

[https://authorspublish.com/
40-specialized-manuscript-
publishers-that-accept-direct-
submissions/](https://authorspublish.com/40-specialized-manuscript-publishers-that-accept-direct-submissions/)

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

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, Jan 21, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT
"Writing & Selling Middle Grade Fiction" w/ special guest Beth Vrabel"

Saturday, Feb 11, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT
"Mastering the Writing Process"
Strategies for an efficient writing process

Jane Cleland is an award-winning author who writes books on writing craft, crime fiction, middle grade, espionage, and the long-running Josie Prescott Antiques Mystery series, all published by St. Martin's Minotaur. Her 14th book in the Josie Prescott series, ***Jane Austen's Lost Letters***, made its debut last Dec. Cleland teaches writing at the university level, and contributes craft articles to ***Writers Digest***.

<https://janecleland.com/events/>

Check out
winningwriters.com
for contests with big money prizes

Notes from the World

Narrative Magazine

So many submission options . . .

WINTER STORY CONTEST (March 31st Deadline)

www.narrativemagazine.com/winter-2023-story-contest

Six-Word Stories

www.narrativemagazine.com/sixwords

Story of the Week

www.narrativemagazine.com/story-week-guidelines

Poem of the Week

www.narrativemagazine.com/poem-week-guidelines

Photography

www.narrativemagazine.com/photography

DEADLINES: Continuous...check your category

For general submissions to the magazine:

www.narrativemagazine.com/submit-your-work

TCK Publishing.com

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Notes from the World

★ CONTESTS ★ ★ NEWSLETTERS ★ ★ ETC. ★

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

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

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

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

Submishmash Weekly. Free newsletter. A curated arts newsletter with select publishing opportunities including contests, publications seeking submissions, and artist residencies. Run by the submission platform Submittable.com.

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

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

Gotham Writers Workshop — FREE —

The **Gotham Writers Workshop** in New York City has put together the **Inside Writing** series of free talks about writing. 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

FREE Online Workshops

scriptwriters check out
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

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

Check it out!

GENRE WEBSITES

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

Mystery Writers of America mysterywriters.org

Romance Writers of America rwa.org

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

Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America
sfwa.org

Inspire Christian Writers inspirewriters.com

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

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

Academy of American Poets poets.org

Poetry Society of America poetrysociety.org

National Association of Memoir Writers namw.org

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

CineStory cinestory.org *(screenwriters)*

Scriptwriters Network scriptwritersnetwork.com

Historical Novel Association historicalnovelsociety.org

Horror Writers Association horror.org

Attention Poets & Poetry Lovers

Check out the Poetry Center of San José

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

www.poetrycentersanjose.org

FAW Members on Social Media

● Angelica G. Allen

Angelica is a Seventh-Day Adventist Christian author of **Millennial Fiction and Poetry** books, genres targeted to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to millennials. These SDA Christian genres were created by the Fremont, Bay Area native, and are defined as having Seventh-Day Adventist symbolism, coded languages, lyrical writing, illustrations, and emotional storytelling in her U.S. Copyright. You can learn more about these books on her Website:

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 LaTorre, EdD

Evelyn loves to travel and write about her experiences. Besides travel adventures, the blogs on her website share the first chapter of her prize-winning book, *Between Inca Walls*, her adventures in other countries, and her cousin's drowning on the Costa Concordia cruise ship. You can also find recent recordings of her interviews. Website:

<https://www.evelynlatorre.com>; Facebook: **Evelyn Kohl LaTorre, Author**; and Instagram: **evelynkohllatorre**.

● Luanne Oleas

Luanne writes literary and women's fiction, when she's not creating social media links. Her most recent foray is into promotional videos on Youtube, but her blog (Pondering Life in Silicon Valley) and other links are also updated periodically. Follow Luanne at: Website: **<https://luanneoleas.com>** BLOG: **<http://blog.luanneoleas.com/>** Amazon Author's Page: **<https://www.amazon.com/-/e/B07PBNM6NB>** and **Social Media** — Facebook: (personal) **<https://www.facebook.com/luanne.oleas>** (author): **<https://www.facebook.com/Luanne-Oleas-Author-114940863384719/>** Twitter: **https://twitter.com/bike_writer** Youtube Promo Videos: *A PRIMROSE IN NOVEMBER*: **<https://youtu.be/Gtnk5FHpEeE>** *FLYING BLIND*: **<https://youtu.be/X0HFzceXdoU>**

● Rekha Ramani

Rekha has a **Facebook** page devoted to sharing her poetry called, "**Poetry: Sweet and Bittersweet**," with a standing invitation to FAW members, as well as non-member poets, to post their poetry.

● Dave M. Strom

Check out Dave's creative and tech writing blogs and his videos at: **<http://davemstrom.wordpress.com/>** **<http://davemstrom.weebly.com/>** **<http://www.youtube.com/user/davstrom>**

● Anita Tosh

Anita writes YA Christian fiction often with a focus on the "end times." She's recently published her third book, ***The Book of Jeremy***. It's now available for sale. Website & Blog: **booksbyanita.com**

Facebook Group: **<https://www.facebook.com/groups/111394698919>**

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

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

Beth

by Anita Tosh

This is an excerpt from the beginning of Chapter 2 of a novel in progress.

Beth and her new husband, Carl, are running for their lives to escape a tyrannical takeover in the aftermath of WWII. You can find chapters one and two at: <https://www.booksbyanita.com/blog>

It was eerie racing through the street in the darkness. My hands gripped the handlebars till my knuckles were white. We just had time to make it around the corner, slam ourselves against the wall, and freeze.

We waited for the buzzing of the drone. It came and went.

zzzZZzzzz

We counted: one thousand, two thousand, three thousand, to be sure it was far enough away. Then we raced toward the trailhead.

This was a long block of apartments. I glanced at my watch. The old fashion analog face had glow in the dark hands. We had only three minutes to get down the road and find another hiding place. The next block had single-family homes. The one on the corner had a weeping willow in the front yard. Perfect.

Carl pointed to the tree and we disappeared inside.

ZzzZZzzzz

Carl held up his fingers one at a time, counting as he approached the veil of leaves. On three, we pushed through and pumped hard the last block before the bike trail.

I sure hoped we were right about there not being drones on the trail because there was nowhere to hide.

Carl pointed back to the last house and we rushed to take cover on the side of a garage. Just as we got there I heard it. Like a giant mosquito, the sound of a drone sent fear through me like an ice pick.

zzZZzzzz

We had just made it. The night was cool, but sweat trickled down my neck. It was difficult to take a deep breath in the thick smoke. Did the bombs cause the fires? Was this all from the explosions? Were we riding into radiation? What if the bombs were nukes? I didn't want to think about it. God would get us through this. We couldn't go back.

"If you are not afraid of the voices inside you, you will not fear the critics outside you."

— Natalie Goldberg, Writing Down the Bone

Outside in the darkness

We walked hand in hand, skirting puddles in the road
It was still, except from the murmured hoot of an owl
By the ancient Welsh church
He stopped, pulled me closer
Caught me up against his chest
A welcome snuggly respite from the chill outside
He smelled of the earth
Warm, delicious.

"I didn't come to see owls," he confessed.
"I didn't either," I whispered into his chest.
His heart thudded faster against my ear.
Unknown territory.
Twenty-two but I'd never been this close to a man.
It all felt so right.
It was all wrong. He was my parents' age.
A philanderer, a divorcee, my parents would be horrified if they could see me in this moment.
What was I thinking?

Stop thinking.
Just be.
Without volition my arms shook as they snaked around his back
Inside his jacket
Pulled him closer still to shut out all the doubts
I was in heaven, in a moment I never wanted to leave
Then he shifted, lowered his head, and his lips reached mine
Warm, sensual, full of promise
Conflicted, scared and excited, there would be no going back
I stood on the threshold of a new life adventure

Lally Pia

"Outside in the Darkness" was the product of a prompt from the 11-12-2022 FAW Social Write-in.



We are writers helping writers!
Take the challenge...submit your work!

Fishing With My Grandfather

<*(((>< by Stephen Yuen <*(((><



My grandfather and I had a lovely, roaring campfire going. It wasn't late; in fact, it was an early evening in August. The fire, which spoke of something primal, something felt deep underneath layers that joins the wayfaring human spirit who might come ambling by, and is caught and enraptured by the flames, wasn't just for the warmth or the light it gave. We were going to cook the fish that I caught earlier that day, my first ever.

The fish, that gave its humble life so that I could feast on it, was a rainbow trout, snatched almost effortlessly from that deep and blue lake. I, eighteen and a suburbanite, was taught the ancient art of fishing just that afternoon and picked the skill up as quickly as a viper seizes its prey. I was proud of myself that day and looked forward to a meal made even more tantalizing by the fun of the acquisition, and not just it's gastronomic attributes.

From a prompt at a 2022 FAW Social Write-in.



Untitled

by Terry Tosh

The telephone kept on ringing. Why wasn't it going to voicemail? I waited and waited. Sometimes the system glitches like this. I try again.

Really? I told her to stay near her phone, so I could let her know as soon as possible. I hang up and try again. Maybe I'm just so nervous that I have misdialled. Twice. If that was the case, why not go to that annoying voice that says, "You have reached..."

Oh, my goodness! What a time for the phone not to work. How am I EVER going to get bailed out, this time?

From a prompt at the 2022 FAW Holiday Gathering on December 10th.

Forged from Bronze

The heron stretches tall and lithe
a fountain bathes his feet.
His beak points toward a world beyond
where winners and losers meet.

Behind him, on a bistro bench
a woman shrugs, and sighs.
So much gone wrong. She blames herself.
Despite it all, she tries.

The heron holds his sculpted pose;
the woman's stubborn, too.
Sometimes we must make a choice
and hope our best will do.

Pat Doyne

From a photo prompt at a 2022 FAW Social Write-in.

MY NAME

by Paul K Davis

My name is Paul Kenneth Davis. This name has affected my life in a variety of ways.

First, it connects me with my ancestors. "Paul" is from my maternal grandmother "Pauline." "Kenneth" is my father's middle name. "Davis" has come down generations, presumably from some Welshman named "David," whose son, in English society, was called "David's," which became shortened to "Davis."

The fact that I am partly named for a woman, my grandmother, has, I believe, affected my attitude toward genders, leading me to consider my female role models as important as my male model. Pauline was a corporate secretary, working for the leading department store in Indianapolis. I learned to type when entering high school, which has served me well.

The names "Kenneth" and "Davis" connect me with the Celtic part of my ancestry, a racial group which was oppressed by the more dominant Anglo-Saxons, but then merged with them to form the modern English, so dominant of the whole world during the last couple of centuries. I seek to balance myself between submissiveness and assertiveness.

My names are quite common. This has been a contrast with my wife, whose name is quite rare. If you google her name, she is who you get. If you google my name, there are thousands. In fact, I have googled "Dr. Paul K Davis," to narrow the search down, and still found at least four of me. One is a medical doctor volunteering in Kosovo. One is a defense expert working for the Rand Corporation. A third is a historian, who wrote a thick book "100 Decisive Battles." I went out and bought his book, leaving it sitting out for people to assume it's mine, but I do confess, after a little fun confusing people. I seem to be the only physicist with my exact name, but I am sometimes confused with "Paul Davies" (note the extra letter in his surname), a British physicist who has published several interesting books.

So, what's in a name? It should not define us, but may influence us. I try to make the best of my name, rather than the worst.

From a prompt the 2022 FAW Holiday Gathering on December 10th.

***"What a miracle it is that out of these small, flat, rigid squares of paper
unfolds world after world after world, worlds that sing to you,
comfort and quiet or excite you."***

Anne Lamott, Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing

GROWING UP IN SNOW COUNTRY

by Pat Doyne

When I moved to California, I heard a new and intriguing phrase: *"going to the snow."*

In Iowa, no one went to the snow; the snow came to us. Made roads slippery. Covered walkways with layers of powder. Filled the sky with white, damp flakes.

Snow was not an excuse to close schools. No, kids walked to school in the snow, had recess in the snow, and came home to shovel the most recent pile-up.

In a classroom of 40 to 50 kids, all about the same size, keeping all that cold weather gear straight required a system. So, each child brought one clothespin with a name clearly displayed on it to snap together two snow boots. All boots were worn over shoes. Also, girls were expected to wear skirts. So, snow pants were the humane solution. But, pulling them on and taking them off was done in a crowded classroom. Girls learned early to snug their snow-pants under their skirt when going out, and skitter out of them when back in the classroom. All this gear was hung on a numbered hook in the "coatroom," where its load of snow melted and dripped on the floor.

Mittens, like boots, needed to be kept together. So, we would take a wooden spool (empty of thread) and tack four thin nails around the hole. Then we'd braid together a yarn cord about three feet long, attach a mitten to each end, and thread it through the sleeves of a coat, so that a mitten dangled at the end of each sleeve.

Mittens were warm, itchy wool. We would wash them in hot, soapy water and stretch them over a drinking glass to prevent shrinkage. They dried over the floor register that brought heat up from the coal-burning furnace in the basement.

The town I grew up in was flat, so sleds weren't much use. But, when the snow was fresh and "dry," we would lie down in it, flap our arms and legs, and make "snow angels." When snow held more water, it was "good packing," and just right for making snowmen. Also, snowballs could be rolled and stacked until they made a wall, a "snow fort." Friends chose sides, made a fort, formed piles of ammo, and soon the air was filled with flying snowballs.

But my most biting memory is walking home from school in winter's early twilight. Sometimes the air was so cold it hurt to breathe. There was a raised sidewalk with hitching posts still in place. If I stepped off the walk, I'd sink up to my armpits in a snowdrift. It was glorious!

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He Could Tell She Was Hiding Something

by MP Smith

He could tell she was hiding something. He saw her once again, waiting for the bus, just as she'd done the past couple Tuesdays. She kept her eyes down and didn't look around, instead, taking quick peeks down the tracks for her ride.

She boarded the bus right after him. He managed to get an aisle seat, and she was stuck standing in the center aisle. Always a gentleman, he stood and offered his seat.

At first she declined, but then agreed, sitting on the edge of the bench seat, pulling her skirt well past her knees, and clutching a manila envelope with to and from addresses on it.

She flipped the envelope over in her lap so the addresses disappeared, as if she needed to hide that information.

He swayed in the center aisle, holding his case in one hand and gripping the overhead pole with the other. He caught her eye once and smiled. She smiled back and then studied the back of the envelope for the rest of the ride.

As she got off the bus, she clutched the envelope to her chest. Again, he got the feeling she was hiding something.

He got off the bus too and waited a few seconds so she would not think he was following her. Fat chance, they both headed toward the same tall glass doors of the recording studio.

He opened the door for her and she approached the receptionist. He scooted to his office down a long hallway. He was seeing a few new clients today and needed to hurry and read their bios.

The first two auditions were dismal, and 'try again next year' was their brief.

Then she walked out onto the stage. She stared at him behind the glass wall.

He smiled, adjusted the soundboard, and an angel began to sing.

That voice! That presence! That's what she would hide no more.

From a prompt at 2022 FAW Social Write-in on 11/12/2022

***"Lock up your libraries if you like; but there is no gate, no lock, no bolt
that you can set upon the freedom of my mind."***

Virginia Woolf, A Room of One's Own

RUFUS

by Nancy Guarnera

The farmer had hoisted the pig to the top of the house and tied it in place against the chimney.

Rufus, the pig, was not happy about this and struggled against his captivity. But he was not yet fully grown, and as an adolescent pig he just wasn't strong enough to loosen his bonds. He finally gave up and stopped struggling.

The farmer climbed down the ladder he'd placed against the house several hours before. Once on the ground, he disappeared from sight.

Rufus sighed. The man was never very good at expressing his ideas, so the pig had no clue what the plan was. He strained against the ropes again to see if there was even a small chance of escaping. Nope. He was well and truly hog tied to the chimney—nothing to do but wait for the farmer to come back.

Eventually, the man returned with antlers and a small red ball...and a piece of clothesline. Rufus wondered what the farmer was planning to do with those.

Did I mention it was Christmas?

Then it dawned on him.... Yep, Rufus was going to be a stand-in for Rudolph, red nose and all. Rufus the red-nosed pig... how humiliating; he'd never live this down in the barnyard. He pulled against the ropes again. Still nothing.

How was the farmer going to get a sleigh onto the roof? And who was playing Santa in this scenario...the farmer?

His stomach was grumbling and it was getting cold as the sun dipped low in the sky, but he was too busy imagining everything that could, and probably would go wrong with this hair-brained scheme, to even notice.

Rufus wished the farmer could be reasoned with, but alas, they had never bothered to learn each other's language. Not that the farmer was much of a listener even in his own language. His good lady wife would attest to that when she explained to the sheriff why there was a pig on the roof. She had tried to dissuade him from carrying out this addle-brained scheme, but he wouldn't listen. Rufus was happy to know that he wasn't the only one that thought the farmer was nuts.

Though truth be told, Rufus had been hoping since he was just a wee piglet, to find out if pigs really could fly. He'd heard rumors about what would happen if they did. He wasn't sure about his entire species, but he was most certain he could fly...and one day would.

From a prompt the 2022 FAW Holiday Gathering on December 10th.

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3:30 to 5:00 PM
Tuesday before the Fourth Saturday
General Membership Meeting
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"Fourth Monday"
Writers' Salon
up.dragonfly.com@gmail.com



ANITA TOSH
Membership
nanatosh56@gmail.com



TERRY TOSH
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Facebook Page
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Fremont Area Writers educates writers and the public by providing:
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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*)