

Celebrate Black History Month



Ink Spots



The Newsletter of Fremont Area Writers

The "Centennial" Branch of the California Writers Club

Nancy Guarnera Editor-in-Chief

Vol. 2 No. 2 February 2023

inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org

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

LOVE

is all

we need

PROMPT PROMPT PROMPT PROMPT PROMPT PROMPT PROMPT

February General Meeting

* **February 25th** * **2 to 4 PM** * **Zooming** *

**SUSAN
IANNUCCI**

Voice to Remember
Exploring Audio Books

by Knuti VanHoven



Susan Iannucci

Ever wonder who you'd need to go to in order to have your book made into an audio book?

You might want to consider our February Speaker, Susan Iannucci. With over 60 audio books to her credit, Iannucci has demonstrated a solid grasp of voice over and narration skills, as well as an understanding of how to increase, promote and monetize her skills.

In an ever-expanding market, she's developed the skill sets to create, produce, direct, engineer, and star in audio productions ranging from training tapes to radio commercials. She's also established her own professional grade home audio studio d.b.a. **Voice to Remember**.

What does it take to accomplish all this?

Where is she going from here?

What new projects is she looking for?

Could you do this?

What training would you need in order to make your book into an audio book?

On February 25th at 2:00 p.m., Susan will be the speaker at our general meeting; She'll bring the facts and the inspiration. You bring questions! She's hoping for tons of them!

For more about her and her services, check out her website: **www.voicetoremember.com**.

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, 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

Call to Action!

At the time of this writing, I am awaiting further responses to my request for volunteers to help with the process of the SIP notes anthology. Thanks to those who have stepped up so far. I know there are more of you who are on the verge of making a commitment and as Nike says, "Just Do It."

We have an exciting and busy schedule starting early this year. The Jack London Award nominee to be selected by your hard-working volunteer board members who have a tough decision to make as there are a good number of them that go the extra mile.

We should by now have done the drawing for the winners of the two tickets to the SF Writer's Conference workshops on Screenwriting and Poetry, as well as who will be volunteering to attend the CWC table at the said event. Those persons attending to the table also get to attend several of the presentations as a reward for their time and efforts supporting CWC. Thank You for those that took on this task.

We are also on our way to the membership renewal drive, as June is the final month of the 2022-2023 year and we want to get as many new and returning members as possible moving into 2023-2024. There are so many benefits to belonging to this fellowship of persons involved and/or interested in developing their talents whether it be the actual creating of the written word, or support for those that do. Please continue to reach out to new potential members, or to offer your talents in our quest to prove we are truly "Writers Helping Writers."

Here's to complete and total success in whatever you set your heart and mind to achieve.

May you all be richly blessed this year.

Affectionately Yours,

Terry T.

P.S. Mark your calendar for the San Francisco Writers Conference is coming up this month February 16-19. See more about SFWC on pages 8 & 9.

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A Word from Our Editor



Nancy Guarnera
Editor *Ink Spots*

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

I hope you're taking some time to explore black writers, photographers and artists during February, Black History Month. In this issue, you'll find an article by Tish Davidson from one of her books, about an African American inventor, Bessie Blount Griffin. While Griffin's work was never truly accepted here in the United States, her medical inventions are still in use today in Great Britain and Europe. There are also several quotes by African Americans in this issue, who you might want to research. They and their words are inspirational and relate to the reminder on page 1 of this issue. Love! and its many wonderful iterations. There are many ways to express love and many meanings for different applications.

When one thinks of love and February, it's a challenge not to think about Valentine's Day. A holiday most likely concocted by candy and card makers with assistance from florists and jewelers. My husband uses it as an excuse to buy more orchids...one of his addictions. I enjoy them, too, but at some point one can actually have too many orchids, and dare I say it, too much chocolate.

I keep thinking about the Martin Luther King, Jr. quote on page 21. If those of us who wanted to vanquish hate could just muster enough love, we might be able to overwhelm the fear from which hate grows. It's like the two wolves that live inside us and fight for dominance. Which one wins? The one we feed. It's been a while since I was able to love unconditionally. It's easy to do with our pets, because they show us how. But, what about other people? Significant others...extended family, friends, strangers, people who lie to us, people who are responsible for the death of our loved one(s), people who disagree with us...what about them? Can we love and accept them in spite of their transgressions? If it's true, that "love is all we need" to heal ourselves, each other, and the planet...what are we waiting for?

Submission Guidelines

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

**10th of the month prior to the
publication month (ex.- February 10th
for the March 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.***

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

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

If you're a photographer who lives in Fremont, check out the Local Contest for Fremont Photographers (page 10). Last year, our VP, Knuti VanHoven won the President's Choice Award for her image "Blue Mosque." We featured it on the cover of the May issue of this newsletter. Perhaps this year it will be your photo that wins a prize and gets published here.

March is Women's History Month, so think about submitting something to celebrate women and the many contributions women have made to our culture and our lives.

I'll be updating the Submission Guidelines for *Ink Spots* soon, so keep an eye on your inbox. Those of you who submit work for publication out in the world, can use our guidelines to practice for the even more strenuous requirements publishers will want.

Cheers! Nancy Guarnera

FAW – February Meetings

Fremont Area Writers “Fourth Saturday” Membership Mtg on Zoom

Saturday February 25th 2:00 – 4:00 PM

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

Speaker: Audio Books Producer, Susan Iannucci (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 February 21st 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 – February Meetings

Fremont Area Writers

“Second Saturday”

Social Write-In on Zoom

Saturday February 11th 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 February 27th 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 Pat Doyne, will be showing her art in the following shows: *"Keep Hope Alive"* is an A.R.T., Inc. exhibit at the **A.B. Morris Adobe Art Center** in Castro Valley. The show closes on Feb 11th. The Gallery is open to the public on Thurs, Fri, and Sat, 11 to 3 pm. Docent tour for visitors on Feb 4th at 11 am.

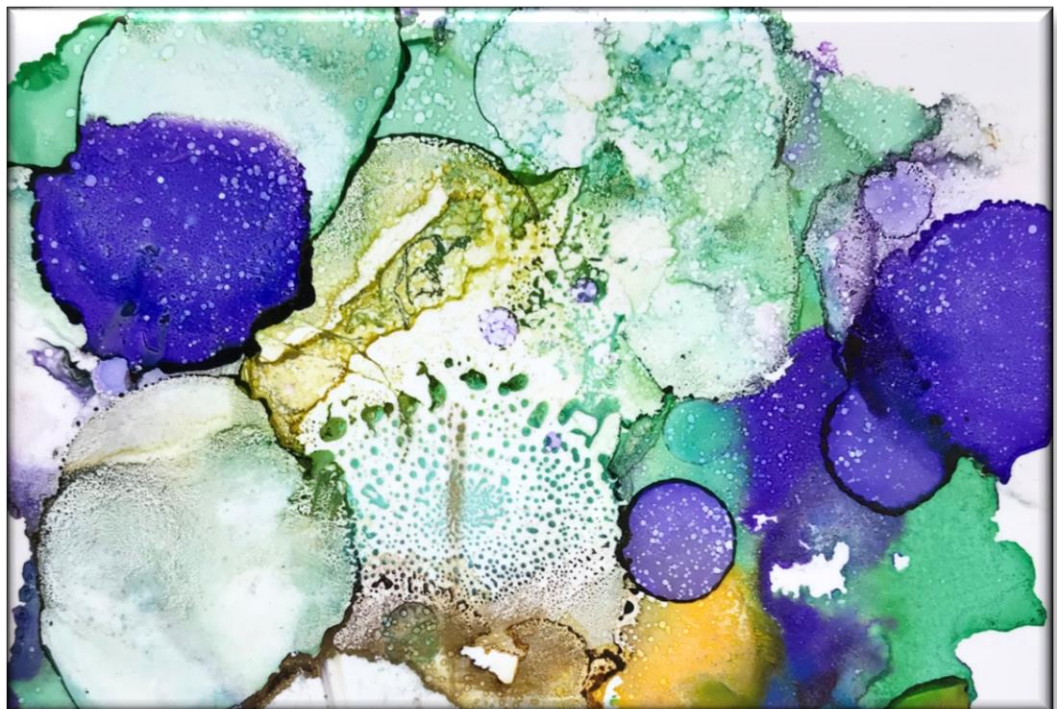
"Embracing the World" is a **Hayward Arts Council** exhibit at the **John O'Lague Gallery**, adjacent to Hayward City Hall. Gallery is open Mon thru Fri, 9 to 5 pm. Reception on Feb 10th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

"Madagascar Plants and Insects" is an exhibit by students of Mary L. Harden. Exhibit held at the **Helen Crocker Library** in **Golden Gate Park**, adjacent to the SF Botanical Gardens. Open daily from 10 to 4 pm, except Thurs. Reception on Thurs, Feb 9th from 3 to 5 pm. **Congratulations, Pat!**

KUDOS to Evelyn LaTorre, who, on January 18th introduced her books at a PowerPoint presentation *"Peace Corps Life in the Andes of Peru,"* to 60 participants at the Pleasant Hill chapter of the **American Association of University Women (AAUW)**.

She has been invited to read from her latest book, *Love in Any Language: A Memoir of a Cross-Cultural Marriage*, at the February 18th meeting of the **CWC SF-Peninsula branch**. **Congratulations, Evelyn!**

KUDOS to these Lucky Folks, who each won a \$10 Amazon Gift Certificate at the FAW Holiday Social drawing on Zoom on Dec 10th: *Terry Connelly, Scott Davidson, Pat Doyne, Nancy Guarnera, Evelyn LaTorre, Sam Rodriquez, Jan Small, Dave Strom, Anita Tosh, and Terry Tosh*. **Congratulations, All!**



Artwork by Amber DeAnn

San Francisco Writers Conference



The 19th Annual San Francisco Writers Conference

February 16-19, 2023

at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco

The hotel is across from the Ferry Building and next to the Embarcadero BART station!

***Plan to join us at our
19th Celebration and Learn...Connect...Publish!***

Register Now for the 2023 Conference

Price schedule

January 1-February 16 \$900

At the door \$950

Highlights for 2023:

100+ Presenters (including more than 20 **literary agents and acquiring editors!**),

80+ sessions, lectures and classes over the **FOUR** day weekend,

the **SFWC Poetry Summit** and the **Writing for Hollywood Summit** sessions
(both summits are included in the registration for the Main SFWC conference
and also available separately to the public),

a **free one-on-one consult** with an editor, promotional pro, and book coach,
and networking social events.

www.sfwriters.org

San Francisco Writers Conference

URGENT!

If you have a teen writer in your life, make sure they know about this opportunity as soon as possible.

She or he might still be able to attend this FREE Summit at the 2023 San Francisco Writers Conference.

FREE **Teen Writers Summit 2023** at SFWC



Sunday, February 19, 2023 2-5 p.m.

MORE INFO AND REGISTRATION:

<https://www.sfwriters.org/teen-writers-summit-2023/>

Local Fremont Contest

**A Fremont Cultural Arts Council (FCAC), City of Fremont
& Fremont Photographic Society sponsored event**

Fremont photographers...time to get your Creative on!

Fremont's 28th Annual Juried Photography Exhibit – 2023

This is a juried photography exhibit for Fremont photographers. The exhibit will be shown from April 1 to May 6, 2023. This year, the month of April has been designated as ARTS, CULTURE & CREATIVITY MONTH and the Photography Exhibit will be held in conjunction with the celebration. The Exhibit's opening is planned for Saturday, April 1st, from 6:00-8:00 pm and photographs selected by the panel of judges will be on display on the first floor of the Fremont Main Library.

The event is a joint venture with Fremont Cultural Arts Council (FCAC), the Fremont Photographic Society, and the City of Fremont.

For those who have participated in the past, we are continuing with on-line submissions, and the same two categories for the 2023 event:

- A separate category for students under 25 with separate prizes
- Open to all other Fremont photographers

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Deadline for digital submissions: | Midnight, February 26, 2023 |
| Email photographers on selected photos to print: | March 4, 2023 |
| Receive selected prints in FCAC Building: | March 25-26, 2023 |
| Library reception and start of show: | April 1, 2023, 6-8pm |
| End of show: | May 6, 2023 |
| Pick up prints after show at Library: | May 5-6, 2023 |
| Pick up prints after show at FCAC Building: | May 7, 2023 or later |

For Guidelines and Rules please go to:

<https://fremontculturalartscouncil.org/events/annual-juried-photo-show/fcac-juried-photography-show-rules>

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 —

Important Survey — RSVP 2/10

Please take a few minutes and send your answers to the following questions to FAW's NorCal Rep. Evelyn LaTorre at (elatorre@aol.com). She needs these no later than February 10th.

1. At a daylong **NorCal "Building Better Branches" conference**, what information would you like to see presented that would help with the administration of our Fremont Area Writers branch and with your writing?
2. If held in the fall, do you prefer the conference be Virtual or In-Person?

NorCal (1-4-23) Meeting Report

Submitted by Scott Davidson

for NorCal Representative, Evelyn LaTorre

The January 2023 meeting of CWC NorCal took place on the 4th, on Zoom. It was an abbreviated session, because one of the January storms caused two attendees to lose power during the meeting. Former NorCal president, Carole Bumpus chaired the meeting.

The major order of business was on how NorCal could best help its branches. They would like each chapter president to provide the top three priorities for what they would like from NorCal this year. Once NorCal has this, they will create a written list of goals and a timeline for activities in 2023.

Those in attendance suggested two things NorCal could do to help its member branches. The first was a book giving the roles and responsibilities of branch officer positions—an SOP (standard operating procedures) for board members. The second was a Speaker Exchange List. This list would allow branches to "review" speakers they had used and would recommend to other branches looking for speakers. There was concern about giving bad reviews to speakers and the possible problems that might cause.

The second order of business was a discussion about the SF Writers' Conference, being held on February 16-19 at the Hyatt by the Embarcadero in San Francisco. There was a discussion of volunteer positions for the CWC booth, but all these positions have been filled at this time. Each branch gets two free tickets—one for each summit—for 2023. This year there is a Hollywood (screenwriting) summit and a Poetry summit. Branches need to choose these people and submit their names. *(Congratulations to Evelyn LaTorre (screenwriting) and George Kwong (poetry) who will be this year's recipients of free tickets to these summits.)*

FAW & CWC Information

— PLEASE READ —

Celebrate
Black History
Month

Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us.

— Wilma Rudolph

Mark Your Calendars

Your FAW Membership Renewal Dues (\$45/person/year) are due by June 30th.

You can use the PayPal option on our website

www.cwc-fremontareawriters.org

or you can send a check to

Fremont Area Writers, PO Box 47, Union City, CA 94587.

We value your membership and hope you are taking advantage of all that membership offers you: critique groups, the Writers Salon, Social Write-Ins, monthly speakers on all aspects of writing craft and preparing to publish your work, our monthly newsletter—*Ink Spots*, and the opportunity to have your work published in its pages, access to other CWC branches' meetings and speakers, and more.

Of course, there's the chance to connect with other writers and artists who are anxious to support each other in any way they can.

It takes a village...or in FAW's case, a community!
Don't forget to renew, and invite other people you know who might benefit from FAW's support, to check us out.

Thank you for your continued support!

Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.

— Barack Obama

Celebrate
Black History
Month

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.)

Why Fish Don't Exist

by Lulu Miller

Who killed the wife of the deceased founder of Stanford University? Who might the prime suspect be? Moreover, how does strychnine play an unseen role throughout the narrative?

This ~ 200 page book is nonfiction, but otherwise defies categorization. Is it essay, biography, memoir, or murder mystery? A narrow slice of ichthyology or development of a philosophy of meaningful living? The answer, of course, is evident in my questions: it is all of the above.

Lulu Miller is a science writer, journalist, and was a producer of the NPR show "All Things Considered" when it won its Peabody Award. But for me, above all, she is a fine writer, handling her themes in such a way that they emerge as a beautifully woven tapestry instead of Mulligan stew. But were her various themes Mulligan stew, I'd have to say that her seasoning is wonderful, just the right dash of informality with refreshing sprinklings of humor.

Prologue: *"...Chaos is the only sure thing in this world. The master that rules us all...there is no escaping the Second Law of Thermodynamics: entropy is only*

growing; it can never be diminished, no matter what we do." Miller's father taught her this, as a girl.

Miller's own life fell apart in her late 20's, just as her off-balance sense of herself was stabilizing. How did she find meaning in living on, in restructuring her life while knowing that decay, that chaos, would inevitably descend again?

The book's biographical substructure is taxonomist David Starr Jordan, who spent his life organizing the world of gills and fins. He didn't live long enough, however, to find that the category "fish" no longer has a scientific basis, and that his own life-long collecting and organizing, had once again fallen apart. The first major entropic event in his scientific life was the San Francisco earthquake which destroyed almost all of his thousands of carefully preserved specimens. The last occurred after his death as his dignified legacy, a legacy based on power and position, crumbled.

I hope I've enticed you to read the book. It's just the perfect length for one of our windy, rainy weekends.

Review by **Marie Blanchard**

READ MORE BOOKS

My Saddest Pleasures: 50 Years on the Road

by Mark D. Walker

Mark Walker's latest book is a thoroughly delightful and insightful book that entertains the lucky reader of the missteps the author has experienced in traveling the world. In 63 pages, with a color photo for each story, the author takes us to a few of the hundreds of places he has visited over the past six decades. In easy-to-read prose, we are informed about the many non-profit agencies who have employed Mr. Walker and his intriguing, dangerous, and often amusing exploits. This book stimulates one to check out the variety of agencies Mark worked for and the countries he went to. A true gem of a book easily devoured in one pleasurable sitting.

Review by **Evelyn LaTorre**

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. - February 25th for the March issue).

Below you'll see some names; some are famous authors and the others are famous characters in books written by those authors. Match the authors with their characters as you solve each anagram, and include the book title 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 March 2023 issue of Ink Spots.)

Who are they?

Marge M.S. Housemat * Rene Cain * Skira Rab Bolvanger

Teresa Lol Conduitti * Cipil Harpey * Connie A.R. Paler

Hints * Authors * Hints

3 authors, 3 characters, 3 males, 3 females, 2 American, 1 British, 2 20th-21st cen., 1 19th- 20th cen., playwright, novelist and short story writer, gothic and erotic fiction, 17 published works, biologist, Christian lit, used multiple pen names, worked for the British Secret Service, published 35 novels, 4 plays ran at one time in London's West End, secular humanist, formed a rock & roll band of published writers, wrote 32 plays many adapted for radio, cinema and TV, one of the best-selling authors of modern times, had a stammer, writing has been called a form of activism, novels adapted to TV and movies, trained & qualified as a physician, novelist, poet, and essayist, studied music, subjects: social justice, biodiversity, human impact on the environment, est. prize to support literature for social change, 65 yr. writing career

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 January 2023 issue of Ink Spots.

Congrats to Pat Doyme, Steve Gibson, and Terry Tosh who each got them 100% correct.

BOOTS N. BRIM

Tom Robbins

NASH S. SHIKSWAY

Sissy Hankshaw

Even Cowgirls Get the Blues

TONY BRIMLEE

Emily Bronte

FAITH FLECH

Heathcliff

Wuthering Heights

ZETTAH BEE SPRILE

Elizabeth Peters

PAMELA I. ADEBOY

Amelia Peabody

Crocodile on the Sandbank

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

Saturday, Mar 11, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT
"Set the Stage: Using Setting to Add Intrigue & Suspense"

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

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.

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

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

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

Celebrate
Black
History
Month

Bessie Blount Griffin

by Tish Davidson

This is an excerpt from **AFRICAN AMERICAN SCIENTISTS AND INVENTORS**,
Mason Crest Publishers. The book, written for grades 3–6, will be of interest to all ages.

For most people, picking up a fork and eating is easy. For people without arms, it is impossible. This is the problem Bessie Blount Griffin faced when she worked as a physical therapist at the Bronx Hospital in New York.

Many soldiers in World War II lost their arms or were paralyzed from their injuries. They had to depend on other people to feed them. Griffin wanted to help these people be as independent as possible. She invented an electric self-feeding tube that squirted a single bite of food into the mouth each time the person bit down on the tube.

No one in the United States was interested in Griffin's electric feeder, but the government of France was interested. In 1951, Griffin donated the patent to the French government, saying that she had proved "that a black woman can invent something for the benefit of humankind." Later Griffin patented a special basin to use in hospitals. Again, no one in the United States was interested, but the basin is still used in Belgium today.

Bessie Blount Griffin had a second career. While she worked at the Bronx Hospital, she studied and wrote about how handwriting was related to people's health. This led her to start a second career as a handwriting expert at age 55. Her first job was with the Norfolk, Virginia police department. She helped to detect handwritten forgeries and fake documents.

Griffin applied to work at the FBI, but she was not hired. At age 63, she was the first African-American woman invited for advanced training at the Document Division of the Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory (usually called Scotland Yard) in London, England.

With this training, Griffin was able to start her own business. She taught police departments and lawyers how to tell if documents were fake. She also examined papers from the Civil War and Indian treaties from the 1800s to see if they were fake or real. Griffin worked at her business until she was 83 years old. She died in 2009 at age 95.

Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. — Strength to Love 1963

Hawaii by Backpack

by Patricia Doyne

After a day on the trail, we would pitch the tent and gather at the fire-pit, and tease sparks to a blaze. Then I'd rummage through my backpack for the makings of a meal. If we were near town, we might roast hot dogs. If we'd been on the trail for several days, we ate from cans and Tupperware. For example, I'd heat water for Minute Rice, then open a can of tuna, a can of spinach, and a can of cheddar cheese soup. Mix, plate, and enjoy the feast!

Once, when we stayed an extra night at a spot on the North coast of Kauai, we had nothing left except peanut butter in a plastic tube that you squeezed like toothpaste. My husband found a huge coconut, stripped off its furry covering, and slammed the seam against a rock so it split in half. We spread peanut butter on chunks of coconut—probably 1000 calories per square inch.

After clean up, my husband would unpack his ukulele, and we'd sing for hours. These were the folk music days. We sang all the verses to dozens of songs. Once, on a Big Island campsite, as we finished "This Land Is Your Land," a young woman approached our campfire. She'd been camping further down the beach, but was waiting to see if we'd sing the famous Woody Guthrie anthem. She was Arlo Guthrie's daughter (Woody's granddaughter).

A neon sunset, a roaring fire, and voices harmonizing to the chords of a ukulele! We did this for three months—but eventually had to pack up, fly home, and resume life as grown-ups.

She Knew She'd Been Told a Lie

by MP Smith

She stood in the doorway, stunned to silence.

The devastation! Had she been ransacked? She'd only turned her back for a moment! Oh, she should have stopped what she was doing and checked, but no, finishing up the laundry was just so invigorating.

She surveyed the room to see if anything could be salvaged from the storm. Furniture had been tipped over, the television sat at a precarious angle, splashes of colors spilled onto the carpet.

The paints decorated the culprit and seeped into the rugs, and chalk drawings like murder victim outlines decorated the new gray sofa. She was sure Crate & Barrel would not feature this sight in their latest catalog!

The perpetrator smiled, an angel in jeans and T-shirt, looking every bit as colorful as her floors and walls. A mantra to take a minute before acting ran through her head—good thing, too, because she was feeling slightly murderous as she looked at her living room.

How can a 3-year-old make such a mess!

"It was Jimmy, Mommy," the toddler ratted on his infant brother. And she knew she'd been told a lie.

From an FAW Social Write In prompt.

MARVELOUS MOROCCO

by Evelyn LaTorre

The fast-spreading Omicron variant cancelled my trip to Morocco in December 2021, when the borders to that country were closed. So, my husband and I postponed our trip to the North African country until December 2022. Three months before we were due to fly from SFO to Casablanca via Paris, I fractured my right ankle on an easy walk around our Lake Elizabeth. I thought I might be destined to never see that country's mosaics, taste their *tajine* meals, or ride their camels in the Sahara Desert.



But, when the Kaiser doctors assured me I'd be walking normally by take-off time, we kept our reservations. Between September and December, I hobbled around on a heavy boot, unwieldy crutches, and a three-pronged cane. The week before our flight, I finally walked unaided using an elastic support sleeve to help stabilize my ankle. But I still worried: could I walk safely on cobbled streets and sandy, uneven, and bumpy terrain?



A wheelchair awaited me at Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris. With my husband trailing alongside, the attendant wheeled me into tiny elevators and through secret pathways to get us to our connecting flight to Casablanca well within the one-hour transfer time. From Casablanca, three of us from our Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT) group rode alone on the company's

46-seat bus to Morocco's capital, Rabat. The next evening, after visiting the city walls and the market, I stood for three hours with thousands of shouting, singing, and flag-waving Moroccans, waiting for their Lions football (soccer) team to drive by on the way to have dinner with Morocco's King Mohammed the 6th. I was moved by how orderly and polite the large crowd behaved. Maybe it's because drinking alcohol in public is not allowed in the 99% Islamic country. My ankle did fine, but I had to join my companions for dinner and be satisfied to view on TV, the first team from an African or Arabian country to reach the World Cup semifinals.

The next 16 days were a whirlwind of activities: winding through narrow labyrinths of the Medinas (central marketplaces) in each city admiring their mosaic, woodworking, and leather handicrafts; learning about their tannery, fishing, moviemaking, and argan oil and olive oil-producing industries; and visiting families (farmers and nomads) in the countryside and the city to see firsthand how Moroccan adobe buildings are constructed and how their free education and medical systems function.

(continued on the next page)

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

MARVELOUS MOROCCO

(continued from previous page)



Several of us indulged in a communal *Hammam*, a public bath where our dead skin was scrubbed off us. Our lodgings were in *riads*, hotels converted from former large homes whose high walls and gardens kept the women inside, and in *Kasbahs*, guesthouses originally placed along trade routes.

In the Sahara, we stayed in tent cabins where the temperature at night was in the 40s. But the days were warm enough for a quiet early morning camel ride and a visit to an oasis where all manner of fruit and vegetables grow. We passed acres and acres of palm trees that produce some of the sweetest, juiciest dates I've ever eaten. The well-preserved Roman city of Volubilis demonstrated what life was like in ancient times—where they probably consumed large quantities of dates at their orgies.

I have traveled and lived in over 100 countries on five continents and writ-ten reams about each one. But, Morocco was unique in the amount of art, industry, and walled structures I saw in Rabat, Fez, Essaouira, Marrakesh, Casablanca, and several smaller towns. I delighted in all the new experiences. I walked for miles and miles through shopping plazas filled with snake charmers and intriguing crafts—and my wounded ankle survived just fine.



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