

Celebrate Women's History Month



Ink Spots



The Newsletter of Fremont Area Writers

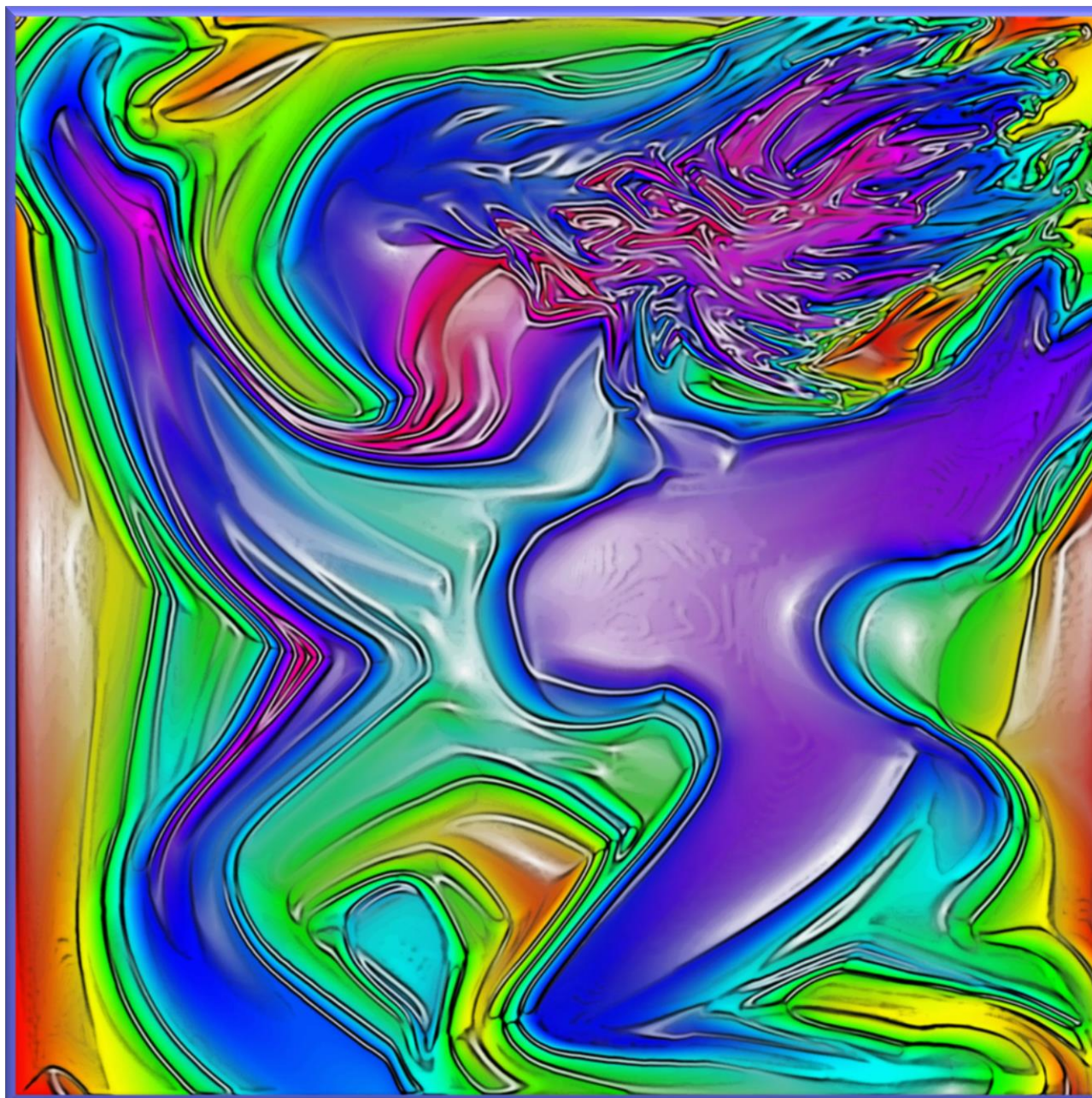
The "Centennial" Branch of the California Writers Club

Nancy Guarnera Editor-in-Chief

Vol. 2 No. 3 March 2023

inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org

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



VISUAL PROMPT

Artwork by Nancy Guarnera

March General Meeting

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

DECENCY AND LUCK

Life and Death Choices During WWII

Submitted by Knuti VanHoven

If you had the choice, would you risk your life and the lives of your children—or would you keep quiet and allow a young family to be murdered?

Our March 25th speaker, Julia Oversloot's parents were faced with that choice. Her book, *Decency and Luck: Two Dutch Couples During World War II* is about them—two ordinary people who chose to do extraordinary things to protect another young couple and their infant son. They made this choice with full knowledge that they were risking their own lives and those of their own children.

Although the subject is difficult to imagine, this memoir is an "easy read" of only 123 pages which includes many photos that bring the reality of her family's story even closer to us. Julia, who doesn't consider herself a writer, will tell us about her experiences in gathering the information, including photographs, and finding the help she needed to pass this story to members of her own family and to the rest of us as well.

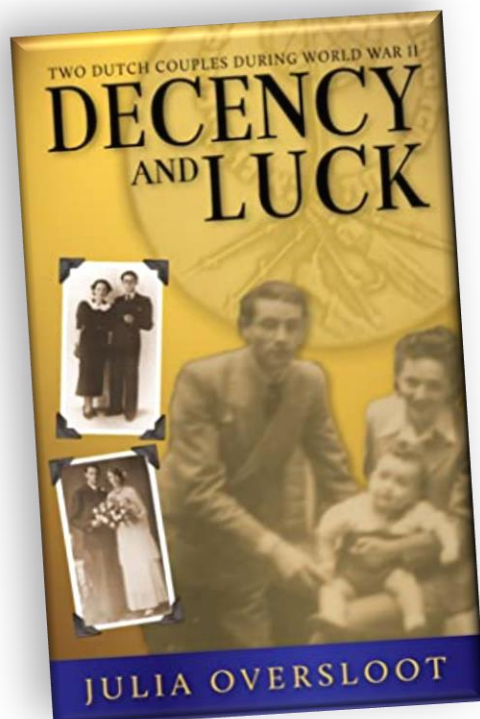
Her book is available on Amazon for Kindle and in paperback; you may want to read it before you meet her at FAW's March 25th meeting. Whether you crave books about philosophy, crises, real life adventure, or what psychological and craft issues are involved in writing about a life-changing trauma, this is a speaker you won't want to miss.

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.



Author Julia Oversloot





TERRY TOSH
FAW President

President's Message

March has always been a very special month to yours, truly...for it was the birth month of a very dear and close person to me. In fact, this person is one who knows me inside and out. All of the good, the bad, and what tiny speck of ugly there may have been in my extremely lengthy life. Yes, that individual is one I admire so much. He knows my thoughts and inner feelings. If you haven't guessed it yet, here's another clue: "If I weren't me, I'd want to be" is his life's mantra.... If you guess the person, let me know.

Meanwhile, a lot's happening this year, with a great need for volunteers to help us. If you can spare a few hours a month to take on some of the load, it will be much appreciated. Your name might even be shouted-out for being so wonderful and helpful to your fellow members. A shining example of this is this year's recipient-to-be of the coveted Jack London Award!

Yes, Scott Davidson has been selected unanimously by your other hardworking board members for his unselfish giving of his time and talent as he manages our ever-changing website (cwc-fremontareawriters.org). He also hosts and supports several of our monthly and some bi-weekly Zoom sessions. He is always going above and beyond, and is always ready and willing to answer our sometimes inane questions, whether pertaining to various computer issues, or offering advice about how to respond to puzzling issues that arise from inquiries through our organization's contact information. He has stepped up to cover others of us when we have conflicts in our schedules, and he never complains (out loud) about some of the nonsense we may throw his way, that should really have been a no-brainer.

THANK YOU, Scott, for being a great example of unselfish giving to your friends here at the Fremont branch and statewide California Writers Club. We are truly indebted to you.

Everyone please take the time to thank Scott for being there for all of us.

We also want to remind all of you to be ready to press that renewal button when the time comes—months move so swiftly—June 30 will be here before you can memorize the Constitution, or maybe the Bylaws of CWC? Either way, it's just around the corner, folks.

I will stop here and let you get the remaining intense wisdom you need to know from our beloved newsletter editor, Nancy.

Thanks for being one of us, and please consider what you can contribute further to our goal of "Writers Helping Writers."

(Oh, and, uh, thanks for the Birthday Wishes.)

Terry T.



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A Word from Our Editor



Nancy Guarnera
Editor *Ink Spots*

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

March is Women's History Month! I was a Women's Studies and Visual Arts major in college. I attended the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, which had an option to design one's own major. This seemed tailor-made for me. I did an undergraduate "thesis" on Women and Creative Self-Expression. Once you start studying women's contributions to the world, you begin to understand how much is missing and how important including everyone in the discussion and decision-making process is, regardless of race or gender.

Until women's studies became a thing, if you decided to study art history, you'd spend a small fortune on a 1,000-page book that covered art from the earliest human creative efforts to the modern era. That book contained per-

haps, three or four women artists. Once we started looking for, and at, women's art, we discovered there were probably enough of us to fill another 1,000-page book. Studying art history had just become a two-semester proposition...with very expensive books. I didn't take the class, but I studied some of these women, and at least one, Barbara Hepworth, complained that when she began piercing her sculptures, an innovation, Henry Moore was so awed by her work, that he started copying her style. Guess who got the credit for this...not Barbara.

If you look at a decade of Harper's Bazaar magazine (1910 to 1920) you'll read about women (with their own names) inventors, explorers, suffragettes, etc. from 1910 to 1915; from 1916 to 1920 women are identified only as Mrs. "husband's name," and shown only in group photos of country club members. William Randolph Hearst bought the magazine in the latter half of the decade and decided that we shouldn't encourage women to do anything more than marry Mr. Anyone and have his children...anything else would surely lead to hysteria.

This, of course, applies to women writers as well. Many women have written in the shadows. Some have submitted for publication using a male pen name to have their work even considered by publishers. I'm sure some

of you have heard the saying, "Anonymous was a woman." Even if it's only half-true, that's still a substantial amount of contribution by women that's gone unacknowledged.

Treat yourself to a little research this month; it won't take long before you find yourself in the wonderful rabbit hole of Women's History. Start with one of the all-time greats—polymath **Hildegard von Bingen** from the 12th–13th centuries. She was the rock-star of her time, confidant of nobility and peasants alike.

One could spend a lifetime studying women...some do...some focus on just one woman and her contributions. Either way, whatever/whomever you're studying, it soon becomes clear that the more you know, the more you know there's more to know. Enjoy the journey...and the quotes in this issue!

New Ink Spots Submission Guidelines will be sent to the membership soon. If you have not received a copy by the next submission day (3-10-23), please let me know and I will resend it. **Cheers! Nancy**

Submission Guidelines

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

10th of the month prior to the
publication month (ex.- March 10th
for the April issue)

SEND TO:

inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org

YOUR 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.

FAW – March Meetings

Fremont Area Writers “Fourth Saturday” Membership Mtg on Zoom

Saturday March 25th 2:00 – 4:00 PM

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

Speaker: Memoir Author Julia Oversloot (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 March 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 – March Meetings

Fremont Area Writers

“Second Saturday”

Social Write-In on Zoom

Saturday March 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 March 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 Tish Davidson, who has verified through www.worldcat.org that her books *The Vaccine Debate* and *Vaccines: History, Science, and Issues* (published by ABC-CLIO, an imprint of Bloomsbury) are in academic and large public libraries in **32 countries** and **every state in the U.S.**
Congratulations, Tish!

KUDOS to Dave M Strom, who will be running Writers Helping Writers at the San Mateo Main Library (on 3rd street), every second Thursday at 6:30 pm. He'll be the presenter for the first event on March 9th. His topic will be: **A Comic Book Geek's Open Mic Journey: Tips, Tricks, Etc.**

A member of the California Writers Club–SF Peninsula, FAW and South Bay branches, Dave will talk about how he performs his Super Holly Hansson stories at open mics: how he started, what he added, and how it influenced his writing. This event is open to the public. Those attending will learn how Dave has developed his particular style, as well as how to successfully read stories in front of a microphone and an audience, with confidence in their own particular style. Dave has self-published a collection of short stories: Super Holly Hansson in *Super Bad Hair Day!* His latest short story, "The God Glove," was part of Fault Zone: Reverse. Dave is a technical writer and comic book fan. And he believes that Doctor Doom would kick Darth Vader's butt. **Congratulations, Dave!**

KUDOS to these Lucky Folks, who each won a \$10 Amazon Gift Certificate at the FAW Holiday Social raffle on Zoom on Dec 10th: Terry Connelly, Scott Davidson, Pat Doyne, Nancy Guarnera, Evelyn LaTorre, Jan Small, Sam Rodriguez, Dave Strom, Terry Tosh, and Stephen Yuen. **Congratulations, All!** (This reflects a correction. Stephen Yuen was one of the lucky winners, replacing Anita Tosh who was listed in error.)



And Now for Something Completely Different...

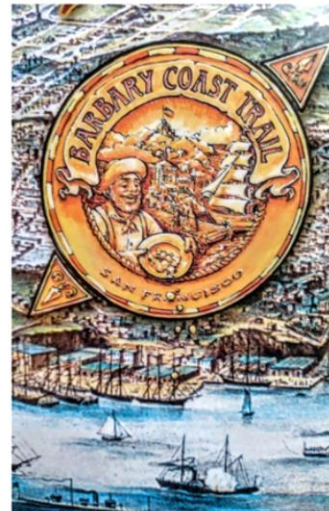
A Literary Walking Tour of SF's Barbary Coast Trail

Led by CWCMarin President Daniel Bacon

Tour date: March 18

Tour Times: 9:30 am to approx. 2 pm

Join Daniel Bacon as he leads us along Gold Rush era streets and Chinatown alleys to places where literary icons drew inspiration. This 3- to 4-hour tour will start with a cable car ride from Aquatic Park Cove to Powell and Market, followed by a walk 3.8 miles back to the starting point. We'll see sites that inspired Dashiell Hammett, Mark Twain, Ina Coolbrith, Jack London, Allen Ginsberg, and a host of others.



Notes from the San Francisco Writers Conference



Notes from the Poetry Summit

by George Kwong



On Saturday, February 18, 2023, I went to the San Francisco Writers Conference Poetry Summit in San Francisco on a free ticket from the FAW raffle. In the first session, several poets shared their inspiration to become poets and each read a poem that they'd written. I really loved the following quotes: "Poetry is a divine itch that you're trying to scratch." and "Poems come out of what we wonder and not out of knowing."

In the second session, three different publishers shared what they were looking for in submissions and how to submit. I didn't realize that many poets publish their poetry in book form. I've always written poems just for myself without the thought of one day publishing them. I realize now I need to read more poetry, especially by current poets. I started writing poems in high school after reading the works of Emily Dickinson and Robert Frost and still write sporadically.

For my final session, I attended a presentation on Authenticity and Representation. Three authors discussed how to be real in your writing and how to watch for implicit biases. This session really resonated with me, but it also created more questions. I really loved the quote: "Everyone has 1 best-selling book inside of them." Another major take-away idea was the use of Author's Notes to explain why something was written the way it was. This is where readers can identify what were the actual factual events and where creativity was used.

I didn't stay for the late afternoon sessions and what I hear is an awesome Poetry and Jazz open mic event in the evening from 7:30 - 11:00 pm. Staying the night at the Hyatt Regency would be a good idea if attending the Poetry and Jazz open mic event.

I highly recommend attending the San Francisco Writers Conference, it's such a great opportunity to hear, learn, and be inspired by published authors. Definitely enter the FAW raffle for a free ticket to a Summit.



Notes from the Hollywood Summit

by Evelyn LaTorre



From the first moment of the sessions of the "Hollywood Summit" tract to the last, my mind and pen were awirl. I learned the skills, efforts, and persistence needed for authors and their agents to pitch a book, write a pilot, then contract a production company that will make a book into a movie or a TV program. Scores of rejections are common and we were encouraged not to become discouraged.

Jordan Rosenfeld, fiction coach and editor shared her expertise and slides on self-editing, the elements of plot, and the unreliable narrator. Then it was on to learn about how to pitch my writing with CWC member Jordan Bernal. When Jordan said that practice pitch sessions would be held at lunchtime, I signed up. With input from experts and peers, I gave a 3-minute pitch to a small group for my next book, *Traveling Companions*.

In the final session, literary agents Katharine Sands and Andy Ross provided information about what agents look for in a publishable memoir.

My day resulted in a full notebook and much inspiration to keep writing and publishing. I was impressed that so many actual and hopeful writers traveled from all over the world and paid close to \$1,000 plus hotel to attend the four days. Thanks to former NorCal Chair, Carol Bumpus, who arranged for the scholarship, and the Fremont Area Writers for choosing me to attend.

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 —



Author, Stuart Horwitz

Finish Your Book in Three Drafts: *Crafting Fiction and Creative Non-Fiction with the Book Architecture Method*

Saturday • March 11, 2023 • 9 AM – 1 PM

Sequoia Yacht Club

441 Seaport Ct, Redwood City, CA 94063

Register online for only \$85

www.cwc-sfpeninsula.org/store/p/p/stuart-horwitz-workshop

It's the age-old battle between the outliners and the pantsers—those who meticulously script every writing session, and those who pilot solely by feel. Finding your unique approach requires a **method** rather than a formula. **Stuart Horwitz' Book Architecture Method** has helped bestselling writers transform their messy manuscripts into polished books. Accomplished and aspiring writers alike will learn the secrets of painlessly creating a complex narrative such as:

- what “plotting” actually means, and why there isn't one narrative arc but several
- how to make sure your book has one “theme” – and one theme only
- how to separate your work into scenes and use this disassembly to diagnose what's going wrong with your manuscript, and
- the secret to why some narratives feel like they are all coming together at an emotional pay-off while others do not.

This workshop will introduce writers to a process for organization and revision that includes in-depth exercises to be completed throughout the day, so that attendees leave with a new perspective on their book's core, its structure, and where the work of revision lies most clearly. The workshop assumes nothing of a writer's previous knowledge of technique, nor how much of their manuscript is complete.

Stuart Horwitz is an acclaimed teacher, ghostwriter, independent editor, and founder of **Book Architecture**. Stu's clients have reached the best-seller list in both fiction and non-fiction, and have appeared on Oprah!, The Today Show, and in the most prestigious journals in their fields. He is the author of three acclaimed books on writing: **Blueprint Your Bestseller: Organize and Revise Any Manuscript with the Book Architecture Method** (Penguin/Perigee), which was named one of the year's best books about writing by *The Writer* magazine; **Book Architecture: How to Plot and Outline Without Using a Formula**, an Amazon bestseller, and **Finish Your Book in Three Drafts: How to Write a Book, Revise a Book, and Complete a Book While You Still Love It**. Horwitz holds degrees in literary aesthetics from New York University and East Asian studies from Harvard University. He is also an award-winning poet and essayist. He recently relocated to California from New England with his family, something he should have done years ago.

***In person only...
bring your mask!***



***In person only...
bring your mask!***

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 April 2023 issue of Ink Spots.)

Who are they?

Ma Tyna * John “Mouser” Garneti * Rooda Flon

AnaLea Moguy * S. Jane Darbun * Sowu Unoya

Hints * Authors * Hints

3 authors, 3 characters, 0 males, 6 females, 3 American, 2 20th-21st cen., 1 19th-20th cen., Born in a log cabin in NY, parts of first novel appeared as short stories in FM Magazine and Seventeen, memoirist, poet, essayist, playwright, novels focus on mother-daughter relationships in immigrant communities, artist, illustrator, journalist, writer, edited by T.S. Eliot, Modernist author, work adapted for film, theater, opera, civil rights activist, nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and Tony award, turned down offers from several major publishers for first novel, received 3 Grammy awards, wrote 7 autobiographies, journalist, singer, actor, educator, cult classic of lesbian fiction, supported suffragists

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 February 2023 issue of Ink Spots.

Congrats to Scott Davidson, Pat Doynne, Steve Gibson, and Terry Tosh, all of whom answered correctly.

RENE CAIN

Anne Rice

SKIRA RAB BOLVANGER

Barbara Kingsolver

MARGE M.S. HOUSEMAT

Somerset Maugham

TERESA LOL CONDUTTI

Lestat de Lioncourt

CONNIE A.R. PALER

Orleana Price

CIPIL HARPEY

Philip Carey

Interview with the Vampire

The Poisonwood Bible

Of Human Bondage

Notes from the World

The 22nd Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest

\$2,000 prize — No fee
Deadline: April 1

The **Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest** will award a first prize of \$2,000, a second prize of \$500, and ten Honorable Mentions of \$100 each. The winner will also enjoy a two-year gift certificate from our co-sponsor, **Duotrope** (a \$100 value). The top 12 poems are published on our website.

Whether your poem is published or unpublished, or even if it has won a prize in a different contest, you may submit it to our contest. **Jendi Reiter** will judge, assisted by Lauren Singer. **Reedsy** recommends this contest. Most countries eligible. One poem only, please.

Submit online at
www.winningwriters.com/our-contests/wergle-flomp-humor-poetry-contest-free

The Nimrod Literary Awards

Deadline: April 1, 2023

First Prizes: \$2000 & Publication
Second Prizes: \$1000 & Publication

Judges:

Tarfia Faizullah
Shobha Rao

Writers may submit 3-10 pages of poetry or a piece of short fiction or a self-contained novel excerpt of up to 7,500 words. Each entry must be accompanied by a \$20 fee (additional \$3 fee for work submitted online), which includes a one-year subscription to **Nimrod** (two issues, print or digital option). Multiple entries are acceptable. For mailed entries, make checks payable to **Nimrod**.

For more information go to:
winningwriters.cmail19.com/t/d-e-zdkjjld-ikljlitihj-r/

FundsforWriters.com

Chosen 101 Best Writing Websites by Writer's Digest for the last 20 years in a row.

One of the web's best experts on **grants/fellowships/scholarships/awards/contests** for writers.

The subscription is FREE.

Do like 27,000 others and simply go to **FundsforWriters.com** and sign up. We'll keep your contact information private.

We look forward to you joining us!

fanstory.com

Contests with cash prizes that you can enter this week!

6 Word Poetry Contest	Cinquain Poetry Contest
Deadline in 4 days	Deadline in 9 days
Rhyming Poetry Contest	No Rules Poetry Contest
Deadline in 15 days	Deadline in 20 days

Free 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.

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

Saturday, Apr 15, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT
**"Using Point of View to Maximize
Reader Engagement"**

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

THE Wolfe Pack + Alfred Hitchcock's
MYSTERY MAGAZINE

Proudly Announce

THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL

Black Orchid Novella
Award Contest



The Return of the Puzzle

Each entry must be an original, unpublished work of fiction in the traditional deductive style exemplified by the Nero Wolfe series that:

- Does not include characters from the original series
- Emphasizes the deductive skills of the sleuth
- Contains no overt sex or violence

FIRST PRIZE: \$1,000 and publication in Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*

Entries must be 15,000 to 20,000 words in length, and must be postmarked by May 31, 2023 • The winner will be announced at The Wolfe Pack's Annual Black Orchid Banquet in December 2023. •

Please visit www.nerowolfe.org for official rules and procedures to submit your novella • With questions, contact Jane K. Cleland: jane@janecleland.com • *If no acceptable candidates are received, AHMM and The Wolfe Pack reserve the right to declare no winner in any given year.

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

Notes from the World

You're invited to submit your poetry to the

The 30th Annual Dancing Poetry Festival

Entries are welcome from January 1st – April 15th 2023

For more information and complete rules, previous year's winning poems, photos, and YouTube videos...please visit

www.dancingpoetry.com



"Democracy is the best revenge."

— Benazir Bhutto —

*"Let us remember: one book, one pen,
one child and one teacher
can change the world."*

— Malala Yousafzai —

*"If you want something said, ask a man; if
you want something done,
ask a woman."*

— Margaret Thatcher —

*"I alone cannot change the world,
but I can cast a stone across the waters
to create many ripples."*

— Mother Teresa —

*"In societies where men are truly confident
of their own worth, women are not merely
tolerated but valued."*

— Aung San Suu Kyi —

*"A wise woman can predict the future,
because she creates it."*

— Anonymous —

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

MY SENIOR YEAR

by Jo Ann Frisch

An excerpt from a memoir in process

Hazel and Daddy were fighting again. I went outside to get away from their yelling and looked around the dilapidated trailer court. Trailer trash is what we'd become. Small trailers squatted in two uneven rows divided by a narrow road. A washhouse with bathroom, showers and laundry facilities was situated mid-way. Many of the trailers were parked without cinder blocks to keep them from shaking. Daddy had parked our thirty-seven foot Spartan next to a slab of concrete, with hook-ups to water, sewer, and electricity. He was finicky, it had to be just right or he'd cuss and stomp around then try again until it was perfectly lined up to the patio.

It would be nice to go to only one school for my final year. Last year had been difficult going to three different schools in three states. I still didn't know what I wanted to be, but was sure I could be a secretary. All I needed were two more credits to graduate. Shorthand, a math class and English, would be more than enough.

I wondered what the high school would be like. It'd be large and crowded because so many people lived here near Riverside in southern California. As the stranger I'd have to fit in again and Daddy might decide to move us across the country any time.

"You can't keep dragging these kids around from school to school," Hazel shouted. "We need a permanent place to live and this trailer is too small for us."

"What do you want me to do about it? I have to work wherever the work is. I don't know how much longer this job is and then we'll have to move again. It's easier if I have everything already in the trailer."

Hazel wouldn't shut up about it. "I don't care. You can spend money on a house somewhere so Jo Ann can finish high school in one place. And Carla is having trouble keeping up with her classes. Jim will start school and I want him to go to one school. I can work as a fry cook and help pay for it."

"Ok, god dammit to hell, I'll look for a house," Daddy shouted and slammed out the door. The whole trailer shook on its springy foundation.

A few days later after work he said he had found a three-bedroom house in Mira Loma not far from us. "It's a good price but not quite finished on the inside, one bedroom needs sheet-rock. It has a bathroom with tub and shower, and the kitchen doesn't have cabinets above the sink but there's a gas stove and refrigerator. The yard needs a lawn and it's lower than the street in front. I don't know about the problems it may have if it rains very much. If you want to see it we can drive over there after supper."

Not much was said during our meal of Hazel's usual beef stew. I was filled with dread and steeled myself against another disappointment. We climbed into our car excited about the prospect of living in a real house.

(continued on next page)

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

MY SENIOR YEAR (continued from previous page)

The neighborhood looked run down but some of the yards were green with new lawns and rose bushes bloomed cheerfully. Daddy stopped in front of a house sprouting weeds. Hazel was the first one out of the car, screaming with glee. He looked uncomfortable whenever she couldn't contain herself. Carla, Jim and I followed her toward the front door. It was locked so we walked around to the back door, it was locked too. Peeking in the windows, we could see the brown tile floor and missing sheetrock in the back room.

Jim cried, "Hold me up, hold me up, I want to see, too."

Hazel said, "All it needs is some water and the lawn will be good as new."

Daddy had a sour expression signaling doom and chewed his cheek. "Do you think we can live here?"

Hazel threw herself at him in a bear hug. She slobbered all over him like a dog between laughing and crying. "It's perfect, I love it, I can't believe it. Are you serious, Carl?"

He nodded trying not to smile. "Ok, I'll talk to the realtor tomorrow after work and make the deal."

I thought, "It's pretty shabby but at least it's a house. Now I won't have to be afraid someone will find out I live in a trailer court."

A week later we moved in. Daddy pulled our trailer to the house and carefully backed it in the driveway with enough room to park the car in front. Carla and I unpacked our bedding and other linens while Hazel set up the kitchen. There was a range with an oven and a refrigerator that needed cleaning. The cabinets were small but she managed to fit in our dishes, and pots and pans.

Hazel hung up their clothes in the largest bedroom and Carla and I hung ours in one of the bedrooms we would share. Jim had the smaller bedroom. I was sure he wouldn't like sleeping all by himself that far away from Hazel at only five years old.

We had dinner at a hamburger drive-in just as it was getting dark. It was a treat to eat out. We hardly spoke as we washed down our burgers and fries with coke.

That first night we slept on the floor on quilts and under blankets in complete darkness; there was no electricity. Way off in his room, Jim whined he was afraid, but Daddy shouted for him to stop crying and go to sleep. Finally, his sniffing stopped and we slept.

To be continued...



"A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle."

Irina Dunn — Australian journalist, filmmaker, activist, politician, educator — 1970

A Raindrop in a Spider's Web

by MP Smith

Bill was in a hurry—and in a huff. The dog wasn't cooperating and he was going to be late for work—again. "C'mon, Cleo, go already." Bill had the plastic bag in his hand to pick up any waste that Cleo might deposit—*IF* she'd ever deposit it!

He pulled the dog along at a fast clip, so maybe her lack of relaxing enough to go was his fault, but he wasn't thinking about the dog's feelings, only his feelings and what he needed to get done today.

Dog and master sped around a corner next to a high hedge and Bill face-planted into a large, sidewalk-sweeping spider web.

"Ugh, Ah, Oh!" he shrieked loud enough to scare Cleo and make others on the opposite corner look up.

He did a jig and swatted at his face to remove the cloying gossamer fibers, but they stuck in his hair, his eyes, his mouth. Still he screamed and scurried in a small circle on the corner.

Shouts of, "Hey, are you all right?" came from across the street as Bill continued to jitterbug while removing the invisible strands.

Teenagers filmed the sidewalk dance for social media and by dinnertime Bill's moves would be trending viral on TikTok.

Cleo took this moment to make a large poop, right where Bill's dress shoes were moving, and elicited more swearing from her owner. He gave the dog a harsh tug and they trudged home.

This disaster would have been avoided if only there'd been a raindrop in the spider's web.

From a 2023 FAW Social Write-in prompt

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, splotches 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 a 2022 FAW Social Write-in prompt

And Baby Makes Four

by Evelyn LaTorre

Excerpt adapted from *Love in Any Language: A Memoir of a Cross-Cultural Marriage*

(As read at the February 18, 2023 meeting of the CWC SF-Peninsula Branch)

I unwrapped pink diaper bags, pink onesies, and frilly pink dresses at the April 1971 baby showers thrown by the Hawthorne school faculty and the women in our UC student-housing unit. Those who doubted that I could choose the sex of my baby, thought impossible in 1970, gave me yellow blankets, sweaters, and booties. (I'd read a *Life* magazine article about how to conceive a girl. My husband loved the method.)

When birthing Tony, our first child, four years before, I'd been caught off guard by the pain. Then, my obstetrician had quickly administered a saddle block anesthetic. The painkiller deadened me to all feeling in my lower extremities. For days afterward, I had excruciating headaches every time I lifted my head. I didn't want a pain-deadener with this second birth. I wanted to experience the pleasure of a natural birth, like so many women said they did in the '70s. I enrolled in weekly evening Lamaze classes the month before my due date, and hoped for a painless, enjoyable childbirth.

I arrived unaccompanied at the Albany Adult School at seven in the evening on July 6 for the third Lamaze class entitled, "Labor Pains." Antonio hadn't come with me to any of the classes. Childbirth wasn't a major medical event where he came from. He said women in Peru delivered their babies without their spouses involved in classes. Antonio hadn't been present when Tony was born, so I wasn't surprised by his lack of involvement with our second child's delivery. It had been my decision to have this baby, and I would attend Lamaze classes by myself. I gritted my teeth and went alone.

"Your abdomen will become hard," the perky, young Lamaze instructor said describing a labor pain, "and you'll feel pressure on your pelvis."

I looked around at the circle of women leaning against their husbands. The couples resembled wheelbarrows holding various sized pumpkins. Most appeared more relaxed than I, even though most were first-time parents. I was a single pumpkin reclining against a pillow with no wheelbarrow to hold me.

A sharp movement around my abdomen startled me. I couldn't recall having felt this tightening before Tony's birth. Alarmed, I sat upright and raised my hand.

"The contractions move in a wave-like motion from the top to the bottom of the uterus like a cramp," the teacher continued, then looked over at me.

"Yes, Evelyn?" she said, swishing her blond ponytail.

"I'm feeling something," I said, concerned. "Could it be a contraction?"

"Can you wait another fifteen minutes until the eight o'clock break?" she asked, looking at the clock above the blackboard.

A warm glow went through my body. I felt so mellow I could have agreed to anything. I nodded and rested against my big pillow. After all, I was having my second child. I should know how a contraction felt. Maybe my daughter was just changing her position.

(continued on next page)

And Baby Makes Four *(continued from previous page)*

At the break, Miss Perky felt my belly, timing what she now agreed were contractions. I waddled behind the instructor to the office of the night school principal, Mr. Hughes. The principal looked at me with unsmiling concern. Then, without warning, my water broke and splashed all over his office floor.

"I think," the instructor said, now less cheerful, "you need to get to a hospital right away, and I need to get back to my class."

Principal Hughes's eyes opened wide with bewilderment. I looked at him amused, still in a euphoric state. I'd driven to class in our little VW bug. Mr. Hughes said he'd come to work on his motorcycle. With my contractions now seven minutes apart, I needed to get home so Antonio could take me to Kaiser Hospital in Oakland. I called him on the office phone and instructed:

"Get Tony ready to stay with a neighbor. "Antonio sounded surprised, but calm. I hung up and got back to Mr. Hughes.

"I need to get home. This baby feels like she's about to slide right out of me."

"I can't just put you on the back of my Harley," the hip principal said.

"If you can drive a stick shift," I said, "you can drive me in my car."

"I don't," the principal said, "but you shouldn't go alone."

"Okay," I said, "I'll drive. You can sit in the passenger seat."

I got behind the wheel of the VW with Mr. Hughes beside me. Each contraction felt stronger than the last. The car and I reacted together, halting with each spasm. I stepped on the gas, and then cringed and braked each time we hit a bump. The principal and I drove the two miles to our apartment avoiding conversation. I had no time to be concerned about how Mr. Hughes would get back to his office. We certainly couldn't drop him off on our way to the hospital.

As soon as I arrived home, I called the woman in the complex who'd agreed to watch Tony. The neighbor arrived. I grabbed my bag. We got into the VW and raced to the hospital. My contractions were now coming so close together, and so strong, I was certain Antonio would have to stop driving and deliver our daughter in the car somewhere along Interstate 80.

The attendants at the emergency entrance rushed me into a delivery room. This time Antonio stayed around to complete the admission papers. I was in no condition to do so. The nurses had no time to prep me or ask about painkillers—the baby was too eager to come out. I got the natural childbirth I'd planned for, but with pain and tearing. I waited to hear my baby girl's cries.

At 9:23 p.m., the doctor said, "You have a beautiful baby boy."

"Are you sure?" I said, surprised, but grateful to have the birth over. "I was supposed to have a girl."

"Well, you have a healthy boy," the doctor repeated.

I hadn't felt the physical pleasure of this natural childbirth as I'd expected, but was happy all had gone well. The physician placed my infant on my stomach. Any disappointment at birthing a second son evaporated. Except now, all those pink baby gifts would have to go back.

A Spider's Web

by Stephen M. Yuen

I saw a raindrop in a spider's web the other day after one of the many storms we've had blew through. It was out on the patio exposed to the elements. I looked for its designer and/or occupant, and saw a tiny figure with eight legs huddled into a corner, under the awning. It was safe from the onslaught of rain that remained ceaseless.

I wondered about the spider. Here it was, waiting out a storm as I was doing. There was a kind of vulnerability on display; a reminder that life, ever so fragile, will ferociously hang on, even when Mother Nature herself has set aside her saucers and teacups, and delivered a rough hand to our battered, wet world. Life will strive to exist through the forces that often try to prevent it.

There I was, huddled in my own corner, waiting for the rain to stop. When it did, I saw the sunlight glistening on that raindrop on the web. "Soon," I whispered to my eight-legged friend, "Soon the sun will shine again, and we can come out...soon."

***"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*

***"I am not free while any woman is unfree,
even when her shackles are very different
from my own."***

— Audre Lorde —

***"Always be a first rate version of yourself
and not a second rate version
of someone else."***

— Judy Garland —

***"Women sometimes go too far, it's true.
But it's only when you go too far
that others listen."***

— Indira Ghandi —

***"Women are the real architects
of society."***

— Harriet Beecher Stowe —

***"I am not black and I am not white and
I'm not pink and I'm not green. Eartha Kit
has no color and that's how barriers
are broken."***

— Eartha Kit —

***"Be the kind of woman who, when your
feet hit the floor each morning,
the devil says, 'Oh no! She's up!'"***

— Joanne Clancy —

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3:30 to 5:00 PM
Tuesday before the Fourth Saturday
General Membership Meeting
on ZOOM

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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*)