



# Ink Spots



The Newsletter of Fremont Area Writers

*The "Centennial" Branch of the California Writers Club*

Nancy Guarnera Editor-in-Chief

Vol. 2 No. 7 August 2023

inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org

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

VISUAL PROMPT



Artwork by Jo Ann Frisch

# *August General Meeting*

\* August 26<sup>th</sup> \* 2 to 4 PM \* Zooming \*

## “ADDING HUMOR TO YOUR STORY”

with

**Joselin Linder**



*Joselin Linder*

*Author of **The Family Gene***

**J**oselin Linder is no stranger to Fremont Area Writers. At our January 2022 meeting, she shared her family's struggle with a rare disease, chronicled in her book, ***The Family Gene***.

It's a true-life medical mystery memoir. The story is suspenseful, beginning when her family makes the grim discovery that they carry a rare disease with no cure, treatment, or even research to help them save themselves. It was a grim topic and one that could have left its audience overwhelmed.

Instead, Fremont Area Writers members were hanging on every plot twist and surprisingly, laughing a lot!

At 2:00 pm on Saturday, August 26th, Ms. Linder is returning via Zoom to the Fremont Area Writers to tell us how she used humor to balance the various threads of a complex tale between suspense, tragedy and outright fun. It's a skill set she teaches in her "Humor and Memoirs" sessions at the well-known Gotham Writers' Workshop.

Asked about other upcoming projects she added, *"I'll be running a writing retreat in the Hudson Valley with the Harlem Yoga Studio, October 6-9. There are still a few slots available...at least for now."* If you can't make it to the Hudson Valley, Linder's August 26<sup>th</sup> FAW presentation is **FREE** to anyone who loves writing.

To get your link to this event, email a 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.

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

# EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



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

# President's Message

Hi, remarkably talented FAW members! Welcome back to more fun-filled, exciting happenings in the world of Writers Helping Writers.

I asked permission from our magnificent *Ink Spots* Editor-in-Chief to be late sending in my message for this month, as I wanted to be clear about how things happened during our much-needed Summer hiatus.

Just recovering from the weekend of our July Picnic, 2023...

I say recovering, because I have a part time job driving Union Pacific Railroad crewmembers around and doing some light "assist" work for the crews when needed. It just so happened, that I pulled an all-nighter on Friday night from 9:30 pm that got me home at 5am on Saturday... the day I needed to head out to Fremont Quarry Lakes park to get the

BBQ started! Have I mentioned lately that I'm no spring chicken?

Anyway, we had a wonderful time, with about 20 others, including our founder, Bob Garfinkle and his lovely wife, Kathy. They were freshly back from three weeks in Europe, but still managed to be with us. Thank you folks for sharing yourselves with us; it was much appreciated.

Many kudos to all those who worked so hard to put this together—especially to Pat Doyne, who found the best spot with a fantastic view of the lake, trees and hills, as well as a nice breeze and a very welcome huge tree that shaded most of the area!

The food was plentiful, the company was very pleasant, and the attitude was relaxing and comfortable. Nancy and Robert were even able to join us via the wonders of almost modern technology called Facetime.

We had fun activities: thanks to Tish and Scott who brought a mind-stirring Pub Quiz and to everyone who brought books and puzzles to trade. We also collected a book from each of our published authors to send to Evelyn LaTorre, who graciously offered to head an event in October that will display local authors' work at Fremont's main library. Anyone who wasn't able to attend, but would like one of your books to be involved may contact Evelyn, our CWC and NorCal Rep through her contact information on the last page of this issue of the newsletter.

We closed out our day with some stirring and often funny readings by several members. Picnic pics should accompany this message in the newsletter, so enjoy the latest news and informative/educational articles. Thanks, again to all who make our branch a success, and a fun and highly intellectual group to associate with. Here's to a great 2023-2024 year for Fremont Area Writers.

Yours Truly,

(Possibly Chief Forever!)

**Terry Tosh**



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# A Word from Our Editor



**Nancy Guarnera**  
Editor *Ink Spots*

**W**elcome to our August 2023 issue of *Ink Spots*. I hope that you and your loved ones are well and happy, and that you are writing!

First, apologies that this issue is so late. I've been spending way more time with medical professionals than I care to discuss. They are all lovely people and are doing their best to address some health challenges that I've been experiencing. I appreciate every one of them and am pleased that they are available to help me at this time. I'd just like to devote more of my time to other things...like producing this newsletter. Which, by the way, I hope you enjoy!

August is a lean month with regard to holidays. There's Women's Equality Day on the 28<sup>th</sup> (seems like we should celebrate that every day until it's a reality.) There are a few bank holidays celebrated in other countries, and a couple of religious holidays. Perhaps most interesting are the two full moons—one on the 1<sup>st</sup> and the other on the 30<sup>th</sup>. We call this a Blue Moon.

This particular Blue Moon month will be the only one in 2023. The full moon on the 30<sup>th</sup> will be closer to Earth than usual, so will appear larger than a normal full moon. We call these Super Moons! While I don't think these moons actually have super powers per se, you should check with Bob Garfinkle, the man who literally wrote the books (3 of them) on the moon, and see what he has to say about the moon's super powers. I think I may do some moon bathing on the 30<sup>th</sup>...just in case! One never knows...people have worshipped the healing powers of the moon throughout human history. I've had some interesting lunar experiences in my life, how about you? If you have a special relationship with the moon, or have had an experience you'd like to write about and share, the deadline for submissions is the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Lots of contests, events and opportunities to put on your calendar. Some deadlines are looming, some are several months away. I recommend that you take a look at the Mark Your Calendar and Notes from the World sections. Joselin Linder is back with us to discuss how to include humor in your writing. All three of the submissions in the Writers Corner are humorous. I think you'll enjoy them. Pub quiz, anyone?

## ***Submission Guidelines***

### **SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**

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

### **SEND TO:**

**inkspots@cw-cfremontareawriters.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:** Put your name on your work.

***Please refer to the complete guidelines (rev. 3/21/2023) recently emailed to all members.***

If you have an event or know of one coming up that you think would be of interest to our members, please send all relevant information to me at the *Ink Spots* email address and I'll add it to the Mark Your Calendar section. It doesn't have to be about writing, or even about books—art, music, science, health, etc. anything. If it's something that you enjoy(ed), others may as well.

Fast approaching...the deadline for the next CWC Literary Review. There's talk about providing some assistance to those of you who would like to get your work ready for the Lit Review. If you're interested in attending a meeting or two to help you polish up your piece for submission, let Tish Davidson or me know. If we have enough interest, we'll schedule a meeting and be in touch.

May you spend time every day writing, and if not, at least spend some time doing something you truly love!

***Cheers! Nancy***

# ***FAW – August Meetings***

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

**Saturday August 26<sup>th</sup> 2:00 – 4:00 PM**

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

*Speaker: Author, Joselin Linder (see page 2)*

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

## **Fremont Area Writers “Tuesday before 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday” Board Meeting on Zoom**

**Tuesday August 22<sup>nd</sup> 3:30 – 5:00 PM**

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

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

# ***FAW – August Meetings***

## **Fremont Area Writers**

### **“Second Saturday”**

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

**Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup> 2:00 – 3:30 PM**

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

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

## **Fremont Area Writers**

### **“Fourth Monday”**

## **Writers’ Salon on Zoom**

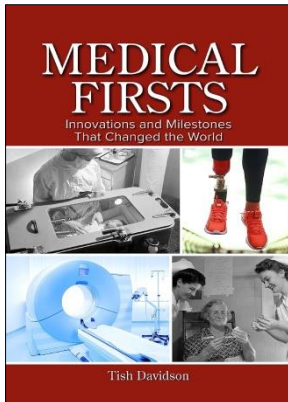
**Monday August 28<sup>th</sup> 7:00 – 9:00 PM**

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

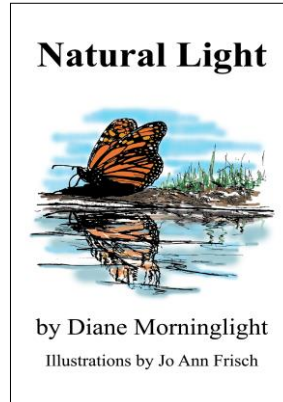
*For details on Zooming, contact Tony Pino  
[up.dragonfly.com@gmail.com](mailto:up.dragonfly.com@gmail.com) or 510-745-0761*

# KUDOS – *Members' News*

If you have an accomplishment related to your writing, or some other aspect of your life, and would like to share it with FAW members in this space, please send it to [inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org), or submit it through the **Shout Out for Ink Spots** link at [cwcfremontareawriters.org](http://cwcfremontareawriters.org). Just scroll down the home page until you reach the red **Shout Out** link and click on it. Please do your best to 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**, whose 16<sup>th</sup> book, *Medical Firsts: Innovations and Milestones That Changed the World*, published by Bloomsbury Academic, has been selected for inclusion in the Presidential Executive Office Library in Washington, D.C. **Congratulations, Tish!**

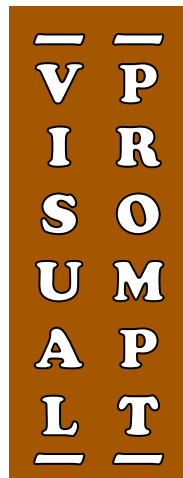


**KUDOS to Jo Ann Frisch and Diane Morninglight**, whose self-published book, *Natural Light*, of Jo Ann's artwork and Diane's poetry, is now available for purchase from Jo Ann at [joannfrisch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joannfrisch@sbcglobal.net). **Congratulations, Jo Ann and Diane!**

**KUDOS to Terry Connelly**, whose short story, "The Search," has been accepted for publication in the anthology, *INK Babies*. The book will be available for purchase soon. **Congratulations, Terry!**

**KUDOS to Lally Pia**, whose article about her stroke was published in *Doximity*, a doctors' newsletter, on July 19<sup>th</sup>. *Doximity* has a readership of about 2 million healthcare workers!

Lally was also recently interviewed by Brina Patel on her podcast and is now available in Brina's blog at [brinapatelwriter.com/blog](http://brinapatelwriter.com/blog). **Congratulations, Lally!**



*Photograph by Nancy Guarnera*



# ***FAW & CWC Information***

**— PLEASE READ —**

***Two Reports from Evelyn LaTorre —***

## **California Writers Club Biannual Meeting Report**

The biannual meeting of the California Writers Club was held on Sunday, July 23. (The meeting was on Zoom, so I attended from Santa Fe, N.Mex. where I was visiting my four siblings.)

All 22 branches of the organization saw attendance at their meetings drop during the pandemic when all meetings were held online. Since then, most branches are meeting in person. The membership count of many CWC groups has increased by offering readings to children and adults in schools, libraries, and bookshops. Also, articles in local newspapers (thank you Tish, Knuti and Nancy) and new outreach to communities have helped boost the total CWC membership to 2,000.

CWC's finances were a major topic of the three-hour meeting. The publication and mailing costs for the last issue of the *Literary Review* consumed a full 30% of the club's budget. Alternative, less expensive ways of having our writing published, are being explored.

Two Ina Coolbrith awards were unanimously approved for Carol Bumpus, previous NorCal President, and Sandy Moffett, SoCal leader and CWC Membership chair. Their awards, as well as 22 Jack London awards (one for our own Scott Davidson) for service to branches will be presented in person at CWC's annual meeting at the Holiday Inn on Sunday, October 22.

Branch representatives exchanged lists of good presenters. The list has been given to our VP Knuti VanHoven to consider for future FAW general meeting speakers.

## **September's NorCal Conference Up-date**

The September 24<sup>th</sup> in-person conference for branch leaders, "A New Era for NorCal Branches and Writers" will have workshops on finding and retaining members, strategies that work for keeping volunteers, and ways to market our branches and our writing.

In honor of the state-declared California Writers Week, October 16 to 23, Fremont Area Writers will have a display for the month of October of their books at the entrance to Fremont's Main Library. *(Please contact Evelyn at [elatorre@aol.com](mailto:elatorre@aol.com) to have a copy of your published work included in the display.)*

## **Congratulations to Our Newly Elected 2023-2024 FAW Board Officers**

**President: Terry Tosh**

**Vice-President: Knuti VanHoven**

**Treasurer: Cherilyn Chin**

**Secretary: Pat Doyne**

**Thank you for your willingness to *continue* to serve!**

# **FAW & CWC Information**

**— PLEASE READ —**

**FAW Needs You**

## **Help Wanted**

**FAW Needs You**

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

### **Hospitality Chair**

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

### **Volunteer Coordinator**

finds & assigns volunteers to assist FAW committee heads

### **Membership Chair**

collects new member info & updates CWC data base, coordinates w/ FAW Treasurer

*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?*

## **Advertise in the CWC Bulletin!**

**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**

## Mark Your Calendar

# **“BOOST YOUR CREATIVITY TO BEAT THE BOTS (AI)” with Award Winning Author Jane Cleland**

**FREE  
WEBINAR**

**Saturday,  
August 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Zoom at 10 am PT  
Register to attend at  
[janecleland.com/  
events/](http://janecleland.com/events/)**



**Jane K. Cleland** writes both fiction and nonfiction. Her fiction includes the long-running *Josie Prescott Antiques Mystery* series, published by St. Martin's Minotaur and *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*. Her nonfiction includes the Agatha Award-winning bestsellers, *Mastering Suspense*, *Structure & Plot* and *Mastering Plot Twists*. She's a Contributing Editor at *Writer's Digest Magazine* and the chair of the Black Orchid Novella Award (BONA). Cleland teaches writing at the university level, and offers free monthly webinars on the craft and business of writing. More details are available at [www.janecleland.com](http://www.janecleland.com).

**A**waken your creative spirit and show the world that imagination outshines algorithms!

We'll journey through unpredictable idea generation, the impact of a flexible mindset, and the thrill of conceptual blending. In a world fascinated by AI, we'll affirm your irreplaceable role in storytelling by showcasing how we humans can weave unrelated ideas into compelling narratives—something no algorithm can mimic. Loaded with examples, you'll leave the webinar with actionable ideas to immediately elevate your writing.

Ready to redefine the boundaries of creativity? Don't miss this opportunity! Register for the webinar today at [janecleland.com/events/](http://janecleland.com/events/) and step into a world where your creativity reigns supreme.



**September 2023 FAW General Meeting Speaker**

**TONY PINO DEMYSTIFYING POETRY • CONTINUES**

*He's back by popular demand on*

**September 23<sup>rd</sup> • 2:00 to 4:00 pm • on Zoom**

***Details to follow in the September issue of Ink Spots.***

# Mark Your Calendar

## Six Writing Contests Open for Submissions for the 2024 TWFeSt & 2024 SASFeSt

### The Tennessee Williams and New Orleans Literary Festival & New Orleans Affair for Readers, Writers and Theater Lovers

The annual writing contests for the **Tennessee Williams and New Orleans Literary Festival** (TWFeSt) March 20 -24, 2024 and the **Saints and Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival** (SASFeSt) March 22 – 24, 2024 are open for submissions of one-act plays, fiction, and poetry until October (see below for specific dates).

#### **2024 TWFeSt CONTEST DETAILS include the following:**

**ONE-ACT PLAY — Prize:** \$1,500, professional staged reading at the 2024 festival, publication in *Bayou* magazine, and a 2024 VIP festival pass. **Judge:** Peter Hagan **Deadline:** **October 1, 2023**

**FICTION — Prize:** \$1,500, domestic airfare (up to \$500) and accommodations to attend the 2024 Festival, a 2024 VIP festival pass, and a public reading at the 2024 festival. **Judge:** Margot Douaihy  
**Deadline:** **October 1, 2023**

**POETRY — Prize:** \$1,000, a 2024 VIP festival pass, and a public reading at the 2024 Festival.  
**Judge:** Stephanie Burt **Deadline:** **October 15, 2023**

**VERY SHORT FICTION — Prize:** \$500, a 2024 VIP festival pass, and a public reading at the 2024 Festival.  
**Judge:** Tara Lynn Masih **Deadline:** **October 15, 2023**

Finalists for all categories will have their photos and bios published on our website, newsletter, and social media, and will receive a literary discussion pass (\$100 value) to the 2024 festival.

Full details for all contest categories are on the website at: [tennesseewilliams.net/contests/](http://tennesseewilliams.net/contests/).



#### **2024 SASFeSt CONTEST DETAILS include the following:**

**FICTION — Prize:** \$500 to the winner and \$100 each to two runners-up **Judge:** Trebor Healey  
**Deadline:** **October 1, 2023**

**POETRY — Prize:** \$500 to the winner and \$100 each to two runners-up. **Judge:** TBA  
**Deadline:** **October 15, 2023**

Finalists for both categories have their pieces published in our SASFeSt anthologies to be released at the 2024 SASFeSt. They will also have their photos and bios published on our website, newsletter, and social media. For more information go to [sasfest.org](http://sasfest.org) and/or [tennesseewilliams.net/contests/](http://tennesseewilliams.net/contests/).

# *Mark Your Calendar*

## Golden State Romance Writers' & NorCal Mystery Writers of America

Present a Special Event

### *How to Write a Sex Scene*

with

*Eileen Rendahl & Tamsen Schultz*

August 12<sup>th</sup> • 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

### *Great Sex!*

*How to make sure your characters get good lovin'.*

Eileen Rendahl (*Dancing Naked Under the Moon*) & Tamsen Schultz (*Relentless*)  
have written steamy encounters in multiple genres and will share  
what you have to know to write a great sex scene.

***SPOILER ALERT: You don't need a copy of the Kamasutra.***

*Learn how to:*

- *Build sexual tension*
- *Establish intimacy that reflects who your characters are and what they need inside and outside of the bedroom*
- *Create sensual atmospheres and settings*
- *Go beyond the mechanics* • *Avoid common pitfalls*

*Have your pen & paper or tablet ready – we'll be putting these ideas into practice.*

*Registration is now open at*

<https://www.goldenstateromancewriters.org/events>

# Mark Your Calendar

## August Script University Classes

### The Nitty Gritty of Spec Scripts:

#### WRITING STRONG ACTION AND DIALOGUE

August 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> on Zoom Instructor: Dave Trottier

This one-week intensive course focuses on the specifics of writing compelling action (description) and dialogue. At the end of this course, your expert instructor, Dave Trottier, will evaluate five pages of your spec script.

Who is the real audience for your spec script, and what are they looking for? Craft a riveting, engaging spec that can open doors to your success. In this course, you will get an inside view of how to write action and dialogue that captures the imagination and emotions of those who can make a difference. Examples will be provided.

Dave Trottier, is a produced screenwriter who has helped hundreds of writers break into the writing business; author of *The Screenwriter's Bible*; and host of [keepwriting.com](http://keepwriting.com).

**WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:** • Craft dialogue that snaps, crackles, and pops • Understand who your real audience is • The crucial difference between specific and detailed • Subtext made simple...and fun! • Avoid dialogue that commits the 7 deadly sins • The spec style readers prefer • Enthrall your audience with spellbinding action • Lean writing or dramatic writing—which is right?

Register for both, and more at <https://www.screenwritersuniversity.com/courses/>

### How Comedy Works with David Misch

August 31<sup>st</sup> • 1pm – 4pm PDT • Zoom Webinar

Comedy writing is sometimes compared to songwriting: in music, every note is important; in comedy, every word, even every *syllable* can be critical.

There are many classes about writing funny; this one is about what funny *is* – its mechanics, its principles. Comedy people take them seriously and refer to them and so should anyone who wants to write comedy.

This talk has no direct instruction, but rather takes a deep dive into the comedy principles which are, in fact, the basic principles of *every* art form: tension and resolution, pattern disruption, misdirection, and surprise. And we'll see how these principles achieve their effects by looking at examples ranging from Buster Keaton to Richard Pryor to Amy Schumer.

**David Misch** is an author ("Funny: The Book," "A Beginner's Guide To Corruption"), screenwriter ("Mork & Mindy," "Saturday Night Live,"), teacher of comedy, and lecturer (Walt Disney Studios, Lucasfilm, Oxford). More at [davidmisch.com](http://davidmisch.com).

**WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:** • The roles of persona, contrast, and timing • How single letters make a line funny, or not • How showing less can result in more • Why comedy and logic are bitter enemies • Why punchlines can be bad • The thin line separating comedy and tragedy • Why your body is hilarious • The secret life of jokes

# 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/Movie Review—Your Name** in the subject field.  
(The opinions stated here are strictly those of the individual, and do not represent either CWC or FAW.)

## Palm Beach

by Mary Adkins © 2021

I ran across Mary Adkins in a writing webinar and I wanted to compare her writing skill to her teaching ability. *Palm Beach* is, overall, an enjoyable piece of women's fiction.

Rebecca is a freelance journalist in New York City. Her favorite subjects are corruption and wealth inequality.

As a new mom, Rebecca juggles work and motherhood. Mickey, her husband, is an actor/singer who has lost his voice. A rich client he's catered for between acting gigs hires him at a six-figure salary, as house manager for his home in Florida. They move to Palm Beach, Florida. Soon, another of Palm Beach's wealthy elite offers him a job at twice the salary. Rebecca objects to his working for the "vulture" capitalist who buys failing local newspapers to dismantle and discard them. Mickey takes the job anyway.

After the first chapter, the story slows down while she provides a little too much background information—the place setting and the main characters, their mindsets, and Rebecca's hot-button issue that follows her through the story.

The pace picks up, the characters come alive, and an interesting story ensues. Rebecca's moral compass is challenged more than once and we see how she maneuvers through those, and how her optics change.

Multiple subplots layered in, enrich the story. Ghost-writing the memoir of Mickey's employer's wife—an interesting character in her own right—stresses their marriage further. A family hardship, an ex-boyfriend, and Mickey must endure a conflict of his own.

Everything crashes down around them, until they lose the stability they thought they had. Adkins provides a satisfying feel-good ending.

At 297 pages, the book is well written. Try skimming the second chapter, latching onto the clear key points. Beyond a few other protracted backstory fillers, it's

a fast-paced, interesting read. Adkins includes little chuckles along the way and a storyline the reader won't see coming.

*Sensitivity warning: The "F" word is used. Not on every page, but on quite a few.*

Review by Joyce Cortez

## Dancing Naked Under the Moon

by Eileen Rendahl, © 2005, 2014

Alissa attends a court-mandated anger support group for pulling the plug on an uncooperative fax machine at work, then using it as a trampoline, holding a chair over her head and threatening those around her. Oops, that last happened in her support group. But an unfaithful husband who gives you an STD and asks you to sign divorce papers so he can marry the woman he impregnated, will do that to you. At her sister's insistence, she agrees to move home until she figures her life out.

So she starts Prozac and packing, to arrive in San Jose and her new condo. Her sister and mom assist and annoy her. Her best friend, Kathleen—Ethel to her Lucy, Shirley to her Laverne, Martha Stewart to her Ally McBeal—helps any way she can.

Her journey involves humor and humanity. Add some spice with the arresting detective of her first new client, a daycare teacher/stripper/vigilante with the best of intentions. She fantasizes about, but resists the detective, while finding her new place within her family and the world. The heat level with her detective elevates midway through the story. It hits a crescendo about three quarters of the way through. Although the heat rises outside the bedroom door, and the door remains ajar, bedroom activity is private.

*Eileen Rendahl has a handle on raising the temperature on a love scene. She and fellow author, Tamsen Schultz (last month's book review, *Relentless*), will enlighten authors on *How to Write a Sex Scene* at Golden State Romance Writers' special event August 12. Registration is now open at <https://www.goldenstateromancewriters.org/events>*

Review by Joyce Cortez

Write a Review

# Puzzles & Brainteasers

## Pub Quiz • Pub Quiz • Pub Quiz

Since we're not in an actual Pub, the honor system is especially important here. Below are a few random questions; some are literary...some are not. Answer these without any assistance from Siri, Alexa, Wikipedia, the Encyclopedia Britannica, or any other form of assistance (the Internet, a book, etc.), other than another person, who you should acknowledge as your teammate. Answer as many as you can without assistance and **submit your answers to the email below by the 20<sup>th</sup> of August** for the September issue. If you can't resist answering the ones you don't know, look them up, but indicate that you used assists. Answers, names of participants, and scores will appear in the September issue of the newsletter. Winners get bragging rights!

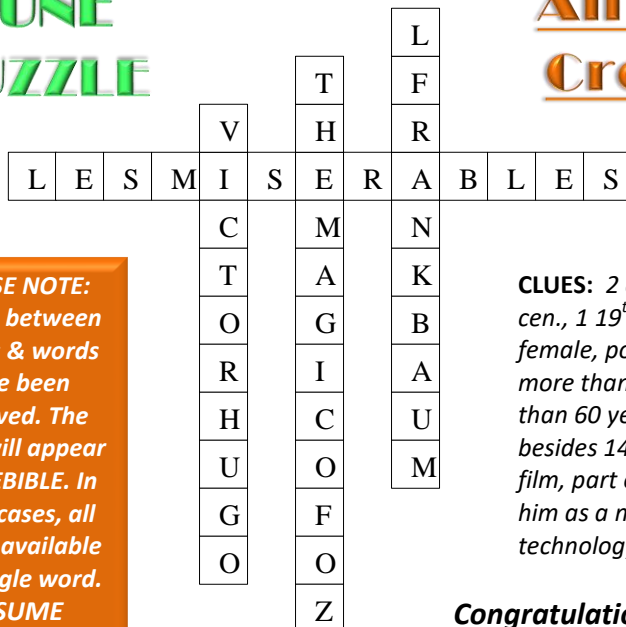
### Questions:

1. What 1995 movie, starring Alicia Silverstone is loosely based on Jane Austin's *Emma*?
2. How many continents are there on planet Earth and what are their names?
3. Name the thirteen America colonies; which one became the first state?
4. Which king of England was known as the "mad king" and what was his wife's name?
5. What is the name of the fourth planet from our sun?
6. Who is the richest author on Earth?
7. Who wrote *They Came to Baghdad* published in 1951?
8. Which Russian playwright wrote *Uncle Vanya*?
9. What is the name of the protagonist in *A Clockwork Orange* and who wrote the book?

Send answers to: [inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org) Put **FAW — Puzzles — Your Name** on the Subject Line



### JUNE PUZZLE



**PLEASE NOTE:**  
Spaces between  
names & words  
have been  
removed. The  
Bible will appear  
as THEBIBLE. In  
some cases, all  
that is available  
is a single word.  
ASSUME  
NOTHING!

### An Almost Clueless Crossword Puzzle!

### Clues & Answers

**CLUES:** 2 authors, both male, 1 French, 1 American, 1 19<sup>th</sup> cen., 1 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> cen., had many pen names both male and female, poet, novelist, dramatist, essayist, politician, 1 of more than 14 books in a series, literary career spanned more than 60 years, state funeral, novelist, wrote 41 other novels besides 14 book series, his work inspired music, adapted for film, part of Romanticism movement, lit status established him as a national hero, literary work anticipated future technology and cultural trends

**Congratulations to:** Steve Gibson (solved all 4) &  
Terry Tosh (solved 2)

# Notes from the World

## Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contest

*In its 21<sup>st</sup> year, with prizes totaling \$9,000.*

*Submit your published or unpublished work.*

**Deadline is September 30<sup>th</sup>**

For guidelines, rules and additional information, go to:

<https://winningwriters.com/our-contests/tom-howard-margaret-reid-poetry-contest>



***"Anyone who says writing is easy isn't doing it right." – Amy Joy***

### 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!*

**Take a look at this site. Lots of interesting contests.**  
Many are very short...not necessarily easy, but as  
short as a one line poem, or a 50 word flash fiction  
story. Some may have deadlines fast approaching,  
others you'll have time to contemplate.

**Fee 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

*HEAR YE!  
HEAR YE!*

Check out the  
**Poetry Foundation**

[https://www.poetryfoundation.org/  
poems/poem-of-the-day](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/poem-of-the-day)

Register to receive  
a free poem each day  
& all sorts of other  
cool poetry stuff

## 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 in advance at: [janecleland.com/events](http://janecleland.com/events).  
You'll receive a link for the workshop shortly before,  
and on the day of the event. Don't miss these...  
register early.

**Saturday, Aug 12 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT**

### Boost Your Creativity to Beat the Bots

Awaken your creative spirit and show the world that  
imagination outshines algorithms!

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

### Creating Characters that Resonate with Emotional Truth

Jane Cleland is an award-winning author who writes both fiction and nonfiction. Her fiction includes the long-running Josie Prescott Antiques Mystery series, published by St. Martin's Minotaur and *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*. Her non-fiction includes the Agatha-Award winning best-sellers, *Mastering Suspense*, *Structure & Plot* and *Mastering Plot Twists*. She's a Contributing Editor at *Writer's Digest Magazine* and the chair of the Black Orchid Novella Award (BONA). Cleland teaches writing at the university level, and offers free monthly webinars on the craft and business of writing.

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

**winningwriters.com**  
contests with big \$\$\$ prizes

# *Notes from the World*

## **SAINTS + SINNERS** LGBTQ LITERARY FESTIVAL • NEW ORLEANS TENNESSEE WILLIAMS FESTIVAL WRITING CONTEST

**The 2024 Fiction Contest is Open**

**Submission Deadline: October 1, 2023**

**Cash Prizes & Publication**

• **AND** •

**The 2024 Poetry Contest is Open**

**Submission Deadline: October 15, 2023**

**Cash Prizes & Publication**

**For Submission Details For All Contests Go To:**

**<https://tennesseewilliamsfestival.submittable.com/submit>**

## ***“Great sex!”***

Join co-hosts Golden State Romance Writers (GSRW)  
& Mystery Writers of America (MWA) - Norcal for —

## ***How to Write a Sex Scene:***

***Learn to go beyond the mechanics!***

**August 12, 2023 • 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

For more information and to register, go to the link below — after June 6:

**<https://www.goldenstateromancewriters.org/>**

# *Notes from the World*

## **Narrative Magazine**

**So many submission options . . .**

**Fall 2023 Story Contest • Submissions Opens September 1st**

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

**Six-Word Stories**

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

**Story of the Week**

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

**Poem of the Week**

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

**Photography**

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

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

**For general submissions to the magazine:**

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

## **TCK Publishing.com**

### **TCK Publishing Mission Statement**

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

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

**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](http://writersweekly.com)

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

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

**Poets & Writers. Website.** Searchable contest database with filters for cost, genre and deadline. [pw.org/grants](http://pw.org/grants)

**Submishmash Weekly. Free newsletter.** A curated arts newsletter with select publishing opportunities including contests, publications seeking submissions, and artist residencies. Run by the submission platform [Submittable.com](http://Submittable.com).

**The Writer. Website and free newsletter.** Listing of mostly pay-to-enter contests. [writermag.com/contests](http://writermag.com/contests)

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

## Gotham Writers Workshop — FREE —

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

Seasons 1 - 5 are archived at:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIOByuSHCqP7V9mSsoqU5Fojjys2LsvYi>

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

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

## Call for *Romance* Submissions

**Belonging Books**, an inclusive, feminist publishing house, began accepting submissions in June 2020. Submissions can be of all lengths from and about minorities—people of color, people with disabilities, religious minorities, LGBTQ+ people, etc.—and non-traditional romance.

**Mission:** diversify and modernize the genre. [belongingbooksonline.wordpress.com](http://belongingbooksonline.wordpress.com)

## FREE Online Workshops

*scriptwriters check out*  
[roadmapwriters.com](http://roadmapwriters.com)

# Notes from the World

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

Would you like to hear speaker presentations at CWC branch meetings statewide? Well, in the land of Zoom, you can. Use the link above to check out the calendar where branch events and meetings are listed. Roll your curser over the meeting of interest to you, read the extended info, and follow the instructions to attend. This is also a way to get to know folks from other branches.

PLEASE NOTE: The CWC-NorCal calendar has been replaced by this statewide version.

**Reedsy  
Learning**

**FREE**

**Writing Classes,  
Webinars and a Blog**

**[https://blog.reedsy.com/learning/courses/writing/show-dont-tell/?utm\\_source=mailparrot&utm\\_campaign=learning\\_show\\_don\\_t\\_tell](https://blog.reedsy.com/learning/courses/writing/show-dont-tell/?utm_source=mailparrot&utm_campaign=learning_show_don_t_tell)**

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

**Check it out!**

## GENRE WEBSITES

**Sisters in Crime** [sistersincrime.org](http://sistersincrime.org) *(also open to men)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Attention Poets & Poetry Lovers

**Check out the Poetry Center of San José**

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

**[www.poetrycentersanjose.org](http://www.poetrycentersanjose.org)**

# ***FAW Members on Social Media***

## ● Angelica G. Allen

Angelica is a Seventh-Day Adventist Christian author of **Millennial Fiction and Poetry** books, genres targeted to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to millennials. These SDA Christian genres were created by the Fremont, Bay Area native, and are defined as having Seventh-Day Adventist symbolism, coded languages, lyrical writing, illustrations, and emotional storytelling in her U.S. Copyright. You can learn more about these books on her Website: **listoutallyourproblems.com** Like her author Facebook page **@AngelicaG.Allen** and follow her on Instagram: **@AngelicaGAllen** where she posts a new poem in her Reels section every Wednesday!

## ● Cherilyn Chin

Cherilyn is a professional aquarist and marine biologist. For the past 12 years, she's maintained her award-winning blog, "**Ocean of Hope: Marine Animals Voice Their Wishes on Ocean Conservation Issues**," and has 8,500 followers on Twitter. She also writes children's fiction and non-fiction books about the ocean. She's a web-site 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](https://twitter.com/bike_writer)** Youtube Promo Videos: *A PRIMROSE IN NOVEMBER*: **<https://youtu.be/Gtnk5FHpEeE>** *FLYING BLIND*: **<https://youtu.be/X0HFzceXdoU>**

## ● Dave M. Strom

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

## ● Anita Tosh

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

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

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

# FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

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## Solving the Dementia Problem

by Paul K Davis

© 2023

*(Note: I wrote this essay for a dinner party I attended recently. Billed as "a salon of brilliant and (semi) original thinkers," our assignment was — come to the dinner with a particular problem to solve. Everyone would get a chance to share their thinking and explain how they would solve the problem they'd chosen. Solutions could be either funny or serious. There was an attached list of about forty problems to consider, including "dementia." This was my chosen topic.)*

This essay addresses the problem, generally termed dementia, of gradual loss of mental ability, often associated with aging; not the problem of sudden loss of mental ability at any age, associated with discussing politics or religion.

Human bodies and minds eventually wear out, suddenly or gradually. Sudden problems, usually the result of accident or disease, tend to affect both body and mind, or affect body in such a way as to disable or kill the mind in turn. However, gradually developing problems may affect the body or mind separately. Thus, as we get older, some of us lose our minds before our bodies.

Our culture has been progressively accepting physical disabilities, and accommodating for them. We use canes, walkers, wheel chairs, eyeglasses, hearing aids, and much more.

The solution to the dementia problem is the same, to accept it and accommodate it.

This can take many forms. Those of us who solved differential equations in college may now have to be content with solving quadratic equations. We may eventually need to be content with arithmetic, or just being able to count.

The key is to find those abilities that remain, and emphasize them. I am told that music is one of the last abilities to go, so join a choir, or if the vocal cords are also getting old, go to more concerts.

Clearly, as either physical or mental abilities decline, or both, it is good to have a loving life partner. We can help each other on and off with clothes, and explain what has been spoken but not understood. And occasionally we will need to phone 911 when unable to pick the partner up off the floor.

But, maintaining an intimate partner is made difficult by the fact that, at least in our culture, women live longer than men. Apparently, with age, it would be good if bisexual women tilted more toward lesbianism, but bisexual men tilted more toward heterosexuality. Even so, some polygamy may be needed, with women sharing the dwindling number of remaining men. This may become easier as it becomes more difficult to remember who our partner is or what they look like.

At some point each of us is likely to lose our physical ability to drive, or our mental ability to remember how to get home. This problem is already being dealt with by the proliferation of retirement communities. Some of these are designed around golf courses, which seems a bit dangerous to me.

*(continued on next page)*

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## *Solving the Dementia Problem* (continued from previous page)

I'd rather have one designed around a music or theater venue. In general, it would be good to have a variety, so each of us can choose one which emphasizes our remaining abilities.

It does occur to me that some nudist retirement communities might be good, so that those who become unable to dress, or simply forget to put clothing on, will not feel embarrassed or cause offense.

I hope these various suggestions are helpful. Again, my paradigm is to accept dementia and accommodate it. Emphasize the remaining abilities, both in yourself and in others. Just forget about the abilities which have been lost.

If you have any comments, please let me know, preferably by singing them to me.

## *An Open Letter to Brock Purdy*

*by Lally Pia*

I have a sign by my fireplace that reads "We Interrupt this Marriage for Football Season." Most people think it's for my husband, but it's for me, the wife. I've been a diehard 49ers fan since the 80s, and like many, I thought this year was our chance for the Super Bowl.

And then there was that fateful day, January 29, 2023, when you, Brock Purdy of the 49ers, took that hit. I couldn't believe it. Simply couldn't believe it. My world came crashing down. Everything clouded over, because like millions of other fans, I was devastated—and so scared for you. Nothing seemed real.

But minutes later, when the edge of the television screen got blurry, life got weirder still.

A quick call to my daughter, a child neurology resident in Rochester, New York, confirmed my worst fears. I was having a stroke.

I found out later that my left internal carotid artery had jammed up. In an instant, the blood supply to the left side of my head was gone.

Like someone thumbing through a flipchart, only fleeting memories remain. In the ER, everything was cloudy and jumbled. My words tripped over each other. I'll never forget my absolute terror when I stared stupidly at the clerk and blanked on my birthdate. There was the stinging jab of a clot-buster. Everywhere they took me, the comforting, sanitizing aroma of alcohol was in the air.

I said yes to everything I was asked. Like a nodding taxi doll, every option sounded absolutely perfect. If someone had suggested head removal, I'd likely have acquiesced. The shock and disbelief on my husband Tim's face played back as I was loaded into an ambulance to Sutter in Sacramento.

*(continued on next page)*

## *An Open Letter to Brock Purdy* (continued from previous page)

I'll never forget the concern and kind words of the young man who sat with me in the ambulance as the siren blared. He did his best to keep me engaged and awake. On that terrifying ride, he would never know just how much I appreciated this intense connection with another human, while everything I knew to be true or real was gradually slipping away—vanishing from my consciousness.

Other vivid images remain—the solemn faces of the team of blue-coated doctors who faced me at the hospital. Their voices were hushed, but they did their best to reassure me. A smiling nurse shaved my left thigh and I learned that a tube was going to be placed into my femoral vein. The speech therapist asked me to repeat, “*Babababa... kakakaka*”. She smiled back at me, so I knew I must be doing it right.

A short time later, I was profoundly relieved to hear that I *didn't* need my skull cracked open and emergency brain surgery. Hallelujah to that!

Miraculously, I learned that my *collateral vessels*—a bunch of other blood vessels— jumped into action to nourish the poor starved brain cells on the left side of my brain. This intrepid collection of fetal blood vessels and other “spare” vessels, was recruited to play their part for my recovery. They blazed through triumphantly, in a symphony of support, without hesitation.

There were casualties. I'm pretty sure several million brain cells keeled over and called it quits. But, thank goodness we're endowed with a few billion spares!

Three weeks after the stroke I couldn't figure out what a cup was, except that it was something used to measure flour. I had to ask where jam would be stored, finally deducing that it was made of fruit so would probably be in the refrigerator. Simple computation such as subtraction was difficult and digits such as “9” somehow morphed into other numbers. For example, 9:30 somehow became 5:30, making scheduling my patients tricky (yes, I'm a physician). The notes on the open page of my Mozart sonata had morphed into hieroglyphics. I now played piano like a kindergartener with tears rolling down my face. That was hard. It was like I lost a part of myself, Brock. Lost part of my identity. Like I was suddenly stripped of a skill I owned—that no one had but me.

Brock, you tore your ulnar collateral ligament, and shortly after that, my left internal carotid artery clogged up. But this world we live in is a caring world inhabited by beautiful, skilled, selfless people with hearts full of love. They are our collaterals. Like my hardworking vessels, our collaterals stepped forward without hesitation in our time of greatest need. Isn't it wonderful that we both benefitted from the wonderful collaboration of hundreds of skilled humans, all waiting in the wings to help out?

Everyone from my ambulance driver to the neurosurgeons to the hospital dietician, who made sure I had a low-sugar menu, to the cheery man who swept around my bed daily. Those are my heroes. They jumped in without hesitation to put me back together and support me. I can play piano again, Brock, thanks to my collaterals.

You know what, Brock? I think we're going to make it.

## A FEW WORDS ABOUT MYSELF

*by Jan Small*

*(Stories Jan shared about herself with FAW members on May 27, 2023 as the subject of the Member Spotlight for the May General Meeting.)*

First, *The Story of Lennie...* When I was 10 years old, I had a Pet chameleon. I ordered him off a Cheerio's Box for 25cents. He came with a collar, chain and pin. I wore him on my jackets/blouses. He changed color to match my clothes. I made a home for him in an old dishpan. Filled it with leaves, flowers and dead flies. Felt sorry for him, Got him a Blue Bellied Lizard for companionship. One day I checked on them, but couldn't find Lennie. There was Blue Belly smacking his lips. Tummy was swollen big. It was full of Lennie. Smacked Blue Belly on the head and got rid of him.

In those days, the Oakland Tribune was the main newspaper. The Sunday edition always had a column for kids called Aunt Elsie's Column. Kids were invited to write a story, submit it, and hopefully it would be published. I wrote a story about Lennie; it was published, and I won the award for the best story. I still have the little award pin.

I always enjoyed school; I got good grades. English was my favorite subject. One day while in English class the phone rang, I was being called into the Dean's office. There I was given a Scholarship to college. I was over the moon. I always wanted to go to college. I took the scholarship home to my Mother. She said I couldn't accept it, because I had to go to work and help support the family.

I was broken hearted. Since this was my senior year in High School, the Dean arranged for me to go to Jr. College at night. She even provided someone to drive me there and home.

In the meantime, the B of A wanted to hire a high school senior. They called my high school, and the Dean sent me over for an interview. I was hired, So, I went to work at the bank during the day and attended college a couple of nights a week.

One night was out with my girlfriends and met a handsome fellow who asked me if there were any openings at the bank. There were, he applied, and got hired. I was given the task of showing him around the bank. We were given the same lunch hour, so we met with kids we went to school with who also worked on Main Street, and had lunch together.

Handsome fellow asked me out. Not long after, he asked me to marry him. It's been 67 years. If I'd taken that scholarship, I might not have met Handsome Fellow.

Most of my writings are about art. I write stories about my paintings, because I think the stories make the painting more interesting. I also have my art students write their stories. A little side note about that: My nephew works for DreamWorks. He invited me there, and we toured the studios of the artists. I was so inspired to share my experience with my students, that when I got home I asked them to create a creature never before been, to give it a name never before been, and to write a story about it. My little 9-year-old student drew The Howler and wrote a page and a half about it. I was quite impressed and came to the last paragraph where she described the Howler as eating all kinds of plants, but its favorites are the poisonous ones. Howlers also love to look good. Every night they take a bath. When they mate, they howl together.

*(continued on next page)*

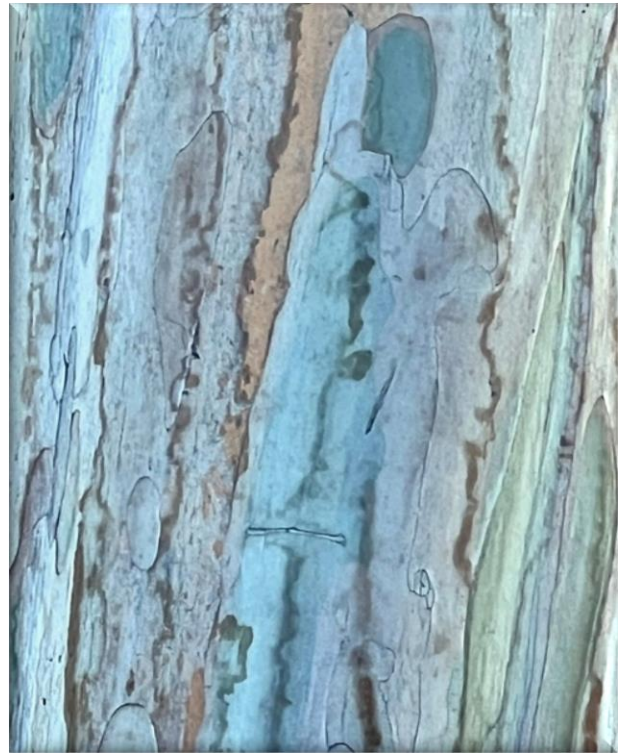
## **FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER** (Continued)

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### *Visual Prompts*



*Artwork by Jo Ann Frisch*



*Photograph by Nancy Guarnera*

### **A FEW WORDS ABOUT MYSELF** (continued from previous page)

I've written about 25 books; only two were published by a publisher, *Revelation Illustrated* and *The Making of an Artist: The First 70 Years*. I felt the publishing fee was a bit too expensive for me. When my parents died, their estate was divided up between myself and my three siblings. I used that money to publish those two books. With money left over, I bought a professional scanner and printer, a binding machine, and everything else that I'd need to print my own books.

My latest book is *The Book of Steve*. Steve is my son and the story is about him. I am now working on *The Book of Mike*, all about my second son. I'm sure I have many more stories to write, as I do paintings to paint.

I think it's important to Write Your Story. No one can tell your story like you can. And you just don't know how many people you'll bless with it. Now get busy and write your story, and if you ever see a Blue Belly Lizard smack him on the head for me.

# ***FAW Board Members***



**TERRY TOSH**  
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toshmanii@yahoo.com



**KNUTI VANHOVEN**  
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## **JACK LONDON AWARDEES**

### **FREMONT AREA WRITERS**

- 2009 Bob Garfinkle
- 2011 Myrla Raymundo
- 2013 Carol Hall
- 2015 Art Carey
- 2017 Shirley Ferrante
- 2019 Jan Small
- 2021 Nancy J Guarnera

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

# ***FAW Chairpersons***



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**NANCY GUARNERA**  
*Ink Spots* Editor  
Special Projects  
[inkspots@cwc-fremontareawriters.org](mailto:inkspots@cwc-fremontareawriters.org)



**EVELYN LATORRE**  
NorCal Representative  
CWC Representative  
[elatorre@aol.com](mailto:elatorre@aol.com)



**TONY PINO**  
"Fourth Monday"  
Writers' Salon  
[up.dragonfly.com@gmail.com](mailto:up.dragonfly.com@gmail.com)



**ANITA TOSH**  
Membership  
[nanatosh56@gmail.com](mailto:nanatosh56@gmail.com)



**TERRY TOSH**  
Facebook Page  
[toshmanii@yahoo.com](mailto:toshmanii@yahoo.com)



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## **FAW MISSION STATEMENT**

Fremont Area Writers educates writers and the public by providing:  
Forums for educating members in the craft of writing and marketing their works and  
Public meetings, workshops, and seminars open to all writers and the general public  
to facilitate educating writers of all levels of expertise. (*Article II Section 1:1.1 and 1.2 FAW Bylaws*)