



Ink Spots



The Newsletter of Fremont Area Writers

The "Centennial" Branch of the California Writers Club

Nancy Guarnera Editor-in-Chief **Vol. 2 No. 10 November 2023** inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org

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

VISUAL PROMPT



Artwork by Patricia Doyne

November General Meeting

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

SUPER SLEUTHING:

***Internet Research Secrets
Everyone Should Know***

with ***GERI SPIELER***



GERI SPIELER Author & Journalist

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

How do you start your research process? What words do you use to find information? Do you know how to gauge when a website is genuine? In this workshop, we will introduce the methods that combine the main topics of "Online Research Methods" that are designed to include several methodologies to equip you with the skills and tools to prepare you to find real information and be able to discern that it's reliable. November's speaker, **Geri Spieler**, will do a deep dive into the internet research secrets everyone should know.

In this session, you will learn:

- to create better keyword and word-phrase Google searches using search strings
- to avoid "Disambiguation"
- what the "Deep Web," is, and how can it help the research process
- about Deep Web search engines and databases
- the difference between search engines, metasearch engines, directors, and portals, and how they can help with research
- to avoid "Filter Bubbles"
- about invisible Web sites, and why we can't use them
- if people-search is ethical, and how we can use it for our purposes
- to use AI for research safely

Geri is a journalist and investigative reporter. She has written for the Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle and Forbes, and was a regular contributor to Huffington Post and Truthdig.com, an award-winning investigative reporting website. She has written and published two books—*San Francisco Values: Common Ground for Getting American Back on Track*, published by Palmetto Publishing, and *Housewife Assassin—The Woman Who Tried To Kill President Ford*, creative nonfiction, published by Diversion Books, which has been optioned for a movie. Spieler is the past president of the California Writers Club San Francisco Peninsula branch, a member of the Society of Professional Journalists, the Authors Guild, Women's National Book Association, the Internet Society, and Book Critics Circle.

This presentation is **FREE** to everyone. To get your link for this event, email a request with "FAW Zoom" on your Subject line to **scottfrombayside@yahoo.com**. You will receive a link the day before or the day of the meeting.

You can learn more about Fremont Area Writers at **cwc-fremontareawriters.org**. FAW is one of 22 branches of the California Writers Club (CWC) **calwriters.org**. All CWC branches welcome new members.



TERRY TOSH
FAW President

President's Message

Welcome to the final Prez Msg of 2023.

As usual, I can't believe how fast this year has jetted past. A lot has happened, positive for our Writers Club and mixed reviews for the human species...I won't dwell on that part, too depressing at times.

This is the best month of the year to focus our attention on being thankful. I am especially thankful for all of you, our members of FAW who give of your time and finances to continue to support the efforts of our statewide agenda, Writers Helping Writers. We

all realize this is a volunteer effort, and your participation is even more valuable because of this fact. Everyone who renews their membership, takes time out of their busy lives to attend meetings, and goes above and beyond to make things happen, ultimately gives hope and encouragement to each other and adds to the goodness that is a blessing to untold multitudes.

Seriously, folks, you never know what will spark a thought or inspire a mind to greatness; it could be your efforts that reach and change the course of a struggling life. Keep up the great work, and think about maybe even stepping it up a bit more and moving into a more challenging role of leadership. I see growth in so many of you that just begs to be directed to greater heights.

Thanks again to all who contributed to the various events and efforts of the past year. You'll see many reports and news items in this month's *Ink Spots* newsletter.

Please take time to respond to writing prompts, upcoming meetings and other sundry events on the horizon. I look forward to seeing you all at our Holiday Celebration in December. Details can be found among the wonderful articles and reviews you'll find in November's Newsletter.

Be Blessed, every one of you, in the coming year. May your holidays be safe and happy!

Your biggest admirer,

Terry



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A Word from Our Editor



Nancy Guarnera
Editor *Ink Spots*

Welcome to our November 2023 issue of *Ink Spots*. I hope that you and your loved ones are well and happy, and that you are putting pen to paper for more than just your grocery list! Remember, it's National Novel Writing Month (NANOWRIMO) and I think you can still join the process if you're interested. 50K words in a month, that's only 1,667 words a day. You can do it on your own, but NANOWRIMO is there if you'd like the support of a community. Oh, wait...you have a community...FAW. We are writers helping writers, so, if it's your dream to write a novel...long or short (a.k.a. a novella), make your intentions known...we're here to help you!

Please note: There will be **NO DECEMBER ISSUE OF INK SPOTS**. Our next issue will be January 2024. Deadline is December 10th, so, if you have a Shout Out, or something for the Mark Your Calendar, Book Reviews or CWC-FAW sections of the newsletter, do your best to submit them on time. If you are submitting something for the Writers Corner, or that is last minute information

please do your very best to submit it by Dec 20th. Inform your Editor, so she can plan for it. Thank you!

For those of you who submitted your work to the FCAC Flash Fiction Contest held at the beginning of October at Half Price Books, and have not yet found out who won the contest, the winners and their submissions are now up on the FCAC website: <https://fremontculturalartscouncil.org/2023-flash-fiction-winners>. FAW member, Sam Rodriguez tied for 4th place. His piece, and a revised version of it, are in the Writers Corner section of this issue. In addition, there are pieces from other members that were submitted to the contest. If you entered your work in the contest, and would like to share it with your fellow members, submit your original entry by December 10th and we'll publish it in the January issue. Competition was stiff, with over 50 entries. We've gotten word that FCAC will now be doing two Flash Fiction Contests each year, one in April and the other in October. Mark your calendars! (*We will, of course, let you know when they are happening.*)

Since this newsletter is yours, we would like to make sure it is meeting your needs. By way of an informal survey, please tell us: What you like best about it? What you would like to see in it that's not currently there? Do you read it? If not, why? What would make you more likely to read it? Are you aware that not all CWC branches have a newsletter? Do you find it easy to locate what you're looking for in the newsletter? You can send your answers and any other thoughts you would like to share about the newsletter to your Editor by using the Shout Out/KUDOS portal on the website. It will go directly to the *Ink Spots* email address. Thanks for your help with this; we are always looking for ways to improve the newsletter and we value your input and suggestions.

Don't forget, you can send information for any event that you think our members would find interesting and entertaining to the Mark Your Calendar section. It doesn't have to be just about reading or writing.

And don't forget to send your artwork and your photographs (jpg & tiff) for use as visual prompts.

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

Happy Holidays! Nancy

Submission Guidelines

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

**10th of the month prior to the
publication month (ex.- December 10th
for the January 2024 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
coming to your inbox soon!***

FAW – November Meetings

Fremont Area Writers

“Fourth Saturday”

Membership Mtg on Zoom

Saturday November 25th 2:00 – 4:00 PM

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

Speaker: Geri Spieler, Author & Reporter (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 November 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 – November Meetings

Fremont Area Writers

“Second Saturday”

Social Write-In on Zoom

Saturday November 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 November 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 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 & Evelyn LaTorre, who were interviewed early this month by Rick Blaha, about Fremont Area Writers and what our branch is doing for its members. The recording of their interview about FAW will be available to listen to online at **The Fremont Podcast** later this month. Check it out at <https://thefremontpodcast.com/> **Congratulations and thank you, Tish & Evelyn!**

KUDOS to Pat Doyne, who has won first place in this year's "Dancing Poetry" contest with her poem "Indian Wedding Dance." Her poem will be performed by the "Dancing Poetry" troupe. Part I of the performance will be available on YouTube on November 4th at noon, and Part II will be available on November 11th at noon. Pat also won a special award for her poem for the "Poems that Leap and Lilt: A Tribute to Richard Angilly" category.

Pat's colored pencil work "**Lake Chabot: Streams after Rain**" is part of a National League of Pen Women exhibit now in the **Castro Valley Center for the Arts** lobby. It is also on the front page of this issue of **Ink Spots** as a prompt to encourage you to write. **Congratulations, Pat!**

KUDOS to Evelyn LaTorre, who, on October 28th, for the second year in a row, was invited by former CWC-NorCal leader Carole Bumpus, to attend the **National Kidney Foundation Authors Luncheon** at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. This year, the best-selling authors signing their recent releases for the 500+ attendees were Lee Child, Anita Gail Jones, Lauren Geoff, and graphic novelists Mac Barnett and Shawn Harris. Liam Mayclem of CBS was master of ceremonies and award-winning broadcast journalist, Michael Krasny conducted the fascinating interviews about the authors writing processes. Over half a million dollars was raised for kidney transplants. **Congratulations, Evelyn!**

KUDOS to Lally Pia, who read from her upcoming book, **The Fortune Teller's Prophecy: A Memoir of an Unlikely Doctor** at a group reading at the Avid Reader bookshop in Davis on October 17th. The event broke the store's record for attendance with over 40 avid readers.

Lally will be featured on a Facebook Live radio show on Thursday, November 2nd; you can catch the recording on November 9th at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bookish.road.trip/>.

Congratulations, Lally!

KUDOS to Samuel Rodriguez, whose flash fiction piece, "A Drink to Savor," won 4th place in the **October 2023 Flash Fiction Contest**, "**The Day I Fell in Love**," sponsored by Fremont Cultural Arts Council and Half Price Books. While other FAW members entered the contest, Sam was the only FAW winner this year. Read Sam's piece and a recent revision in this month's Writers Corner, along with several other FAW submissions. **Congratulations, Sam!**

READ MORE BOOKS
WRITE MORE BOOKS

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

Service Coordinator

finds & assigns helpers 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

FAW Holiday Party

**Saturday, December 9
5:30 to 8:30 pm**

**700 Alquire Parkway,
Hayward, CA 94544**

More information coming soon via email.

If you'd like to help plan & coordinate, or assist with decorations earlier in the day, please contact President, Terry Tosh ASAP at toshmanii@yahoo.com



Foundations of Book Marketing

presented by **Pages&Platforms**

In this **FREE** live webinar, you will learn:

- 1) Why marketing your book using a slapdash playbook of tactics from the internet is likely to fail**
- 2) Your number 1 book-marketing goal**
- 3) The foundational 4-part book marketing strategy that will actually grow your audience and sell more books**

When: Thursday, November 9th at 9 AM PT / 12 PM ET (A replay will be available if you can't make it to the live presentation, but you still must register!)

Register now at <https://www.pagesandplatforms.com/fbm-signup>

Mark Your Calendar

2nd Thursdays: “Writers Helping Writers”

Sponsored by the SF Peninsula Branch of the California Writers Club

When: November 9, 2023 6:30pm

Where: San Mateo Library, 55 W 3rd Ave, San Mateo

Whether you're writing a book-length memoir or a personal story or essay, editing is critical.

In this “Writers Helping Writers” session, writing coach and Editor Darlene Frank will help you discover what you can do on your own before you give your manuscript to an editor, and what to expect as the two of you work together.

You will learn:

- What happens in each stage of the editing process
- What questions to answer before you even begin to write
- How to prepare for the inevitable challenges of writing a memoir
- How fiction-writing techniques will enliven your memoir
- How to think like an editor as you revise your manuscript draft
- What you can do on your own to reduce the cost of hiring an editor

Darlene Frank is a writer, editor, and creativity coach who helps people create their most powerful writing. She is editor and publisher of “Spirited Voices,” an online magazine featuring work from participants in her SPARK workshops. Darlene has helped authors write and publish books about autism, food and travel, grief, adoption, sexual violence, yoga, dance, disabilities, and more. She is a longtime member of the San Francisco Peninsula branch of the California Writers Club. Her creative nonfiction appears in 12 anthologies, including *Fault Zone*; *Times They Were A-Changing: Women Remember the '60s and '70s*; and *Wide Awake Every Week*; and *365 Aha! Moments*. In another life, Darlene was an award-winning technical and instructional writer and author of two business books.

Find out more at <https://www.darlenefrankwriting.com/writing-and-creativity-breakthrough>.

NANOWRIMO

November is National Novel Writing Month

***Get ready to write!* For more info, go to nanowrimo.org**

“Write first! Ask questions later!”

— Chris Baty, NaNoWriMo founder

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 doc file**. 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.)

The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World

by **Laura Imai Messina**

Translated from the Italian by **Lucy Rand**

Family, disaster, death, grief— grief consuming, life continuing— but what is life when life is consumed by the death of dear ones? These are the issues underlying Messina's unusual novel which takes place in the years after the terrible 2011 tsunami that killed one-tenth of the population of Otsuchi, Japan.

"Eventually the bodies were found and Yui stopped looking at the sea." Yui, our protagonist, lost her daughter and mother in the tsunami, and when their bodies were found, they were *locked in an embrace*, this phrase, I believe, a metaphor of the time-bind placed on a person who loses a loved one. To me, Messina is a master at using structural and physical descriptions as literary devices.

Yui now hosts a radio show in Tokyo. During one of her shows, a caller talks about a phone booth in Bell Guardia which is in the area where the tsunami hit. The telephone inside the booth is unconnected to anything, but people who have lost loved ones come to call and talk to them. When a caller on Yui's radio show tells how he spoke to his dead wife on the Bell Guardia *wind phone*, we learn that he felt himself "becoming the person I was before."

Curious, but barely hopeful, Yui travels to Bell Guardia, where she meets Takeshi. This man has come to talk to his dead wife about their young daughter, mute since her mother was killed in the storm. And, while Yui herself, never does talk on the phone, she begins to drive regularly to Bell Guardia with Takeshi. Eventually— of course, you know what's going to happen—they become close friends. Yui bonds with Takeshi's daughter and grief begins loosening its hold, so that Yui is able to love again.

The story moves very slowly—to me, symbolic of the pace of healing—but I kept reading on, not only because it was my monthly book group's choice, but also because Messina's prose is so beautiful. Plus, I was curious how she got away with all the "no-no's" frowned

(continued on page 18)

Beautiful Writers

by **Linda Sivertsen** © 2022

Oh no, another inspirational book. A friend likes to send me gifts like this. Someone had given her the book. She liked it, so she bought one for me, too. I'm a lucky friend. I reciprocate with craft books. But I don't need inspiration, I need time,—quiet time, a stretch of time, without the tug of I should be doing laundry or whatever else—to edit. And, a heaping dose of self-confidence wouldn't hurt. And, a cure for Imposter Syndrome. Maybe she has confused my delay in finishing my book as a lack of inspiration. It's not.

Written by a college dropout who put six commas in every sentence and went on to write, co-author, and ghostwrite eleven books (two New York Times best-sellers), 40 magazine articles, and host one of the world's top writing podcasts, she writes of not only her own struggle to get where she is, but she includes the stories of other writers who've "made it." Like Anne Lamott, Lee Child, Patricia Cornwell, Dean Koontz, Dr. Jane Goodall, and Deepak Chopra. They've been there, as well.

Usually, when books include inserts—those big grey boxes of text on the side—they're a nuisance. I often leave those for later. This is not that. She's integrated them such that they fit right in, and they're part of the flow of text. Often, I didn't notice the insert of another author's story had ended and hers had resumed.

Inspiration and fellow-author experiences run through the first 140 pages with many truisms. Part Two gets into seeking support and accountability, and how to shorten the learning curve, on productivity, mindset, and energy hacks. Then she gets into Beautiful Book Proposals. In Part Three, she lets loose on rejection, comparison, Hook 'em Narratives, and Editing. Part Four is on Birthing the Baby.

If what you need is inspiration, this is a great book for that. It's nice to know Patricia Cornwell has four "practice" books. "I'm a slow learner, but I hang in there."

Review by **Joyce Cortez**



Notes from the World

Tom Howard / John H. Reid Fiction & Essay Contest

All styles and themes, fiction and non-fiction

Submission Period: October 15th to May 1st

Total Prizes: \$10,000

Accepts published and unpublished work

For guidelines, rules and additional information go to:

<https://winningwriters.com/our-contests>



"Prose is architecture, not interior decoration." — Ernest Hemingway

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
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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

THE Wolfe Pack + Alfred Hitchcock's
MYSTERY MAGAZINE

✦ **Proudly Announce** ✦

THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL
Black Orchid Novella
Award Contest



NOW ACCEPTING ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS!

Murder in a Traditional Mode

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 submitted by May 31, 2024 • Please visit www.BlackOrchidNovella.com for official rules, procedures, and guidelines. • The winner will be announced at The Wolfe Pack's Annual Black Orchid Banquet in December 2024. • 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

**HEAR YE!
HEAR YE!**

Check out the
Poetry Foundation

<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. You'll receive a link for the workshop shortly before, and on the day of the event. Don't miss these... register early.

Saturday, Nov 18, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT

The Perception Gap: Create Compelling & Twisty Plots w/ Character World Views

Leverage perception gaps to enliven your characters and ratchet up tension.

Saturday, Dec 16 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT

Beyond the Surface: The Role of Inner Reflections in Writing Captivating Fiction

Explore harnessing the power of inner reflections to reveal your characters' hidden emotional depths.

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

Narrative Magazine

So many submission options . . .

Fall 2023 Story Contest • Deadline: November 30th

www.narrativemagazine.com/submit-your-work

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 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

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 Association
sfwa.org

Inspire Christian Writers inspirewriters.com

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

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

Academy of American Poets poets.org

Poetry Society of America poetrysociety.org

National Association of Memoir Writers namw.org

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

CineStory cinestory.org *(screenwriters)*

Scriptwriters Network scriptwritersnetwork.com

Historical Novel Association historicalnovelsociety.org

Horror Writers Association horror.org

Attention Poets & Poetry Lovers

Check out the Poetry Center of San José

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

www.poetrycentersanjose.org

FAW Members on Social Media

● Angelica G. Allen

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

● Cherilyn Chin

Cherilyn is a professional aquarist and marine biologist. For the past 12 years, she's maintained her award-winning blog, "**Ocean of Hope: Marine Animals Voice Their Wishes on Ocean Conservation Issues**," and has 8,500 followers on Twitter. She also writes children's fiction and non-fiction books about the ocean. She's a 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. Her second memoir, *Love in Any Language*, shows how a shotgun wedding turns into a bulletproof marriage. It won a Book Excellence award. You can also find recent recordings of her interviews. Website: <https://www.evelynlatorre.com>; Facebook: **Evelyn Kohl LaTorre, Author**; and Instagram: **evelynkohllatorre**.

● 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>



Book & Movie Reviews (Continued from page 11)

upon in my writer's workshops, her maddening, omniscient POV, constant telling rather than showing, and interrupting her story with lists. But she does get away with all of it, because all of it is necessary to recreate the slow, fractured pace of metabolizing grief into growth and contrasting complex interior worlds with

the mundane, outside world of things.

I highly recommend this book for a leisurely vacation, to enjoy a long flight across 10 time zones, and to satisfy curiosity about how this talented writer gets away with everything she does.

Review by Marie Blanchard

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

The Fremont Cultural Arts Council (FCAC), in partnership with Half Price Books in Fremont, sponsors an annual Flash Fiction Contest in October. This year there were more than 50 entries. The contest is judged by the public. The names of the entrants were withheld until the winners were announced on October 7th. FAW members participated in this year's contest and several have submitted their entries here for your enjoyment. If you entered the contest and would like to see your entry in print, but missed this opportunity, send your submission to the *Ink Spots* email address and we'll print it in the next issue. Please identify it as a 2023 Flash Fiction contest entry, and don't forget to put your name on it.

Please congratulate FAW member Sam Rodriguez, who won 4th place in this year's competition.

Sam's winning entry is printed here. He has also agreed to let us print a revision he's done. (*Brand names have been changed to protect our legal liability.*) We offer this revised piece as a reminder to all of us, that no matter how good a story may be, even a prizewinner can be improved. Thanks, Sam.



A Drink to Savor

by Samuel Rodriguez (9/26/23)

I told my friend Al, that despite his efforts to get me to try a latte, I would never, ever drink one. Why would I buy an overpriced coffee for young techies with full rim glasses, when I could get a senior discount on one at McDonald's?

Al wasn't a young techie, but he had full rim glasses and liked to shop at Gap. Even though Al and I might not have agreed on what kind of coffee to drink, we both loved baseball. But he was a Giants fan, and I was an A's fan.

We were watching the two teams play each other one day on TV, and Al said, "George, if the Giants win, you have to drink a latte, the whole thing. If the A's win, I will give up lattes for a month."

I said, "Deal!" and we shook hands. Of course, the Giants won.

Al said, "George, we're going to Starbucks." We arrived and I opened the door. I admit, the place smelled enticing.

We got in line and I said, "Al, you order for me."

The young man in front of us in skinny pants and oxford shoes ordered a "hot, Venti, decaf, soy, vanilla latte with whipped cream."

Al ordered me a hot caramel latte and instructed me to smell it, then drink it in sips. It smelled like coffee, but different than any I had ever tried before. It tasted like a divine mix of coffee, cream, and candy. I wondered if I had been missing out for years.

Al asked, "How was it?"

"Better than I thought it would be."

Then Al said, "Next, I need to take you to Gap."

"Don't push your luck."

(continued on next page)

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Love at First Sip

by Samuel Rodriguez (rev. 10/28/23)

I told my friend Al, that despite his efforts to get me to try a latte, I would never, ever drink one. Why would I buy an overpriced coffee for young techies with full-rim glasses, when I could get a senior discount on one at a fast food chain?

Al wasn't a young techie, but he had full-rim glasses and liked to shop at trendy stores. Even though he and I might not have agreed on what kind of coffee to drink, we both loved baseball, though we rooted for rival Bay Area teams.

One day we were watching them play each other on TV, and Al said, "George, if my team wins, you have to drink a latte, the whole thing. If yours wins, I will give up lattes for a month."

We shook hands and I said, "Deal!" Of course, Al's team won.

"Come on, George, we're going to the café."

"Now?"

"Yes, now!"

We arrived and I opened the door. I admit, the place smelled enticing, with traces of coffee, chocolate and cinnamon in the air.

We got in line behind a young man in skinny pants and oxford shoes, who was just placing his order. "A large, hot, decaf, soy latte with vanilla syrup, and whipped cream, please."

My mouth dropped open. How could someone remember all that? "I'm confused, Al; you order for me."

He ordered a hot caramel latte and encouraged me to savor it. It smelled like coffee, but different than any I had ever tried before. I felt soothed and excited at the same time. It tasted like a divine mix of coffee, cream and those yummy, soft caramels you get on Halloween. I couldn't believe I had been missing this for so long.

"How does that taste?" Al asked.

"I feel like I'm falling in love. I might have to get a second job to pay for my daily latte fix."

"Maybe one a week is enough, George. We can make it something we do every weekend—grab a latte and watch the game." Al chuckled as he watched me sip my latte, "Now, we need to get you a cashmere sweater!"

I looked up from my new love and said, "Don't push your luck."

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

The Day I Fell In Love

by Terry Tosh

Life was just, somehow, incomplete. I mean, sure I had lots of good things: loving family, great job that kept me busy, hobbies galore. But, well, how much longer could I stand being without that Special Someone?

Really, I thought I could do without it, this time. I mean, come on, it's not like I needed the extra expense, workload, or even the headaches that often come with such an undertaking of this magnitude, right? No, I just wouldn't dwell on it. This wasn't going to consume my thoughts, intentions or emotions, this time. Just forget about it. Sure...

Then, not too long afterwards, truth be told, I found myself walking through that fateful door. Did I even realize what waited inside? Maybe?

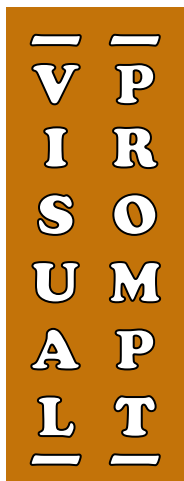
I unobtrusively browsed around, giving half-hearted glimpses in the general direction where she awaited. "What was she thinking?" I often wondered afterwards. It seemed it was the same thoughts.

Hmmm, none of the others here are even acknowledging my existence. Could this one be the one? Our eyes met. Time stood still. I stared. She nodded, encouragingly. Oh, my goodness! Could it be true what they say about it? Love at first sight?

I checked the information sheet and made the arrangements necessary to allow me to get in to actually meet her...and the rest, as they say, is history.

Mitzi and I have been together now for...well in dog years, somewhere around 105? She's the best doggie I ever could have hoped for.

(Entry for the 2023 Flash Fiction Contest "The Day I Fell in Love." Due to an error, Terry's piece was not included in the actual contest, though it was entered properly well before the contest deadline.)



Artwork by Jo Ann Frisch

Elegant Transformation

Lime green with gold trim
Tiny hanging chrysalis
A future monarch.

Margo Roletto

The Day I Fell in Love

by MP Smith

I walked the Galway lanes where my grandpa had walked. I felt his presence, heard his song—no words, just the few syllables he always hummed, “Ah, dee, doo.”

There’s the house where he was born, now in ruins, the larger stones borrowed to make the ‘new’ house in the 1870s. Here’s the old cemetery with gravestones tumbling onto spring grass. Rusted wrought iron surrounds some of the more affluent neighbors at rest, and looks over a vista from heaven.

My ramble came across a six-barred gate with ponies at the far end of the field. Would they be brave and wander over? I whistled, then tried Grandpa’s song, “Ah, dee, doo.” Their ears pricked upward as they joined me at the gate. Perhaps their grandsires told of a young man years ago who had petted their velvety noses and said goodbye.

The lush landscape spilled out in front of me as the boldest horse nuzzled my arm, ever the opportunist for the apple he’d sniffed in my jacket pocket. I leaned against the topmost bar; green fields, separated by backbreaking stone walls, went on to the horizon, only stopped by the mighty Atlantic. No mortar, the walls held together through determination and sweat.

How could Grandpa leave all this beauty? How could he board that ship, so full of unknowns, and sail to a country where he knew no one? He’d labor in a steel mill, raise a family, and dream of Connemara fields, but he never returned.

I’m here now, capturing what he saw, felt, and smiled about, making connections between reality and family lore. This walk made Ireland real; it made *Grandpa* real—and brave. Why did he leave? He left—for *me*!

(Entry for the 2023 Flash Fiction Contest “The Day I Fell in Love.”)

“First, you write for yourself... always, to make sense of experience and the world around you. It’s one of the ways I stay sane. Our stories, our books, our films are how we cope with the random trauma-inducing chaos of life as it plays.”

— Bruce Springsteen

Three Poems by Jacqlyn Freitas

Late Summer

Autumn whispers nearby
Some leaves respond
Others sip summer's waning green
When the time is right, they say
But not today

Autumn Pondering

Standing
Under speckled
Rippling formation of
Purposeful geese flying south
Resounding honks rejuvenating grey skies
I am caressed, carried by hushed
Swish of soft wing feathers, are geese
Ever as awed by my presence and sound



CITY TAMALE PARLOR

Evening brought you
With bucket of flowers
Into the tiny café
Would it have mattered much
To have bought even a single rose
To you it would have

You were my age and
Worn by hard work
A simple cotton dress
Covered by a coat too small to close
Why did I not at least
Hold the door open for you
As you struggled out against its gravity
Why was I glued to my seat
Immobilized as if watching a movie

Angel among us
Forgive my numbness
One bouquet please

VISUAL VISUAL VISUAL Prompt

Artwork by Jo Ann Frisch



(From photo prompt of two empty benches with fallen leaves 10/14/23 Social Write-In)

Where Have All the People Gone?

by Marie Blanchard

The leaves lie thick on the ground, on the sidewalk, on the streets, pristine newly dropped leaves instead of crushed and flattened crumbles from shoe soles pressing down.

Where has everyone gone, for heaven's sake? This is Salt Lake City, full of buildings, houses crammed between the looming Wasatch Mountains and a salty, shrinking lake, a city merging with others in an unbroken belt of people for at least 100 miles.

Where *are* the people? It's never been empty like this, even before the Mormons came. Paiutes and Utes hunted and fished, collected acorns, had babies, raised children. Here, on this land, there have always been people.

Above the quiet, mountains are flaunting outfits of red, orange, yellow, while below, trees along the Avenues march in parades of color, and parks burst with anticipation, like they're full of unseen dancers, waiting for a ball to begin. But, where are the people? There's nobody here, no barking dogs, no buzzing flies, only this unearthly silence.

Mass destruction? Some ravaging disease maybe? But, no—there are no bodies, no rotting, gagging stink. The Rapture perhaps? Just kidding. No way. The Rapture's a concept preached by Evangelicals, and they occupied only corners of this city. But, what else could leave a place so clean, so pristine, so utterly devoid of beings?

Just hypothesizing here... Could it actually be that people were literally taken up, good people, righteous people, contradicting everything properly Mormon? But, there would have to be signs of previous destruction, signs of Armageddon and litter of a horrible conflagration.

I've got it! People vaporized. Souls are supposed to rise, right? They took their bodies with them! That works. I'm dying to know the story. And to write it. Simply dying to know.

"You may tell a tale that takes up residence in someone's soul, becomes their blood and self and purpose. That tale will move them and drive them and who knows what they might do because of it, because of your words. That is your role, your gift."

— Erin Morgenstern

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

JACK LONDON AWARDEES

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- 2009 Bob Garfinkle
- 2011 Myrla Raymundo
- 2013 Carol Hall
- 2015 Art Carey
- 2017 Shirley Ferrante
- 2019 Jan Small
- 2021 Nancy J Guarnera
- 2023 Scott Davidson

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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*)