

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Ink Spots



The Newsletter of Fremont Area Writers

The "Centennial" Branch of the California Writers Club

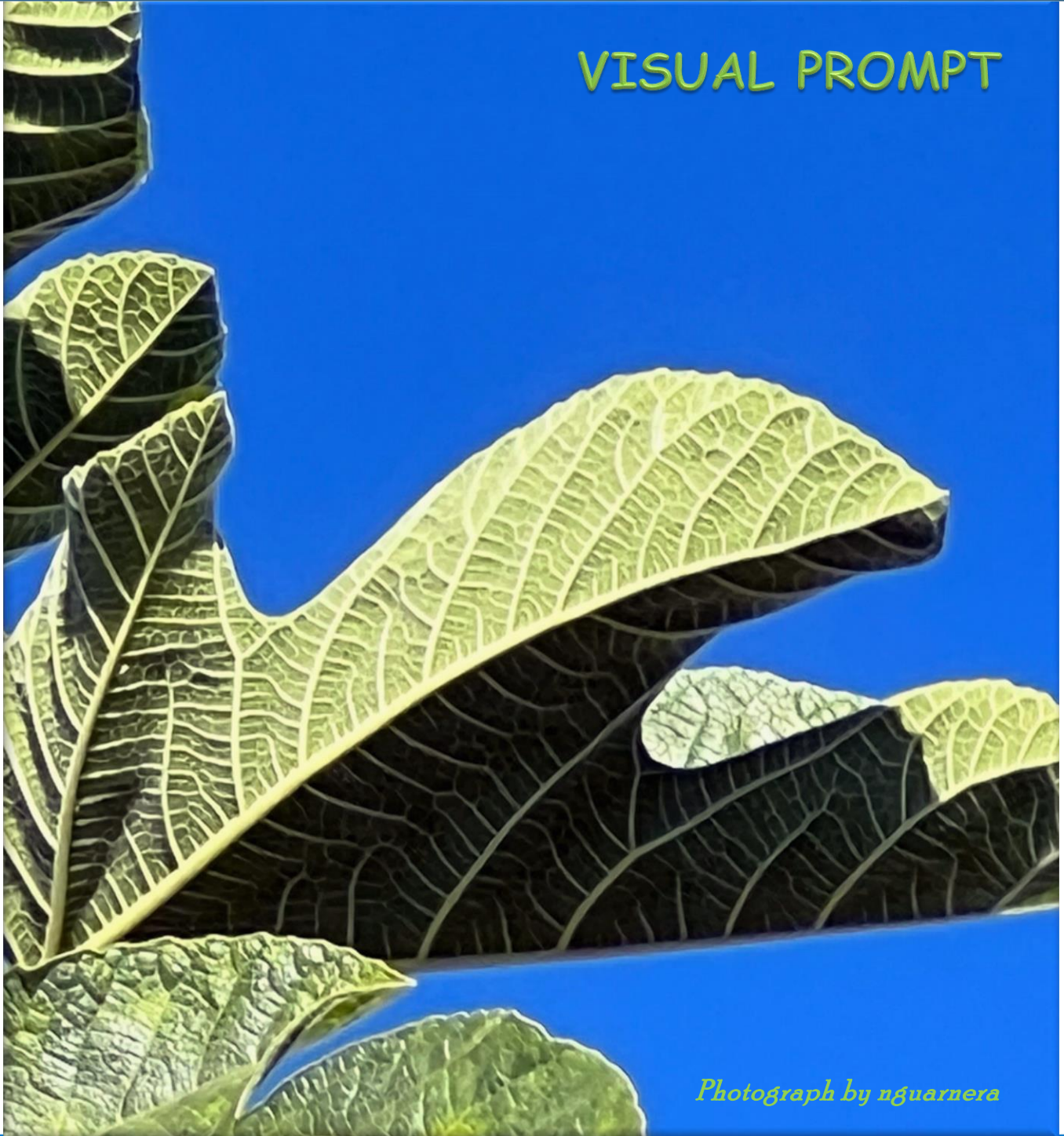
Nancy Guarnera Editor-in-Chief

Vol. 3 No. 1 January 2024

inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org

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

VISUAL PROMPT



Photograph by nguarnera

January General Meeting

* January 27th * 2 to 4 PM * Zooming *

What to Expect from Your ILLUSTRATOR with Agy Wilson

Agy Wilson, artist-illustrator-writer, will share “What to Expect from Your Illustrator” at the monthly membership meeting on January 27. Many of you will have seen her artwork—she is the artist/illustrator of FAW member Penny Cole’s children’s books. We have Penny to thank for referring us to her.

Agy grew up with lots of time to draw and lots of paper to draw on, thanks to her father who was a paper coating engineer and kept her well supplied. But, as she grew older, people kept telling her she could never make a living as an artist. This left her with the determination *not* to grow up.

Instead of running away to the circus, she ran away to the Portland Art School, now known as Maine College of Art, where she studied with a wide variety of artists. Still nothing felt quite like the right fit. She explored in many fields trying to find her place in the art world. She has been a teacher, worked in bronze foundries as a wax artist, as an egg artist creating Ukrainian Easter eggs, and as a painter of endangered species for the Wilde-N-Wonderful Gallery at Busch Gardens in Florida.

Then came the idea to combine it all. The result—a career writing and illustrating for children. Over the past thirty years she has published books both traditionally and independently, designed covers, created coloring books, worked on graphic novels, studied calligraphy, and dabbled in horology (the study or science of measuring time; the art or study of making devices for telling time). She is even thinking of trying her hand at podcasting. Lucky for Penny and the rest of us, Agy didn’t listen to the naysayers and proved them wrong.

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’ll receive a link on or before the day of the meeting.

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



Artwork by Agy Wilson

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



TERRY TOSH
FAW President

President's Message

I'm not going to say the obvious, so I'll just say, "Wishing all a surprisingly great New Year, 2024!"

I know the world is not perfect; politics and religious skirmishes are out of control, and don't get me started on my finances...but there is always light at the end of the tunnel. (*Is that a train whistle I just heard?*)

Welcome back, oh brilliant-minded FAW members. We had a nice break, and as I write this, we've just had our first in-person Winter Holiday "Get-together" since 2019!

Quite an accomplishment and I'd say a fun and successful attempt, thanks to all who braved the various obstacles to attend. Many thanks to all those

who arrived early to help set up and stayed late to take down. And, of course, a very special **Thank You!** to Myles Garcia, for supplying the venue as well as many of the amenities and supplies. Myles, your labor of love and hard work won't be forgotten. There are some nice photos in this issue of *Ink Spots*; thanks to those who contributed their phone cameras to the cause.

So, onward and upward! Once again, we start the New Year in our mid-year point of the CWC calendar, where we are beginning the task of reminding everyone to start thinking about the coming election cycle. We challenge all of you to stretch yourselves, and give some thought to the idea of throwing your virtual hats into the ring. It's time for some fresh perspectives and new leadership moving into the 2024-25 session that begins July 1, 2024. Believe me, we are happy to release the reins, and will do what we can to help mentor and support you. Think of it this way...wouldn't it be nice to give some of your long-serving board members a break? Friends helping friends...?

On another subject, there were two major deadline-driven, CWC opportunities that were offered in mid-December, when FAW was in the midst of its winter break. We had to move fast to participate. Since our next General Meeting is on January 27, well into the submission cycle, both were announced via email. You should already be working on any plans to participate by now, though the actual details are also in this issue of *Ink Spots*. Good Luck to all who take up these challenges.

Be a writer helping writers...take time to encourage your fellow writers in the coming weeks and months. I sincerely appreciate all of you for being and staying a part of the CWC organization and supporting its contributions to the California Legacy of Excellence that has continued since 1909. Check out statewide upcoming events, in this issue; there may be just the opportunity you were wishing for right within your reach.

See ya soon, on Zoom.

Yours Fondly,
Terry



Table of Contents

<i>Visual Prompts</i>	1 & 7
<i>General Meeting</i>	2
<i>President's Message</i>	3
<i>A Word from Our Editor</i>	4
<i>FAW Meetings</i>	5-6
<i>KUDOS - Members' News</i>	7
<i>FAW & CWC Info</i>	8-11
<i>Mark Your Calendar</i>	12-14
<i>Book & Movie Reviews</i>	15
<i>Notes from the World</i>	16-21
<i>Members on Social Media</i>	22
<i>FAW Writers' Corner</i>	23-28
<i>FAW Board Members</i>	29
<i>FAW Committee Chairs</i>	30



A Word from Our Editor



Nancy Guarnera
Editor *Ink Spots*

**Welcome to a new year &
our January 2024 issue.
We hope you enjoy it!**

We wish you and your loved ones a prosperous, healthy, happy year. And, it is our sincere hope that this year humanity chooses peace and harmony over war and conflict.

If you are sending submissions to the newsletter send them to:
inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.org

Put the following in the Subject field of your email:
FAW — Submission for Newsletter — your name (Jay Doe)
Submit all poetry and prose and art/photos as attachments.
Put your name on the work you are submitting.

Submission Guidelines

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

10th of the month prior to the
publication month (ex.- January 10th
for the February 2024 issue)

SEND TO:

inkspots@cw-fremontareawriters.org

YOUR EMAIL SUBJECT LINE:

FAW — Ink Spots / Kudos, Book Review, etc. —
Your Name (ex. Jane Doe)

*Please submit your work as doc, docx and jpg file
attachments, not in the body of the email.*

PLEASE: Put your name on your work.

*Please refer to the complete guidelines
coming to your inbox soon!*

*Art and Photos should be in jpeg
format.*

*Poetry and prose should be in
.doc or .docx format.*

*Use 12 pt Times New Roman for
poetry and prose.*

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

Happy New Year!
Nancy

FAW – January Meetings

Fremont Area Writers

“Fourth Saturday”

Membership Mtg on Zoom

Saturday January 27th 2:00 – 4:00 PM

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

Speaker: Agy Wilson, Artist/Illustrator (see page 2)

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

Fremont Area Writers

“Thursday before 4th Saturday”

Board Meeting on Zoom

Thursday January 25th 7:00 PM

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

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

FAW – January Meetings

Fremont Area Writers

“Second Saturday”

Social Write-In on Zoom

Saturday January 13th 2:00 – 3:30 PM

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

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

Fremont Area Writers

“Fourth Monday”

Writers’ Salon on Zoom

Monday January 22nd 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*

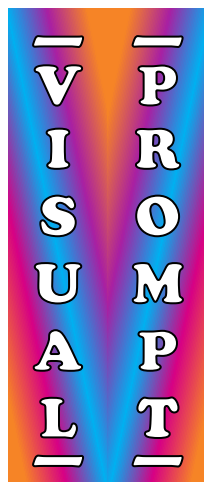
If you have an accomplishment related to your writing, or some other aspect of your life, and would like to share it with FAW members in this space, please send it to inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org, or submit it through the **Shout Out for Ink Spots** link at cwcfremontareawriters.org. Just scroll 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 Evelyn LaTorre, whose piece “**Parted, Not Separated**,” was recently selected and just published in the CWC’s SF-Peninsula branch’s prize-winning anthology, **Fault Zone**. The title of this year’s publication is **Fault Zone–Separated**. Her story of falling in love and getting pregnant while serving in the Peace Corps in the 1960s is a partial summary from her book, **Between Inca Walls**. Read the piece in the anthology at <https://paperangelpress.com/product/fault-zone-detachment/>, then read “the rest of the story,” in her book. **Congratulations, Evelyn!**

KUDOS to Lally Pia, whose memoir, **The Fortune Teller’s Prophecy**, is now available as an audio-book at multiple sites including: Barnes and Noble, Audible.com, Chirp Books, etc. She was interviewed on a podcast for a sneak peek at her memoir and it is available at the following link: https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Wol13qTf_SE. **Congratulations, Lally!**

KUDOS to Myles Garcia, whose article, “History On Ice,” appeared on **positivelyfilipino.com** last March 2023. (**PositivelyFilipino** is a free, online magazine whose primary readership is the world-wide Filipino diaspora.) The magazine recently came out with their TEN MOST READ articles for 2023. Myles’ was the #1 most read article of the year. This is his third time getting the MOST READ story of the year since he started submitting his work. Use the link above to access Myles’ article. **Congratulations, Myles!**

KUDOS to Tish Davidson, whose book **Vaccines: History, Science, and Issues**, is going to be re-issued by Bloomsbury Academic as a paperback in early 2024. The book was originally published in hardcover by ABC-CLIO in 2017. **Congratulations, Tish!**



*Digital art
by
nguarnera*



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

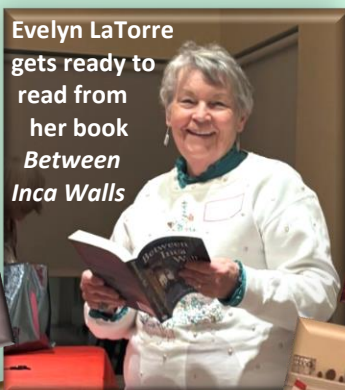
Or call Bob Isbill at **(760) 221-6367**

FAW Holiday Party

December 9, 2023



Knuti VanHoven at the buffet table



Evelyn LaTorre gets ready to read from her book *Between Inca Walls*



Myles Garcia & Pat Doyle at the Sign In Table, Knuti & Jan Small observe, & Jo Ann Frisch signs in



Anita Tosh, Sajal Ghosh & Cher Chin eat & chat

Photos by
Terry &
Anita
Tosh

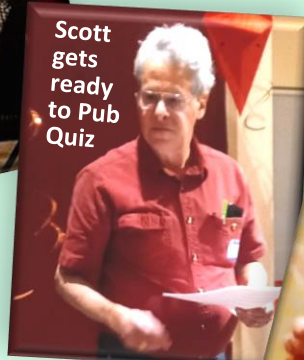


foreground left ccw: Evelyn, Tish Davidson & Scott Davidson
mid-ground right: Myles & Dave
background right: Cher, Sajal, Pat, Marie, Jan, & Paul

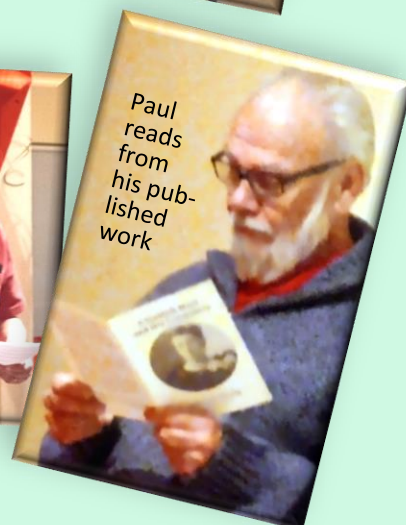


lower left cw: Marie Blanchard, Dave Strom & Steve Yuen
center: Paul Davis

standing: Knuti
cw: Leticia Escalera, Jan & Jo Ann



Scott gets ready to Pub Quiz



Paul reads from his published work

It was great to get together in person again; a good time was had by all. The July picnic will be here before we know it.

FAW & CWC Information

— PLEASE READ —

CWC Literary Review Call for Submissions

Recently, all CWC members received an email from Mike Apodaca regarding changes to the *CWC Literary Review* submission process, as well as submission guidelines. If you're interested in submitting your work for possible publication, you will need to follow these.

This year, we have been given the opportunity, as a branch, to submit 1 poem and 1 piece of prose for the *2024 CWC Literary Review*. Given this limitation, below are the **FAW guidelines** for submission at our branch level. We hope that all of you will choose to submit your work.

FAW will accept your entries from now until **Thursday, February 15, at 5:00 pm PT**. All submissions should be sent to our FAW president, Terry Tosh at toshmanii@yahoo.com. Please put **CWC Literary Review Submission** in the subject line of your email and attach your submission(s) to the email. Please include your name in your email. **DO NOT put your name on your actual submission.**

Please follow the submission guidelines as instructed in the email that you received from Mike Apodaca. *(Please do not include your name on your work, but leave space for it.)*

If you need a replacement copy of the *Lit Review* guidelines, email Terry Tosh, at the email above, and request it. The entries received by the deadline will be reviewed and blind-judged anonymously. One poem and one piece of prose will be chosen from those submitted for consideration, to represent the best of our branch's writing.

The selected work will be submitted by FAW to the CWC submissions coordinator following CWC's submission parameters.

Good Luck to all of you who choose to participate in this year's contest. Please consider this your opportunity to make our branch proud. Those entries that do not make it into the *2024 Lit Review* may be submitted to *Ink Spots* for future publication, if they have not already been published there.

Sincerely,

*Terry Tosh
President, Fremont Area Writers*

***"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take!"
— Wayne Gretzky***



FAW & CWC Information

— PLEASE READ —



CWC CONTEST FOR MEMBER ARTISTS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

Corrected Deadline: January 15, 2024

California Writers Club recently announced plans for a new CWC book to be published in 2024 titled ***Vision and Verse: A Fusion of Art and Photography***. Vision and Verse will be an ekphrastic book pairing artwork and photography with poetry and short prose.

There are two phases to this project. Phase one is an art and photography contest. Phase Two will post the winning artwork and photographs with a call for poetry and short prose submissions inspired by the selected works. Submitted poetry and prose will be judged, and selected poems and prose will be published in 2024, along with their corresponding winning art and photos, in CWC's ***Vision and Verse***, ekphrastic book.

Def.: Merriam-Webster.com

Ekphrastic: *a literary description of or commentary on a visual work of art*

Details on Phase Two submission will be posted on the CWC website (www.calwriters.org) after the completion of the contest.

PHASE ONE

Member artists and photographers are invited to submit a digital image of their artwork and thought-provoking photography to the contest. Winners will receive a copy of the book, *Vision and Verse*.

1. The first place winner will be featured on the cover and receive a \$100 prize.
2. The second and third place winners will each receive a \$50 prize.
3. All other artists/photographers whose work is selected will receive a copy *Vision and Verse*.

Submission Guidelines:

1. Artwork: We welcome original paintings, drawings and illustrations.
2. Photography: Original photographs only.
3. All submissions must be submitted in jpeg format.
4. All submissions must be received no later than January 15, 2024.
5. Multiple submissions are allowed.
6. There is a \$10 fee for each submission.

We look forward to seeing your talent shine in the CWC's 2024 Vision and Verse. The winning artwork and photographs will appear in the next issue of the CWC Bulletin.

For more info and for the submission application go to <https://calwriters.org/vision-and-verse/>

Mark Your Calendar

Free Virtual Writers Conference & Virtual Author Events for January

Compiled by Tish Davidson

All times are Pacific Standard Time. All events are on Zoom and require pre-registration at the link given.

Friday, January 19th 1-5 pm and Saturday, January 20th 7am-2pm

OCLS Writers Conference

This is a chance to attend a Zoom writers conference FREE from the comfort of your own home. The event is sponsored by the Orange County (Florida) Library System.

Information on speakers at <https://ocls.info/ocls-writers-conference>

Register at <https://attend.ocls.info/event/9079013>

Registration is limited, so if you want to go, register now.

NOTE: The registration asks for your library card number and password. I left this blank and was still registered.

OTHER FREE ZOOM EVENTS

Wednesday, January 10th 1pm

The Art of Writing Memoir — How Understanding Theme Can Make the Writing Process Easier to Connect with Readers and Meet the Needs of Publishers

Join acclaimed author and writing teacher Prince Shakur for a one-hour talk w/ Q&A session.

Note: If you cannot attend, you can get a free recording of the talk, but you must pre-register at <https://authorspublish.com/lectures/the-art-of-memoir-how-exploring-your-themed-can-make-the-writing-process-easier/>

Thursday, January 11th 4-5 pm

Writing About Trauma and Taboo Topics

Essayist, novelist, and educator Sheree L. Greer will discuss how to navigate writing about these kinds of topics. <https://attend.ocls.info/event/9451877>



Mark Your Calendar

CWC — High Desert Branch *Presents*

The 90-Day Memoir with Al Watt

Tuesday January 30, 6 PM on ZOOM

The High Desert branch of the California Writers Club will offer a special Zoom two-part meeting on memoir writing featuring **Al Watt, author of *The 90-Day Memoir***. Memoir is the most popular genre of writing in the California Writers club. That's why we feel that this project will be so valuable to our membership, and it is **FREE!** There is no charge whatever to participate in this program.

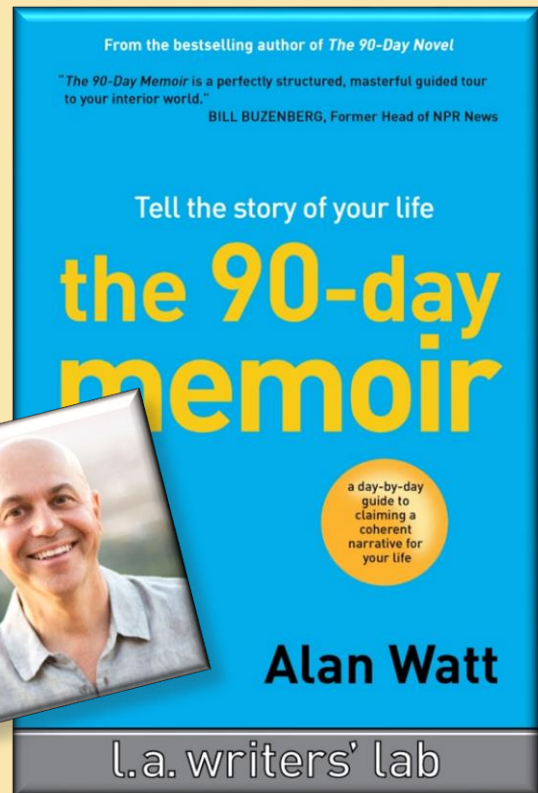
The HDCWC is continuing to do its book club type Zoom meetings featuring books by famous authors and interviews with the writers themselves. This will be our fourth event. The previous three were well received and popular with those who attended.

To participate in the latest memoir writing adventure, we are encouraging our CWC Members to buy the book, *The 90-Day Memoir*, which was published on December 1, 2023. We suggest you read the book, become familiar with the process, and then join us on Tuesday, **January 30, at 6 PM** to meet with the author. At that time, he will present his 90-day memoir program and respond to questions you may have about memoir writing. Watt is scheduled to begin a 90-day class on February 8, 2024. If you choose to join his class, he has a special offer available only to California Writers Club members, which he will explain at that time.

It is not required that you buy the book, but as we did with previous speakers, we encourage you to do so for the full experience that this project offers.

Al will meet again with us on June 25, 2024. Again, those of you who have worked on a memoir during that interval will be able to submit questions, and or discuss any challenges that you did not anticipate. The author will be available to respond. If you choose to try this process, buy the book and start reading. You can purchase it on Al Watt's website, lawriterslab.com/shop/ or on Amazon. If you are not familiar with this best-selling author and teacher, you may check out his credentials on his website.

Links to the meetings on January 30 and June 25 will be emailed to the membership so that you will have access to the project.



Mark Your Calendar

2nd Thursdays: "Writers Helping Writers"

Sponsored by the SF Peninsula Branch of the California Writers Club

When: January 11, 2024 6:30-8:00 pm

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

You Can Be a Winning Writer: The 4 C's System to Author Success with Joan Gelfand

Joan Gelfand will speak on the topics in her book — *You Can Be a Winning writer: The 4 C's System to Author Success: Craft, Commitment, Community & Confidence*, published by Mango Press.

Joan will address...

Getting Published · Promotion · Community Groups · Confidence and Building a Fan Base

Joan has been speaking on this topic for over 10 years and has taught classes at the Writing Salon, at writing conferences, and at many CWC chapters.

Copies of her book will be available for purchase.

This event is FREE and open to everyone, and is an in-person event.

2nd Thursdays: "Writers Helping Writers" is managed by CWC member David Strom and co-sponsored by Tuula Laine, a librarian at the San Mateo Library and a member of the SF Peninsula branch of the CWC.

Find out more about speaker Joan Gelfand at www.joangelfand.com

For more about the California Writers Club (CWC) go to www.calwriters.org

For more about the San Francisco Peninsula branch of the CWC go to www.cwc-sfpeninsula.org

2024 FAW GENERAL MEETING SPEAKERS

FEBRUARY 24TH 2-4pm on ZOOM

"Performing Your Writing"

Dave M. Strom, FAW member

Dave M. Strom frequently performs his work at open mics and readings. His books include *Super Holly Hansson in: Super Bad Hair Day*, a collection of stories about this superhero. His work has appeared in the *Fault Line* anthology.

For more information—

davstrom@me.com

<https://davemstrom.wordpress.com>

MARCH 23RD 2-4PM on ZOOM

**"How to know what kind of editor you need.
How to know when your manuscript is ready
for submission."**

Julie Artz, Author, editor and book coach

Julie lives and works in the Seattle area.

For more information—

julie@julieartz.com

<https://julieartz.com>

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.)

Sea Stories:

My Life in Special Operations

by Admiral William H. McRaven © 2019

He had infiltrated the third security fence, and he could see the Gravel Gertie now. A sinister-looking fortified bunker, with concertina wire and warning signs posted at every corner, but no guards and no dogs. "That was easy," he muttered to himself. Suddenly, a siren began to sound. A red light at the entrance of the Gravel Gertie was spinning at high RPMs...a loudspeaker blaring a call to arms. The sound of the K9 was getting closer. He was running and scaling fences.

Even at a young age, Bill had an adventurer spirit. So, it makes sense that he would grow up to become a Navy Seal. He survived experiences a mere mortal man would not have.

This book is filled with stories, well told, of his special operations experiences. He includes in-depth information on the planning and preparation of catching Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden. And, of rescuing Captain Richard Phillips from Somali pirates.

By the time you finish this book, you will have a greater understanding and appreciation for all the planning and preparation undertaken for military tasks such as these. On television, they make it look so easy—like there's an event that occurs and our guys "just" go in and take care of it. Months of planning precede most operations. And practice. The rescue of Captain Phillips was the exception.

This book made me truly appreciate the men and women of our fighting forces even more...and I thought I appreciated them already. Thank you, from my heart, to all who have served our country and are serving now!

Review by Joyce Cortez

READ MORE BOOKS
WRITE MORE REVIEWS

Notes from the World

Tom Howard / John H. Reid Fiction & Essay Contest

All styles and themes, fiction and non-fiction

Submission Period: Present 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>



"A great novel, rather than discouraging me, simply makes me want to write." — Madeleine L'Engle

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

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 offers **FREE** Zoom workshops on the craft of writing for writers of every skill level. Jane takes you behind the curtain and shares 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, Jan 20, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT
**Reinventing Your Writing—And Yourself:
Discussing the Writing Process with
Bestselling Author Jonathan Santlofer**
Learn to mine life experiences to create emotionally powerful scenes and compelling characters.

Saturday, Feb 10 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT
**The Anatomy of Charm: Secrets to
Crafting Characters Readers Can't Resist**
Learn the secrets to creating believable "charmers" who propel your stories forward.

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 . . .

Winter 2024 Story Contest • Deadline: March 28th

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 a great 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>



***"The animal with the shortest memory on Earth is the goldfish.
When something disappointing happens...
be a goldfish." — Ted Lasso***

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

Land of Plenty

What have you done,
O, Israel?

For this
You will never sleep

For this
They will gather in darkness

Like leopards in your "Land of Plenty"
And make a ruin of the temple

on its stolen ground.
where we seek holiness

we find Moloch
Eating children

---an old ritual
Known by Goya

Blake, Picasso
and Ginsberg.

And now
here you are, O, Chosen ones,

New Canaanites crushing the cold
flesh of infants

like damp, autumnal leaves.
The parental mountains of the east

twist in agony.
The Middle sea

Throbs coldly with indifference
And the fearful mountains

shake with the
Minotaur's approach.

The leopards of distrust
Are coming out of the night

And you will not sleep.

Tony Pino

***"Poetry is language at its most distilled and
most powerful." — Rita Dove***

FAW Member Lally Pia's memoir, *The Fortune Teller's Prophecy* is currently available as an audiobook at Barnes & Noble, Audible.com and Chirp Books, etc. Her book is due out in April this year. Here is an excerpt from her book.

THE FORTUNE TELLER'S PROPHECY

by Lally Pia

It had all started with that darn prophecy the year I was born.

May 1961. A lone crow cawed, perched on the highest branch of a flamboyant tree, as Vel hurried to his taxi. He glanced back to wave goodbye to Rane. The pendant of her twenty-four-karat gold necklace glinted as she clutched me, her sleeping three-month old. Vel choked up at the sight of the precious bundle, his first-born daughter.

I picture him examining the white holy ash marks on his forehead in the passenger side mirror and yet again running his hand over the sealed envelope in his inside pocket. Exhorting the driver to speed up along the country lane, he became airborne over large potholes, each landing rattling his bones.

Disembarking at the temple gates in Vaddukoddai, Sri Lanka, his heart galloped. Dozens of worshippers formed a slow-moving column that jammed the entrance. Some wore only colorful ankle-length sarongs, with white markings on their bare chests. Others were decked out in ivory embroidered silk tops with matching *vertis* falling loosely to their ankles. Dense green foliage draped the white temple walls, mixing with clusters of scarlet bougainvillea and white jasmine. Through wide-open ornately carved doors, the cool interior beckoned, a respite from the harsh sun, already showing its might. Dozens of neatly arranged dusty sandals lay to the side of the main entryway, and Vel shook his off.

Inside were two engraved silver cups on a brass tray, one holding white holy ash, the other a fragrant yellow sandalwood paste. Vel's fingers trembled as he dipped them, sequentially, into the containers, adding white and yellow markings to his forehead. The attendant accepted his envelope and stowed it in a tall bronze urn brimming with more of the same.

In the main temple, Vel sat cross-legged on the floor behind several rows of worshippers and bowed his head in prayer. Muffled whispers, murmured prayers, and the sound of shuffling feet were the only sounds. The cloying scent of jasmine hung heavy in the air. When he looked up, an effigy of Lord Shiva stared down at him from his perch in a raised alcove. Vel dropped his eyes hurriedly.

After an interminable ten minutes, the attendant closed the doors, as a gong sounded. A hush of expectation fell over the crowd as even whispered conversations ceased. The priest was visiting from Northern India. A fortune teller of great repute, he once made a prediction that a Jaffna couple's only son would die of drowning. The panicked parents sold their house by the sea and moved inland. As legend has it, one year later the little boy's ball fell into a tall rain barrel, and he tried to retrieve it. His stricken parents discovered him face down in the barrel, drowned. Reports of the fortune teller's prowess spread like lightning.

All stood when the holy man emerged from the back of the temple and glided up the central aisle as if on a conveyor belt. His long graying hair was fastened into a bun, and his naked chest was adorned with a thin gold chain. A saffron-colored silk *verti* completed his outfit. He stepped onto the dusty platform.

(continued on next page)

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

THE FORTUNE TELLER'S PROPHECY

(continued from previous page)

The congregation repeated the priest's softly uttered chants. He gestured for them to sit, summoning his attendant to fetch the urn containing envelopes. Placing both hands on the brim, he blessed the container.

"Fellow believers, today I will pick ten envelopes to predict your children's futures. Let us begin." He put his hand into the urn and pulled out the first envelope.

"Velayuthampillai Mahadevan," he announced. Vel stared, dumbfounded, with a roaring in his head. The holy priest was calling his name? First? What an honor! Disbelief rooted him in place.

"Velayuthampillai! Are you present?" The priest spoke louder now. He held up the card, which Vel knew listed his daughter Lally's name and her date of birth. He rose stiffly, hoping no one could tell that his knees were knocking together under his *verti*. The priest gestured for him to approach. Vel's heart pounded like a hundred stampeding elephants. He stood, head bowed in front of the priest.

"Welcome, Velayuthampillai," the priest offered in a soft, hissing voice, inclining his head.

Vel's eyes met those of the priest. A warm glow enveloped his body as the temple and audience melted away. He was floating in the clouds now, his soul laid bare to a compassionate, piercing black stare. In recollecting this tale in exquisite detail for dozens of years to come, Vel would say that the roaring in his ears obscured any memories of what transpired after the priest's words—words that became sealed into his heart.

"Take good care of her. Your daughter will become a doctor of doctors."

OUTSIDE THE WINDOW

by MP Smith

Outside the window, the world passed. More than that, the world went on in blazing summer colors, dynamic conversations, and relationships that were cozy, honest and eternal.

Sounds poetic, but I was in a funk, and that was exactly what was missing from my life. Life wasn't cozy—it had been a mess since the Mets won the series. My relationships were as honest as the cartoon cat trying to beguile Tweety Bird out of the cage. My conversations, certainly not as sparkling as on that new TV show *Friends*, had lately involved chocolate pudding evenings with my cat.

The depressing state of my life drove me to the kitchen. One glance in the fridge told me the terrible truth—we were out of chocolate pudding. Something in my life had to change. I stood up, grabbed my keys, looked out the window where all of life teemed and sparkled, and sat back down.

I tried it again and got as far as the front door, cracking it open a bit to let a slice of sunshine spill into the room. It was warm and smelled like summer.

I could do this. One deep breath and another small pull on the door brought more sunlight into the living room.

Yes! I see kids on bikes and hear a lawn mower puttering somewhere close by.

I stepped outside and turned my face to the sun. I stood for a moment, and then took a step.

(This is a prompted piece from the November 2023 FAW Write-In.)

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

Willful Blindness

I place the neatly folded towels
on the closet shelf, stacking them
so only rounded folds are visible.
Don't they look nice?

I hear the news anchor announce
that over there, another hospital has no fuel.
The screen shows a girl running down the
hall, screaming, crying out for
her wounded father.

Would you believe it's
supposed to rain today?
Yet the sky, sharing its expanse
with bubble-bath clouds, is blue.
But not to worry, dear friends;
our reservoirs here are almost full.

Half a sphere away, ammunition
is nearly exhausted, while soldiers,
longing for their families, hunker down,
bone tired and growing colder as they try
to keep our common enemy at bay.

This room is getting chilly.
I turn up the thermostat, thinking
that I should buy a new sweater,
and, since I'm already on line,
I'll check out the latest iPhone.
Isn't it annoying that Amazon just raised
the cost of a Prime subscription?

Marie Blanchard

December 6, 2023

Four Poems by Jacqlyn Freitas

LISTEN

Sparse budding limbs
nodding to chilling gusts
What melodies you play
against mottled skies!

SHADOWS

Elongated shadows shorten
as light arches overhead
bringing shadows
into perspective

TIME

Fleeting
yet ever present
"tock" of time
slips beyond grasping
except in memory's bank
where imagination's Teller
coddles them.

PERSPECTIVE

Trees re-adjust their position on the hillside
or is it only the movement of the train
orchestrating the dance

We don't read and write poetry because it's cute. We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race. And the human race is filled with passion. So medicine, law, business, engineering...these are noble pursuits and necessary to sustain life. But poetry, beauty, romance, love... these are what we stay alive for. — Walt Whitman

"I AM RUSSIAN"

My Trip to Russia

by Jo Ann Frisch

In June 1994, I went to Russia to save the world. Groups of activists from Tri-Valley CAREs (Communities Against a Radioactive Environment) in Livermore, Oakland, San Francisco and New Mexico, flew into Moscow. We were met by our Russian activist counterparts also dedicated to conversion of their laboratories from nuclear weapons to peaceful environmental science.

We were overjoyed to meet these enthusiastic people and tour their city in an old rented bus. Through the dingy windows we saw ancient and modern buildings facing the busy streets, crisscrossed with electric cables overhead. The Bolshoi Theater, Parliament, Kremlin (still blackened in the middle by a recent bomb from a protester), and large ornate mansions overshadowed by gold and vermillion onion towers glistened in the mid-day sun.

One of the Russian activists shouted excitedly and pointed down a street to a neon sign with golden arches and vertical letters—McDonald's. Our bus lurched along barely stopping at traffic lights dangling in the middle of intersections. The lanes painted in faded white lines were ignored by most of the cars and trucks crowding to a stop, their engines revving eager for the green light, so they could jockey to the front of the line. The exhaust fumes burned our eyes.

We crossed a bridge, and the beautiful St Basil's Cathedral loomed ahead, much larger than I had realized from photos. Slowing, we turned into a parking section nearby. Everyone rushed to get a better look. Our guides said we could walk around Red Square to see the many historical buildings. I remembered seeing newsreels as a child, of Russian troops, tanks, missiles and armaments displayed proudly in the same Square.

A temporary fence was set up on one side of the wide entrance not connected to the red brick gate of a wall around the ancient kremlin. The building was used on special occasions for dignitaries visiting Moscow. There were two guards standing at attention on either side of the gate, rifles over their shoulder and high helmets that were like pictures I'd seen of guards in England for the Queen Mother.

Most of our group had walked away from me as I juggled my camera and decided to walk through the small opening at the end of the fence near the gate, to catch up with them. I glanced at one of the guards and continued to walk toward the opening. I heard a male voice speaking in Russian and knew he was trying to get my attention. I pretended not to hear and didn't stop. As I neared the opening, the guard stepped down to my level and spoke—commanding me to stop. I couldn't ignore him any longer and noticed his rifle tightly gripped. I stopped and motioned toward my group that was several yards away by that time. He shook his head and pointed with his hand to go around. Even though I couldn't understand his words, it was clear what he wanted. I smiled and turned around.

I had to hurry to catch up with our group who were noticing what was happening and were motioning to me. Marylia Kelly, our Executive Director of Tri-Valley CAREs, our leader and organizer of our Russian trip, smiled at me as I approached. "What were you thinking, challenging that guard, Jo Ann?"

"I was trying to take a short-cut to you guys," I said.

She laughed and put her arm around my shoulder as we walked together with the rest of the group.

(continued on next page)

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

"I AM RUSSIAN"

(continued from previous page)

"It would have been hard to tell a judge they shouldn't hold you in jail. That you were from an anti-nuclear weapons group from America." We all laughed, including our Russian friends as our translator explained what had happened.

I couldn't take my eyes off St Basel's Cathedral. I wanted to go inside, but it was closed for repair. The many onion towers had designs and colors that looked like new; some of the tower tips were gold. It was magnificent. Our tour guide explained that it had been built for the common people of Russia next to the ornate Kremlin that was just for the wealthy and walled off. I was busy taking lots of pictures.

The large cobblestones of the square were easy to walk on and we took our time. One building was the tomb of Lenin. It had large Cyrillic letters across the top with his name. I was learning to read Cyrillic and understood it. I could also read the Roman numeral dates on the many statues we saw.

Evening approached and our guides said we needed to have dinner in the famous Wedding Cake Hotel. The building had several stories, each smaller toward the top making it look like the layers of a wedding cake, they said. I took a photo of it and had to use two exposures because it was so tall I couldn't get it all on one.

The dining area was crowded with people loudly chattering away, so we had to shout at each other. Of course, we couldn't read the menu and had to get a member from an organization from San Francisco who was part of our group, to help us decide what to eat. He was fluent in Russian and we were grateful for his help. We decided on a type of stew that's baked in a round stone pot with a small opening on top. Each of us was served with our own pot on a large heated plate. It was delicious: with mushrooms and chunks of beef, vegetables, and onions in a dark brown sauce. We were able to pay for our dinner with American money, but our Russian-speaking friend explained that when we got to our destination, he would go to the post office and get Russian money for us.

After dinner, we traveled overnight on the famous Transcontinental Railway to Nizhny Novgorod, our final destination, hundreds of miles away.

To be continued...

This piece is being serialized.

"Vigorous writing is concise. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts."

— William Strunk, Jr. and E.B. White *The Elements of Style*

FAW Board Members



TERRY TOSH
President
toshmanii@yahoo.com



KNUTI VANHOVEN
Vice President



PAT DOYNE
Secretary



CHERYLYN CHIN
Treasurer



BOB GARFINKLE
Founding President

BOARD MEETINGS
Date and Time determined monthly
before the Fourth Saturday
General Membership Meeting
on ZOOM

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
- 2023 Scott Davidson

FAW Chairpersons



CHERILYN CHIN
CWC Advertising
& Promotions



SCOTT DAVIDSON
Webmaster
Zoom Manager



TISH DAVIDSON
Social Write-In Host



BOB GARFINKLE
Historian



NANCY GUARNERA
Ink Spots Editor
Special Projects
inkspots@cwc-fremontareawriters.org



EVELYN LATORRE
NorCal Representative
CWC Representative
elatorre@aol.com



TONY PINO
"Fourth Monday"
Writers' Salon
up.dragonfly.com@gmail.com



ANITA TOSH
Membership
nanatosh56@gmail.com



TERRY TOSH
Facebook Page
toshmanii@yahoo.com



KNUTI VANHOVEN
Speakers Program
Publicity

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*)