

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY



Ink Spots



The Newsletter of Fremont Area Writers

The "Centennial" Branch of the California Writers Club

Nancy Guarnera Editor-in-Chief

inkspots@cwc-fremontareawriters.org

Vol. 4 No. 2 February 2025

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

LOVE

February General Meeting

* February 22nd * 2 to 4 PM * Zoom *

INCREASING SUSPENSE & TENSION in YOUR WRITING

with

Yvonne Ventresca



yvonneventresca.com

At some point in your life you've probably read a book that you couldn't put down until you reached the end. The suspense and the tension carried you through to the last page and the concluding paragraph, ending with an unforgettable final sentence. Imagine a story that could leave the reader dripping with sweat and unable to catch their breath. Yvonne Ventresca's presentation will cover "increasing suspense by raising the stakes, compressing time with ticking clocks, creating cliffhangers, using secrets, and stretching tension by expanding time." If you want to add the thrill to your thriller, this presentation is for you.

Yvonne Ventresca writes suspenseful novels and short stories for teen, tween, and adult readers. She is the award-winning author of *Black Flowers*, *White Lies* (Sky Pony Press, 2016), and *Pandemic* (Sky Pony Press, 2014). She's had several short stories for kids and adults selected for anthologies, including "Justice for Jaynie" in *The Second Black Beacon Book of Mystery* (2023), "The Third Ghost" in *Voyagers: The Third Ghost* (2020), and "The Art of Remaining Bitter" in *Hero Lost: Mysteries of Death and Life* (2017). She's also written two nonfiction books: *Avril Lavigne* (Lucent Books, 2007) and *Publishing* (Lucent Books, 2005).

Yvonne holds an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. She serves as the communications manager for **Rebecca Dykes Writers** and mentors other writers through AWP and Mystery Writers of America. She is a long-time member of Mystery Writers of America, Society of Children Book Writers and Illustrators, International Thriller Writers, and Sisters in Crime.

You can find Yvonne on social media at @YvonneVentresca, or visit her website, **YvonneVentresca.com**, where she features resources for writers and blogs about creative productivity.

This presentation is FREE to everyone. To get your link for this event, email a request with "FAW Zoom" in 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 21 branches of the **California Writers Club (CWC)** calwriters.org. All CWC branches welcome new members.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



President's Message

Ahhh, **Love is in the air**, it's February! The time to remember all the things we love, have, and need to be thankful for.

As we move further into this year, how about we keep in mind the wonderful gifts each of us have as members of FAW, and our vast resources we have access to through CWC as the largest and most helpful and giving group of Writers Helping Writers in the state of California. We can access untold resources from each individual branch site, as well as our host site at calwriters.org. We can even choose to attend any and all of the events across the state (at outrageously low costs). There are folks who pay exorbitant expenses to acquire the skillset opportunities that we, as CWC members, have available to us.

TERRY TOSH
FAW President

Be sure to **Share the Love** with your friends, family and acquaintances as you go through life this year. Let them know of your successes. Tell them how easy it is to join this community of great talent. Consider spreading your own wings by becoming part of the leadership of FAW as a Chairperson, Elected Official, or through other volunteer opportunities that may be needed as the year 2025 unfolds before us.

We look forward to growing our own talents, while we lovingly help others grow theirs. Could there be a more appropriate time than the month that focuses on **LOVE**?

Thanks, once again, for being wonderfully loving people. It's a privilege to know each and every one of you.

Sincerely,
Your Loving Leader!

Terry



Visual Prompt
Artwork by Jo Ann Frisch



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A Word from Our Editor



Nancy Guarnera
Editor *Ink Spots*

Welcome to our February 2025 issue. Hope you enjoy it!

It's February! Valentine's Day reigns supreme this month. *"How do we know this?"* you might ask. Well, I can't be the only one who's noticed that red and pink hearts and boxes of expensive chocolates replaced the Christmas bling before New Years. We don't seem to be able to celebrate significant events, or even "HolyDays," without turning them into commercial extravaganzas!

Please, will someone tell me what President's Day has to do with large home appliances and mattresses? Why are there always sales on the days we get to take off to celebrate? I suppose corporate America doesn't want to miss the opportunity of a three-day weekend of sales. What else can we occupy ourselves with on that day of freedom from work? Maybe spending time with our families. Or learning something about the holiday and why we might want to celebrate it? President's Day for instance. There have been 45 presidents. If you decided to learn something about each of them and their presidencies... one each year on that special Monday...it would take you 45 years.

Shopping for home appliances and mattresses can happen anytime. So, I suppose, can learning about presidents. But then there's Valentine's Day. A day to celebrate the ones we love...with flowers, chocolates, jewelry, expensive cards, and fancy outings that include pricey meals and, in the "olden days," dancing.

This particular holiday is usually reserved for romantically inclined significant others: spouses, partners, boy/girl friends, lovers, and occasionally unromantically inclined elementary school classmates. Research I did on this subject several decades ago, led to information suggesting that card companies are responsible for pushing various holidays, including Valentine's Day, that have only come into fashion within the last century or so. Boss's Day, Secretary's Day and Grandparents' Day are all very recent holidays that appear on calendars and in card shops. It's nice to celebrate everyone...perhaps the card companies will release a line of cards celebrating homeless folks one day. They might appreciate this expression of kindness, caring, attention...dare I say it...LOVE. Even if for just one day a year.

I think it's unfortunate that we commercialize a holiday meant to celebrate love. There are so many different types of love that to celebrate only one, "romantic love" (a.k.a. eros or erotic love) on Valentine's Day, seems like a missed opportunity. Do we really need a reminder to love our sweethearts? It seems like we could use a daily reminder to love everyone...even ourselves. Interesting that we don't get to take a day off to celebrate Valentine's Day. I guess love isn't as important as a president. Really? Does anyone believe that?

February is also Black History month...check out page 12 and the Writers Corner. In 1968, we lost Martin Luther King, Jr. to an assassin. MLK was a man who dreamed about a time when children of all races would play together and be judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin. He also said, *"Hate is just as injurious to the hater as it is to the hated. Like an unchecked cancer, hate corrodes the personality and eats away its vital unity. Many of our inner conflicts are rooted in hate. This is why the psychiatrists say, 'Love or perish.' Hate is too great a burden to bear."* I couldn't agree more. Imagine what it would be like to wake up tomorrow and everyone had replaced hate, resentment, anger, judgement, and fear with love. It's a choice we can decide to make and we'd all be healthier for it.

One of my personal reminders is about resentment—hate's kin. Resenting someone is like taking poison and expecting the other person to die. Poison doesn't work that way. When I hate or resent someone, I usually need a reason. I perceive some transgression against me; I believe I've been wronged. I've taken personally whatever they have done. In so many cases, I have later discovered that whatever it was had nothing to do with me. How sad and poisonous.

Love requires no reason. It's something we just do. We feel it for our family and friends, for people who've lost everything in a war or in a natural disaster. Sometimes even for humanity as a whole. That desire for unity exists in all of us. It may be covered up with perceived slights or anger at one's personal situation, but it's there. Love is there inside us. Waiting to be expressed. We can never truly love ourselves if we don't love everyone regardless of their skin color, their language, their culture, their socio-economic background, their size, their age, their politics, their religion, housing status, etc. Maybe it's time to designate everyday Valentine's Day and broaden our pool of loved ones to everyone. Instead of cards, flowers and chocolate, we can just give the love we are. Happy Love Day! **NG**

FAW – February Meetings

Fremont Area Writers

“Fourth Saturday”

Membership Mtg on Zoom

Saturday February 22nd 2:00 – 4:00 PM

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

Speaker: Yvonne Ventresca Writer, Editor, Publisher (p.2)

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

Fremont Area Writers

“Monday before 4th Saturday”

Board Meeting on Zoom

Monday February 17th 4:00 PM

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

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

FAW – February Meetings

Fremont Area Writers

“Second Saturday”

Social Write-In on Zoom

Saturday February 8th 2:00 – 3:30 PM

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

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

Fremont Area Writers

“Fourth Monday”

Writers’ Salon on Zoom

Monday February 24th 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 creative 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 Angelica G. Allen who recently interviewed with the UK's Chat and Spin Radio! You can watch it here [youtube.com/watch?v=YFbllljnkgE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFbllljnkgE) on YouTube. She had an awesome time discussing the genres she invented and her latest release with radio host, Ron Clark. You can learn more about these genres, her next book projects, and future events on her website, AngelicaGabriellaAllen.com. **Congratulations, Angelica!**

KUDOS to Tish Davidson who represented FAW at California Crosspoint Academy's open house on January 25. She was able to introduce parents, students, and teachers to FAW, hand out FAW business cards, and encourage aspiring writers to come to a meeting or write-in to see what FAW is all about. FAW member Carol Hall was also present for Women in Film.



Tish has also signed a contract with Bloomsbury for a book tentatively titled *The Health Freedom Debate*. It will examine "my body, my choice" issues including vaccines, fluoridated water, raw milk, an unauthorized cancer treatments. **Congratulations, Tish!**

KUDOS to Sam Rodriguez whose short story, "Mother's Milk and the Sun" appeared in the January 2025 issue of *Ink Spots* in the Writers Corner. **Congratulations, Sam!**



Visual Prompt

Photograph by *nguarnera*

“The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.”
— Alice Walker

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 in being of service to FAW in some other capacity. Check the last two pages in this issue for contact info.

Do you 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

The Best of the Best: CWC Literary Review

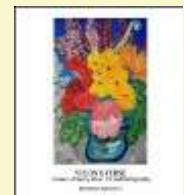


& Vision and Verse

calwriters.org/literaryreview/

calwriters.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/VisionVerse.pdf

Now available to members to download in PDF format for FREE



XXXXXXXXXX

**NEW
FROM
CWC**



THE SMALLS

The Smalls includes selections from the California Writers Club 2024 “Big Contest for Small Poems and Prose.”

Now available for \$10 on Amazon

FAW & CWC Information

– PLEASE READ –

2025 Jack London Award for Service – Branch Level

Nominations are Now Open

The California Writers Club was started in 1909. There were many literary luminaries of that time who were in some way connected to the organization. Jack London was an honorary member. Every odd year the Jack London Award is bestowed upon a member who has given exemplary service to their branch. Members are encouraged to offer nominations to the Board, which votes to choose that year's recipient. A member can only receive the award once. Generally, the awards are given in October at a special CWC event to honor the recipients. Since CWC and its branches are volunteer organizations, (*none of us are paid*) this award (*and the Ina Coolbrith Award for exemplary service at the state level bestowed in even years*) is an important way to acknowledge members' commitment and thank them for volunteering.

This year Scott Davidson (2023) and Nancy Guarnera (2021) are taking nominations for the award since both are prior recipients and no longer eligible. If you are an FAW member and would like to nominate someone for this award, please contact Scott Davidson (scottfrombayside@yahoo.com) and/or Nancy Guarnera (nguarnera16@comcast.net) and let them know who you would like to nominate and why. Please submit your nominations by March 31.

Previous FAW Awardees are: *Bob Garfinkle (2009), Myrla Raymundo (2011), Carol Hall (2013), Art Carey (2015), Shirley Ferrante (2017), Jan Small (2019), Nancy J Guarnera (2021), and Scott Davidson (2023).*

CWC Marin Presents

Wrangling Your Inner Critic

with *Danika Bloom*

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 7 – 8:30 pm PT on Zoom

Register and pay online at cwcmarin.com/rsvp-for-february-2025-meeting/

\$5 for CWC members (any branch) \$10 for non-members

Feeling stuck in your writing or overwhelmed by self-doubt?

This interactive workshop, ***Wrangling Your Inner Critic***, empowers you to transform the nagging voice in your head into a creative ally. Through brain science, reframing techniques, and actionable strategies, you'll uncover why your inner critic exists and how to quiet its unhelpful chatter. USA Best Selling Author Danika Bloom will shepherd us through these valuable tools to help us along on our writer's journey.

FAW & CWC Information

2025 FAW GENERAL MEETINGS TOPICS & SPEAKERS

FEBRUARY 22ND 2-4PM ZOOM

**Increasing Tension and Suspense
in Your Writing**

Yvonne Ventresca, Novelist
www.yvonneventresca.com

MARCH 22ND 2-4PM ZOOM

**Metaphor: The Poet's Way of Looking
at the World**

Pat Doyne, Poet, Writer, FAW member

APRIL 26TH 2-4PM ZOOM

**Writing Dialog to Reveal Character and
Move the Story Along**

Robert Dean Johnson, Author, Teacher
www.rdeanwriter.com

MAY 24TH 2-4PM ZOOM

When and How to Use Subplots

Cab Tran, Writer, Publisher, Teacher

JUNE 28TH 2-4PM ZOOM

Memoir Writing & Business Fundamentals

Mary Beth O'Conner, Author, Teacher
www.junkietojudge.com

JULY Picnic TBA

AUGUST 23RD 2-4PM on ZOOM

**Beat the Bots: A Writers Guide
to Surviving & Thriving in the Age of AI**

Jane Cleland, Writer, Editor, Teacher
www.janecleland.com

SEPTEMBER 27TH 2-4PM ZOOM

**Querying: What Agents Want to Hear
in a Query**

Irene Zabytko, Writer, Novelist, Filmmaker

OCTOBER 25TH 2-4PM ZOOM

Point of View (POV)

Lyndsey Ellis, Writer, Novelist, Teacher
www.lyndseyellis.com

NOVEMBER 22ND 2-4PM ZOOM

**Writing Characters
with Emotional Resonance**

Erin Swann, Writer, Novelist, Teacher
www.swannscribbles.com

DECEMBER Holiday Party TBA

ALL General Meetings are on the 4TH SATURDAY of the month.

*To receive a link to zoom meetings, send a request with "ZOOM LINK" in the Subject line
to the email below, and you will receive a link during the week before the meeting.*

scottfrombayside@yahoo.com

PLEASE NOTE: While it's not required...if a topic is of interest to you,
consider checking out the speaker's website, if available, before the meeting.

There may be gold waiting for you there!

Mark Your Calendar

Fremont Cultural Arts Council Flash Fiction Contest – April 2025

Deadline: Monday April 14th Midnight

Winners Announced April 19th at Half Price Books around 5:30pm

Theme: “Love Makes the World Go ‘Round”

Look for more info in the March issue of *Ink Spots* and on the FCAC website

2nd Thursdays: “Writers Helping Writers”

Sponsored by the SF Peninsula Branch of the California Writers Club

Presents...

“Advanced Internet Research Skills Everyone Should Know”

with Geri Spieler

Novelist, Investigative Reporter, CWC-SFP Member

When: Thursday, February 13th 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Where: San Mateo Public Library, 55 W. Third Avenue

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 presentation, we'll introduce strategies from “Online Research Methods,” which will equip you with the skills and tools to prepare you to find accurate information and discern its reliability.

Geri Spieler's book, *Housewife Assassin–The Woman Who Tried to Kill President Ford* is the story of Sara Jane Moore, the only woman to shoot at a sitting US president. Spieler used her advanced investigative skills to get Washington to open the file on what really happened that day. Moore, a mother and doctor's wife who lived in Danville, missed Ford's head by 6 inches. Her investigative reporting has appeared in the LA Times, the SF Chronical and on Huffington Post and Truthdig.com. Spieler is a past-president of the SF Peninsula CWC branch.

PLEASE NOTE: This meeting is open to anyone. Membership in CWC is not required.

FOR MORE INFO: cwc-sfpeninsula.org Events Menu

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY

In Celebration of Black History Month

Paul Williams and Janet Cooke Wright

by Tish Davidson

Growing up, Paul Williams had what looked like a typical family—a sister, a brother, and two parents. But, the Williams children did not go to school. When Paul was nine years old, school officials came to his house and told his parents that their children must attend school. In three days, Paul's father sold their house and almost everything they owned, then moved the family to the Ozark mountains. According to Williams, his parents voluntarily chose a lifestyle of self-denial and hardship because of their religious beliefs.



From 1975 to 1981, Paul Williams lived with his parents and siblings in this secluded cabin in the Tennessee wilderness.

For the next 10 years, the family lived in a mountain cabin built around 1860 by slaves. It had no electricity, running water or telephone, and was so dilapidated that in the winter snow would sift into it. According to Williams, *“ice would form in my bed from my breath freezing under raggedy blankets. We made our own clothes and grew our own food, and we went without food at times due to crop failures until my bones showed through my gaunt body.”*

The Williams children were homeschooled by their father, a former Air Force captain. Paul greedily read every book he could get about science, although his father had a complete prohibition against all things computer related. So, when Williams left home at age 19, he struggled to fit in. He knew all about black holes, nuclear physics, and far away galaxies, but he had never seen a movie or a television show. Then, at age 30, he took an IQ test. His score changed his personal and professional life. A new belief in his abilities led him to follow his interest in computers. He became a computer scientist who discovered ways to test computer security and fight computer crime.

Contrast this with the life of Janet Cooke Wright. She and her sister Barbara grew up in a comfortable apartment in Harlem. When they were growing up in the 1920s, Harlem was an upper-middle class neighborhood and the center of black culture in New York. Jane's grandfather was a doctor. Her father was one of the first African Americans to graduate from Harvard Medical School. At the family dinner table, she met famous African Americans such as actor Paul Robeson, artist Romare Beardon, and civil rights activist W. E. B. DuBois.



In 1971, Dr. Jane Cooke Wright became the first woman to be elected president of the New York Cancer Society.

Jane attended exclusive private schools and graduated from mostly white Smith College, then went to New York Medical College and became a doctor. She planned to be a family physician, but worked for a while with her father doing cancer research. There she became fascinated with finding new ways to kill cancer cells. She never was a family doctor, but instead became a well-respected cancer researcher.

As we celebrate Black History Month, Paul Williams' and Jane Wright's lives remind us to celebrate curiosity, ability, and determination that transcend both race and class.

This information is from the introduction to Tish Davidson's book *African American Scientists and Inventors*.

INFO – Nation

WARNING:

Scammers Preying on Writers Is on the Rise

by Tish Davidson

There has been an uptick in scammers preying on self-published and aspiring writers. Most of these scams are based overseas leaving little recourse to writers who have been scammed and lost money. Before you sign anything or pay anyone money to publish your book, represent you to agents, publicize your book, or sign you to a contract, check **Scam Alerts** at authorsguild.org/resource/publishing-scam-alerts/ This site is maintained by the **Authors Guild**. The website is accessible to all, even if you're not a Guild member.

Writer Beware offers another list of publishing scammers at writerbeware.blog/scam-archive. Writer Beware also maintains a separate agent impersonation list. This is a particularly noxious form of scamming, because it hurts both the writer and legitimate literary agents. The list can be found here writerbeware.blog/2024/03/15/the-impersonation-list/

Remember: There are legitimate businesses that help writers self-publish, and there are legitimate public relations companies that will promote your book for a fee. But, if it sounds too good to be true, look before you leap, and your bank account will thank you.

Public Domain News for 2025

by Tish Davidson

Copyright provides protection for creatives, but it does not last forever. On January 1, 2025, many familiar books, plays, art, and music first published in 1929 lost copyright protection. This leaves authors free to quote from these **books** and use the **artwork** or **music** without permission of the publisher. Some of the works losing copyright in 2025 include William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*, Hemmingway's *A Farewell to Arms*, the character Popeye, musical compositions like *Singing' in the Rain* (but not the movie), Gershwin's *An American in Paris* and many art works. There are some caveats. Characters are only out of copyright as they were portrayed in 1929. Popeye, for example, can be portrayed with super strength, but you will have to wait until 1931 to use his super spinach eating. Other considerations include the fact that the work must be published, not just created, in 1929 to become copyright-free. Art works created in 1929 but not publicly exhibited (the equivalent of publishing art) are still protected. And many character names and some images continue to be protected by trademark laws even after they are out of copyright.

Yes, it's complicated, but a good resource on what works lost copyright protection in 2025 and the nuances of copyright law is available to from the **Duke University Law Center for the Study of Public Domain** at web.law.duke.edu/cspd/publicdomainday/2025/. Note that the information Duke Law provides is applicable only to versions of works copyrighted in the US. Even if you never plan to use any of the copyright-free material, the site is interesting reading and provides a wealth of information about copyright law.

If you do decide to use material that may or may not be copyrighted, make sure to do your due diligence. The last thing anyone wants to face is a lawsuit for copyright violation.

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 BOYS OF RIVERSIDE by Thomas Fuller ©2024

In 2022, the Cubs football team of the California School for the Deaf, Riverside (CSDR), with an enrollment of 128, fought its way to the championship of their eight-man football league in Southern California. They repeated the victory in the 2023 and 2024 seasons.

The author took a leave from his correspondent position with *The New York Times*, and for a year embedded himself in the lives of the up-and-coming deaf players and coaches of CSDR. His story shows how perseverance, practice, and shared membership in a group, gives team members the strength to overcome a myriad of challenges. Being part of a special group that experiences discrimination, provides unity and a sense of mission that bonds the Cubs and boosts their self-confidence.

The book is as instructive as it is inspiring. Creative play-by-play descriptions like, "...bounced off defenders like a pinball..." provides clear visualization of the games for novice football watchers. Readers can feel the excitement of the games. Even more important, readers learn about the stamina needed for the deaf to navigate interactions with the hearing-dominant world, too often oblivious to their existence.

Review by Evelyn LaTorre

***** READ MORE BOOKS ***** WRITE MORE REVIEWS *****

THE HEROINE'S JOURNEY by Gail Carriger, © 2020

The Hero's Journey: "Increasingly isolated protagonist stomps around prodding evil with pointy bits, eventually fatally prods baddie, gains glory and honor."

The Heroine's Journey: "Increasingly networked protagonist strides around with friends prodding them and others on to victory together."

The difference laid out in one pithy sentence each. Carriger gave a presentation on this subject and I felt I needed to read more about it. Before you men say, it's a female thing and dismiss it, it's not that. It is not a gender issue; it's a story arc. Wonder Woman (2017 movie) is a Hero's Journey; Harry Potter is a Heroine's Journey.

The first portion of her book, is written in short, quick, clearly laid out bits of information to lay the foundation. She goes back to mythology, and also gives gothic examples. I wasn't familiar with her particular choices, but she condenses the stories in a way that make sense. You don't have to have read them to understand her points.

Most of the way through the book, I could see how this would apply to Sci Fi, Fantasy, and YA Fiction, even Mysteries. But Romance? She tells me, "But as you're writing a Heroine's Journey (which you are if you write romance)..." which I am, so I kept reading. About three-fourths of the way through, I saw the connection. My own examples came from the 2009 rom-com movie, *The Proposal* and 2000's *Miss Congeniality*.

Then I recognized it in *News of the World*. Hero? Nope. He is involuntarily separated from his family, accepts a job to deliver a child, Johanna, to "family," manages through dangerous perils with the help of friends, acquaintances, and often Johanna, along the way to achieve his goal—not by delivering the child, but by forming a new "family." (The basic heroine's journey). As an aside, I recently watched the movie, *News of the World*. The book is SO much better, IMHO (in my humble opinion). If you have a chance, read it (reviewed in *Ink Spots*, Dec. 2021).

Reviewed by Joyce Cortez

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, Feb 15 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT

**"Writing with a Through-Line Plot
(or Storyline)"**

Don't miss this chance to elevate storytelling skills.

Saturday, Mar 15 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT

**"A Literary Agent Tells All: Join Industry
Insider, Agent and Author Jessica Berg"**

Learn about polishing that big idea, crafting compelling queries, and heading toward success.

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.

Register on Jane's website to receive a Zoom link.

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

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

Notes from the World

Narrative Magazine

Winter 2025 Story Contest

\$2,500 1st place – Deadline: March 31st

www.narrativemagazine.com/winter-2025-story-contest

For general submissions to the magazine:

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

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.

2025 TCK Publishing Poetry Awards Contest • Deadline: 6/30/2025

Prize: \$1,000 honorarium and publication on TCK Publishing website

TCK has various contests throughout the year and accepts 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

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

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.

Look forward to you joining us!

fanstory.com

Contests with cash prizes 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. \$12.95/month or \$155/year. Feedback on writing you post and almost daily contests that can be entered at no additional fee.

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: **angelicagabriellaallen.com**. Like her author Facebook page **@AngelicaG.Allen** and follow her on Instagram: **@AngelicaGAllen** where she posts a new poem in her Reels section every Wednesday!

● **Cherilyn Chin**

Cherilyn is a professional aquarist and marine biologist. For the past 12 years, she's maintained her award-winning blog, "**Ocean of Hope: Marine Animals Voice Their Wishes on Ocean Conservation Issues**," and has 8,500 followers on Twitter. She also writes children's fiction and non-fiction books about the ocean. She's a website developer, strategic content copywriter, and digital marketer at **Wordsmith for Wealth**.
<https://protecttheoceans.org/wordpress>; Twitter: **@protectoceans**; <https://wordsmithforwealth.com>

● **Terry Connelly**

Twice a week Terry posts her own writing ranging from essays, personal stories, poetry and short fiction. On her second blog she posts prompts twice a week, to help get you started. **tconnellyswritingposts.com** and **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>.

● **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>

***"Be strategic and resilient in the pursuit of your dreams.
That sounds like a cheesy quote, right? But nah,
I'm serious. Resilience is one hell of a quality
to master and not many have the skin for it."***

— Tiffany D. Jackson

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

Dear Bob...Love, Fame

Angelica G. Allen

The way she looked at me,
I knew she knew some things
The way Fame strangled me like that house arrest ankle ring
"I'm sorry baby, it just came over me,"
And took away my life my wife my everything

I prayed to be famous,
Now, I'm lost you see
At first, the money was so comforting
A.I. reciting to me like I wasn't just some
Poor, righteous thing

Looking back to find out it's too late, you see
Tomorrow is here, and an overdose is calling me
I'm young, a woman & colored
So, what will an Academy award do for me

Provide me my name this country enslaved me
But it's no longer the enemy haunting me,
But rather my peers who reflect my skin, and eyes, you see
My ex, (now that we're here) abandoned me
Said,



FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)



"Being verified changed me."
Little did they know,
The stream farm paid for it all,
You see.

My label bought the same hell that's strangling me
Perhaps, I should've never stopped playing at the church for free;

"Bobby, Bobby it's and a one and a two and a 1,2,3"

"Preacher, although you raped me, I feel The Industry took more from me"
My soul is gone, and the music no longer breathes for me

Neither does the women laying besides me resting on pillows of money while my birth family
lives under public housing

"It's their fault, they betrayed me,"
"Yes Bobby, now take this fentanyl, you have not slept for years upon weeks."

"Okay, Miss World, but why did you lie to me,
you promised my craft would save, would save, would save my..."

"No, I only said you'd never die,
I promised immortality."



Clean Passive Racism

Angelica G. Allen

We biked around without Father Figures,
Grew up only to get fired from every job,
 You get the picture
What is worse than getting lynched on Facebook Live
 After being called Migger?
Being fed dreams when only
 Nightmares come true,
Like receiving unemployment after bills are passed due.
Graduating with a PhD only to have HR taunt me...
 "Explain your employment history
 And how you got all these degrees in front of me."
 "I see they are Official,
 But I still need you to
 Explain to me
 How you,
 A Migger
 A woman
 Un-wed
 Denied EBT
Have accomplished such
 things?"
 "I mean, it's written here,
 You're in another
 Master's Program



FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)



For Aerospace Engineering,
Wrote 6 books
And are becoming a
Marine?"

"Yes,
I had my transcripts
Sent to you directly?"

"I know but how'd you
Accomplish such things?"

*LOOK, you're only offering \$23.50 hourly,
~~STOP~~ Why the interrogating?*

*THIS is not NASA,
But if you need to know,
My undergrad was paid by
FAFSA*

And yes, it was hard living in a
Single-parent home
And being single at my age
Yes, I do feel alone

But
MY CREDENTIALS (CLEARLY) STATE
I AM (OVER) QUALIFIED
FOR THIS ROLE



FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)



Are you looking at that
And my years of experience that
Relates to this position?

Or are you staring at
My skin color
And my gender
And my class
And my zip code

This passive-racism is on
Overload



***“There is
no greater agony
than bearing
an untold story
inside you.”***

— Maya Angelou

***“Hold fast to dreams,
for if dreams die,
life is broken—
winged bird
that cannot fly.”***

— Langston Hughes

FAW Board Members



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BOB GARFINKLE
Founding President

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

BOARD MEETINGS

**Date and Time: On ZOOM at
4 PM the Monday before the
Fourth Saturday
General Membership Meeting**

FAW Chairpeople



CHERILYN CHIN
CWC Advertising
& Promotions



SCOTT DAVIDSON
Zoom Manager
Webmaster



TISH DAVIDSON
Social Write-In Host
Speakers Program & Publicity



BOB GARFINKLE
Historian



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FAW MISSION STATEMENT

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