

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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. 5 No. 1 January 2026

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



Visual Prompt

Photograph by MP Smith

January General Meeting

*** January 24th * 2 to 4 PM * ZOOM * FREE ***

Lessons Learned from Self-Publishing (& more):

My First Book about The Olympics

with Guest Speaker

Myles Garcia

When you're ready to see your manuscript in print, you'll discover there's more than one way to publish a book. January's speaker made the decision to self-publish rather than seek a contract with a traditional publisher. As with any writing experience one undertakes, our speaker learned some lessons along the way and will be sharing these with us at our General Meeting on Saturday the 24th.

Self-publishing, also known as "vanity publications" or POD – Publish on Demand, requires the author to take on the responsibilities that a traditional publisher would normally handle. Basically, the author is flying solo...simultaneously scary and rewarding!

Seventeen years ago, while recovering from a Stage 4 diagnosis, FAW member, Myles Garcia decided to self-publish his book. Had he seen this book in a store, he would have bought it—regardless of the price. But such a book was not available at the time. Undeterred, Myles began his self-publication journey and took on the topic himself.

An Olympics historian, he had gathered enough material on the subject—**Secrets of the Olympic Ceremonies**—for a book. He explores how those multi-million-dollar live stadium spectacles, which exist for one night only, are put together. Though fleeting, these events can have the budget of certain small countries' GDPs, just to welcome in the quadrennial spectacle called The Olympic Games.

With a background in word processing and desktop publishing, Myles was confident he could produce a visually compelling product with lots of juicy gossip and behind-the-scenes stories on the subject. He will share with us the lessons he learned producing a complex, 4-color book with over 150 images.

In addition to prose, Myles also writes plays. If time permits, he will share some of his adventures with this genre, as well.

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!





Scott Davidson
FAW President

and of course *Ink Spots*. We try not to flood you with contest information and the like. No one has asked to be notified of new postings on the Contest page, so we guess that those who are interested can find out about them online or in *Ink Spots*.

We also asked about other activities FAW might sponsor. The two highest scoring responses were an open-mic session and critique groups. We had an open-mic activity at the Starbucks in Newark before Covid. The few I went to were great. If someone who wants to see this return, and will volunteer to run it, let me know. I have the microphones, amps and speakers in my garage. You are welcome to them. All you need to do is to find a free venue to host us. Any takers?

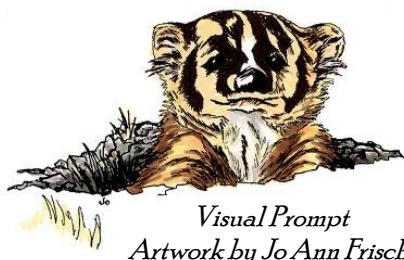
Ditto for a new critique group. That's even easier. I volunteer to start participants on Zoom and then leave. Do you want to be the organizer? Send me the draft of an email looking for critique group members, and I'll send it out, put it on our website, and post it on Meetup which might draw in nonmembers. That would be great.

We also received great feedback on topics for future speakers, but we'll go over that later. I've gone on long enough already.

So, here's to a great 2026. See you at the January Write-in, the January General Meeting, and the January Salon.

Keep writing and thinking,

Scott



Visual Prompt
Artwork by Jo Ann Frisch

President's Message

Welcome to the New Year. I hope you had a good holiday and got and gave great presents. We're busy preparing the next year of FAW activities, helped by the results of the survey sent out last month.

Thanks to those who returned it. We got seventeen responses, over 1/3 of our members—that's very good for surveys of this kind. I'll show some of the results at the January meeting, but here are a few highlights.

We asked how we're doing in communicating with you, and we had unanimous response that we were communicating the right amount. I was shocked. Usually someone is unhappy. We try to make sure everyone gets information about meetings and important events,



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A Word from Our Editor



Nancy Guarnera
Editor *Ink Spots*

Welcome to our January 2026 issue. We hope you enjoy it!

Happy New Year! Hope all your intentions manifest this year and that some of those include putting time and effort into your writing.

Of late, I've been thinking about words, and vocabulary (*def. - a list or collection of words, or of words and phrases, usually alphabetically arranged and explained or defined: Merriam-Webster*).

Boomers are familiar with vocabulary words. We had vocabulary assignments in almost every grade. I remember having a quiz every week on those words. We had to know how to spell them, define them, and use them in a sentence. As we got older, the words got harder. The more we read, the better our vocabulary got. Perhaps those of us who excelled at vocabulary and reading were future writers in the making; especially if we got encouragement along the way.

Here's something I found on the internet recently. (*Personal note: I don't trust the internet anymore. Too much AI making things up or dipping into information pools that are just incorrect. Even sources that I once used, and thought were reasonably "clean," like federal government sites, are now suspect.*) So, this piece of info may not be accurate...proceed at your own risk. Or do some research of your own.

There is some disagreement about the quantity of vocabulary words Shakespeare was working with, and given the disagreement about who he was, commoner or aristocrat, that incongruity may explain the variation. Some sources say his works contain over 17,000 different words, but that his active vocabulary contained 21,000 to 30,000+ words. According to one website, today's modern-day adult has an average vocabulary estimated at 10,000 words (though I did see higher numbers for this...an AI hallucination perhaps?). Are we still teaching vocabulary in school?

It is estimated that 1,700 of the 17,000 words and phrases he used were introduced to the English language by the Bard. Many have transcended time: 'dead as a doornail,' 'the game's afoot,' 'mind's eye,' 'fancy-free,' 'tell-tale,' 'endanger,' and 'gloomy.' Compound words, suffixes and prefixes. Thank you, Shakespeare, whoever you were. I'm not sure I could live without 'fancy-free'!

Speaking of words... Just like Time magazine has a person of the year, the Pantone Color Matching System — used to maintain international consistency of color for printed materials—has a Color of the Year for 2026. The name...Cloud Dancer (11-4201). Basically... a version of white. Apparently, it *'symbolizes a calming influence in a society rediscovering the value of quiet reflection.'* For sure, we could all use a bit of calm and quiet reflection right now. But white...really?

I consult Merriam-Webster when I need a word or a definition. I recently discovered that M-W has a word for the day (great for improving your vocabulary) and a Word for the Year, as well. M-W's Word for 2025 is 'SLOP.' After discovering this, I spoke with a friend of mine who was raised in rural Oklahoma. They fed 'slop' to the hogs. Potato peels, apple cores, and such, all went into the slop bucket. Most of us know that usage. But, wait... 'slop' has a new meaning now. Welcome to the 21st century! Slop's new meaning: *"digital content of low quality that is produced usually in quantity by means of artificial intelligence. This term reflects the overwhelming presence of low-quality AI-generated content in our digital lives."*

The internet has gone from a tool for finding information that we could generally trust...to a "sloppy mess." Users, beware!

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY ISSUE

Deadline is January 10th for the February issue. If you need more time please email me and we'll discuss an extension!
inkspots@cwc-fremontareawriters.org

For complete submission guidelines check the Newsletter menu on the FAW website and click on "Guidelines [here](#)".

FAW – January Meetings

Fremont Area Writers “Fourth Saturday” General Mtg on Zoom

Saturday January 24th 2:00 – 4:00 PM

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

Speaker: Myles Garcia Writer, Olympics historian, Dramatist (p.2)

For details on Zooming, contact Scott Davidson at

scottfrombayside@yahoo.com

Fremont Area Writers “Tuesday before 4th Saturday” Board Meeting on Zoom

Tuesday January 20th 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 – January Meetings

Fremont Area Writers **“Second Saturday”**

Social Write-In on Zoom

Saturday January 10th 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 26th 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@cwc-fremontareawriters.org, or submit it through the **Shout Out for Ink Spots** link at cwc-fremontareawriters.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 — Shout Out — Your Name** in the Subject field of your email to us. If you don't, your email may get lost in the mail. Thanks!

KUDOS to Tish Davidson whose book, *Hormones, Your Questions Answered*, originally published in hardback by Bloomsbury in 2022, has been re-issued in paperback. Bloomsbury has also signed Tish to a contract to produce an updated edition of *The Vaccine Debate*. The first edition, published in 2021, was the best-selling academic book in the microbiology category. **Congratulations, Tish!**

KUDOS to Scott Davidson who is again judging the Next Generation Indie Book Awards, for the categories of Humor and Science Fiction Set on Earth. The first shipment consists of 20 humor books and 39 science fiction books. **Congratulations, Scott!**

"The road to hell is paved with adverbs."
— Stephen King

Welcome! **New FAW Members**

Here are the names of our new FAW members who have joined our branch during recent months. Please welcome them when you have the opportunity. Let them know we are pleased that they have chosen to join us. **We are "writers helping writers."**

Maren Alexandrov – *Short Stories*

Leticia Bradford – *Poetry, Short Stories, Plays, Blogs, Book Reviews*

Marcia Ehringer – *Fiction, Poetry, Medical Genetics Articles*

Lee Bryan – *Fiction, Lyrical Fabulism, Children's Fairy Tales, Fables, Screenplays*

Kenneth Reed – *Historical Fiction, Biography, Children's Stories*
(under pen name Ken Yoder Reed)

Catalina Sanders – *Self-Help*

Venkatesh Walajabad – *Fiction*

FAW & CWC Information

— PLEASE READ —

**Mark Your
Calendar**

You're Invited to...

Fremont Area Writers Social Luncheon
Wednesday January 14th at 11:30 am
Andersen's Bakery in Union City

Details will be e-mailed to members.

Feel free to bring a guest.

FAW Needs You *Help Wanted* FAW Needs You

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

CWC & NorCal Representatives Wanted

We are looking for a California Writers Club Representative and a NorCal (Northern California Branches) Representative. Evelyn LaTorre has held both these positions for a number of years and is planning to step down as soon as we've found replacements. For more information about these positions, contact Evelyn at elatorre@aol.com.

You can also contact Scott Davidson at scottfrombayside@yahoo.com.

Hospitality Chair

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

Service Coordinator

finds & assigns helpers to assist FAW committee heads

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.

FAW & CWC Information

2026 FAW GENERAL MEETINGS TOPICS & SPEAKERS

JANUARY 24TH 2-4PM ZOOM

**“Lessons Learned from Self-Publishing:
My First Book about the Olympics”**

Myles Garcia, Writer, Olympics historian, Dramatist, FAW Member



**All General Meetings are on the 4TH SATURDAY of the month
(no meetings in July & December).**

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 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!



**CWC – South Bay Writers present —
The Sound of Story Workshop — w/ Jordan Rosenfeld**

Award-winning author and editor

Saturday, January 24, 10 am – 3 pm • Empire Firehouse, Kelley Park, San Jose
(1650 Senter Rd) Phelan Street parking lot – carpooling encouraged

Jordan Rosenfeld will explore rhythm, energy, attitude, and more to create a unique fingerprint for your characters. Learn tools and techniques to craft compelling stories.

Lunch & Book: ***The Sound of Story*** (list: \$22) included in the workshop fee
RSVP: amandasenior86@gmail.com for lunch choices

For more info on tickets & to register go to:
<https://southbaywriters.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Workshop-flyer.pdf>

\$\$\$ CONTESTS \$\$\$

NARRATIVE MAGAZINE

For general submissions to the magazine:

www.narrativemagazine.com/submit-your-work

Winter 2026 Story Contest

Fiction & Non-fiction / 1st Prize: \$2,500 / Deadline: March 31st

<https://www.narrativemagazine.com/winter-2026-story-contest>

Story of the Week

www.narrativemagazine.com/story-week-guidelines

Six-Word Stories

www.narrativemagazine.com/sixwords

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 our clients earn a full-time income from book royalties.

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>

\$\$\$ CONTESTS \$\$\$

**The Wolfe Pack &
Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine**

Proudly Announce

Our Twentieth Annual

Black Orchid Novella Award Contest



Portrait of Nero Wolfe by Kevin I. Gordon

Does your sleuth measure up to this master?

We are looking for original works of fiction in the traditional deductive style exemplified by Rex Stout's Nero Wolfe. Your entry must:

- Contain no overt sex or violence
- Emphasize the ratiocinative skills of the sleuth
- Not include characters from the Nero Wolfe series

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, 2026. The winner will be announced at The Wolfe Pack's Annual Black Orchid Banquet in New York City on December 5, 2026.

Please visit www.nerowolfe.org for official rules, procedures and guidelines.

For questions, contact Jane K. Cleland, Chair of the BONA contest, at
Jane@janecleland.com.

*If no acceptable candidates are received, AHMM and The Wolfe Pack reserve the right to declare no winner for any given year.

\$\$\$ CONTESTS \$\$\$

Tom Howard / John H. Reid Fiction & Essay Contest

TOTAL PRIZES: \$12,000 1st prize each Story and Essay \$3,500

SUBMISSION PERIOD: October 15, 2025 – May 1, 2026

GENRE: All styles & themes – fiction and nonfiction

SUBMISSION FEE: \$ 25 per submission • unlimited number of entries • Length: 6K words max

SUBMIT TO: winningwriters.com/our-contests/tom-howard-john-h-reid-fiction-essay-contest



WERGLE FLOMP Humor Poetry Contest

DEADLINE: April 1st (now accepting submissions)

GENRE: Humorous Poetry (published or unpublished)

NO FEE!

PRIZES: \$3,750 in prizes

INFO & SUBMIT TO: winningwriters.com/our-contests/wergle-flomp-humor-poetry-contest-free



**V P
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A P
L T**

Photograph by MP Smith

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.)

By Any Other Name

by Jodi Picoult © 2025

"There once was a girl who became invisible so that her words might not be."

A two-in-one story, two women over four centuries apart. Both are playwrights with the same challenge—how to get published in a white-male-dominated publishing industry. Their stories are interwoven as each woman conjures ways to achieve her goal.

After losing a spot in the Samuel French Off-Off Broadway Short Play Festival she was expected to win, one protagonist, Melinda, of this century, challenges the judge, a renowned theater critic, and blows any chance of acceptance in the industry. Her best friend finds another way.

Emilia, of the 16th century, privately writes poems and plays. She can never see her plays performed...for she is a woman. She pays an actor named Willliam Shakespeare to front her work.

That Shakespeare may not have written his plays (*anti-Stratfordians*) was introduced to Picoult in college, in passing. In her own research, she found records of various sorts about the acclaimed playwright. She didn't find any records (*none*) that he was an author. Based on Picoult's research, she introduces us to Emilia Bessano, a real woman of the day, with attributes needed to write many of his plays. Emilia Bessano also published the first book of poetry by a woman. Other scholars submit other names as possible authors of Shakespeare's plays. Picoult separates fact from fiction in her Author's Notes and shows how she came to her conclusions.

This is the best book I read in 2025. Picoult masterfully brings Bassano to life while showing current-day struggles of underrepresented voices (*not just women*). A romance for the ages that some may consider pure fiction. Keep the Kleenex box handy for the ending.

Review by Joyce Cortez

Murder at Balmoral

by Chris McGeorge © 2022

Castle staff have been released for Christmas, leaving the royal family to their own devices for the day. Per the king's request, all electronic gadgets have been confiscated. Upgraded security at the castle requires a code to get in or out, and only Tony Speck, the security man, knows the code.

Jon, the chef, is the only staff remaining, and his job is to fix the Christmas feast. A blizzard rages outside, but Speck insists on surveying the grounds outside.

Jon has been a loyal friend to the king. He serves the king's favorite whiskey to the family for a toast. King Eric lifts the glass to his lips and takes a deep drink. Within minutes, the king is dead. The whiskey is the most likely culprit, but who poisoned it? In the absence of Speck, who doesn't respond on the walkie-talkie, Jon is elected detective by the family to discern who the murderer is. The key suspects are all family members.

A royal murder mystery. You will never guess who's responsible!

Review 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](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 24 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT

"From Investigative Reporter to Best-selling Novelist: w/ Hank Phillipi Ryan "

Gain powerful tools to elevate your storytelling craft from an award-winning journalist and novelist.

Saturday, Feb 21 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT

"The World in a Word: Writing Descriptions that Bring Your Stories to Life"

Breathe life into your descriptions; imbuing every scene with tangible precision and imagination!

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

* 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!

Free Talks 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, LBGTQ+ 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!

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!

GENRE WEBSITES

Sisters in Crime sistersincrime.org (*also open to men*)

Mystery Writers of America mysterywriters.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

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://oceanofofhope.net>; Twitter: **@protectoceans**; <https://wordsmithforwealth.com>

● **Terry Connolly**

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.wordpress.com) [http://davemstrom.weebly.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 one common thread in all of the books that are falling apart on my shelf? Characters—flawed ones with desires and needs who spend most of the story tripping over their weaknesses in an effort to get what they want."

— Becca Puglisi

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

Beach Town in Winter

I stayed, but they left;
left with their phone holsters and big black cars,
left with kids in the back seats, buckled up with stacks of bright
terrycloth towels, deflated beach balls
and baskets of Brie, prosciutto, baguettes, and cabernet;
left, heading east in a large, metallic caterpillar's crawl,
winding back to their bridges and hedges, curbs and football schedules,
left their tired white summer cottages
wind-worn, salt-scratched, boarded-up and bare
overlooking the weathered solitude of darkening beaches.

They left them alone to the wind, to the drifters
and pelicans, to the migrant workers cleaning up
strawberry patches and staking out the cabbages,
to the chowder houses, the boarded-up ice cream parlors,
the lonely book houses, the just-graduated garage boys
and to me, and I..... remain.

The town is calm and loose again, pressing her face to the great ocean,
drinking its sad white milk,
bracing her angry stone shoulders,
and shaking her dark cypress hair.
And there, at her feet I'll take winter,
take the unpainted fences and the lonely gulls,
take the panting, angry ocean, the swelling green coves,
the salt-flinging waves and the endless shrieking harangue
that screams "Epic, epic, epic" against a tone-deaf continent.
I'll take winter.

Tony Pino

New Years in America: Rose's Story

by Richard McCallum

I can only imagine the delight and hidden anxieties bubbling deep inside my Irish great-grandmother's thoughts when the Statue of Liberty passed and her ship, the SS Nebraska, anchored in New York Harbor in the summer of 1895. Rose could not share her feelings with her husband, Patrick, as he jumped ship a year earlier and waited in Manhattan for her and her six children. Six children! She moved them from her hometown in Ballyshannon, Ireland; up to Moville, where they boarded the dilapidated, part sail-part coal powered transport. Do not picture the "Titanic!" She left behind her close-knit farming family, and relatives, and two or three possible children who did not live long enough to join the migration.

The children, my grandfather, Edward, being the oldest, at fourteen, most likely raced all over the ship in excitement. Small in stature, I project Rose stood on the foredeck in a sheltered area where she could tend to the needs of her youngest, five-year-old Michael. Positioned like the Sun in the middle of our universe; the children spun in erratic orbits around-and-around her.

Hopefully, Edward Joseph could lead information gathering missions to find out exactly how, when, and where, they would disembark for Ellis Island. How they would stay together during the process, and what preparations they needed for the long wait in line. Would they all pass through? What if the child's cough, running nose, was determined to be the flu? Would they all be sent back? How would they communicate with Patrick? Should they tell the authorities they were to meet up with her husband, their father, when he was in the country illegally?

How do you get fed on Ellis Island, bathroom breaks, baby naps? How long will they be in line? What happens after they pass through? Ferried over to the city? Will they be able to find Patrick? No phones, no email, no text messaging, NO COMMUNICATION AT ALL!

Edward Joseph would prove to be an entrepreneur. Was he excited at the unknown opportunities hidden behind the silhouette of this great city? He heard rumors of discrimination against the Irish. Ballyshannon was a quiet, small farming/fishing village. What chance did he have to make a career in the hustle and bustle of this crowded city? His father spoke of a job at a coal plant; perhaps owned by a distant relative. Edward's knowledge of the coal industry did not inspire him, but he would take on whatever job was available. Patrick, Sr. had worked as a purser on the passenger shipping lines for years; what did he know of coal; sold to heat homes and businesses?

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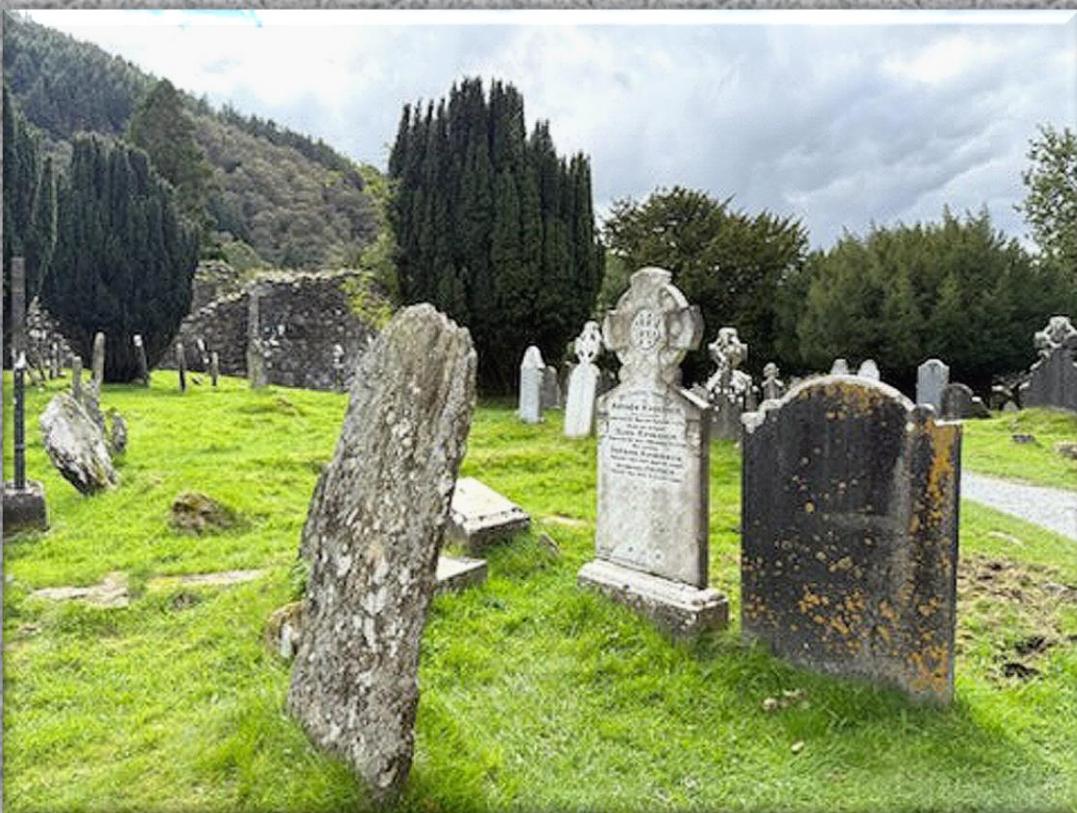
FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER *(Continued)*

(continued from previous page)

The family processed through Ellis Island! Hooray! They found Patrick waiting for them on the docks. Thank God! They settled into their tenant complex, with fire escape ladders, and laundry lines connecting their building to the ones across the alley, close to Bellevue Hospital. What fun to race down the stairs and burst out onto the street amid butcher shops, laundries, bakeries, and grocery shops. Horse-drawn taxis cluttered the street and the air smelled of horse dung. Vendors hawked their wares from wagons. The neighborhood, (crowded with Irish and massive amounts of young children; this was Hell's kitchen) included persons of all colors, and languages, and they flowed by in a great river of commerce.

Eventually, the family would lead the development of emerging technologies; the boys started an auto-taxi business; and Edward Joseph founded a successful electrical machinery company: EverReady Electrical. Today, Edward's descendants are running a successful electrical repair business and a hydro-electric dam. The Rolfe family descendants put on the NYC Times Square fireworks display every New Years! Celebrating our family heritage to the Empire City.

Visual Prompt



Photograph by MP Smith

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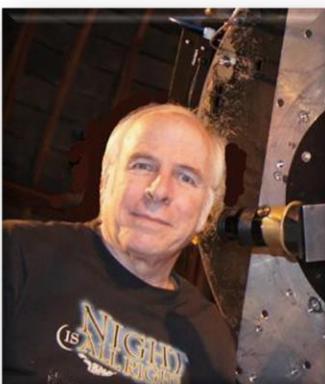
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Date and Time: On ZOOM at
4 PM the Tuesday before the
Fourth Saturday
FAW General Meeting

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FAW PURPOSE 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]
Monthly public meetings, workshops, and seminars open to all writers and the general public
to facilitate educating writers of all levels of expertise. (*Article II: PURPOSE Section1: 1.1 and 1.2 FAW Bylaws*)