

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH



Ink Spots



The Newsletter of Fremont Area Writers

The "Centennial" Branch of the California Writers Club

Nancy Guarnera – Editor-in-Chief

inkspots@cw-c-fremontareawriters.org

Vol. 5 No. 4 April 2026

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



Visual Prompt

Photograph by Maren Madalyn

Please Note:
3rd
Saturday

April General Meeting

* April 18th * 2 to 4 PM * ZOOM * FREE *

“UNLOCKING” Your Memoir When You’re Stuck

Presented by

GRACE LOH PRASAD



Photograph by JD Beltran

We humans love telling stories. Before writing, we told each other stories around the fire. We recounted our adventures of the day...how the hunt went, finding a new edible plant, the birth of a baby. Our elders shared their wisdom. We still share our stories, but many of us use Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, or texts. Sometimes our stories are reduced to a series of emojis (grunts & hand gestures?)!

Those of us who’ve had an interesting life, and have learned a few things along the way, may decide to put our adventures and insights in writing to share them with our family and friends...and maybe the world. We call this memoir.

Writing about one’s life experiences can be cathartic, painful, revelatory, and challenging. Getting our story onto the page can be daunting. If you’re stuck, memoirist Grace Loh Prasad would like very much to share some techniques to help you get unstuck. Join us for this **FREE** Zoom meeting and learn how to “unlock” your personal stories.

Grace Loh Prasad’s memoir, *The Translator’s Daughter*, was published in March 2024 and is a finalist for the Northern California Book Award in Creative Nonfiction, the Louise Meriwether First Book Prize, and the Black Lawrence Press Immigrant Writing Series. *The Translator’s Daughter* is about navigating linguistic, cultural, political, and generational barriers as a Taiwanese American immigrant trying to build a connection with her birthplace. She writes frequently of diaspora and belonging, and has been published in *The New York Times*, *Guernica*, *Oldster Magazine*, *Asian American Book Club*, *Washington Square Review*, *Artsy*, *KHÔRA*, and *Cha: An Asian Literary Journal*, to name just a few of many. She is a contributor to the anthologies *Six Words Fresh Off the Boat: Stories of Immigration, Identity and Coming to America* and *Ms. Aligned 3*; and the editor of *Citizenship And Its Discontents*, a folio of BIPOC writers in *ANOMALY*.

Grace received her MFA in Creative Writing from Mills College, and has attended workshops at Tin House and VONA, and residencies at Hedgebrook and Ragdale. She is a member of The Writers Grotto and Seventeen Syllables, an Asian American Pacific Islander writers collective. Find out more at translatorsdaughter.com.

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

President's Message

April starts with April Fools' Day. No April Fools here, since I'm writing it way before April 1, and you are likely reading it after April 1. I do like April Fools. During the tech bubble I worked at Sun Microsystems in Menlo Park, where Meta is now. There was an April Fools tradition, with budget. Someone transformed the office of CEO Scott McNealy, a golf fan, into a golf course, complete with sand trap. One executive who liked to scuba dive found his office moved into an aquarium in San Francisco. And several execs found cars had been moved into their offices.

Back then people, though busy, had time for fun. Today work seems to come for us wherever we are. Even those of us who don't work

traditionally are busy. It is not surprising. The number of calls on our time has exploded, from more books to read, more television to watch, and more charities and clubs asking for help. The number of hours in the day has not expanded to match. Someone should do something about that.

This affects FAW. We need volunteers to drive activities for our members. We're lucky to get Stephen Yuen as our new Membership Chair. Again, thanks! He's replacing Anita Tosh, who did it for as long as I remember, and Terry Tosh who helped her after his term as president. We appreciate all that work which has gotten our membership to our current levels.

But there are other things we'd like to do which no one has time for. Open Mic, which was held in the Newark Starbucks pre-Covid, was popular, but we need someone to run it. There is interest in new critique groups. Want to start one? Anyone with ideas is welcome to attend FAW board meetings, which are held at 4 pm on the Tuesday before the General Meeting. Just ask me for the Zoom link. (Reminder: General Meeting is on the 3rd Saturday, 4/18, this month at 2:00pm.)

We're lucky to have so many volunteers already, but we can use more. Some CWC branches are having trouble getting enough volunteers to cover primary Board positions. We don't have to worry about that, at least.

But there is one more thing that everyone can do which takes no time. Invite someone you know who is interested in writing to a meeting. It is free, it is educational and interesting, and the more the merrier.



Visual Prompt
Artwork by Jo Ann Frisch

Scott



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A Word from Our Editor



Nancy Guarnera
Editor *Ink Spots*

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

April brings us an abundance of opportunities to share our writing. There are contests galore to enter, chances to submit your work for publication, and open mics. The FCAC Flash Fiction Contest at Half Price Books in Fremont is this month, and FAW is taking part in the Hayward Lit Hop for the first time this April. (*Mark your calendar! FAW's General Meeting will be held on the 3rd Saturday, so we can participate in the Lit Hop on the 25th.*) Everything you need to know about how to take advantage of these opportunities is right here in black & white and color.

Many of our writers submitted their poetry for this issue celebrating National Poetry Month: there are poems, haiku and award-winning limericks for your delectation. In addition, part 2 of Maren Madalyn's serialized story, "A Thousand Lives Over" is continued, and an April Fools piece by Richard E. McCallum is here as well. We hope you enjoy their work and will consider submitting some of your own to an up-coming issue.

I recently had an experience that required me to be patient, observant and quiet. And to sit in the same place for an extended length of time as I focused my attention in a very limited depth of field. I know, it sounds like I was writing ...but no, not writing. Working on the newsletter...nope, not that either. No... I was a captive of nature. One of my favorite diversions, I confess! I will willingly sacrifice almost anything to commune with the natural world.

On July 4th of 2024, my husband and I moved into a second-floor apartment in a senior community in Pleasanton. The 'complex' has courtyards with open walkways on each floor which look out over the enclosure. Just outside our door is a scraggly Japanese maple. Next to it is a robust and lush companion. I'm not sure why, but hummingbirds built a nest in the Charlie Brown tree, right at eye level from our walkway.

By the time we located the nest, there were two babies tucked in tight. For the next several days, I was practically glued to that spot. My husband had to pull me away for food and when it was too dark to see them. I had become a hummingbird addict. I started by taking some photos and then remembered my phone has a video camera! I now have hours of footage of the babies. Most of the time they just sit waiting for mom to come with food. When the action was slow, I sang to them and talked to them. I imagined that they understood some of what I was saying.

Someday I'll make a short film about these two plucky little birds and their devoted mom. I have footage of her feeding each of them; jostling for position in the nest; yawning; stretching their wings; preening to get rid of their baby feathers to allow their mature feathers to come in; wing humming lessons—learning to fly; and lift off. It was fascinating. Now and then, other residents would come and visit for a while.

These tiny birds got noticeably bigger each day. After just a few days, I went out for a visit, and one was gone. It was the larger of the two. After that I, focused on the one that remained. It too finally left the nest. Mom had finally coaxed it out. She and her daughter were still flight training in the court yard. I'm not 100% sure, but I think they are Anna's hummingbirds. It's been a few days, but when I got home today from a PT appointment, there was a hummingbird sitting in the scraggly tree, as if it was waiting for me. I said "Hi!" and it didn't fly away. I'd like to think it came for a visit. Friends for life, perhaps? Certainly, grist for a story. (*See photos on p.27.*)

Just a quick reminder—We celebrate Mother's Day in May. Please consider submitting on this or any subject, for publication in May's *Ink Spots*. Deadline for all submissions is April 10th. If you need more time shoot for April 15th. If you need more time beyond that, please email inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org and let me know, and we can negotiate for more time.

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

Please submit all submissions as attachments • Use a separate email for each type of submission

Send all submissions to: inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org

Make sure your name is on each piece you are submitting, not just in your email

WORD doc or docx 12pt Cambria for written work • JPEGs for artwork & photos (300 dpi)

If you'd like a full set of guidelines, email inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org and request it.

FAW – April Meetings

Fremont Area Writers “Third Saturday”

General Mtg on Zoom

Third Saturday April 18th 2:00 – 4:00 PM

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

*Speaker: Grace Loh Prasad Memoirist (p.2)
www.translatorsdaughter.com*

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

Fremont Area Writers “Tuesday before 4th Saturday”

Board Meeting on Zoom

Tuesday April 21st 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 – April Meetings

Fremont Area Writers

“Second Saturday”

Social Write-In on Zoom

Saturday April 11th 2:00 – 3:30 PM

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

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

Fremont Area Writers

“Fourth Monday”

Writers’ Salon on Zoom

Monday April 27th 7:00 – 9:00 PM

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

*For details on Zooming, contact Tony Pino
up.dragonfly.com@gmail.com or 510-745-0761*

FAW 2026 Speakers

2026 FAW GENERAL MEETINGS TOPICS & SPEAKERS

MARCH 28TH 2-4 PM ZOOM

Workshop: Using Poetry for Healing

Adrienne Danyelle Oliver *Poet, Writing Coach*
www.adriennedanyelle.com

APRIL 18TH (3rd Saturday) 2-4 PM ZOOM

"Unlocking" Your Memoir When You're Stuck

Grace Loh Prasad *Memoirist*
www.translatorsdaughter.com

MAY 23RD 2-4 PM ZOOM

Writing Family Secrets

Lisa Montanaro *Author*
www.LisaMontanaroWrites.com

JUNE 27TH 2-4 PM ZOOM

Writing Comedy or Writing Comedy into Fiction

Brian Copeland *Author, Comedian*
www.briancopeland.com

July — No General Meeting

FAW PICNIC

Date, Time & Place TBD

AUGUST 22ND 2-4 PM ZOOM

Writing Flash Fiction

Robert Seigel *Writer, Teacher*
www.robertanthonyseigel.com/writing

SEPTEMBER 26TH 2-4 PM ZOOM

Anatomy of a Short Story

Margaret (Peggy) Lucke *Writer, Editor, Teacher*
www.margaretlucke.com

OCTOBER 24TH 2-4 PM ZOOM

The Art of Revision and Self-Editing

Katherine Sherbrook *Writer*
www.kasherbrook.com

NOVEMBER 28TH 2-4 PM ZOOM

Practical Tools for Writing Layered Stories, Not Stereotypes

Angela Álvarez Vélez *Writer, Teacher*
www.angelaalvarezvelez.com

December — No General Meeting

FAW HOLIDAY PARTY

Date, Time & Place TBD



General Meetings are on the 4TH SATURDAY of the month

(April is an exception this year — see above.) (No general meetings in July & December.)

All FAW members receive links to FAW meetings. Non-members can email scottfrombayside@yahoo.com to receive a link. Put "ZOOM LINK" in the Subject line.

You will receive the link the week before the meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: While not required...if a topic is of interest to you, consider checking out the speaker's website, before the meeting. There may be gold waiting for you there!

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!

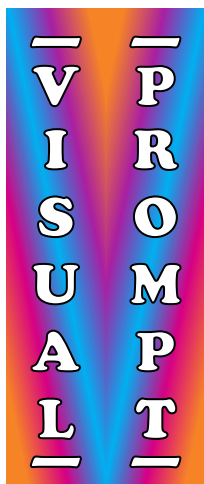
KUDOS to Cherilyn Chin whose early reader chapter book series *Lily Lu to the Rescue* has been honored with a Blueberry award for children's nature books. The last 4 books of the series came out in January 2026. **Congratulations, Cherilyn!**

KUDOS to Pat Doyne who has two pieces in the Hayward Area Historical Society's exhibit, "Celebrating Hayward's 150th Anniversary." One is a framed poem, "Hayward Neighborhood," (which is published in Ca Poet Laureate Lee Herrick's online anthology *My California*) and a colored pencil work "Serendipi-Trees: Finds from Neighborhood Walks." The show runs from March 11 to June 13. HAHS is open to the public on weekdays. It's located on Foothill between A Street & Russell. Enter from the parking lot in the rear, and take the elevator to the 2nd floor.

Two of Pat's entries were prize-winners in the Pen Women Limerick contest: "Wilde-Beastuary" won first prize, and "Harp Hazards" won third. **Congratulations, Pat!**

KUDOS to Evelyn LaTorre will present her memoir, *Between Inca Walls*, at a Meet-The-Author session on Saturday, April 25th at the DKG International Educators North Regional Conference in Sacramento. The DKG promotional description reads, "Evelyn takes the reader from her sheltered upbringing in a small town in Montana to California, Mexico, and then Peru. In this memoir Evelyn explores life and love with a helping of purpose and adventure during her two years in Peru working with the Peace Corps and beyond." **Congratulations, Evelyn!**

KUDOS to Rose Owens whose essay, "The Day We Become Silent," has been accepted for publication in *Havik*. **Congratulations, Rose!**



Photograph by JoAnn Frisch

FAW & CWC Information

— PLEASE READ —

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR

You're Invited to...

Fremont Area Writers Social Luncheon

Thursday April 9th at 11:30 pm

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 volunteers
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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

— PLEASE READ —

Fremont Area Writers is moving its April 25th General Meeting to April 18th — from the 4th Saturday to the 3rd Saturday.

The meeting time will remain the same: 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

The meeting will still be on Zoom and is open to everyone.

Everyone will receive the link to the meeting from Scott.

All of FAW meetings are FREE.

This change is a one-time occurrence.

This change is being made to accommodate those FAW members who want to participate, as readers and/or audience members, in the **Hayward Lit Hop**.

Welcome
and
Thank You
to



Stephen Yuen
FAW's new
Membership Chairperson

CWC-NorCal

Building Better Branches Leadership Conference

Sunday April 26th 8 am to 3 pm

Zio Fraedo's Restaurant

611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill

FAW Attendees:

Scott Davidson, Pat Doyne,

Cherilyn Chin, Stephen Yuen

**We need at least one more...let us know
if you'd like to go!**

If you have questions or suggestions about the conference or improving our branch, email Scott Davidson at scottfrombayside@yahoo.com.

FAW & CWC Information

Notes from the Central Board & An Exciting Prospect

by Evelyn LaTorre CWC/NorCal Representative

NEW OPPORTUNITY! As the FAW's Representative to the California Writers Club (CWC) Central Board, you can get to know some of the state's most articulate and acclaimed writers. You'll also be the first to know what's happening with CWC publications and personnel at the state level. For example, you could have input on the new CWC website and ways to publicize members' works.

I have been put forth as CWC Secretary for 2026-27, and so would like to end my decades-long position as FAW's representative at the state and northern California levels. Please contact FAW President, Scott Davidson, to express your interest in being our CWC/NorCal Representative.

At the CWC Board meeting on 3/22/26, President Roger Lubeck informed Board members from the 21 branches (representing 2089 members) of several new developments.

1. A **new website** with changed record-keeping and membership features (such as a 'bookshelf' displaying members' publications) is being developed by In8tly corporation. It should be ready by the June membership renewal time. New members will then register on the state and the branch's web pages simultaneously. A web manager is needed.
2. Susan Marquez Owen from the Sacramento branch has agreed to serve as the Editor-in-Chief of the **CWC Bulletin**. Susan is the former newsletter editor for the Sacramento branch. The next issue of the *Bulletin* will be released early in May. Articles on writing are needed now.
3. **Literary Review** An Editor or Branch to manage the next issue of the *Literary Review* is needed. If you know a member with the necessary experience and who is willing to serve as Editor, following the traditional process for producing the *Literary Review*, please contact Roger Lubeck roger@iiwii.com or Jordan Bernal jordan.bernal@trivalleywriters.org. As an alternative we would like to see a branch manage the next Literary Review.
4. **Proposed:** Add the option of joining the CWC as a statewide-member, a CWC member with no affiliation to a specific branch. The CWC member would have full access to the benefits given to branch members (*Bulletin*, *Literary Review*, contests, workshops, etc.). The CWC board would oversee these members (this could change). **Rationale:** An alternative for members whose branches are closing.
5. April 26, **Building Better Branches Leadership Conference** will be at Zio Freddo's in Pleasant Hill. Topics and peer sessions include: Keynote by Tim Flood of SF-Peninsula branch on successfully remaking of their branch; Breakout sessions: Branch Newsletters with Tice Sweckhamer; Marketing with Julie Snider; Branch Websites with Megan McDonald; How to Have Fabulous Meetings with Scotty Cornfield. Four of FAW's leaders will attend.
6. **Proposed new dues structure** CWC dues have not been raised for over 25 years. New expenses are being incurred for our new website and membership systems. Four different proposals have been suggested, one of which could raise dues by \$10. Contact one of the FAW Board members for further details.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

HAYWARD LIT HOP

A Literary Hop
through Downtown Hayward



Saturday April 25th 2026

2:00pm — 8:00pm

The fun starts at 2:00pm

Downtown Hayward Library Heritage Plaza — 835 C Street

After-Party at 7:00pm

Sun Gallery 1015 E Street



FREMONT AREA WRITERS

scheduled to read between 6:00pm — 6:45pm

at

Kin Cafe (kin.fyi) 1019 B Street

Contact *Scott Davidson* at scottfrombayside@yahoo.com
to get on the list to read

*(This month's FAW General Meeting will be held on the 3rd Saturday, April 18
to accommodate those members who wish to participate in the HOP.)*

Here's an Eventbrite link for a list of all the groups participating:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hayward-lit-hop-2026-tickets-1985827020074>



For additional information:
<https://haywardlithop.com/>



FAW & CWC \$\$\$CONTESTS\$\$\$

* CONTESTS * PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES * CONTESTS *

San Joaquin Valley Writers

Announces Their Biennial Writing Contest

"Make Us Want to Read More"

SJVW's is pleased to announce its biennial writing contest for all CWC members. For 2026, the theme is *"Make Us Want to Read More"*. As we often hear, if you don't grab agents—or any reader, for that matter—from the very beginning, you will lose their interest and they won't continue reading. With this idea in mind, the contest this year is focused on openings for prose fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. We want to see how you hook the reader early on—how you make the reader say, "Okay. I like this! I'm hooked!"

All entries are limited to 300 words or fewer. **Deadline is May 1, 2026.**

For complete details and submission information visit:

www.sjvalleywriters.org/contest

Napa Valley Writers

Invites CWC Members to Submit to the 2026 Anthology

"THE HIDDEN STORY:

What Shocked, Surprised or Shattered a World"

Deadline: June 1, 2026

The Napa Valley Writers are working on a great anthology, which will have wide, general appeal and be released in time for Christmas, 2026. This anthology is open to everyone. Unpublished work only. No AI.

We're looking for writing that dares to go beneath the surface—a revelation that reordered everything, an ordinary moment that concealed something extraordinary, the truth that arrived too late or, just in time. The shock of sudden loss. The slow surprise of becoming someone new. The quiet shattering that no one else saw.

We welcome fiction, non-fiction, essays, and memoir. Limit is 1,500 words. Prose only.

Guidelines & submission info: **www.napavalleywriters.org/2026-anthology**

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

NARRATIVE MAGAZINE

For general submissions to the magazine:

www.narrativemagazine.com/submit-your-work

NARRATIVE PRIZE for New & Emerging Writers

Fiction, Non-fiction, Poetry / Prize: \$5,000 / Deadline: April 30th

<https://www.narrativemagazine.com/great-stories/narrative-prize>

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

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 & markets — non-fiction and poetry

2026 TCK Publishing Poetry Awards Contest

Deadline: June 30, 2026 Prize: \$1,000 and publication

<https://www.tckpublishing.com/2026-poetry-awards-contest/>

FREE classes and webinars

www.tckpublishing.com

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

The Wolfe Pack &
Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine

Proudly Announce

Our 20th 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

DEADLINE: 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



Fremont Cultural Arts Council • Half Price Books

Fremont Area Writers • Nothing Bundt Cakes • Infinity Care

present

FLASH FICTION CONTEST

TOPIC: *First Love*

Title with Poem or Prose • 300 Words Max. • Must fit on (1) 8 x 11 sheet • 12 pt or larger

OF SUBMISSIONS: TOTAL OF # PIECES = 3

(3) Poems • (3) Prose • (3) Combination of Poetry & Prose

DEADLINE: Monday • April 6th • by 11:59 PM (Come & support our FAW participants on the 11th.)

CONTEST/EVENT DATE: Saturday • April 11th • 10:00 – 5:00 PM

LOCATION: Half Price Books • 39152 Fremont Hub • In Fremont

Additional Instructions Now Available:

<https://www.fremontculturalartscouncil.org/flash-fiction-contest>

Book & Movie Reviews

Here's your opportunity to share your favorite books & movies. They can be just for fun, ones that changed your life, books on writing craft, etc. If you decide to submit: **300 to 600 max. word count doc file.** Please send 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.)

BUCKEYE

by Patrick Ryan

This novel covers the lifetimes of two families in the 1900's not meant to intertwine with one another. But they do in productive as well as damaging ways, in part because of the mores of the time. The values, events, and changes of the last half of the 20th century will be recalled by those readers who lived through them. They, like me, may be amazed at how the narrowness of their world has resulted in the same prejudices seen in our present times.

Life in the sleepy Ohio town of Bonhomie is described so intimately that the reader feels the psychological and physical damage inflicted by the US World Wars, the Korean conflict, and the Vietnam war. These outer disruptions barely compare with the inner psychological damage. Becky, who communicates with the departed, is married to Cal, who doesn't believe that the dead return as spirits to be communicated with. Cal was born with one leg shorter than the other; his reason for not achieving more in his life. Then, there is the damage incurred from mothers abandoning their young children. Yet, the book is a very pleasant read and a great way to review the history of the 20th century.

Review by Evelyn LaTorre

THE GENIUS OF JUDY:

How Judy Blume Rewrote Childhood for All of Us

by Rachelle Bergstein

Judy Blume wrote popular and controversial books for teens and adults in the 1970s and 80s. To date, she has not written a memoir. Using three short books, plus information gleaned from newspaper and magazine articles, radio and TV interviews and letters, Rachelle Bergstein examines Judy's life, work and place in history. The book covers the times surrounding Judy's most productive years when sex education in the schools was being defined and often fought over. The continuing controversy over banning books and censorship of authors make this a most timely volume.

Bergstein, a lifestyle author and editor, uses interviews with Judy's peer authors and her adult daughter, in addition to all manner of available documents to provide a dissertation on Judy's books and their impact on generations of U.S. teens and adults. Written without Judy's collaboration, Ms. Bergstein shows how the famous author's personal life influenced her stories that drop "nuggets of truth and wisdom kids couldn't get anywhere else at the time." She concludes that the Blume books demonstrate how a dynamic of care, safety and vulnerability contribute to the true intimacy that is crucial for a satisfying love life.

Though the author weaves Judy's personal with her professional life, I would have preferred to hear about her life from the famous author herself. But since that is unlikely to happen, an expansive evaluation of her legacy from an admirer will suffice.

Review by Evelyn LaTorre

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*):

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32-flash-fiction-markets/](https://authorspublish.com/32-flash-fiction-markets/)

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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, Apr 18 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT

"Your Novel is Finished—Now What? Everything You Need to Know to Get Published"

The roadmap you need to take confident next steps toward seeing your novel in print.

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

"Tropes, Clichés and Conventions, Oh, My! A Writer's Guide to Genre Expectations and Fresh Storytelling"

Learn what tropes are—and aren't, how they differ from clichés, and why readers in different genres accept and expect conventions.

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

Poets & Writers. Website. Searchable con-test 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, 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

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](https://www.facebook.com/AngelicaG.Allen) and follow her on Instagram: [@AngelicaGAllen](https://www.instagram.com/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://oceanofhope.net>; Twitter: [@protectoceans](https://twitter.com/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>

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FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

Celebrating * Celebrating * Celebrating NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

THE DREAM

She screamed, I woke.
Another scream, a third, closer.
Heart racing, was it me?
Must have been a dream.

From his side of the bed
A dark figure rose
And walked out the door.
I wait, who screamed?

Drifting to sleep I remember
It couldn't be him.
He died years ago.

His kiss, moist, nether region stirring.
Breath quickens, heart pulses, yearning.
I wake cold. Dawn rises, empty.
He's gone.

No one to tell my stories to.
"I don't think you've heard this one."
Too late, he's forever gone.

Jo Ann Frisch

HUMMMMM

Hummingbird chitters
You built your nest in my tree
We stand guard together

nancy guarnera

Harp Hazard

An octopus played Celtic airs
on a harp—eight arms working in pairs.
But her tentacles tangled
in strings—nearly strangled!
Enmeshed in harp-strings, she just glares.

Patricia Doyne © 3/2026

WILDE-BEASTIARY

A wildebeest fresh from the East
feasted on water and yeast.
He blew up inside
like a tent, double-wide,
and is known as "the East's yeast-feast beast."

Patricia Doyne © 3/2026

GUIDANCE

Wisdom's Waters
bathe me in your coolness
calm my heart's anxiety
that I may touch
this moment's essence
without quivering
without faltering
without running away.

Jacqlyn Freitas

TRY AGAIN

inhale. exhale.
rise. fall. rise again.
flow in. flow out.
suck in. hiss out.
collapse in. cry out.

why is creation so hard?
it crushes soul and flesh into
such a small space, a womb, to make a new form life.

why should she choose between motherhood and her life before,
her youth,
her dreams,
her body.
but the choice is false; the lies are not hers but theirs.

why should it be on the woman
to create life all alone,
to bear the loss of an unborn child
alone in her body,
told that it was something *she* did wrong
to make the soul flee the body she was building for it.
(these stories they never say aloud,
they know more devastating ways to deliver them
directly to her heart.)

even as she swallows these stories fed to her by the wounds of others,
even as her desire aches to see her descendant smiling from her arms,
even as she grieves the truth that she will never know the little one lost,
the mother prepares to try again.

© Maren Madalyn, LLC

Written in March 2024

This poem is dedicated to the millions of women who experience pregnancy loss and, even so, birth incredible life into the world.

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

MY PET CAT SNAX

My soul feels woody right now.
A good sort of woodiness,
the color of spring,
green, nascent thoughts-
Of my cat Snax.

My pearl on fire,
Red and warm like embers,
as she settles on my lap.
On my lap she settles,
a million times over.
sharp as summer,
and bright like spring.
She is my element,
infusing spring and summer
all at once.
I taste pure innocence,
in tawny nails and languid eyes,
Tuxedo fur.

But she's gone now-

A shade of gold embalmed in white halo,
I am in a pool of water, the taste of brine,
Grief dark, the only molten glow,
a waterhole of memories.

She was my earth, my center,
a mute purity of light,
I am muted joy, a gasp of tears,
a chasm of guilt.
She says to me:
"let your guilt flee into my elements,
and remember the red fire of love,
interwoven between the two of us, Mamma."

Rekha Ramani

This poem was inspired by a prompt shared by our speaker, Dr. Adrienne Danyelle Oliver, at the FAW General Meeting on March 28, 2026.

Authors Publish

You're invited to a **FREE TALK** and **Q&A session**
Recording Live on **April 10, 2026 at 10:00 AMPDT**

The Narrative Arc—Finding the Pulse of the Poem with poet Bill Garvey

During this talk, Bill will explore the mechanics of the narrative poem, distinguishing it from prose poetry through its strategic use of lyrical compression and rhythmic momentum. We will examine how a narrative poem transcends mere anecdote by anchoring story in song. Using examples such as Ada Limón, Naomi Shihab Nye & Seamus Heaney, this talk will give you insight into crafting meaningful narrative poetry.

Use this link to register for this talk and receive the link to attend:

<https://authorspublish.com/lectures/free-talk-the-narrative-arc-finding-the-pulse-of-the-poem-with-bill-garvey/>

A Thousand Lives Over

by Maren Madalyn

(Part 2 of 3)

A commotion outside the break room jolts Ellie awake. How long had she dozed? She rubs her eyes, creeps to the door, and looks down the hallway. Wheels squeak as a hospital gurney slides into view, surrounded by a team of nurses and doctors speaking in urgent tones. The entourage passes the break room, and Ellie sees ebony skin against starched sheets.

Her throat clenches, cutting off her airways and catching Ellie off guard. She stumbles backward and lands heavily on the cot. She gasps until her lungs tear open and drink in oxygen. Something is wrong, horribly wrong. Every inch of her body tingles with alarm, and the depleted magic within her flares despite her exhaustion.

This instinct commands her to follow the gurney, and Ellie obeys.

* * *

The year is 1619. A storm batters the ship, which bucks and groans with every assault. Essi steadies herself and shouts commands above the cacophony. The woman before her screams back, pushing as hard as she can. All around them, black bodies hover and whisper. Only a few are brave enough to hold the mother in place against each contraction.

"Again!" Essi demands in their native tongue. "Push! Push!"

As suddenly and rapidly as it began, it is over. The mother collapses into a gentle sleep. Onlookers sigh with relief or cry out with jubilant prayers. Essi uses her own teeth to cut the cord and her own rags to wrap the baby. She hands the bundle to one of the women kneeling beside the mother, then grabs the hands of another. "Help me," Essi says, pressing their hands firmly into the mother's abdomen. "Like this." Together they massage the womb until at last, the bleeding stops.

In her fingers, Essie feels the power receding back to that mysterious place within her. Never has she needed it more than that birth. The labor came so quickly. The woman barely had time to remove her tunic before contractions burned through her at an impossible rate. Essi wonders if it was fate that put her on that ship with this mother or simply a dark coincidence.

The ship heaves with a terrifying crack, throwing Essi forward. Strong arms catch her before she falls onto the sleeping mother. She turns to the thin man holding her shoulders. He smiles, but Essi freezes, staring over his left shoulder.

In the chaos, the slaves around Essi do not hear boots descend the ladder from the upper deck. In the darkness, they do not see obsidian eyes narrow at the group gathered around a mother and child. In their celebration, they do not feel hatred radiating towards the midwife in their midst.

(continued on next page)

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

(continued from previous page)

Furious and helpless, Essi watches the slavers drop quietly to the deck below, their knives glinting in the dark.

* * *

Ellie stands beside the patient. The mother appears peaceful, as though merely sleeping. But her face is obscured by an oxygen mask, with wires and tubes cascading all around her body. The steady beeps of a heart rate monitor and sighs of a ventilator betray the heavy silence of the room.

Her name is Lanisha McTominay. She is twenty-five years old, Black, and twenty-two weeks pregnant. At 8:12 AM that morning, Dr. Ivan Patrovich officially declared her brain-dead due to multiple blood clots, which went unnoticed and unresolved by emergency room physicians. His last note is hastily scribbled at the bottom of the patient chart:

LIFE Act enforced. Emergency Cesarean scheduled. Family notified.

As if aggravated by these words, the magic inside Ellie scrapes her bones and blood for any energetic reserves it can find, desperate to regain strength. Through inhuman means, she can hear Lanisha sobbing, trapped within this body and bound to this world. Ellie's fingers twitch. She burns with fury and sorrow.

But the baby will survive, says a voice in her mind. Doesn't that justify such measures?

Ellie has watched such logic weaponized against women throughout human history. The theft of Irish children from thousands of mothers deemed "unfit" by the Catholic Church. Forced breeding of "Aryan" children in Nazi Germany. Thousands of mothers-to-be who mysteriously vanished in Argentina's Dirty War. Women who were brutally punished for using contraception in Soviet Romania. So many examples.

It is never about protecting the child or the mother. It is always about control.

Ellie closes her eyes as the familiar despair presses down on her. She has fought against it a thousand times already. Perhaps, this time, it will be enough to crush her.

But her work is not finished. She must carry on. So, Ellie reaches deep into the empty well of magic inside and slowly lifts her hand.

* * *

The year is 1250. Etsuko's knees ache, but she does not dare rise. She presses a hand to the woman's thigh and, though exhausted herself, releases another soothing wave of magic into the mother. For a brief moment, the screaming subsides, and Etsuko sees the portal of life relax open in kind. But just as rapidly, the mother braces against the new contraction, closing the vortex once more.

As subtly as possible, Etsuko looks past the miko, who chants prayers of protection over the mistress. Sure enough, there hovers the ghost, emaciated and writhing with anticipation. A crimson tongue wags as black eyes stare hungrily at the mother. Feed me, it whispers in a grating voice only Etsuko hears.

(continued on next page)

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

(continued from previous page)

Etsuko bares her teeth and orders the handmaidens to join their voices with the miko's chants. They obey, singing at the top of their lungs. This intervention gives only a little time, however, and it is not enough to save both mother and child.

In her mind, Etsuko hears the words of the shogun's order: If death must be fed, protect my son. The other women know nothing of this, and Etsuko does not tell them.

With sorrow, the sanba pushes the last reserves of her power straight into the mother's womb. The mother cries with agony, but her body reacts in an instant, pushing and widening and opening. After what feels like a lifetime, the infant arrives in Etsuko's waiting hands.

Etsuko whisks the baby to the wash basin, tears streaming down her cheeks. As she clears its throat of fluid, the infant wails a cry of grief. Both sanba and child feel the life drain from his mother. Too late, the birth attendants and miko see their mistress fall limp in their arms. They scream until their voices twist into anguished sobs.

Etsuko closes her eyes as she listens to the low cackle of the hungry spirit. It lumbers forward, unseen and unheard by the mourners, and begins its feast.

Later, the shogun will praise Etsuko for her victory against these malevolent spirits and for delivering a son safely to him. He will gift her riches and honors rivaled only by those granted to his vassals. And at great risk to her life, Etsuko will refuse them all.

(A Thousand Lives Over by Maren Madalyn will conclude in the May issue of Ink Spots.)

Baby Hummingbirds

Mommy Hummingbird



HUMMINGBIRD HAVEN

*Photographs by
nguarnera*

VISUAL
PROMPT



Big Baby Hummingbird

Podcast Script

"THE TOILETBOT PROBLEM"

REMStories: Writers Helping Writers — April Fools Special —

by Richard E. McCallum

REMStories:

Welcome back to REMStories: Writers Helping Writers. I'm Richard, your host. Today's topic: artificial intelligence, domestic harmony... and a toilet.

Dante:

I'm afraid to ask.

Mr. Roboto:

You should be. This episode contains graphic scenes of household realism.

REMStories:

So my wife informs me we are now living in the future.

Dante:

Flying cars?

REMStories:

No. We bought a robot that cleans the toilet.

Dante:

I... did not expect that sentence today.

Mr. Roboto:

Sanitation is the final frontier.

REMStories:

It sprays. It scrubs. It sterilizes. It plays a little victory chime when it's done.

Dante:

That's impressive.

REMStories:

Except—

Mr. Roboto:

Here it comes.

REMStories:

It never puts the seat down.

Dante:

Of course it doesn't.

REMStories:

So my wife says, and I quote:

"The robot didn't turn down the seat ring. I've emailed support@toiletcleaning twelve times. You have to do it. I am NOT touching that seat again."

Mr. Roboto:

User expectation exceeds firmware capability.

Dante:

So you still have to finish the job yourself.

REMStories:

Exactly. Which got me thinking about writers and AI.

Dante:

Oh no.

Mr. Roboto:

Ah. Metaphor detected.

REMStories:

They told us AI would write our books. Edit our drafts. Do our marketing. Answer reader questions.

Dante:

And?

REMStories:

It helps...sure. But at the end of the day?

(continued on next page)

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

(continued from previous page)

Mr. Roboto:

Someone still has to lower the seat.

Dante:

Meaning?

Mr. Roboto:

AI cleans. Writers finish.

REMStories:

Right. You still choose the words. You still fix the commas. You still hit publish.

Mr. Roboto:

I am an intern, not the author.

Dante:

So we're not obsolete?

Mr. Roboto:

Relax. If I could truly replace you, do you think I'd start with toilets?

REMStories:

Good point.

Dante:

So what's the lesson for writers?

Mr. Roboto:

Use the tools. Don't worship them.

REMStories:

And always check the seat before you sit down.

Mr. Roboto:

Wisdom applicable to both literature and life.

Dante:

Happy April Fools, everyone.

Mr. Roboto:

Now please excuse me. I have twelve support tickets to ignore.

*“Poetry is the rhythmical creation
of beauty in words.”*

— Edgar Allan Poe

*He who draws noble delights from sentiments
of poetry is a true poet, though he has
never written a line in all his life.*

— George Sand

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FREMONT AREA WRITERS

- 2009 Bob Garfinkle
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- 2013 Carol Hall
- 2015 Art Carey
- 2017 Shirley Ferrante
- 2019 Jan Small
- 2021 Nancy J Guarnera
- 2023 Scott Davidson
- 2025 Terry Tosh

BOARD MEETINGS

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

FAW Chairpeople



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TERRY TOSH
Previous
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STEPHEN YUEN
Membership

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 Section 1: 1.1 and 1.2 FAW Bylaws*)