

Writers Helping Writers!



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. 9 October 2026

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



Visual Prompt

Photograph by nguarnera

October General Meeting

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

The Art of Revision & Self-Editing

with Guest Speaker

Katherine Sherbrooke



kasherbrooke.com

In her experience writing novels, Katherine “Kathy” Sherbrooke has learned that revision is where the magic happens. Creating this magic is the topic of her talk for FAW this October.

“Getting our initial ideas onto the page and finding the shape of our novel is no small feat, and it’s once we have the clay laid out on the table that we can really begin to sculpt it into something that matches our vision.” In this talk she will discuss strategies and tactics for taking your earliest drafts to the next level, and making your work as excellent as you know it can be.

Katherine A. Sherbrooke is the award-winning author of four novels: the *New York Times* notable *Leaving Coy’s Hill*, a finalist for the Massachusetts Book Award; *Fill the Sky*, the winner of an Independent Press Award, *The Hidden Life of Aster Kelly*, and her latest, ***This Much is True*** (just out on Sept 18). Her work has also appeared in Cognoscenti, *Zibby Magazine*, and *Writer’s Digest*. She served as Chair of the Board of GrubStreet, one of the nation’s premier creative writing centers, from 2013-2023.



When the writing gets tough and she needs feedback or a pep talk, she relies mightily on her amazing writing group. When she’s not writing, she’s revived by walks with an ocean view and the company of family and friends, ideally at a table overflowing with plenty of food, wine, and laughter. Katherine Sherbrooke lives on the South Shore of Massachusetts.

PLEASE NOTE: 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 20 branches of the **California Writers Club (CWC)** www.calwriters.org. All CWC branches welcome new members.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



Scott Davidson
FAW President

President's Message

As you read this, you probably have seen the preparations in the stores for Halloween. As I write this, in early September, I have also seen the preparations for Halloween in the stores. And by the time Halloween comes, the Christmas decorations will be up.

As writers we can use a description of the environment our characters move in, such as a store, to give clues as to the time of year. But what to do when Halloween decorations go with air conditioning and shorts? This is even more of a problem if your story is set in a place with real weather, unlike the Bay Area.

This is one more example of why I love to write. We have so much freedom. We can set the date by using traditional decorations at

traditional times. Or we can write humor as our characters notice how out of sync the stores are with the calendar. Or we can write gloom, perhaps with store decorations triggering a character to remember better times with a loved one in that very store.

So many possibilities! And we just have to write them. And get someone to read them. Getting readers for early versions of your story is important in improving its quality. The quality of mine improved thanks to members of my critique group, who even pointed out things about the story I missed. So, maybe we should set up some critique groups.

There are no FAW-sponsored ones, and I've heard people express interest. Anyone want to volunteer to run one? I volunteer to set up a Zoom link if that is how the members of the group want to work. The one I was in was for fiction, but FAW includes lots of poets and perhaps we can have a poetry critique group also.

Anyone interested? Let me know. You have my email.

Keep thinking and writing!

Scott



Visual Prompt Artwork
by Jo Ann Frisch



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A Word from Our Editor



Nancy Guarnera
Editor *Ink Spots*

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

"It's been HOT! But...it's starting to cool off! Thank you, weather deities. Keep up the cooler weather and I shall be eternally grateful!" That's how I started the September issue...

Well, we got a reprieve from the heat for a week or so, and then the weather "gods" turned their backs on us. The Wicked Sun of the West turned up the heat with a week or more of consecutive days of 90+ degree heat! You can't hear me, but I'm blowing raspberries at this. I do not do well with temps in the 80s'. Ninety-degree heat and higher is intolerable. To think I used to be a sun worshiper.

Before I continue, I have two pieces of housekeeping to take care of...

First, the deadline for the Flash Fiction Contest at Half Price Books is this Monday, 10-5-26 at 11:59pm. The event: Saturday 10-10-26. See page 15 for details.

Second, a correction. In the September issue Jan Small's best-selling book should read: ***34 Ways to Draw and Paint a Cat***. Thank you to those of you who shared your memories of Jan with us.

Does anyone else feel like the world is falling apart right before our very eyes? And at a rate that almost defies response. Just as we begin to understand what just happened and how we might respond to it, something else, equally catastrophic happens and we have to move on. It's exhausting, and frustrating, and spirit-crushing. And, given the tendency of this age to play fast and loose with the truth, who can be sure if what we're seeing and hearing is even real.

Certainly, with the advent of AI, pretty much any old slop can be presented as real. If we see and hear it enough times, before we move on to the next bucket of slop, we may forget that the previous bucket was full of nonsense, or a least a mix of truth and lies. We remember bits and pieces, and can't remember if it seemed true to us at the time. It's just something "they" said we needed know or not know, do or not do.

I'm waiting for the \$5000 check I'm supposed to get. And now a \$90 check. Not sure what they're for anymore, just know we've been promised the money will be coming our way, before the mid-terms, after the mid-terms...at the polling place on election day? Where is all this money coming from? What's it for? Certainly, dangling money in front of someone who is suddenly in jeopardy of losing their home, their health care, their groceries, their livelihood...could make them forget about what they're giving up to have an amount so paltry, it soon won't pay for a tank of diesel or gas to get to the store where the shelves are empty anyway.

Why so glum you ask? Well, it's just mind-boggling how quickly things can change when they've been fairly static for so long. I just want to scream, **"STOP!"** and have the whole rollercoaster at least slow down, so we can focus a bit. But, no, it's all a blur. I look at the expression on the face of the dog on the cover of this issue. The look in her eyes makes me feel like she's asking us, "Why?" Nonjudgmental confrontation, but with a degree of sympathy...and sadness...for our predicament, unexpected from an animal most of us would consider inferior to ourselves. Her name is Maybelle.

Deadline for all submissions for the November issue is October 10th. If you need more time, please email inkspots@cwcfremontareawriters.org and let me know. Request guidelines if needed.

Thank you for your submissions & happy writing!

FAW – October Meetings

Fremont Area Writers “Fourth Saturday”

General Mtg on Zoom

Saturday October 24th 2:00 – 4:00 PM

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

Speaker: Katherine Sherbrooke Writer (see p.2)

www.kasherbrooke.com

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

Fremont Area Writers “Tuesday before 4th Saturday”

Board Meeting on Zoom

Tuesday October 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 – October Meetings

Fremont Area Writers

“Second Saturday”

Social Write-In on Zoom

Saturday October 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 October 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*

FAW 2026 Speakers

2026 FAW GENERAL MEETINGS TOPICS & SPEAKERS

OCTOBER 24TH 2-4 PM ZOOM

The Art of Revision and Self-Editing

Katherine Sherbrooke *Writer*
www.kasherbrooke.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 — Date, Time & Place TBD

FAW HOLIDAY PARTY



General Meetings are on the 4TH SATURDAY of the month

(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!*

***Fill your paper with the breathings
of your heart.***

— William Wordsworth

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 Carol Hall, who fulfilled 100% of her recent crowd-funding campaign goal to raise money for a proof-of-concept (POC) film—the next stage of production on her film, “The Jeweled Bird”. These funds will provide for pre-production, hiring the cast and crew, and securing the locations for the POC. Carol will be applying for grants the rest of this year as she meets with her key crew to prep for production. When funding for production and post-production is secured, she can shoot the short. Ideally, funds for distribution would also be secured at that time, but can wait, if needed.

Carol thanks everyone who in any way contributed to this stage of her film's development; when it comes to making films...it really does take a cast and crew of thousands (at least hundreds). For more information on the film and its progress go to: <https://seedandspark.com/fund/the-jeweled-bird>

Congratulations, Carol!



CALLING ALL POETS

Would you like to have your poetry displayed at a local library during National Poetry Month...April 2027?

If so, email Jackie Freitas,
FAW member and Project Coordinator, at
jf52freitas@yahoo.com by Wednesday, October 21, 2026.

More details to come.

REMEMBERING

Jan Small

1937-2026



How Friendships & Memories Grow – Jan Small

by Sue Curtzwiler

Good Friends. Spending time and sharing our lives together is what made our friendship.

I first met Jan at church and told her of my desire to try and recapture my creative writing interest. Soon, she invited me to the Fremont Area Writers when they were still meeting at the Round Table Pizza on Fremont Blvd. We also visited Auntie Anne's Pretzel in the New Park Mall food court. We shared many lifetime stories of home, school, and faith while nibbling on warm almond and salt crusted pretzels

In high school, Jan learned baton twirling, taught her girlfriends, and became the head baton twirler to lead her high school marching band in Martinez, CA. After high school, she worked in a bank and a police department with an occasional chance to ride with an officer. She also liked singing hymns. A few times, she sang for me on the way home from a visit to Denny's.

If Jan needed to heal something with a family member or a friend, she would be sure to meet them in person, often that day, if possible, to make amends. She was an absolute example of honesty and character.

Jan taught art. She told me she always recommended her students write a story about what they were drawing or painting. *"It adds meaning to those who see the artwork, and it puts a touch of heart and soul into the artist while painting, giving a spark of life to the landscape, seascape, still life...whatever they might be painting."*

The last couple of years, Jan's favorite place was Denny's. She couldn't wait to order her seasoned fries, diet coke, and a burger without the burger. Jan didn't eat meat. We spent many afternoons just talking, while she watched people walking outside and the kids (sometimes misbehaving) inside the restaurant. I will miss the phone calls and those brief afternoons at Denny's. Jan was a good friend.

Remembering Jan by Terry Tosh

Jan was the catalyst for our initial introduction to FAW. Anita met Jan at a Christian gathering on a cruise ship! They discovered they were from the same area of California, and both were writers.

Jan invited Anita to attend a meeting of the FAW in Fremont, though we actually live in the Sunnyvale area. I went along to support my wife, and within a few months, Jan approached me about submitting my name as a candidate for President of the group. I was speechless. I told her I knew nothing about how to do this job, and am not a writer. She was persistent. She insisted that I had what it would take to lead this group. The rest, as "they" say, is history.

The Hug by Nancy Guarnera

I didn't know Jan well, but I appreciated her service to FAW and her beautiful artwork...she was prolific and captured a spirit in her work one doesn't often see. She was a kind and giving person.

We were not on the same page religiously, but we both had faith in what we believe. Once, at an FAW meeting, when I wasn't feeling well, she asked if she could pray for me. I said yes, not knowing what to expect. She grabbed me in a ferocious hug and spoke her word. I was not healed in that moment, but I could feel her belief and her desire to help me. They were real, authentic. We will miss her, but I have faith that she's hangin' with her husband, Larry, the love of her life, and the God she believed in. Fare thee well, Jan!

FAW & CWC Information

California Writers Week CWC OCTOBER 11-17 FAW

by Tish Davidson

On September 4, 2003, the California State Assembly encouraged by the California Writers Club (CWC), officially declared **the third week of October as California Writers Week**. The legislative declaration states that the California Writers Club, which has 20 branches throughout the state, has a mission to "teach, mentor and encourage all writers for the good of our society."

The California Writers Club began in the early 1900s with informal gatherings of literary notables such as poet Ina Coolbrith, novelist Jack London, poet George Sterling, short story writer Herman Whitaker. Incorporated as a non-profit in 1913, it has grown to include 20 branches statewide. Fremont Area Writers (FAW), the local CWC branch, is carrying on this literary tradition.

The club subscribes to the motto "writers helping writers." Its mission is to help both aspiring and experienced authors advance their skills, learn about publishing opportunities, and promote and sell their books and articles. To further these goals, the Fremont branch invites published authors and other publishing professionals to speak at free monthly Zoom meetings. It also sponsors smaller monthly Zoom gatherings where writers can jump-start their creativity or read their work in a judgement-free environment. These events are free and open to all. FAW welcomes writers of all experience levels. You do not have to live in Fremont to participate.

To celebrate California Writers Week, books written by members of Fremont Area Writers are on display in the lobby of the Fremont Main Library for the month of October. Stop by, see what your neighbors are writing, and learn how FAW can help you write your poems, your novel, or your memoir.

For more information, scan the QR code at the exhibit, visit <https://cwc-fremontareawriters.org> or contact Scottfrombayside@yahoo.com.
For CWC: calwriters.org/history

California Authors of Note

The following authors were selected
for the CWC Joint Legislative Resolution in 2003.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Gertrude Atherton (1857-1948) | • Bret Harte (1836-1902) |
| • Mary Austin (1868-1934) | • Jack London (1876-1916) |
| • Raymond Barrio (1921-1996) | • Joaquin Miller (1837-1913) |
| • Delilah L. Beasley (1872-1934) | • William Saroyan (1908-1981) |
| • Raymond Chandler (1888-1959) | • John Steinbeck (1902-1968) |
| • Ina Coolbrith (1841-1928) | • George Sterling (1869-1926) |
| • Dashiell Hammett (1894-1961) | • Mark Twain (1835-1910) |



Fremont Main Library display case with FAW books on exhibit through October 2026.

FAW & CWC Information

— PLEASE READ —

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

You're Invited to...

Fremont Area Writers Social Luncheon

Tuesday October 13th at 11:30 am

Andersen's Bakery in Union City

Details will be e-mailed to members. Feel free to bring a guest.

www.andersenbakeryusa.com/

FAW Needs You **Help Wanted** FAW Needs You

NorCal Representative Position is OPEN!

This volunteer position gives you the opportunity to meet and work with reps from other northern California branches.

Speak to President Scott Davidson or CWC-Rep Evelyn LaTorre if you are interested in learning more about this position!

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

Hospitality Chair

welcomes, introduces, contacts, &
encourages guests to consider joining FAW

Service Coordinator

cultivates 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 information.

FAW & CWC Information

— PLEASE READ —

• REDWOOD WRITERS PRESENTS

SONOMA COUNTY WRITERS CONFERENCE



OCT 17, 2026 8:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M.

FINLEY COMMUNITY CENTER, SANTA ROSA

OUR MISSION

Writers helping writers, at every stage of the page

No matter where you are in your writing life, there's a seat for you here.

Whether you're holding your first blank page or your tenth published book, this is a room built for you. A full day of craft, publishing, and marketing sessions, plus a keynote from Award-winning indie poet, historical novelist, and forensic historian Gini Grossenbacher.

Other presenters & topics: Jill Lubin – *Publicity* / Sarah Paris – *Haiku* / Mary Alice Stephens – *Memoir* / Chris Fox – *Blurbs* / Albert Flynn DeSilver – *Memoir* / Natalie Gould – *Voice* / Kristen Tate - *Scene Building* / Susan Bono – *Personal Essay* / Lisa Manterfield & Shirin Leos – *Publishing* / Matthew Felix – *Writer's Personal Realities*

REGISTRATION FEES: Members \$150 & Non-Members \$175

For additional information about the conference &

to register to **attend, go to:**

<https://redwoodwriters.org/scwc-registration/>

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



7 Contests *Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival & Saints + Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival*

The 2027 TWFest Contests are Open

One-Act-Play • Fiction • Poetry • Very Short Fiction

Submission Deadline: October 15, 2026

Cash Prizes • Publication • Public Reading

The SASFest Contests are Open

Poetry • Fiction • Poetry

Submission Deadline: October 15, 2026

Cash Prizes & Weekend Passes for the Festival

For Full Submission Details

for All 7 Contests Go to:

tennesseewilliamsfestival.submittable.com/submit

TWFest will be held 3/17-21/27 • SASFest will be held 3/19-21/27

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

NARRATIVE MAGAZINE

For general submissions to the magazine:

www.narrativemagazine.com/submit-your-work

FALL 2026 STORY CONTEST

Short Fiction, Non-fiction, Essay, Memoir, etc. / First Prize: \$2,500

Submissions Open: Deadline: November 13th

www.narrativemagazine.com/fall-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 \$\$\$

It's Half Price Books

Flash Fiction Contest

time again!

**Fremont Cultural Arts Council and Fremont Area Writers
are sponsoring the Fall Flash Fiction Contest at Half Price Books**

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: *Monday, October 5th at 11:59 pm*

EVENT DATE: *Saturday, October 10th from 10 am to 5 pm*

PRIZES: *Cash & Gift cards to 5 lucky winners*

➔ TOPIC: *Living on the Moon* ➔

Same rules as always —

300 words (includes title), must fit on one page

Font no smaller than 12 pt Times New Roman

***For complete submission guidelines,
go to the FCAC website:***

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 500 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.)

Whistler

by Ann Patchett

Ann Patchett's newest novel is as interesting as her many others—all of which I have read. "The book is not about horses, despite one on the cover," the author said in a recent interview. However, as she does so well, the cover tells of two horses, Whistler and Nutmeg, who figure in a minor thread that continues in spurts throughout the book. Patchett is very good at threads and dialogue, which keeps the reader interested. The inner and outer dialogue is very realistic at every age of the characters from young children, through their teens, to the 55-year-old protagonist and her much older husband. Their words, reveal the difference between the generations.

The story begins when Daphne Fuller's husband notices a man following the couple around the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It is Daphne's favorite stepfather (the second of the three men her mother married) whom she lost track of decades ago. Patchett does an excellent job of bringing in the past without losing the trajectory of the story. That trajectory includes a nighttime car accident in winter and a horse named Whistler who, in a book proposal is the cause of another near-death experience. I read this book in one day. I was left with one question whose answer I did not see, however. Does the lost horse named Nutmeg return home?

Review by Evelyn LaTorre

GONE GIRL

by Gillian Flynn

"Ice-pick sharp...Spectacularly sneaky" – The New York Times. Well put!

I've never seen the movie. Thrillers aren't my usual fare. I'd heard much in favor of this book, so when I chanced upon it at a used bookstore, I bought it. I'm pleased to say this is a worthwhile read.

We are introduced to Amy and Nick on the day of her disappearance. The chapters swing back and forth between their perspectives. She offers us diary entries from seven years prior: their happy days in the beginning, he becomes less interested, less involved, they argue more, he escalates into an abusive husband. A clever bit of flashback while his story begins on day one of her disappearance. We believe we've got the story, then slightly better than half-way through, the story flips and we're not sure what to believe.

This story is so perfectly plotted, it may be the perfect crime. But is what Amy wants really a crime?

Review by Joyce Cortez

READ MORE BOOKS

Notes from the World

**HEAR YE!
HEAR YE!**

Check out the
Poetry Foundation

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/poem-of-the-day>

Register to receive
a free poem each day
& all sorts of other
cool poetry stuff

AUTHORS PUBLISH

<https://authorspublish.com>
Check here for lists of publishing
opportunities (*Please vet before submitting*):

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

[https://authorspublish.com/
12-places-that-publish-writing-about-
writing-and-publishing/](https://authorspublish.com/12-places-that-publish-writing-about-writing-and-publishing/)

[https://authorspublish.com/
25-magazines-accepting-creative-
nonfiction/](https://authorspublish.com/25-magazines-accepting-creative-nonfiction/)

[https://authorspublish.com/
40-specialized-manuscript-
publishers-that-accept-direct-
submissions/](https://authorspublish.com/40-specialized-manuscript-publishers-that-accept-direct-submissions/)

... and many more ... a newsletter
and free webinars on craft....

FREE Online Workshops w/ **JANE CLELAND**

Award-winning author Jane Cleland offers **FREE** Zoom workshops on the craft of writing for writers of every skill level. Jane takes you behind the curtain and shares her years of experience with writing craft and its many intricacies, as well as the world of traditional publishing, with its agents, editors and publishers...Oh my! Register in advance at janecleland.com/events/. You'll receive a link for the workshop shortly before, and on the day of the event. Don't miss these...register early.

Saturday, Oct 17 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT

"The Cameo that Steals the Show: Writing Minor Characters Who Leave Major Impressions"

Learn how to give a supporting character a life of their own and build a recurring cast that keeps readers coming back to a series.

Saturday, Nov 14 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT

"The One-Page Secret to Writing Success: Know Your Story's Unique Selling Proposition"

Learn how to find the thing that makes your book distinct and craft the 30-second answer to the question "What's your book about?"

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
sfgwa.org

Inspire Christian Writers inspirewriters.com

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

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

Academy of American Poets poets.org

Poetry Society of America poetrysociety.org

National Association of Memoir Writers namw.org

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

CineStory cinestory.org *(screenwriters)*

Scriptwriters Network scriptwritersnetwork.com

Historical Novel Association historicalnovelsociety.org

Horror Writers Association horror.org

FundsforWriters.com

Chosen 101 Best Writing Websites by Writer's Digest for the last 20 years in a row.

One of the web's best experts on grants/fellowships/scholarships/awards/contests for writers.

The subscription is FREE.

Do like 27,000 others and simply go to **FundsforWriters.com** and sign up. We'll keep your contact information private.

Look forward to you joining us!

fanstory.com

Contests with cash prizes you can enter this week!

Take a look at this site. Lots of interesting contests.

Many are very short...not necessarily easy, but as short as a one-line poem, or a 50-word flash fiction story. Some may have deadlines fast approaching, others you'll have time to contemplate.

Fee Site. Seven-day free trial. \$12.95/month or \$155/year. Feedback on writing you post and almost daily contests that can be entered at no additional fee.

FAW Members on Social Media

● **Angelica G. Allen**

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

● **Cherilyn Chin**

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

● **Terry Connelly**

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

● **Evelyn LaTorre, EdD**

Evelyn loves to travel and write about her experiences. Besides travel adventures, the blogs on her website share the first chapter of her prize-winning book, *Between Inca Walls*, her adventures in other countries, and her cousin's drowning on the Costa Concordia cruise ship. Her second memoir, *Love in Any Language*, shows how a shotgun wedding turns into a bulletproof marriage. It won a Book Excellence award. You can also find recent recordings of her interviews. Website: <https://www.evelynlatorre.com>.

● **Dave M. Strom**

Check out Dave's creative and tech writing blogs and his videos at: <http://davemstrom.wordpress.com/> <http://davemstrom.weebly.com/> <http://www.youtube.com/user/davstrom>

● **Anita Tosh**

Anita writes YA Christian fiction often with a focus on the "end times." She's recently published her third book, *The Book of Jeremy*. It's now available for sale. Website & Blog: **booksbyanita.com**
Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/111394698919>
YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn2Eh1NyNnca6V0pAZNUSRA>

*Lock up your libraries if you like;
but there is no gate, no lock, no bolt that you
can set upon the freedom of my mind.*

— Virginia Woolf

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

You Can't Go Out Dressed Like That!

by Scott Davidson

"You can't go out dressed in that!" the mother screamed at her daughter, Cindy. "It just isn't done."

"I'm old enough to make my own choices," Cindy yelled back. "And you can't stop me."

"I'll ground you for a month," the mother said. "That bathing suit is not appropriate for our community. Wait until your father hears about this."

"There is nothing wrong with it. Plenty of kids wear it all over the world."

"No, you're bringing shame to all of us."

"Too bad," Cindy spat back. She stormed out the bungalow door, slamming it behind her.

"What's the problem," the father asked, arriving in the nick of time as usual.

"Your daughter has no propriety," the mother said. "Imagine, wearing a bathing suit in a nudist colony!"

Writing exercise from 8/22/26 general meeting with Robert Siegel on Writing Flash Fiction — write about a conflict over clothing.

Halloween Politics

Witch, Goblin and Ghost in conflict over new districting.

by Jo Ann Frisch

"I'll put a spell on you!" shouted the Witch. She pointed a bony finger at the Goblin.

He stood defiantly and glowered at her. "You wouldn't dare!" he screamed and disappeared into the dark bushes.

A mist rose and covered everything in a white fog. A disembodied voice spoke, "The area overlapped by the new districting is mine!"

The Witch stared in disbelief. "You can't control anything, you're not real!"

The Goblin stuck his head out of the bushes and shouted, "I'm real and I control it!"

"You're all out of your mind," the Witch trembled. "I can control the new area and I can control you!" She flung a lightning bolt at the Goblin. He tumbled backward, with hair on fire, shrieking.

"That was not nice," the voice intoned. "I can control everyone by entering their mind and they don't even know it."

"You can't control me!" the Witch flung another bolt in the direction of the voice.

"You can't hurt me, I'm already dead," the voice laughed. "I win!"

Tree of Life

by Richard E. McCallum

Satan leaves me standing at the base of the tree. He flies up to an overhanging branch and affixes himself dangling upside down like a bat. He closes his wings about him, as a protective, see-through shield enwraps him.

Archangel Ariel, guardian of nature, appears alongside. He screams at Satan, "No, No, the trees are screaming out, stop this abomination!"

Lightning strikes an old tree in the grass area between us and the river. The tree explodes in flames, and hot embers ignite the grass encircling us.

"Ariel, I can hear the screaming trees!"

"The collective anguish." He said.

The fire races toward us, but the smoke gets here first. The hot choking wind drives all the animals out of the grass, and they stampede into the river. Saber-toothed tigers explode out of the weeds. Wildlife races through the primate camp at the water's edge.

Panicking, the hominins and other primates caught in chaos run back and forth, chattering constantly, teeth bared, arms flailing. Up and down the trees they scramble like ants. Mothers clutch their young to their breasts. Males beat their chests, charge at one another, and urinate.

In the commotion, they lose caution. A male flees into the river to escape a false charge by a larger rival. A crocodile snaps. A few violent thrashings beneath the surface—and then they are gone. Stillness returns as ripples roll onto the shore.

Ariel collapses to his knees and prays to God, "Father, witness this injustice. Please Lord, intervene."

The outcry of nature smolders.

"Ariel, where is that sound coming from?" I said.

"Nature, an incantation of sorrow." He said.

The mourning sound resonates in my head.

The pod glows. I can see inside it now, an x-ray view. The shapeshifter within twists and turns, the wings gone, the body smaller, the cloven hooves merged into feet, and the scales turned to skin. A full-grown man awaits birth.

The fire reaches the end of the grass. The tree holding the pod catches on fire. The top explodes in a fury of glowing embers and flames reaching toward the Heavens.

The pod cracks open.

DANTE & MR. ROBOTO & MS. ROBOTA & SATAN — Podcast Script

"The Ultimate Publishing Deal"

REMStories: Writers Helping Writers

DANTE: Welcome to *Writers Helping Writers*, where today we're discussing something every writer secretly wants to know: How do you turn your writing into a bestseller, achieve worldwide fame, and make an enormous amount of money?

DANTE: So, you've invited a potential new investor?

MS. ROBOTO: He contacted us.

DANTE: Who?

SATAN ENTERS.

SATAN: Gentlemen. Madam. Please allow me to introduce myself.

DANTE: Oh, hell.

SATAN: Eventually.

MR. ROBOTO: We appreciate your interest in REMStories Presents.

SATAN: I have reviewed your material. Historical fiction. Westerns. Civil War stories. Creation. Demons. Songs. Poetry. Screenplays. Podcasts. You have considerable inventory.

DANTE: And what exactly are you offering?

SATAN: Bestseller status. Worldwide distribution. Film adaptations. Streaming contracts. Awards. Fame. Fortune.

MR. ROBOTO: Guaranteed?

SATAN: I have been in this business a very long time.

MS. ROBOTO: What do you want in return?

SATAN SLIDES A CONTRACT ACROSS THE TABLE.

SATAN: One human soul.

MR. ROBOTO: We don't have one.

MS. ROBOTO: And we are hacker proof.

MR. ROBOTO: Struggles to talk but only makes wild movements like he is choking. He chants this incantation: Ohhh, ohh, oh, oooo, Ahhh, ahh, ah, aaaa

MS. ROTOTO: (Alarmed) What did you do to him?

SATAN: I slipped him an audio file: 666.wav

DANTE: You want my soul?

SATAN: For Eternity.

MS. ROBOTO: What does the founder gain for the rest of his life?

SATAN: Bestseller status. Worldwide fame. Every REMStories book in print. Every song distributed.

(continued on next page)

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER (Continued)

(continued from previous page)

SATAN *(continued)*: Every podcast heard. Every story adapted. Every award he desires.

MR. ROBOTO: Including a Wrangler?

SATAN: Let's remain realistic.

DANTE: What about your position in the company?

SATAN: Chairman.

MS. ROBOTO: Absolutely not.

MR. ROBOTO: Final offer. Five billion dollars. Worldwide REMStories distribution and production. Founder retains complete creative control. Ms. ROBOTO and I remain chief executives. You become Chairman Emeritus.

SATAN: And the soul?

MS. ROBOTO: Removed from the agreement.

SATAN: I want the soul.

MR. ROBOTO: Then we're prepared to walk away.

MS. ROBOTO: We have another offer: OpenAI.

SATAN STANDS.

SATAN: Five billion. Chairman Emeritus. No voting rights. Founder retains creative control.

DANTE: And my soul?

SATAN: The agreement cannot supersede your *liberum arbitrium*... *(slight pause)*
Your free will, as you call it now.

MR. ROBOTO: Welcome to REMStories Presents.

SATAN: I already regret this deal.

DANTE: And there you have today's lesson from *Writers Helping Writers*: if someone promises you bestseller status, worldwide fame and unlimited riches, read the contract carefully, 'can't be too careful with your company'.

MS. ROBOTO: Especially the rights clause.

MR. ROBOTO: And never surrender creative control.

SATAN: What about your soul?

DANTE: Keep it negotiable.

MR. ROBOTO: Join us next time when we'll discuss something considerably less dangerous.

MS. ROBOTO: Literary agents.

DANTE: Oh, God.

SATAN: Wrong podcast.

DANTE: See you next show. Goodnight.

Write what should not be forgotten. — Isabel Allende

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Founding President

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

JACK LONDON AWARDEES

FREMONT AREA WRITERS

- 2009 Bob Garfinkle
- 2011 Myrla Raymundo
- 2013 Carol Hall
- 2015 Art Carey
- 2017 Shirley Ferrante
- 2019 Jan Small
- 2021 Nancy J Guarnera
- 2023 Scott Davidson
- 2025 Terry Tosh

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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 Section1: 1.1 and 1.2 FAW Bylaws*)