HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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. 10 November 2026

Visit us at **http://cwc-fremontareawriters.org**



Visual Prompt *Photograph by nguarnera*

November General Meeting

* NOV 28th * 2 to 4 PM * ZOOM * FREE *

Where Your Characters Live:

WRITING SETTING, LANGUAGE & BELONGING

with Guest Speaker

Angela Álvarez Vélez



angelaalvarezvelez.com

How do we make a place feel lived in on the page? What can a character's relationship to language reveal about their history, identity, and sense of belonging? And how can we convey those experiences with specificity and brevity?

In this interactive talk, Colombian writer Angela Álvarez Vélez explores how stereotypes shape our portrayals of places as well as people. Drawing on examples from literature, film, and television, she examines how a setting can influence a story, why a shared language doesn't necessarily mean a shared experience, and how writers can use telling details to create a world beyond familiar shorthand.

Participants will explore practical approaches to writing beyond their own experience, including choosing details that reveal both character and place, incorporating non-English words thoughtfully, and recognizing when research needs to go deeper. There will be time for questions and conversation about participants' own writing challenges.

Angela Álvarez Vélez is a Colombian writer, journalist, and educator with more than 25 years of experience working with stories and the people who tell them.

Her writing has appeared in literary anthologies and publications in Colombia and abroad. A longtime university lecturer and newspaper columnist, she explores the intersection of storytelling, cultural identity, and representation.

Her approach to inclusive writing is rooted in a simple belief: good representation comes from creating characters with the depth, contradictions, and humanity of real people.

Originally from Pereira, Colombia, she currently lives in Bogotá, the country's capital. From there she writes fiction exploring family, belonging, grief, and the stories we inherit.

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

It is November, the last President's Message and *Ink Spots* for the year. November is the month to give thanks, and there are quite a lot of thanks to give.

First, thanks to all the members who renewed, all the Tri-Valley members who chose to join us and who are very active, and of course to our new members.

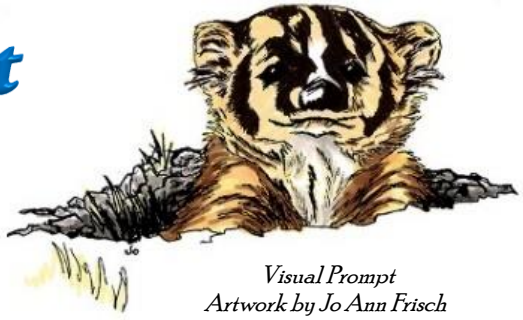
Thanks to the FAW Board. A big problem across CWC and elsewhere is getting volunteers, but we have a deep supply of people who make this club go. Tish Davidson, who gets our speakers and runs the Write-ins, and our social lunches and dinners. Cherilyn Chin, our Treasurer, who manages our money. Thanks to Pat Doyne, our Secretary, who gets the minutes out lickety-split. I record our board meetings on Zoom, but she gets the minutes out before the recording even gets translated. Thanks to Stephen Yuen, our Membership chair, who has to deal with MRMS and the new system coming. Thanks to Tony Pino who runs the Salon every month. Thanks to Evelyn LaTorre, our CWC rep, who fills us in on what is going on statewide. And last, but certainly not least, a gigantic thanks to Nancy Guarnera, our Newsletter editor, who gets *Ink Spots* out ten times a year.

A special thanks to everyone who attends our events. We're all about writers helping writers, and that's how it works. Our speakers, many of whom teach writing in college, have commented on how involved the audience is. I suspect some of them wish their classes participated as well as we do. If you haven't been to an event in a while, give it a try. I know I learn a lot from our speakers. I've revised my book based on what I've learned in general meetings.

I hope to see you all at our Holiday Party, December 5, and that you all have very happy holidays.

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 November 2026 issue. We hope you enjoy it!

The weather has finally turned and I'm no longer melting in the horrible heat. Aaaaaah!

The Holiday Party is officially scheduled for December 5th from noon to 3 pm. You'll find more info about the party on page 9. Just a reminder, the party is for our members and their guests. More info will be on its way to you soon via email from Scott Davidson.

There will be no December issue of *Ink Spots*, so if you'd like to submit something **for the January 2027 issue, the deadline will be December 10th** (the 15th if you need the extra time, but please let me know in advance). Consider that we'll be entering a new year with all that entails: resolutions, new beginnings, change… And, we'll be in the dead of winter, a season that is full of potential for writers.

If you are an artist, illustrator, or photographer who would like to see your work in print, consider submitting something for the newsletter to be used as a visual prompt. Please make sure if your image has a person/people in it that can be identified, make sure you have a signed release from them allowing you to submit it for publication. In general, I don't include images with recognizable people, because I prefer to avoid having to obtain releases. This will depend on the image. Submission does not guarantee use. If you're submitting your art and pics for use in *Ink Spots*, please use jpg format 300dpi (72dpi is okay, too). Your work just might prompt a piece of writing!

As we enter the season of thanksgiving, I have found myself contemplating ways in which I might be more grateful and giving. Sometimes, just recounting things I'm grateful for each day can create a shift into greater gratitude. Years ago, I kept a gratitude journal. Every night before I went to bed, I would record three things from my day for which I was grateful. It didn't take long before there were five entries, and then ten, and eventually, my whole day was a string of things for which I was thankful. One's perspective on daily life can change dramatically using this one technique. And, extra benefit…when I express my gratitude for all I have, the Universe seems to give me even more to be grateful for.

The other aspect of the season is all about giving—presents (expressions of love, kindness and caring). Recently, I realized that how we express these "gifts" is 90% of the gift. We can give mindlessly or we can give mindfully. When a loved one comes to us for connection, do we respect it and give them our full attention and time? Or do we act as if they are an interruption, an imposition, an annoyance? I have made a promise to myself, that I will give my loved ones the attention they desire, for no other reason than because I love them. I want my relationships to be mindful. And being "present" is the greatest gift I can give another. In that moment, there is nothing that is more important. The fact that in that moment, they wish to connect with me, is their gift to me. I accept and am grateful. Time to start another gratitude journal and call my siblings.

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

Thank you for your submissions & happy writing!

FAW — November Meetings

Fremont Area Writers
"Fourth Saturday"
General Mtg on Zoom

Saturday November 28th 2:00 – 4:00 PM

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

Speaker: Angela Álvarez Vélez Writer, Teacher (see p.2)

https://www.behance.net/angelaalvarez4

For details on Zooming, contact Scott Davidson at

scottfrombayside@yahoo.com

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

Tuesday November 24th 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 — November Meetings

Fremont Area Writers
"Second Saturday"
Social Write-In on Zoom

Saturday November 14th 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 November 23rd 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

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2026 FAW GENERAL MEETINGS
TOPICS & SPEAKERS

NOVEMBER 28TH 2-4 PM ZOOM

Where Your Characters Live: Writing Setting, Language, and Belonging

Angela Álvarez Vélez *Writer, Teacher*

https://www.behance.net/angelaalvarez4

— No General Meeting in DECEMBER —

FAW HOLIDAY PARTY

December 5th — 12:00 AM to 3:00PM

Pleasanton — Address to follow via email

(see page 9 for more information)

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!***

Either write something worth reading
or do something worth writing.
— Benjamin Franklin

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 Robert Cabello, Scott Davidson, Tish Davidson, Pat Doyne, Jacqlyn Freitas, JoAnn Frisch, Nancy Guarnera, Linda Lazaretti, and Samuel Rodrigues, all who entered their flash fiction pieces in the Fremont Cultural Arts Council's contest at Half Price Books in Fremont last month. ***Congratulations, All!***

KUDOS to Pat Doyne, whose poem, "Words for the News-Weary," was accepted for the online anthology *Moments of Hope,* published by San Francisco Peace & Hope, Elizabeth Hack, editor. Pat also submitted two pieces to the Flash Fiction Contest at Half Price Books and was awarded the President Emeriti Prize for "Meeting the Man in the Moon." ***Congratulations, Pat!***

KUDOS to Jacqlyn Freitas, who won 5th place in the Flash Fiction Contest October 10, 2026, with her entry "Moon Talks" held at Half Price books in October. ***Congratulations, Jackie!***

KUDOS to Damon Yeargain whose story, "How We Had a Baby," was accepted by Garden of Neuro Institute for their *Wouldn't You Rather Be Laughing* volume and who will be doing a Zoom reading of his piece that is open to the public. His "Get an Ugly Alien to Marry You" was accepted by Ravens Perch **https://theravensperch.com/get-an-ugly-alien-to-marry-you-by-damon-yeargain/**, and his baseball story, "Relief," was recently accepted by Half and One. Two of his stories that were submitted to, and accepted by, Half and One before he joined Fremont Area Writers can be read by using these links "Foul Trouble": **https://halfandone.com/foul-trouble/** and "Meeting on a Train": **https://halfandone.com/meeting-on-a-train/**. ***Congratulations, Damon!***

CALLING ALL FAW

Artists/Illustrators/Photographers

There's an opportunity for you to have one or two of your "visuals" displayed at the library in April 2027.

More details to follow via email!

FAW & CWC Information

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FAW Holiday Party

For Members & Their Guests

Saturday, December 5th

12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

in Pleasanton

Additional info & details will be emailed to members soon.

If you'd like to assist with decorating & set-up earlier and later in the day, plan to arrive at 11:30 AM to lend a hand. And/or please stick around until 3:30 PM to help with clean-up.

Facility has a full kitchen: frig/freezer, stove, oven, microwave, coffeemaker. All are available to be used, but must be left in their original condition.

FOOD: If your last name begins with A–F bring a Main dish / G–M bring an Appetizer, Salad, or Side dish / O–Y bring a Dessert

Please bring your own non-alcoholic beverage to share and enjoy.

Optional: If you'd like to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift of $18 or less. Details to follow soon.

Optional: Bring a written piece you've penned (300 words or less) to read. Topic: A holiday theme of your choice.

As always, we'll entertain ourselves with a Pub Quiz.

Please RSVP by Nov. 21st to President, Scott Davidson with questions and a head-count at scottfrombayside@yahoo.com

We hope you can join us for this annual, in-person celebration.

FAW & CWC Information

— PLEASE READ —

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

You're Invited to…

Fremont Area Writers Social Luncheon

Thursday November 12th 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

MORE ABOUT THIS ON THE NEXT PAGE!



NAPA VALLEY BOOK FESTIVAL

Uncork Your Next Great Read

Presented by the Napa Valley Writers branch of the California Writers Club

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026 • 10 AM – 4 PM

BLUE OAK SCHOOL • 1455 POLK STREET • DOWNTOWN NAPA

AUTHORS, SELL YOUR BOOKS & MEET READERS

FEATURED SPEAKERS

REX PICKETT

Author of the novel
Sideways
Adapted into an
Academy Award-winning film

TOM STIENSTRA

San Francisco Chronicle
Outdoors Writer Emeritus
Author of
Heaven Delayed: One Man's Survival of Sixteen Near-Death Encounters

RESERVE YOUR AUTHOR TABLE

CWC Members: $50 **Nonmembers: $75**

Sell your books and connect with readers at this free community literary event.

SPACE IS LIMITED

Registration is first come, first served.

www.nvbookfestival.com

nvbookfest@gmail.com

FAW & CWC Information

NAPA VALLEY BOOK FESTIVAL

Uncork Your Next Great Read

— NOVEMBER 14, 2026 —

FREE ADMISSION • OPEN TO EVERYONE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026 • 10 AM – 4 PM

Blue Oak School

1455 Polk Street, downtown Napa

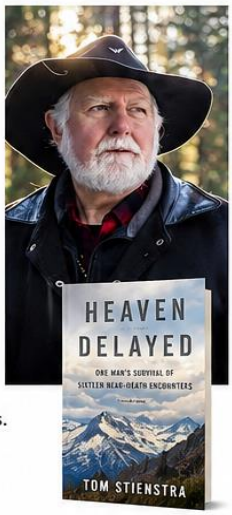
Celebrate books, writers and the joy of reading at a **FREE** community literary event presented by the Napa Valley Writers branch of the California Writers Club.

MORNING SPEAKER

TOM STIENSTRA

San Francisco *Chronicle* outdoors writer emeritus and America's most traveled outdoorsman.

His latest book, *Heaven Delayed: One Man's Survival of Sixteen Near-Death Encounters*, chronicles his extraordinary adventures and life-changing experiences.

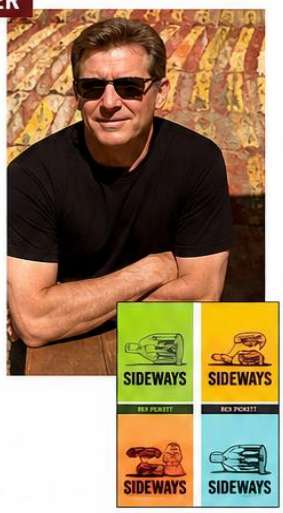


AFTERNOON SPEAKER

REX PICKETT

Author of *Sideways*

Rex Pickett will share insights on finding your voice, navigating rejection, and persevering through the publishing process.



A FULL DAY FOR READERS, FAMILIES & BOOK LOVERS

- MEET AUTHORS AND BROWSE AUTHOR TABLES
- INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORES
- CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR WITH LOCAL AUTHORS
- OPEN MIC AND ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING
- FOOD TRUCKS

Bring a friend. Bring the family. Uncork your next great read.

No ticket price. No admission fee. Just a great day of books.

For more information, visit www.napavalleywriters.org or follow Napa Valley Writers on social media.

$$$ CONTESTS $$$

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

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.)

The Winter Guest

by Pam Jenoff, © 2014

Some human bones have been found at a development site near Biekowice… And we think you might know something about them." That begins the story of a Polish girl who discovers and cares for an American soldier during WWII. This historical romance is about Helena, the protagonist; Sam, the American soldier; Ruth, Helena's twin sister—the pretty one, the one more likely to be married, who loses her boyfriend when their parents die, the one who is jealous when Helena finds love during war, the one who betrays her sister's trust.

"A flashlight illuminated the way ahead, light licking the walls…Helena pressed against the wall, holding her breath. She looked around desperately for a better hiding place, but found none. She reached for her knife… She knew now that she would sooner fight and bring on her own death than be taken."

Full of action and suspense, I wondered throughout the story whose bones would be discovered.

At about chapter 6, page 79 of 333 pages, I couldn't put the book down and finished it in three days!

Review by Joyce Cortez

The Ambassador's Daughter

by Pam Jenoff, © 2013

Another book by Pam Jennoff! I felt excited as I picked from my hand-me-down collection of books. Just having finished *The Winter Guest*, I looked forward to seeing if *The Ambassador's Daughter* would be as good as *The Winter's Guest*. By page 22, I knew I would enjoy this book as well.

Paris 1919. Margot Rosenthal, who is with her father, a German diplomat, in Paris as part of the peace conference following WWI. The world is changing. Margot follows a musician, Krysia, from the welcoming reception for President Wilson to a café where men and Krysia discuss the state of the world. Margot has no opinion of her own, distinct from her father's.

"Krysia exhorts Margot, 'Make Paris your own. Do something, write something, take a class. You are young and unattached, at least for the moment.' I hold my breath, waiting for her to ask about my fiancé, but she continues. 'You're in one of the world's greatest cities at the dawn of the modern age. You have resources, wits, talent. There's no greater sin than to waste all of that. Find your destiny.' Before I can ask her how, she turns and disappears into the night."

Lies and betrayals; duty and desire; what is real and what is not are central concepts of this story. She fumbles her way through it all. Then the moment of truth. She's about to reveal her truths, but she is too late. Everything is now out of her control.

As a young woman, I craved and braved the adventure of a solo trip to Reno, enjoying my time immensely. Although my trip lacked the intrigue of *The Ambassador's Daughter*, this book spoke to that side of myself. The need for freedom and to become my own woman when duty at home meant a different reality.

Review by Joyce Cortez

Notes from the World

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Check out the

Poetry Foundation

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

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/12-places-that-publish-writing-about-writing-and-publishing/

https://authorspublish.com/25-magazines-accepting-creative-nonfiction/

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 webinars 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, 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?"*

Saturday, Dec 12 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM PT

"Your Best Writing Process: The Elements of Writing Success"
Learn how to plan, to draft, when to revise, and how research fits in to understand which parts are working for you & which need some experimenting.

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 pub-lishing 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 sea-son, the workshops cover a variety of tools nec-essary 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=PLIOB yuSHCqP7V9mSsoqU5FojJys2LsvYi

Inside Writing: A recent Special Episode dis-cussed 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 submis-sions in June 2020. Submissions can be of all lengths from and about minorities—people of color, people with disabilities, religious minorities, LBGTQ+ people, etc.— and non-traditional romance.
Mission: diversify and modernize the genre.
belongingbooksonline.wordpress.com

FREE Online Workshops

scriptwriters check out
roadmapwriters.com

Notes from the World

Reedsy Learning

FREE

Writing Classes, Webinars and a Blog

https://blog.reedsy.com/learning/courses/writing/show-dont-tell/?utm_source=mailparrot&utm_campaign=learning_show_don_t_tell

Reedsy has lots of free classes and webinars for writers, as well as many archived blog topics.

Check it out!

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** 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**

"I can shake off everything as I write;
my sorrows disappear; my courage is reborn."
— Anne Frank

FREMONT AREA WRITERS' CORNER

This October, the Fremont Cultural Arts Council's Flash Fiction Contest at Half Price Books in Fremont, had ten FAW entries. Two of our members, Jackie Freitas and Pat Doyne, won prizes. This month's Writers' Corner features all the FAW entries to the October contest. Enjoy! The topic was *Living on the Moon* with a 300-word count limit.

Moon Talks



by Jacqlyn Freitas

"Moonbeams and Moo-beams passed each other with frequency during the final days of preparation," said Moon. "And then it happened! Now, I've seen many strange things like astronauts landing on the bright-side of Me, and planting a flag as if it could grow. Recent astronauts landed on my dark side searching for age-old secrets including the recipe for our cheese that tartly tantalizes the salivary glands.

"But the arrival in 1765 tops them all. I heard a loud swish and a clanging bell. Looking up I sang out the password 'How Now Brown Cow!' Cow released her treasures: the eloping Dish and Spoon heavily laden with gravitational boots. The couple—holding hands with Cat and Fiddle—smiled their 'Thanks' to Cow as she continued her arc back to Earth.

"Cat and Fiddle, of course played for Dish and Spoon's wedding. Through those early years Dish and Spoon birthed many ladles—resembling both sides of the family. Cat, Fiddle, and progeny accepted the honor of playing to my gravitational forces which caress Earth's tides." Moon continued.

"Little Dog, who encouraged Cow's jump over Me, warmly welcomed Cow back to Earth. Cow received the Heroic No-Bell Award and lived udderly content without the clanging.

"In gratitude for friendship which urges us to be who we truly are, Little Dog sometimes joins the age-old practice on Earth of howling lovingly to Me." concluded Moon.



MEETING THE MAN IN THE MOON

by Pat Doyne

I landed on the moon and stepped onto its crust. A strange man came rushing over. "You can't park here," he screamed. "You're on my roof. Move your UFO. Park in a non-residential area."

I looked around. Houses? Sidewalks? People? All I could see was a checkerboard of black and gray squares. My mini-rocket had landed on a black square.

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Meeting the Man in the Moon…

"Get that contraption off my roof," the man repeated

"You live here?" I said. "Where's your front door?

"Below, of course."

"You live underground?"

"Outside, the temperature can be 250 degrees In the sun, and negative 208 degrees at night. Plus solar wind, incoming meteoroids, and tourists. Inside, it stays around 63 degrees day and night. So that's where we live," explained the man.

"Do they all look like you? Small, skinny, big eyes, no hair?" I asked.

"If you don't get off my roof, an army of us will appear, and you'll find out."

"Okay," I said. "Where's a safe place to park?"

"Just follow the signs." The man pointed at the red and green rocks scattered in the gray squares. "Can't you read?"

"What language is that?"

"Gssk," he said. "Interplanetary script."

"One last question. How did you learn to speak an Earth-language?"

"Netflix." The man disappeared.

I moved my mini-rocket, hoping I'd landed in a trouble-free spot. The moon's surface was deserted. But what lived beneath? Maybe someday I'd find out.

OUR NEIGHBOR… earth

Or, How to Earn Your Visitor Pass to earth

by Robert Cabello

Earth, our closest neighbor in this solar system, has been, for most of its existence, of no interest to us here on our home. Millenia ago, earth was a penal colony of sorts, and eventually became a vacation destination.

Other than using earth's gravitational field to orbit the planet, it has no real practical use. It is the only location in the universe that is classified **Restricted Travel Access!**

Inhabitants of our lovely home have noticed, in the last thousands of solar trips, the evolution of a species on earth that is disturbing to the peace and tranquility of our humble home. *Travel to earth is at your own risk.*

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OUR NEIGHBOR... earth

We chose our home because of the pretty blue-green moon that we circled. We are a quiet, peaceful people. We literally want for no thing. We travel the universe freely. We are welcomed wherever we go. Our home meets our minimalistic sensibilities. In contrast, our blue-green moon's dominant species are greedy, hostile and in a movie, boasting of a faked trip to our home. They even claim to have left behind some of their belongings. Of course, we do not behave in this manner. Our inceptors created us better than that! We leave <u>NO</u> mess behind.

New events on earth, and new attention to colonizing our home instead of the red planet, require ***Visitor Passes to be Issued***. (Marsese are thrilled, because *"it's too hard to live there."*) (HA!) Pass holders will be provided Physical Transport and Means to restore our blue/green moon to its peaceful life balance. The species on earth seems only to respond to physical "encouragement." We don't usually do Physical, but we're gonna…!

View of the Earth

by Scott Davidson

We got off the moonbus just before a small hill. "Line up," Ms. Clarkson said through our spacesuit helmets. It was our first long moon walk.

"Do you see the boot prints?" Mr. Habib said. "That's the path to follow."

"Move it up, Miguel." Bruce, behind me, bugged me as usual. I looked for Ayana's suit. She walked three people ahead of me. Rats.

Soon we were going to learn the Landing Day secret. Everyone went on an expedition like ours when they turned 13. None of the older kids ever said what they saw. We could tell it affected them.

My helmet radio brought me lots of sass from the kids. It had been a long bus trip, and our suits were cumbersome and heavy even in the Lunar gravity. We all had to be careful of our footing. A fall out here could be disastrous.

Mr. Habib stopped us just before the top of the hill. "Spread out," he said, "so you can all cross the crest at the same time."

Five steps more and there was Earth on the horizon. The sight of it hit me like a meteor. It was not blue and green like the pictures hung at home. The land was gray; the seas were muddy brown. The Earth was sick. I heard Ayana start to cry. What had happened to it?

"Twenty-three years ago," Ms. Clarkson said, "the people of earth destroyed themselves. Fires burned the forests and cities; ash polluted the oceans. Earth used to be our home, today the moon is our home. Radiation killed the survivors. We are all that is left. Children, you are the future of humanity. Do not repeat the mistakes of your elders."

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GREEN CHEESE

by Tish Davidson

All his life, Mikey mouse had been told the moon was made of green cheese. He gazed at the moon and sighed. He loved cheese. His roly-poly body proved it. Across the marshes toward Cape Canaveral another rocket was being prepared for a moon voyage. If only he could sneak aboard that ship and bring back cheese for everyone. The kids at school would no longer laugh at him because he was always the first one caught when they played run, run, cat.

The rocket enthralled him. Mikey packed the Astronaut Junior suit his mother had made him and loaded a sack with cheese just in case he got hungry. He skuttled in and out of moonbeams as he snuck across the marsh.

At the launch pad, the rocket towered over Mikey. Men climbed the scaffolding to the space capsule. One worker dropped a hammer. Mikey raced over behind him, scrambled up to his tool belt and slid into the man's pocket. The man climbed the scaffolding. The capsule door was open. Mikey made a giant leap and tumbled inside.

The pressure at liftoff was terrible, but weightlessness was fun. When they finally reached the moon, the capsule door opened. Mikey hopped out. Cheese? Where was the cheese? No cheese, just dirt and rocks. Without green cheese to take home, no one would believe he had been to the moon. He put a few rocks in his sack as souvenirs.

Mikey was gloomy and hungry the whole voyage home. After he landed, he showed his mother the rocks. "No cheese," he said sadly. "Just dirt."

Mikey, his mother said. "You don't understand. You're famous. The first mouse on the moon."

And after that, no one laughed at Mikey when he played run, run cat.

MEETING THE LUNAR DEFENSE TEAM

by Pat Doyne

On my second trip to the moon, I brought along a companion-robot. As I looked down, I saw several black-and-gray checkerboards—signs of underground neighborhoods. This time, I landed on a gray square.

A small, skinny, bug-eyed, hairless man appeared. "Oh, no," he groaned, "Not you again!"

"I'm not on top of your roof this time," I said.

"No. this time you landed on the library. See the sign?" He pointed to a formation of red and green rocks. Robo-Rottweiler started barking his head off, then growling fiercely. Instantly, two dozen Moon–Warriors appeared, armed with slingshots. They glowed strangely, as if...

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MEETING THE LUNAR DEFENSE TEAM

"Are they holograms?" I asked.

"Of course," said Moon–Man. "Only Earthlings risk life and limb in physical combat."

"Begone!" thundered the Moon–Warriors.

Robo-Rottweiler charged. Lightning flashed. The pup fell flat, all four legs sliced off and laying on the ground. Worse, my arm, which had been holding his leash, lay next to the twitching limbs. "Begone!" the Warriors repeated.

"How can I operate a rocket with one left arm?" I cried. "And what about poor Robo–pup?"

"If we heal you, will you leave quietly? Why did you come back, anyway?"

"To learn more about your civilization," I said. "The moon section in Earth's libraries is all astronauts and folktales."

"Some things are none of your business," said Moon–Man. "We don't want Earth rushing to colonize the moon. But I'll fix you up so you can go home." Lights whirled and flashed, and four legs and my arm reattached. "Holographic medicine," Moon–Man said. "We can repair everything except decapitation."

The defense team disappeared. I climbed into my mini-rocket, followed by a very quiet Robo–Rottweiler. The last thing I saw as we rose into the blackness of space was a small, skinny Moon–Man waving good-bye.

FROM THE DARK SIDE

by Jo Ann Frisch

"Hurry, we get to see this only once a month."

Four astronauts struggled with their uniforms of air tight metallic fabric. The helmets made them look like aliens. Dark oval lenses bulged over the eyes. Breathing emitted a steady rhythm from the chest. The boots were heavy but necessary in the light gravity. Something they had to get used to before blasting off to Mars in a few weeks.

The captain pressed the communication button again, "You're going to miss it."

Four aliens, Ajax 1, 2, 3, and 4, appeared on time as usual.

A top-secret nuclear facility was developed on the moon when water was discovered deep underground. It supplied all of the needs for a large system of tunnels connecting sleeping quarters, toilets, bathing facilities, a garden for fresh vegetables, kitchen, recreation area and a command center to Earth.

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FROM THE DARK SIDE

Two craters were mined continually with AI robots processing rare minerals needed on Earth.

The aliens made it all possible. Their advanced technology had been at work for centuries guiding human's advancement. They were spoken of as Gods, filling Earth's religion and creation mythologies.

When the US exploded the first nuclear bomb in the desert, they watched us and became alarmed when the US bombed two cities in Japan during World War II.

An alien was rescued from a flying saucer that crashed near Roswell, New Mexico. Our scientists learned to communicate with it and learned many things that advanced our technology. This was kept top secret from the general population for fear of a panic.

The captain said, "Ok, let's look at the Earth during a 'full Earth.' Keep your heads down as you peek over the rim of your crater at reflected sunlight on the Earth from the dark side."

The Moonling

by Nancy Guarnera

"Sunny, time to wake up."

The disembodied voice of her personal assistant was like a warm hug. Comforting, but ever so slightly insistent. She snuggled back into the covers, not quite ready to get up.

"Sunny, it's Luna's birthday, you promised to make a cake."

"Okay!" Sunny sighed and stretched. "I'm up." She smiled at the thought of Luna's first birthday. She had promised her daughter cake. And, a very special present.

"Momma! Momma!" Luna greeted her with outstretched arms and a radiant smile, as she entered her child's room.

"Good morning, my little angel." She scooped her giggling daughter into her arms and they began their day. Since Luna's birth, Sunny had felt truly blessed by her daughter's delightful disposition.

After breakfast, it was time to make cake. Sunny had decided to make a princess cake for Luna. It seemed fitting, since her daughter was the first "lunar baby" born on the moon. Luna was a moonling. There were other lunar babies, but Luna would always be the first. She would hold a special place in the history of the moon and its settlement.

As she put the finishing touches on Luna's cake, Sunny wished that Luna's father could be with them to celebrate. Xavier had pulled the shuttle run to Earth that cycle.

"Sunny, incoming message," the PA announced. Sunny arranged the cake in front of her on the

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The Moonling

table, lifted Luna out of her highchair, and faced the vid-screen. Xavier's face appeared on the wall.

"Poppa! Momma, it's Poppa!" Luna squealed as her father and mother sang happy birthday to her. Then her father blew her a kiss and was gone.

Sharing a piece of cake, the little moonling and her earthling mother watched as the Earth rose on Luna's birthday.

GRAVEL MINING THE MOON

by Linda Lazaretti

Gravel Mining? On the moon? Yes! We'd been assigned the job of gravel mining there in preparation for the first solo trip through a local wormhole in our spacetime vehicle. We needed to fill the vehicle's cargo bays with the strongest metal known to protect against warping effects, thus gravel mining for it. The plan was to take our vehicle out to the moon on a test run, gravelize the metal mining process there, fill the cargo bays with the gravel and slingshot off the moon's gravitational pull to the furthest Oort Cloud region of our solar system. Completing the plan, we made it to the Oort Cloud without a hitch and in warp speed beyond what anyone imagined we could achieve.

The problem started when we received a message from Mission Control warning us of an unanticipated coronal mass ejection or CME; better known as solar flares that were coming our way. Mission Control told us we had two choices—get home ASAP or return to the moon, fill the cargo bays with more gravel and hope that would allow us to counter the effects of possible spacetime warping produced by the CME. If so, it would speed up the pretest time needed before a solo trip through the local wormhole.

No need to say which one we chose. Back to the moon, add more gravel to the cargo bays and ride out the CME. It was a tough go, the CME effects almost squeezing our vehicle and us to shreds but hella fun too! When we got home, we were the heroes of the day—parades, awards, our names blasted everywhere and even on the moon with a permanent extraction base and plaque honoring us and warp speed wormhole escapades to come!

"If you don't have time to read, you don't have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that."
— Stephen King

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Why We Dance

by Samuel Rodriguez

Mexican banda music, with its loud brass instruments, blared from the speakers as my parents danced, swaying in each other's arms. It was one of those nights they were nostalgic about Earth. I was in middle school, beginning to question my family's situation.

I was born on an American lunar colony, because my mother and father left Earth after the Climate Change Disaster. They both worked for NASA, so were given a home on the Moon.

My parents often reminded me about my Mexican roots on Earth. But I would snap at them, "If Earth is so great, why don't we live there?" Their answer was always that human beings destroyed the planet.

My parents complained about not having gravity. They believed we moved too slowly on the Moon, that humans lollygagged here.

They always talked about Mexican foods, like salsa made on stone molcajetes and tamales. I grew up on dehydrated foods with no complaints. In fact, I enjoyed them.

In history class, we had to write a report on our cultural beginnings on Earth. I had little desire to complete this assignment.

But I valued my grades, so I interviewed my parents about Earth and our roots in Mexico. They told me about Abuela Rosalva, Mom's great-grandmother. She grew up in a village with no electricity or running water. She trudged to the well every morning to get the water her family needed that day. And there was my Abuelo Ernesto, Dad's great-grandfather. He got up at four every morning to work the fields to help feed the people in his village.

I got an A on my paper. While writing it, I understood why my parents clung to their roots on Earth, especially Mexico. I joined them the next time they danced.

VISUAL PROMPT



Artwork by nguarnera

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FAW General Meeting

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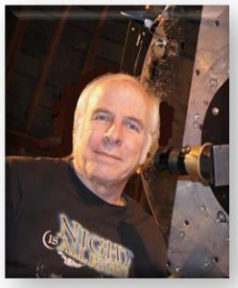
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FAW PURPOSE STATEMENT

Fremont Area Writers educates writers and the public by providing:
Forums for educating members in the craft of writing and marketing their works [and]
Monthly public meetings, workshops, and seminars open to all writers and the general public
to facilitate educating writers of all levels of expertise. *(Article II: PURPOSE Section1: 1.1 and 1.2 FAW Bylaws)*