



SPOKANE AUTHORS  
& SELF-PUBLISHERS  
4575 Wanakiwin Drive  
Loon Lake WA 99148

January 2006  
Newsletter  
Vol. 8 - No. 1

SPOKANE AUTHORS  
& SELF-PUBLISHERS  
www.spokaneauthors.org



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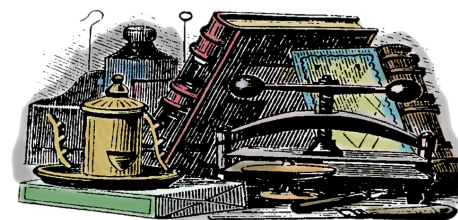
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**The Founders**

Elmer Freeman, 1920-2003  
Dan Volmer  
Joe Meiners  
Chuck O'Connor

**Website**

www.spokaneauthors.org

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**Check List**

- Mark your calendar for upcoming meetings
- Submit your bio for publication on the website
- Do a review for another member
- Keep us posted on your accomplishments as we together encourage one another in our publishing endeavors
- Pay your dues: now \$10 per calendar year

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**Poets Amongst Us**

**Dan Webster**

By Lester Smith

People and books  
Writers and the Readers  
People of all ages  
All ages are the needier  
Youth and the seniors  
Dan's view is quite clear  
Knowledge aged in time  
His ripest time is near  
Wisdom in his fine view  
Words that show much more  
Revealing the full spectrum  
Of the world of books in store  
Visions quite sharp to see  
Conviction of ideals there to feel  
We learned page for page  
The world of Books to reveal!  
Write on and on Dan  
Your view is time tested  
Your writing is as gold  
Time in Reading well invested  
Thank you Dan Webster  
Knowledge presented so well  
Thoughts for us to chew on  
Wisdom, the feast for all to dwell  
We can book on it!

**OUTSTANDING  
PAST SPEAKERS**

In September Ruth Dixon, one of our members spoke on "Radio and TV Interviews—How Do I Prepare Myself?" Ruth is the Author of *SONGS FROM THE GIRL BACK HOME*. It was quite interesting to see the display of her artifacts that pertained to her book.

In October Lawrence E. Hall, a new SASP member, spoke on "Use of Computer - More Time to Write" based upon his latest book *Writers Tool-The Computer*. (Look for www.writerstool.com)

Lawrence also talked about publishing his first two books *Montana Justice* and *Abuse of Power* - both of which he  
(Speakers, continued on page 3)

**2006 SPEAKER SCHEDULE**

**January 5, 2006:** Spokane Main Library Deputy Directors will speak on – *Acquisitions, Reviews, Procedures, Cataloging and Indexing*. We will learn on how to sell our books to libraries.

**February 2, 2006:** Our local Toastmasters Rhonda McBride, Bob Weldin, and Victor Noder will be speaking on *Public Speaking Skills to Promote Your Book*. They have prepared a program that will explain how their organization can help authors in public speaking.

**March 2, 2006:** David Demers, an SASP member and past Vice-president will speak on *Publishing and Marketing Books*. Dave will provide some inside information on how the book publishing industry works. David Demers is a former newspaper reporter and currently is associate professor of communication at Washington State University in Pullman. He is an author, editor, and operates Marquette Books, a full service book publishing company.

**April 6, 2006:** Peggy De Hart, an SASP member and past SASP Historian, will be speaking on Life Memoirs-Pioneer Living. Peggy began to collect data for a book in 1961. In 1990 she began to write. In 1993 she copyrighted her first two books, *Chronicles of a Western Family, Vols. 1 and 2*. Her third book, *Cheechako*, finished in 1998, has been accepted in 2002 by the Library of Congress, Veterans History Project, Washington, D.C. Many of her articles are published in National Magazines.

**May 4, 2006:** Julie Hart, journalist and SASP Historian will speak on Writing Journalism. Julie has 20 years of writing and editing experience. Currently, she provides her services on a freelance basis to corporations, PR agencies and individuals. Her client base crosses a wide segment of industries, including high tech, banking, finance, training, employment, real estate, retail, transportation, etc.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

We are pleased to welcome the following new members for this year: Verne Patten, Dave Duncan, Michael Anthony Cariola, Steven Jayne, Catherine Feher Elston, Eileen Starr, Larry Sheets, James Minard, Ph.D., Michael A. Marsden, Gene Ambacher, Hal Lower, David E. Hibberd, Linda Spurlin, Jessica Norton, Kaylee Bush, and Bob Lorenzie, Kathy Duncan, Cindy Duryea, Paula Rose, Wolfgang Paul, David Wahl, Dr. Steve McGehee, Bob Manion, Ellen Schirmer, Julie Hart, Marian Sheafor, Bev Trigilio, David A. McChesney, Galen Dean Loven, Lawrence E. Hall and Dean Ladd. It will be a pleasure getting to know all of you.



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

We had many interesting speakers this past season and have some excellent speakers committed for 2006. Thanks to the past officers and board members David Demers, Jan Loehr, Mike Hinz, Marji Livers, Peggy De Hart, and Al Chidester for a job well done. Our success this past year was due to the great teamwork and dedication from these officers and board members.

Jackie Forney took over as Secretary when Jan Loehr was suddenly taken ill. Cindy Duryea took over as Table Decorator from Marji Livers who is moving. We will dearly miss her. Julie Hart took over as Historian from Peggy De Hart. We give special honors to Marji Livers and Peggy De Hart for the many years of service to our organization.

The following months will indeed be exciting and fun working with our new officers, Jackie Forney Vice-president, Gene Ambacher Secretary, Michael Hinz Treasurer-returning officer and all the board members. We plan on having another great year!

SASP wants to hear from those in all facets of writing and art including but not limited to: published and non-published authors, publishers and self-publishers, poets, journalists, editors, writing instructors, illustrators, musicians, song writers, sculptures, painters, writers in progress and anyone else who has an interest in writing. Our meetings are a great place to promote your work and share your experiences with others. You will receive encouragement from your mutual interest and association to continue to become all that you can. Guests are welcome.

Membership dues, now \$10.00 per year, are due in January. It is important to keep your membership current to be included on the website and book list. Please check our website at [www.spokaneauthors.org](http://www.spokaneauthors.org). Now let's keep writing and publishing, and remember to bring your published books to the meetings.

Your President,  
Barbara Cagle

**HANDLING CRITICISM**

By Alfred F. Byrne

Criticism is something we all live with particularly if we are writers.

As writers we expose ourselves in what we write. Because we are intimately involved in what we write, criticism can hurt. On the other hand it can be of immeasurable help if the writer can view it objectively. Hard to do sometimes, particularly so if it seems invalid.

So may I offer some advice from an old hand whose life's work was writing material that was subject to intense review and criticism. For over thirty years I wrote instruction manuals for the operation of complicated, never-seen-before machines. Most of that time I guided a crew of writers. All of our work was subjected to critical review because an error could have very serious results.

It was absolutely necessary that all critiques be accepted objectively and evaluated on their merits. I spent hours and hours face to face with my customer's representatives hammering out the exact words that would be followed to the letter in times of stress. Pride of authorship had no seat at that table.



*Get Lit!*, April 19-23, 2006, Spokane and Cheney, WA, is the Inland Northwest's premier annual literary arts festival, and is coordinated by Eastern Washington University Press. The festival includes readings, writing workshops and panels, school visits throughout eastern Washington and into northern Idaho,

youth poetry slams, and more. Many events are free and all are open to the public. This year's festival participants include Marilynne Robinson: This award-winning author's most recent novel, *Gilead*, is comprised of evocative, spiritual journal entries by an elderly, third-generation preacher addressed to his beloved young son. Robinson, who grew up in North Idaho, is also the author of *Housekeeping*, which was made into a movie in 1988., poet Yusef Komunyakaa: this author's compelling, prize-winning poetry is rooted in his rural Southern upbringing and his combat reporting in Viet Nam, and is infused with the rhythms of New Orleans jazz and blues. Nancy Pearl: This fun and famed Seattle librarian, with an action figure modeled in her likeness, is a rock star among readers and the tastemaker people turn to when deciding what to read next. More info at <http://www.ewu.edu/getlit>

**Miss Calico Surprise**



To my garden pond, came a calico  
She just appeared right out of nowhere.  
She was drinking the refreshing water  
as she watched me with guarded stare.

She was so thin and poorly,  
I knew she didn't have a home.  
So I let her know she was welcome  
to stay and make this place her very own.

I fed her up and brushed her  
and gave her a lot of love.  
She thankfully responded  
when she knew she was well thought of.

Now she greets me every morning  
as I come out to the garden pond.  
We share a lovely summer sunrise  
as the Calico and I make a lifetime bond.

If you ever find yourself lonely  
and have a need for a real friend,  
look no further than God's animal kingdom  
and take an orphaned kitty in.



Jackie Jenkinsen Forney

I write for fun now with nobody looking over my shoulder, but I have a deep respect for the comments of others who would offer advice, even though I may ignore it at times. That's my choice now, as it is for any author.

My advice in a nut shell is this: be like a hippopotamus standing in a lily pond with rain pouring on his back. Don't let the criticism disturb you. Soak up what is useful, let the rest run off and keep on saying what you have to say.

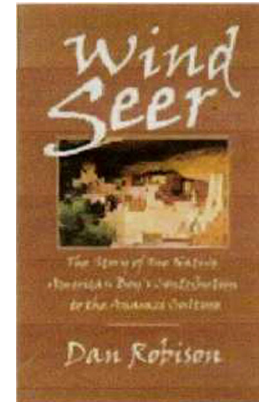
**ALWAYS REMEMBER - THE CRITIC HAS NOTHING TO SAY WITHOUT YOUR ORIGINAL WORK TO REVIEW!**



**Book Reviews:**

**Wind Seer**

By Dan Robison



This delightful tale from the Anasazi culture details lifestyle and spirituality of the southwest tribe.

A thirteen-year-old boy when the story opens, Crow gains tribal honor by following the wind, who speaks to him in color, and the local Shaman who sees the future.

Well-written with unstilted dialogue and bright images, *Wind Seer* is a provocative read for young adults as well as the not so young.

Sue Turner

**KIMO'S ESCAPE**

by Dan Robison

*Kimo's Escape* is a fast paced adventure tale that pulls the reader along with Kimo as he struggles to escape his impending doom. The rich detail in the description of his environment enhances the readers belief in Kimo's predicament and his desperate efforts to escape. This is the kind of a story I loved to read as a boy and still enjoy to read as an 83 year old man. I'm waiting for the sequel

Alfred F. Byrne

**Somewhere Every Day**

by Verne Patton

A must read volume, filled with food for thought, best taken in small servings. The author has combined his memories and family stories of the Great Depression years with his observations of current day street people into an indictment of a national shame: the ever increasing number of people that our society has thrown away, the homeless.

The main characters in this book are portrayed in a sympathetic and caring manner. Their step-by-step progress held this reader's interest in a tight grip to the final page.

In my opinion, you will be sadder but wiser for having read *Somewhere Every Day*. Bravo, Verne Patton!

Jolene Weller Fehér

*(Speakers, continued from page 1)*

prepared on computer. These books, and several in progress, are based on sixty years of business experience including travel, both business and personal, to most areas of the United States and part of Canada.

In November Danica d'Hondt spoke on "The Da Vinci Code, Motivation, and Writing Tools." Danica, 1959's Miss Canada, has written and published *Nothing Bad Happens Ever* and *Make Fashion Magic*. She has also written television shows and several screenplays.

In December Dan Webster, from *The Spokesman Review* spoke on "News Articles & Book Reviews", and "What Editors and Critics Look For and Expect". His question and answer session was most informative. He used several of our members books to demonstrate literary criticism.

**SASP's New and Returning Officers**

**Barbara Cagle—President**

Barbara Cagle returns as president. Following a successful career as a real estate broker, Barbara retired to devote time to writing a book about her mother's life, *16XMOM: Mastery of Motherhood*.

Barbara is a long-time writer, with feature articles appearing in newspapers and magazines, including *The Spokesman-Review*, *Homeseekers*, *Real Estate Marketplace Northwest Inc.*, and *The Exchange*. In 1993 she designed and produced the magazine, *Barbara Cagle Presents*. She has performed in a number of plays, and appeared as an extra in the film *Dante's Peak*, as well as an educational film, *You've Got What?*

**Jackie Forney—Vice President**

Jackie has been writing stories and drawing pictures since she was a child. She took up painting and photography, becoming a member of Tri-County Association of the Arts in Deer Park. Jackie has just completed a brilliantly illustrated book of children garden rhymes for her granddaughter titled, *Hailee's Garden Party*.

**Gene Ambacher—Secretary**

Over his career as a technical writer, Gene has written software and hardware documentation, on-line help, test plans, user manuals, specifications, reports, correspondence, and press releases. Now retired, he plans to continue as a freelance writer. His current projects include an article for Nostalgia Magazine, and a short story for the Writer's of the Future competition. In addition, he is working on several books, including a comedy science fiction novel, a couple of fantasies and a New Age book.

**Michael Hinz—Treasurer**

Mike is beginning his second term as treasurer. Recently retired from the U.S. Civil Service, Mike has been an author for over 30 years, and has published many articles, as well as two books. *How to Argue With an Atheist*, offers methods for discussing religious ideas to nonbelievers in a logical, rational manner. *Satan's Gold*, a novel, is a treasure-hunting adventure story set in the Southwest.

**Al Chidester—Webmaster/newsletter**

Long active in SASP, writer and editor Al Chidester is, along with his wife Dona Kay, owner and operator of Arts & Crafts Book Bindery & Publishing in Oakesdale, WA.

**Julie Hart—Historian**

Our historian this year will be Julie Hart. Julie has 20 years of writing and editing experience. Currently, she provides her services on a freelance basis to corporations, PR agencies and individuals. Her client base crosses a wide segment of industries, including high tech, banking/finance, training/employment, real estate, retail, and transportation.

**Cynthia Duryea—Table Decorator**

Cindy is from Fresno, California, where she grew up and studied music and dance, and received an A.S. degree in nursing. Cynthia's first book, *The Wall*, takes a current hot topic and projects it into the near future. "I think it is the scariest thing I've ever done in my life," she says. "Like many things in life, it is a new adventure for me."