



SASP

NEWS

December 2021

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers
P. O. Box 18573
Spokane, WA 99228-0573

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers (SASP) began in 1998 when *Chuck O'Conner, Elmer Freeman, Joe Meiners, and Dan Vollmer*, Spokane area authors, formed a club in order to share knowledge and experience with those interested in writing and alternative ways of publishing. Today, SASP is a large non-profit organization dedicated to anyone with interests in any aspect of writing and art. Members include aspiring (and successful) authors, poets, journalists, illustrators, editors, publishers, printers, writing instructors, and many others. Monthly luncheon meetings provide inspiration and education by way of knowledgeable and entertaining guest speakers, and the cheerful camaraderie of people sharing common interests and goals. Membership is open to all who love writing, art, and interesting people.

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers **meets** the first Thursday of each month at **Golden Corral**, 7117 N. Division Street, in Spokane.

Presentations begin at **2:30 pm**. The room opens at **2:00 pm** so members and guests can dine, visit, join, pay dues, browse, and perhaps buy each other's books. After short break, members and guests relate their accomplishments, mention upcoming activities, and we draw for door prizes. Members and guests must be present to win.

Attendees are requested to buy lunch upon entering the establishment, and to leave an appropriate tip for the waiter/waitress. Currently we are required to wear masks unless seated at a table and eating.

Membership benefits include listing on the SASP website, www.spokaneauthors.org. Many members provide short biographies and links to external personal websites, creating more marketing exposure. Current members may list and describe their published works on the SASP website and offer their work for sale at meetings. (Visit the "members" page on our web-site to connect with members' web-pages. Our "links" page connects to interesting on-line locations, including those of many SASP members.)

Guest speakers inform, inspire, and entertain with a variety of topics designed to provide knowledge about writing and publishing.

SASP members are encouraged to purchase or trade completed works of and with fellow members. They are also encouraged to donate copies of their work as door prizes.

Winners of others' work are expected to provide a review.

Note: SASP no longer transports name tags and display books to and from meetings. Your name tag is yours to keep and maintain. Please take books you provide for display. We provide space for displaying your books, but you must bring them to each meeting.

Submission Deadline: Items to be included in the next edition of SASP NEWS must be received by the editor a week prior to the next scheduled meeting. **December 30th for the January 2022 issue.**

2021 Officers:

(New Officers will be listed next month)

President:

Vice-President: *Sue Eller*
(509) 499-2012 author@emilytracemysteries.com

Secretary: *Linda Sonntag-Noble*

Treasurer:

Newsletter Editor:

Web Master: *Dave McChesney*
(509) 325-2072 (h) daveeva@comcast.net
(509) 768-6178 (c)

Public-Relations:

Marilee Hudon
(509) 325-9465 mjnoduh2@gmail.com

Advisory Board:

Member:

Chuck Lehman
(509) 299-7802 cmlehman4@yahoo.com

Member:

Esther Hildahl
mr.inky@yahoo.com

Member:

"Like" the SASP Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/pages/Spokane-Authors-Self-Publishers/1640079982945679

"Join" the SASP Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1646364128981815/>

"Follow" us on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/AndAuthors>

Contact us at: authors@spokaneauthors.org

Cover Photo by Dave McChesney...

"December 2016 as seen from my front porch."

OUR NEXT MEETING!

We are scheduled to meet at 2 pm. on Thursday, December 2nd at the Golden Corral on N. Division Street. Our primary program will feature an open mic in which members and guests will be able to share a little of their work with us. Presentations should be limited to no more than five minutes in length.

FROM OUR ACTING PRESIDENT

A Time of Thanksgiving

Because of the many changes that have occurred in the past two years, some may ask, "For what could we possibly be thankful?" I can only share with you the things that give me hope. I list them, not necessarily in order of importance, but to share how much each of you means to me.



I am grateful that we are once again able to meet in person. I confess I am a people person, and I like gathering together with my friends. It has been a fulfilling experience seeing

some of you face to face. For those of you, for whatever reason, who have not been back to our in-person gatherings, know that I miss you, but I also understand. I don't walk in your shoes, so I can't possibly know what is best for you.

I am thankful that we can freely express ourselves and our outlook on life in our writing. Of course, we don't agree on everything. That is the beauty and the richness of the human experience. I think that we, as writers, appreciate that. Without fear of reprisal, we can

share our innermost beliefs, fears, hopes, and encouragements through our written words.

Those thoughts bring me to the next meeting's agenda. SASP has traditionally taken the December gathering as a forum to read aloud a short passage from one of our writings to the group. Please try to keep your individual contribution to around five minutes. I hope to record the readings so that we can share them later with those who cannot attend. I urge each of you in attendance to participate.

We are an elite group. Not everyone can write a book, a poem, a memoir, or a short story. Fewer still have published their efforts. You are a very special breed. The world of publishing has changed, and more authors are choosing the self-publishing option. Both methods have merit, and our group does not discriminate against one form or another.

The next year, we will face new challenges, and I believe we will rise to them all. You are an awesome group, and I am proud and honored to call you my friends.

Sue Eller

FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

You may not have noticed, but I did manage to put something about our last meeting on the web-site a week or so after it occurred. Hopefully I will get into the routine of doing that from now on. You can find it via the Welcome Page by scrolling down to where it says, "Read about our (name of month) meeting."



Since it is near the end of the year, perhaps it is time to remind folks that dues are due. (Thank you to all who have already paid.)

If you are unsure of your membership status, take a look at the latest roster that will accompany this newsletter. Find your name and trace across the page to the far right hand side. There should be five narrow columns there, some of which will have a number in it. The number indicates the year(s) you are paid for. If you do not have a "22" after your name, you are not yet paid for the coming year.

For those who show last paid in 2019, you will be taken off the roster once the new year is underway. Unless of course we hear from you and you renew your membership.

You can bring cash, check, or a money order to a meeting or mail a check or money order for \$15.00 to:

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers
P. O. Box 18573
Spokane, WA 99228-0573

I check the mail weekly, and if we receive any dues payments, I take those payments directly to our financial institution for deposit. I also try to notify anyone who pays that the dues payment has been received... usually by way of e-mail.



OUR NOVEMBER MEETING

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers has now met four times since returning to in person meetings as the pandemic fades slightly. At our November 4th gathering at Golden Corral, we were joined by Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Sue Eller, Arthur Greenfield, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, Steve Lalonde, Chuck (and Marian) Lehman, Sandy Mason, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Kate Poitevin (and daughter), Linda Sonntag, Wayne Spitzer, and Bob Weldin.

The primary business of the day was to conduct an election to select officers and advisory board members for the next year. (Since we delayed our election a year due to the pandemic, it was suggested and approved

by those present that we would hold elections again next year and then resume our standard two years between elections.) Some members had e-mailed ballots back, others brought completed ballots to the meeting, while still others had to obtain and fill out a ballot while there. When all votes were tabulated, we ended up with the following results.

President:	Sue Eller	18
votes		
Vice President	Natalie Streeter	6
votes		
	MJ Hudon	11
votes		
Secretary	Linda Sonntag	18
votes		
Treasurer	Dave McChesney	18
votes		
Advisors	Esther Hildahl	16
votes		
	Chuck Lehman	18
votes		
	Bob Weldin	16
votes		
	Dennis Held	1 vote
	Kate Poitevin	1 vote

Congratulations to the election winners, **bolded above.**

A number of members brought us up to date on writing, publishing, and marketing endeavors. Sue Eller noted that she, M. J. Hudon, and Larry Danek were scheduled to be at the Central Valley High School Craft Fair that upcoming (November 6th and 7th) weekend. However, due to illness in the family, it was unlikely Larry would be able to participate. Esther Hildahl talked a little about her most recent book marketing efforts, including selling thirty-one books at Mt. Spokane High School, fifteen at Rodgers High School, and fifty-eight books in only 6 hours at Chattaroy! Esther also mentioned she and Bob would be at the Shadle Park High School Craft Fair November 6th and 7th.

Steve Lalonde told us he'd had a book signing in Washtucna, Washington, his hometown, and that he'd been working with a critique group made up largely of former students. Sandy Mason noted an upcoming

signing for her new book, *Into the Fire*. Wayne Spitzer talked a bit about some of his latest books.

Dave McChesney mentioned that he was trying to post information and links to everyone's books on Twitter and that he would be a Shadle Park along with Bob and Esther Hildahl.

As the meeting wound down, we conducted a door prize drawing for the first time in over a year and a half. Prizes consisted of several members' books and a print of a member's cover art, all donated by the respective members. Winners included Kate Poitevin, her daughter, Carl Northrup, Sandy Mason, Chuck Lehman, Steve Lalonde, Bob Weldin, and Sue Eller.

Apologies to anyone whose contribution to our meeting did not make it into this accounting. Those charged with recording the events were distracted by the additional task of tabulating votes and the lack of a PA system making it more difficult to hear.

MEMBER UPDATES

Upcoming Events

Currently we do not show any upcoming events or functions for any of our members. However here is a note for anyone who might be looking for an opportunity to sell books, etc. I think this is set to run through April. There is more information at the listed web-site. Thanks, Esther for providing this.

Dear Authors,

If you are interested in selling your books at Northtown, go to www.beyoutifullocalmarket.com. The application is short and easy to fill out. It's expensive, but Bob and I were told that more than one vendor can share a booth. You must sign up for a minimum of two weekends. Also, every table must have a black floor length table cloth.
Esther

MEMBER WEB-PAGE GUIDE

1. Name and photo/headshot
2. Brief biography
3. Links to web-site, blog, or other on-line locations.
4. Information about any books published.
 - a. Book cover shot/thumbnaill
 - b. Brief description/blurb/reviews
 - c. Amazon ASIN, ISBN or other
 - d. Locations where available.
5. Send as much information as possible to: daveeva@comcast.net, authors@spokaneauthors.org, or
Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers
P. O. Box 18573
Spokane, WA 99228-0573
Check out other member web-pages at www.spokaneauthors.org. Click on the "Members" button and then on the member's page you wish to view.
Contact your web-master if your page needs to be updated or corrected

SASP BOOKS ON AMAZON/KINDLE

Many SASP members' books are on Amazon and/or Kindle™ (We print short parts of the list on a rotating basis. The complete, and hopefully up to date list is available on the web-site, under "NEWS")
(Contact the editor/web-master at daveeva@comcast.net or at authors@spokaneauthors.org to get your Amazon/Kindle books listed)

To speed your search, add the provided ten digit numerical or alpha-numerical code (ASIN) to: [www\(dot\)amzn\(dot\)com/dp/](http://www(dot)amzn(dot)com/dp/)
Example: www.amzn.com/dp/B008TXC332
or: www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044
If you are overseas or shop in a different Amazon Marketplace, the URL will be as required for that location, but the ASINs, the number provided here will remain the same.

Azalea Dabill
Falcon Heart

B00V0EQXIO

Falcon Flight B019YRTI0
 Lance & Quill B010ZD7PVS
 Path of the Warrior B00W4JYHL8
 Falcon's Ode B075ZZBPKR
 Nightshade & Knitbone 943034109

Dennis Held
Betting on the Night 0966861280

Gena Bradford
I Can't Rest Now, Lord! I'm Responsible...
 1072677067

Karen Jean Matsko Hood

Blood Heiress 1592108857
Bloom of Autumn Gold 1592102166
Huckleberry Delights B0045U9U34 1596493852
Transracial Adoption 1594346690
Transracial Adoption Guide 1594346704
Petting Farm Fun B00H5X0Y2E 1594346186
Finding Rudolph B074JZPG9X 1598082957
Morning Reflections B00DH70LVG 1930948557

Tom Wallace

To Kill a Poacher: A Psychological Case Study in Empathic Health and Applied Spirituality
 0595475442

Ed Des Autel

III Minutes to XII B07B3YDPLK 1641382511

Marilee Hudon

Waxing Is Useless B07HY4Y85T 172128186X

Joan Carter

Gray Swallow B07PXM1VXC

Sonja Mongar

Two Spoons of Bitter 069205524X

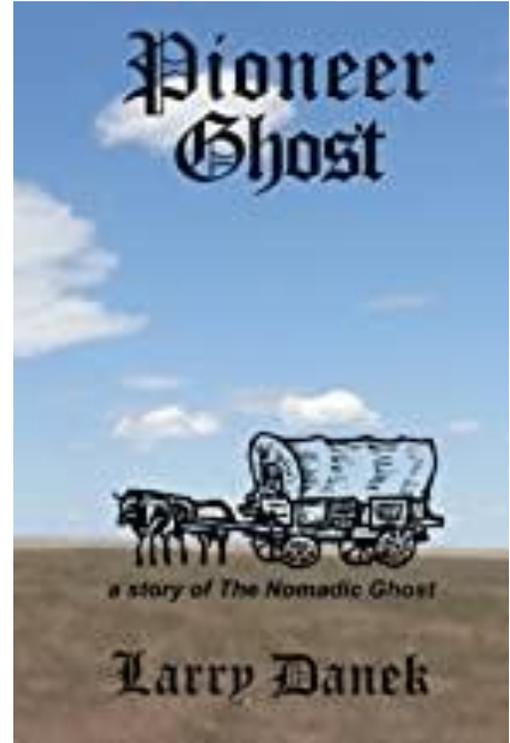
Michael Zargona

Turn Red Tomorrow B07Q7TNLTC 1092144404
Sixteen Hooves Thunder
 B08LHK5PKF B08LJPKCM2

M. Kari Barr

Once Again Tales of Destiny
 B07H8Q5CJD 1732140103
They Came From the Sea (D. P. Waters, co-author)
 B07FDK1VKG 1722744367
 (audio) B07GC5WXS2
Thinktacular Thoughts (Illustrated by Stoyan Dobrev)
 B07GNYD2C4
Rain on Me: Poetic Frenzy
 B07GNVPQX9 1468123378
Arcadium Autum Emporium: Tales of the Gate Keeper
 173214012X

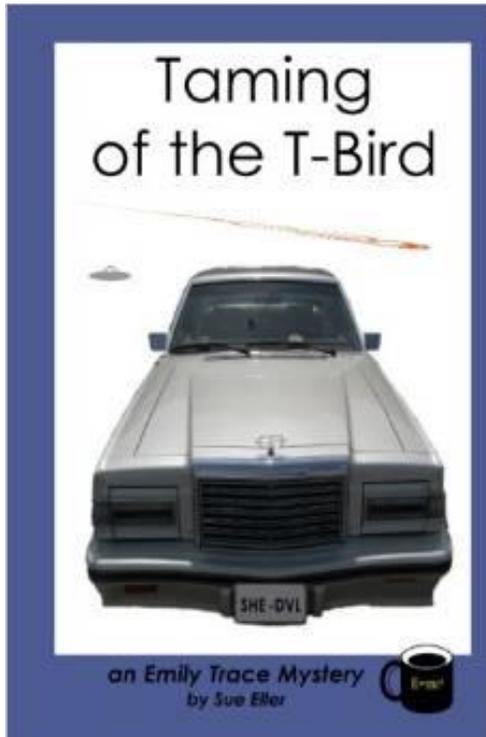
FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS



Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

While this is the fifth book in Larry Danek's series about the Nomadic Ghost, it is also a tale of the beginning. In this slim volume of sixty-nine pages, we journey back to the American West and join a wagon train heading to Oregon. Thirteen-year-old John Vanderwick travels alone and appears likely to not survive the journey. With help from the Nomadic Ghost he continues on, aids others in the wagon train. Meanwhile the Ghost begins to understand his role in the afterlife and accomplishes a mission he has been chosen for.

The story is meticulously told as if by the ghost himself and is a quick yet compelling read. It is available on Amazon.



By Sue Eller

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

Private investigator Emily Trace is called upon to determine why the classic car runs great, except at a certain spot along the road. Delving into that situation also reveals problems with the internet and strange lights in the sky. As Christmas time approaches, and as the coldest snowiest winter in years engulfs the town, she tackles these mysteries while also investigating the deaths of her late husband, his grandfather, and most recently, an arson fire. She is aided by a deputy sheriff, her office staff, a former teacher, and friends who are not from this world. Is there an extraterrestrial plot to conquer Earth? Will she discover and stop it in time?

Sue Eller writes in an easy conversational manner. The story is in first person; as if the reader is listening to Emily relate her tale while sitting at the kitchen table

drinking cup after cup of coffee. Even the little asides, which writers today are admonished to avoid, fit right in with the casual tone and add, rather than detract from the narration. While the story is for the most part light and perhaps even cozy in nature, it also touches on some deeper darker aspects of human nature.

This blend of Science Fiction and Mystery is enjoyable, easy to read, and hard to put down. *Taming of the T-Bird* is available online in both e-book and paperback versions, and in bookstores near the author's home of Spokane, Washington.

Reviewed by Bob Hildahl

This is the second book of the *Emily Trace Mystery* series. It's about Emily Trace who has a detective agency in Spokane, Washington called "E.T. Investigations." She drinks coffee to excess, which I can clearly identify with, and she has an amusing "bird" clock in her office that sings out different bird songs on the hour. It's wintertime, snowy and freezing cold.

The story begins with her first client telling her a strange tale. He purchased a used T-Bird, but every time he drives it home from work, it quits on him at the exact same spot. At the same time, bright lights swoop over him and seem to be headed for Tekoa Mountain. Then the car starts right up again! Can Emily solve this mystery?

While she is working on the T-Bird mystery and the possibility that aliens are trying to take over our planet, her mother-in-law's house burns to the ground. And the fire marshal suspects arson. Could this be related to her husband, Jared's unsolved murder? After all, this was the reason she started her detective agency to begin with.

If you like science fiction and mysteries, you must read this book. It is well written with great characters. The story is exciting and it's a hard book to put down from the first chapter to the end.

Available in Spokane area bookstores and on Amazon and Kindle.

Reviewed by James Parry

In this, the second in the Emily Trace Mystery series, Emily, through her E.T. Detective Agency, continues her relentless pursuit of her husband's killer. However, she, once again, (because of the misinterpretation of "E.T.") finds herself entangled with clients wanting to find the cause(s) of supernatural happenings. Emily is able to solve all of their extraterrestrial problems, but we will have to wait for the third book to find out who caused her husband's death. Is it related to the alien problem or is it a totally separate case? Stay tuned.

A well-written, fast-paced book in which Emily speaks to the reader in a first-person, conversational tone. A wonderful, easy read that's out of this world! Great for the sci-fi fan and/or the murder mystery aficionado.

Available at Auntie's, Hastings, & Amazon (*I think?*)

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

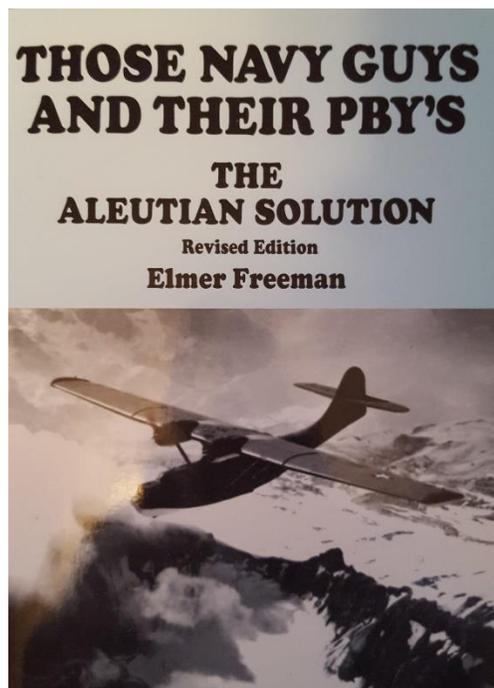
Well, Sue Eller has done it again! The sequel to Meadowlark Madness is every bit as engaging and entertaining. The whole gang is there with a few new additions. Emily is getting used to clients "from out of town" and handles them with her usual humor and quirky asides. But all is not fun and games. There are sinister things happening in her private life and Darla might also be in danger. Ms. Eller touches on the pain and fear of domestic violence with grace and sincerity. If you liked the first one, you must get 'Taming of the T-Bird'. Dang, I must have a cup of coffee ...

Reviewed by Larry Danek

A really entertaining book!

This is the second in the Emily Trace series by Sue Eller and I found it to be as good or better than her first one. It's a scifi / mystery story that is entertaining and fun to read. I couldn't put it down

I recommend this book to one and all.



Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

This is an informative, educational, and entertaining book. With candor, a bit of humor, and at times the right amount of self-depreciation, the author relates his wartime experiences in a relatively unknown operational area.

For most Americans, World War II was an "overseas" war, with little thought given to fighting on our own continent, yet early in the conflict, Japan attempted to establish a foothold on the North American continent. On the leading edge of a thinly spread defense, Navy patrol planes fought the enemy, operated from primitive bases, and endured some of the worst weather imaginable. With the Navy's "can-do" attitude, American "know-how," ingenuity, and personal courage, they succeeded.

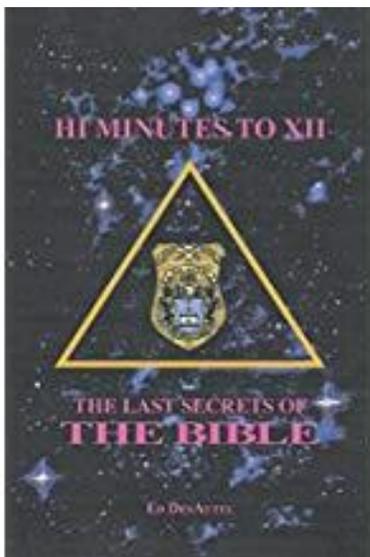
Those Navy Guys and Their PBY's is Elmer Freeman's personal accounting of the little known and often overlooked war in Alaska's Aleutian Islands. Having enlisted in the Navy prior to America's entry into the war, he went to school to become an Aviation Machinist Mate. Early on he was in the beaching crew that retrieved his squadron's PBY seaplanes from the water. Gaining

experience, he became part of a flight crew. During Freeman's advancement to senior enlisted man (plane captain) aboard the aircraft, the United States became involved in World War II. Operations shifted from the Seattle area to the Aleutians to prevent Japanese forces from establishing a presence in North America. That effort was not entirely successful, as the enemy did for a time occupy two islands in the chain.

This is not only Freeman's story, but that of all men of the Navy's Patrol Plane Squadrons that took part in the campaign. It also pays tribute to Army and Army Air Force personnel who played an equally important role.

Those Navy Guys and Their PBY's is richly illustrated with dozens photographs and maps, both from the author's collection and other accredited sources. Self-published, a second printing of the revised edition occurred in 2002. ISBN 0-9632463-1-3 sells for \$18.95 (plus \$3.00 shipping) and is available from Kedging Publishing Company, 1124 W. 8th Ave., Spokane, WA 99204

III Minutes To XII: The Last Secrets of the Bible



By Ed Des Autel

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

How long ago were Adam and Eve on the Earth? Where was the Garden of Eden? What really happened when Cain killed Abel? Were angels really spiritual beings, or were they aliens from an advanced civilization? These are some of the questions the author asks and attempts to answer based on his research of the Bible, ancient monuments in South and Central America, and non-canonized texts from long ago. He also looks at future possibilities as revealed by the research he has done.

This volume fits in with those who believe or suspect the presence of aliens from far away worlds in the earliest eras of man's history on earth. It also offers something to those who feel there is more to the stories told in Genesis and other Books of the Old Testament.

It does, however take some work to read this book. There is a lot of repetition of Biblical and other verses, which slows down the process of determining the overall message. While quoting these passages, the author has parenthetically inserted words or terms to help clarify meanings. After several repeated insertions, most readers instinctively understand the duality, and additional words or phrases are now distracting.

If we can make it through these obstacles in reading, we find an alternate explanation of early Earth history that makes some sense. Yet, much of what is suggested does not fit with what science currently tells us to be true. It is possible of course; that what we think we know is in error, and then all of this would mesh.

The possibilities suggested by this book are fascinating and the author is to be commended for his single-minded dedication and research. However, the information could have, should have been presented in a much smoother and easier to read fashion.



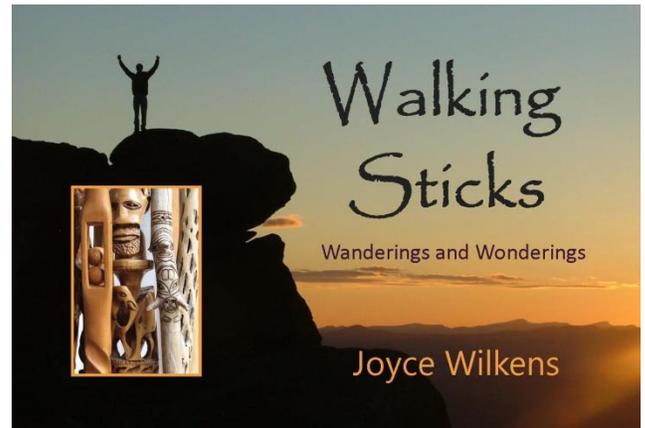
Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

I don't usually read Vampire books, but because our own Bob Manion wrote this one, I read it. I was surprised that I really enjoyed it. Bob has created a whole society of supernatural inhabitants that is very believable.

The book is set in Seattle, so there are at least some familiar places that I could identify with. His characters are very believable. There is murder and mystery that drew me into the story. With Bob you always know there is going to be some sex, but I was able to read without slamming the book down.

If Bob Manion writes another Vampire novel with these same characters, it will definitely be on my reading list.

(Newer editions of this book are titled: *Vampire Justice*.)



Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Walking Sticks is Joyce Wilkens' second coffee table book. I especially like her clever subtitle *Wanderings and Wonderings*. This book tells the history of walking sticks around the world. Some of them are crooked, some are straight; some are perfectly carved with delicate shapes, interesting faces, or with animals sitting at their tops—one is even a snake with the top of its body looped around for a handle; and some have messages burned into them or they are painted or adorned with beadwork. They are made from many different types of wood and materials. Her book is truly a work of art with many beautiful pictures showing the sticks themselves and the locales from which they came. I enjoyed the writings and the wonderful poems, often by Joyce herself. I highly recommend this book for all. It's a great book. It made me want to get a walking stick myself—preferably one with a carved animal at its top.

(Typically, book reviews presented here and on our web-site are of books written by our members and reviewed by other members of the group. Occasionally we present reviews by our members of books by non-members, and reviews of our members' books by non-members. Reviews remain on our web-site as long as either the reviewer or the author are current or recently current members.)