

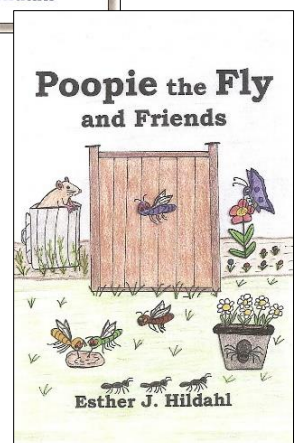
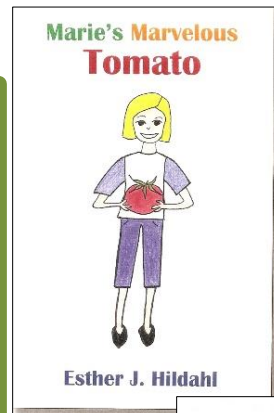
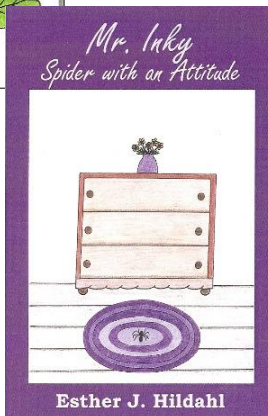
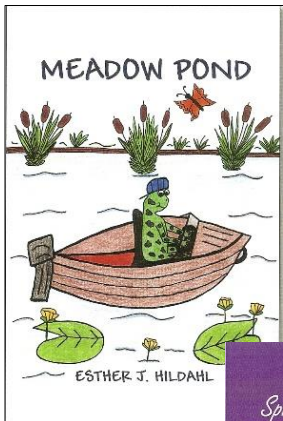


# SASP

# NEWS

December 2023

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 **second Friday** of each month at the **Corbin Senior Activity Center**, 827 W. Cleveland Ave., Spokane.

Presentations will begin at **2:00 pm**. After a short break, members and guests relate their accomplishments, note upcoming activities, and we draw for door prizes. We must be out of the room by 4:30.

We will provide refreshments such as bottled water, cake or cookies. We set up a collection jar for those who wish to help reimburse whoever brings such refreshments.

**Membership benefits** include listing on the SASP website, [www.spokaneauthors.org](http://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.

**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. We provide space to display your books, but *you* must bring them to each meeting.

**Submission Deadline:** Items for inclusion in SASP NEWS must be received by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the issue month. **(December 25<sup>th</sup> for the January 2024 issue.)**

## 2023 Officers:

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

**Vice-President and Public-Relations:**  
**Marilee Hudon**  
(509) 325-9465 mjnoduh2@gmail.com

**Secretary:** **Linda Sonntag-Noble**

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

## Advisory Board:

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

**Member:** **Esther Hildahl**  
mr.inky@yahoo.com

**Member:** **Bob Weldin**  
(509) 514-2747 minersquest@comcast.net

**"Like" the SASP Facebook Page:**  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Spokane-Authors-Self-Publishers/1640079982945679](https://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](mailto:authors@spokaneauthors.org)  
Or: [saspworks4u@gmail.com](mailto:saspworks4u@gmail.com)

**Cover: Meadow Pond, Mr. Inky: Spider with an Attitude, Marie's Marvelous Tomato, Poopie the Fly and Friends, and Winter Stories by SASP member Esther J. Hildahl.**

## THE BOOKS ON THE COVER...

Spokane Authors member Esther J. Hildahl writes and illustrates children's chapter books that are enjoyed by both children and adults. Several teachers in the local area read them to their classes.

## OUR NEXT MEETING!

We are scheduled to meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, December 8, 2023, at the Corbin Senior Activity Center, 827 W. Cleveland Ave., Spokane, WA 99205. The Lower South Room will be open at 1:30 pm, and we need to be out by 4:30 pm.

Enter the building through the south entrance from the parking lot. Take the elevator to the basement. Step off the elevator and the room will be to your immediate right.

As is our tradition, our December meeting will feature an open mic session in which members and guests will have the opportunity to share a little of their work with us.

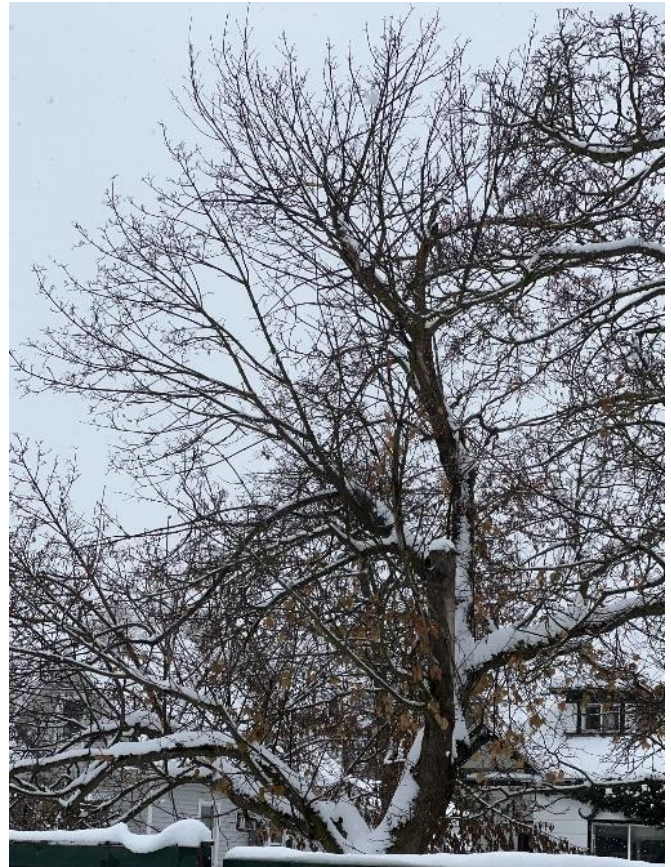
## OUR NEXT ALTERNATE MEETING!

Our first alternate meeting will be at 2:00 pm. On Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, at St. Francis of Assisi, 1104 W. Heroy Ave., Spokane, WA 99205. Primary entrance is on the south side of the building along Heroy Avenue. (Signs will be posted.) Go down a half flight of stairs, turn right and go to the end of the hall. We are in the classroom to your left. Those with mobility issues can enter via the Jefferson St. door to access a mobility chair to get the lower level.

We will also feature an open mic session at our December alternate meeting.

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

May Your Days be Merry...



*A harbinger of things falling from the sky  
(Taken last year on November 20<sup>th</sup>, I figure it's  
something we can all look forward to before too  
much longer.)*

We elected new officers for next year. They will officially take office at our January meeting. They will be Carl Northrup, President; Bob Manion, Vice President; Linda Sonntag, Secretary; Dave McChesney, Treasurer; and the



Advisory Board will consist of Esther Hildahl, Bob Weldin, and Mary De Bord. Marilee Hudon will still be doing public relations work for our social media outreach. Sadly, the votes

cast numbered less than ten, with only one write-in vote for Vice President.

Our second meeting of the month will be on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at Little Bears Academy/St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church social hall, 1104 West Heroy St, Spokane. We have been offered this room through the end of 2024, on the third Saturday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at no charge. Please let anyone who has requested a meeting on the weekend know about it and encourage them to come. All members may attend one or both meetings.

For the December meetings, we will have an open mic session both days, along with discussions of further plans for the coming year at the Saturday meeting. A speaker has been scheduled for the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting at Corbin. Hope to see you at one or both sessions. If you plan to read, please keep it to about five minutes, and if you read at both meetings, it would be nice to have two different selections for those who attend both weeks.

Planning for the April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, event at Auntie's continues. Please help promote the event, and be sure to thank John Waite, the owner of Auntie's Bookstore, and event organizers Erik Schubach and Wayne Spitzer for making this Indie Author Day at Auntie's a success. By the way, Indie Author Day is an international event, which is good for all of us.

I hope to see you at our next meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Corbin Senior Activity Center. The room opens at 1:30, and the meeting begins at 2:00.

*Sue Eller* President

## FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Hello SASP members,

So, this will be my last message to you all as Vice President. Congratulations and thank you to Bob Manion for taking up the mantle.

I will continue as the Social Media person for our Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, & Instagram accounts so, remember to email me

at [saspworks4u@gmail.com](mailto:saspworks4u@gmail.com) with any events you would like to have advertised.

We will not have a speaker at our meeting on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. Instead, we will have an open mic for our members to read sections of their works, published or unpublished. To participate, you will need to sign up at the door.

Dave McChesney will have the sheet at his table. If you have copies of your published works, please bring a few in case someone wants to purchase them. Because we all know books make great gifts and *'tis the season!*

I look forward to seeing you all again and hearing what you've got to share.

May your holiday season be blessed with peace and joy.

*Marilee Hudon* Vice President



## FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

I have a couple of reminders for this month. Please note I cannot publish or post information I don't have. If you have a book signing, a craft fair or other event, let me know so I can get it in the newsletter and on the website. If you mention it at a meeting, I may not get all the details down correctly, and I don't want to pass along incorrect or incomplete information. (And do you see an error or incorrect information, advise me so it can be fixed.)

Should we bring back the Spokane Authors Speakers Bureau? It was simply a list of members willing to speak to groups and organizations on a variety of topics. We were



indicating those available to speak on our website's "Members" page, with more detailed information on individual Member Webpages.

As the New Year approaches, please remember to pay dues for 2024, if you haven't already. I should be busy this time of year, processing dues payments at our meetings or finding them at the Post Office on a regular basis.



## OUR NOVEMBER 2023 MEETINGS

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers met at the Corbin Senior Activity Center at 2:00 pm. on Friday November 10<sup>th</sup>. Attending were: Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Jennifer Day, Mary De Bord, Sue Eller, Bob Hildahl, Esther Hildahl, Marilee Hudon, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Kate Poitevin, Elena Smith, and Mikel Stevenson and wife. Also joining us were Waye Sheehan, who is now a member, and Alaina Paul, who plans to join next time. In addition, our speaker's son did not have school that day, so he was there along with his father.

Our speaker was Joseph Edwin Haeger, a local writer and author of the experimental memoir, *Learn to Swim*. He regaled us with tales of watching movies of all kinds as a kid and getting to the point where he wanted to tell stories. He talked a little of his progression from a movie watcher to a writer and the path he followed to gain an education as a writer.

Following our break, we held elections, with the following results:

President, Carl Northrup

Vice-President, Bob Manion

Secretary, Linda Sonntag-Noble

Treasurer, Dave McChesney

Advisory Board Members, Esther Hildahl, Mary DeBord, and Bob Weldin.

Dave McChesney will continue to serve as webmaster and newsletter editor, while Marilee Hudon will remain as public relations

person.

Current President Sue Eller announced that beginning this month we would be holding a second meeting on the third Saturday of the month. This will begin at 2 pm in the social hall at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1104 W. Heroy, in Spokane. Primarily this second monthly meeting is to accommodate those interested in our group, but who cannot attend our weekday meetings. It is hoped we will have those who attend both, and those who attend one or the other depending upon their availability.

Sue also told us that things are shaping up for the National Independent Book Day celebration at Auntie's Books on Saturday, April 27, 2024. A number of our members will take part, either by selling books, reading, or presenting workshops.

Upcoming appearances include: Sue Eller and Larry Danek at the Mead HS Craft Fair on November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Also taking part in that event will be Marilee Hudon, Beth Camp, Carl Northrup, and Dave McChesney. Esther Hildahl will be at an event in Medical Lake on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Elena Smith will have a book signing event at the Barnes and Noble in the Valley on November 26<sup>th</sup> and will be going to Palouse for an event on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Dave McChesney and more will be at the Ridgeline HS Craft Fair on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. (Other participants will include Elena Smith, Tiffani Harvey, and M. J. Hudon.)

Bob Manion reported taking part in a multi-author book signing event at the Barnes and Noble store on North Division, and said the store wants to do more of those events. He also mentioned going to a library conference and said the quality and variety of presentations was on par with conferences such as PNWA's, but that there was no cost to attend. Bob also passed around some handouts with suggestions for future presentations, etc.

Our Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will feature an open mic session.

When all business was concluded, we drew tickets for door prizes and went home.

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers also met on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, at St.

Francis of Assisi Church. Present for this first alternate meeting were Roger Aschenbrener, Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Sue Eller, Marilee Hudon, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Sandra Philbin, Kate Poitevin, and Bob Slack. Also joining us was Jeremy Howe. Welcome!

President Sue Eller talked momentarily about the reasons for, and the expectations of our second meeting each month, and introduced current officers and those who will be taking office with the New Year.

As we hope these meetings will be more on the craft side of things, Marilee provided a writing prompt, and we had five minutes to come up with something. (The prompt turned out to be a small painting of a doorknob.) When time was up, all but one of us shared what we had written.

Even though all but one of us were continuing members of Spokane Authors, we went around the room and introduced ourselves and spoke a little of why we write and what we write. We also discussed what we would like to see happen at these Saturday meetings. As mentioned above, most attendees would hope we get more into the craft of writing, as well as publishing and marketing. Rather than presentations from outside authors, we hope to have more exchange of ideas between members while helping each other achieve some degree of success. Our new slate of officers will get together or otherwise communicate to come up with a plan as to what we will discuss as we move on.

In parallel with our ongoing Friday meetings, our alternate Saturday meeting will feature an open mic session in which members and guests may share little of their work. We do ask that if one attends and participates in both open mic sessions that they read something different.

## 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/thumbnail
  - 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](mailto:daveeva@comcast.net), [authors@spokaneauthors.org](mailto: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](http://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. Have you recently published a new book, or have you by chance republished an old one? Let your web-master know!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Auntie's Bookstore: Local Authors Book Club

**Note: There will not be a December meeting.** Meetings will resume in January 2024

For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) or Auntie's Bookstore at [auntiesbooks@gmail.com](mailto:auntiesbooks@gmail.com)

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild

**Note: There will not be a December meeting.** Meetings will resume in January 2024

For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com)

### Arts and Craft Fairs

Several Spokane Authors and Self-

Publishers members will be participating in upcoming arts and craft fairs in order to sell their books. These include:

**Ridgeline High School**

Saturday and Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

If you know of other craft fairs, please let your editor know so we can add it to the list.

**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")

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](http://www.amzn.com./dp/B008TXC332)  
 or: [www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044](http://www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044)  
 ASINs for each book are the same, regardless of what Amazon Marketplace you use.

**Kate Poitevin:**

*Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part One)* 1986153959  
*Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part Two)* 1986179486  
*Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part Three)* 1986179923

**Joyce Caudel:**

*The Hat Pin Murders* 1936178397  
*The Hat Box Mystery* 1481959107  
*A Hat to Die For* 1530028612

**Chuck Lehman:**

*Angels Three Six* B00KMJXQR8  
*The Big Woods* B007SQ4CTE  
*Asher* B00HNZ6TTG  
*Lazarus Arise* B007R0NPW6  
*The Shepherd* B00HJBN4P6  
*Rogue 6* B01H7N8G2G  
*Exposure: A Story of Survival and Intrigue* B01H5W4V64  
*Double Exposure* B097XNQXVF  
*The Apostle's Wife* B07NJ4DFCW 179039239X

**Bob Manion:**

*Santa's Heroes* 1936178095  
*The Tree House* B004IZLHLE  
*The Tree House (new edition)* 1946882003  
*Springer's Heart* 0978850742

**SASP NEWS**

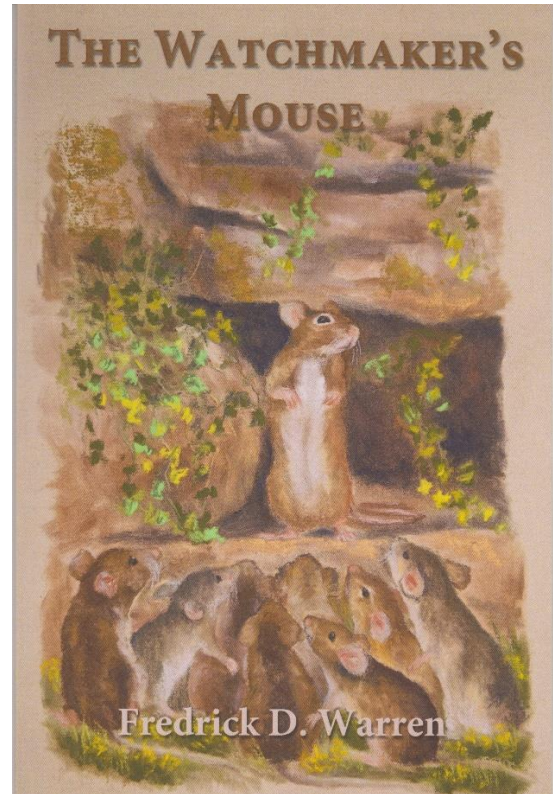
*Summer Rain*  
*Vampire and the Cop*  
 Retitled *Vampire Justice*  
*Sabrina's Promise*

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**FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS**

This month we have one new review, and then we'll continue with our usual order.

**The Watchmaker's Mouse**

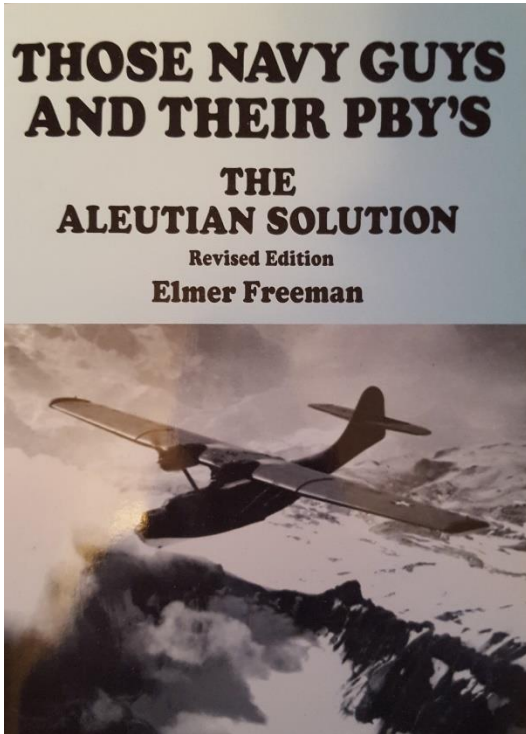


By Fredrick D. Warren

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

Gertrude the mouse lives in the watchmaker's shop and over time has become friends with him. Yet, feelings she hardly recognizes cause her to leave and discover a bigger world outside. While on her quest, she learns about her family, her kind, and the dangers they face in everyday life. The other mice, in turn, learn of the trust and care that can exist between creatures of different kinds, as exemplified by her and the watchmaker.

The story is very well written and illustrated. Some illustrations are by the author, while the colored images were created by a friend, Debbie Hughbanks. It is created as, and presented as a children's story, yet it's worth reading from an adult viewpoint. Anyone with an ounce of sentimentality will find their eyes misting and a lump in their throat. Very highly recommended for children (and adults) of all ages.



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.

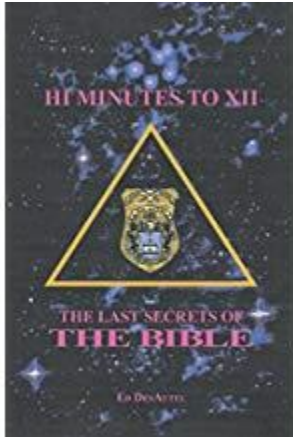
*Those Navy Guys and Their PBY's* is Elmer Freeman's personal accounting of the little known and often overlooked war in Alaska's Aleutian Islands. Having enlisted in the Navy prior to America's entry into the war, he went to school to become an Aviation Machinist Mate. Early on he was in the beaching 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. 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

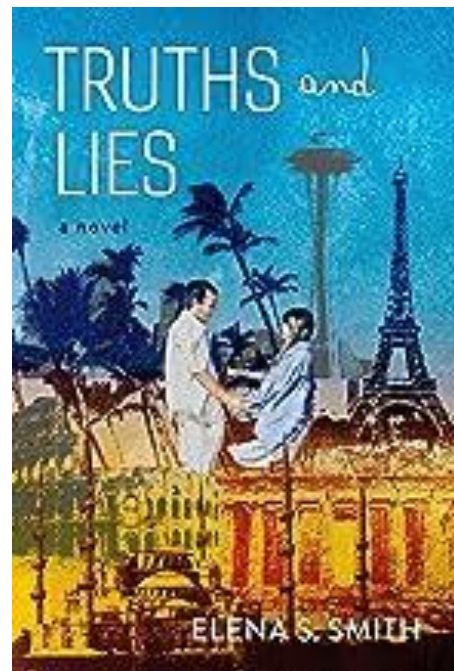
This volume fits in with those who believe or suspect the presence of aliens from far away worlds in the earliest eras of man's history on earth. It also offers something to those who feel there is more to the stories told in Genesis and other Books of the Old Testament.

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.

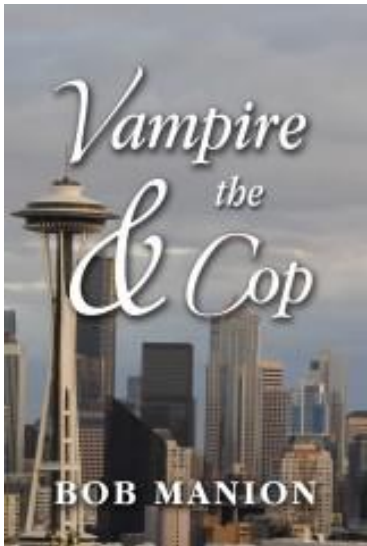


Reviewed by Emma Megan for Readers' Favorite

*Truths and Lies* by Elena S. Smith is an absolutely enthralling read. Vicki is a university professor and considers herself a lucky lady. She thought her life was over when she got divorced, but now she is happy and enjoys her freedom, independence, and a life free of lies and manipulation. But her best friend, Darlene, is not convinced and decides to make Vicki a profile on a dating site. When Vicki sees the guy she splashed with beer at a Seahawks game a while ago, she decides to give him a chance. Tom is a lonely guy in his late 50s. He

has been divorced for almost a decade and stopped taking care of himself. Tom believes he is a decent man who doesn't deserve to be manipulated and deceived. He is afraid of getting hurt again, but after a brief encounter with a woman at a football game, he starts to believe that it is still possible to find a soulmate.

I did not expect such a fascinating and uplifting contemporary romance novel. *Truths and Lies* by Elena S. Smith is the perfect combination of fun, adventure, peace, love, tenderness, care, and intimacy. It's about truths and lies, freedom and commitment, trust, loss, and survival. Elena writes so well that she draws you into her characters' lives. Her characters are realistic and wonderfully flawed. Their fears and experiences with truth and lies allowed me to connect deeply and relate to them. Vicki is now one of my favorite female characters. I highly recommend this moving novel to all readers looking for a mature romance with strong characters.



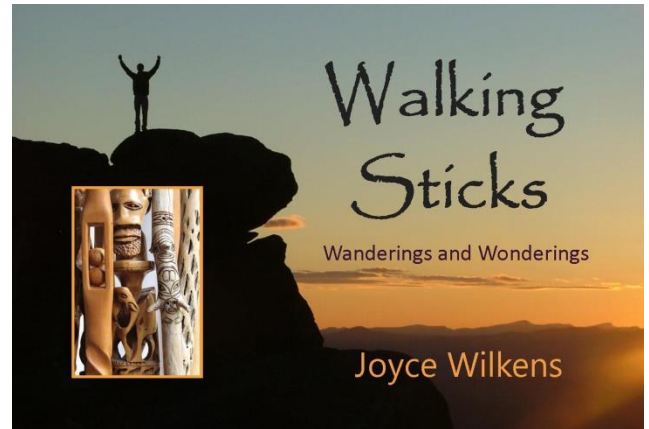
Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

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.



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.