



# SASP

# NEWS

February 2020

**Meeting Location Change  
See Details Inside**

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  
**February 2020 meeting to be at Denny’s, 3525 N. Division St., Spokane, WA.**

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.

**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, 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. **(February 27<sup>th</sup> for the March 2020 issue.)**

## 2020 Officers:

**President:** *James Parry*  
(509) 325-9922 jimparry@q.com

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(509) 499-2012 author@emilytracemysteries.com

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

**Treasurer:**  
**Newsletter Editor:**  
**Web Master:** *Dave McChesney*  
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(509) 768-6178 (c)

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(509) 325-9465 mjnoduh2@gmail.com

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

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

**Member:** *Tiffani Harvey*  
responsiblyindependent@yahoo.com  
[www.responsiblyindependent.com](http://www.responsiblyindependent.com)

**“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)

## OUR NEXT MEETING!

Due to renovation work at the Golden Corral we will meet at a different location this month. Please join us **Thursday, February 6, 2020 at Denny's, 3525 N. Division Street**, in Spokane. We have the back room reserved from **2:00 to 5:00 pm**. **Our meeting and scheduled presentation begin at 2:30.**

Our speaker will be **Tom Reppert**, a veteran who served with the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group in Vietnam. After earning a BA in English and History at Western State College, Masters in Creative Writing from Colorado State University, and Professional Writing from the University of Southern California, he spent decades teaching English Literature and Writing all over the world, primarily in Africa and Asia to international students. He has written several well-received, historical and time-travel novels, including *The Far Journey*, *the Captured Girl*, and *Assassin 13*. They are published in hard copy, kindle and audio on audible.com.

Tom is a member of the Idaho Writers' League – Sandpoint Chapter – and his topic will be *Character Development and Time Travel*.

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Have you noticed that, in the past year or two, several authors have made appearances at one or two of our meetings, and then disappeared? I surmise that they attend all authors' organizations in the greater Spokane area in order to gain notoriety and sell books. I feel used, taken advantage of, but I

would like to hear your opinion: Good marketing strategy or exploitation?

Since I'm venting, and since I have sort of a bully pulpit here in this newsletter: Onto a

**SASP NEWS**

different subject - that has little to do with writing. Remember back in the day when, during a half-hour TV show, there was a one-minute commercial at the beginning of the program (between said program and the previous program), then a one-minute commercial halfway through, and then a one-minute ad at the end? Now, there are usually ten thirty-second commercials between shows (I counted them!), then, after five or ten minutes, another ten ads. And on and on... I timed *NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt* recently and came up with 15 minutes of news and 15 minutes of commercials. More of your opinions please: Should I complain to the networks, should I quit watching television, or should I get a life?

Pearls in your oysters,

*Jim*

P.S. – Can you remember way back when the cable companies advertised their services as “COMMERCIAL FREE”? The idea was that you were paying for cable to AVOID commercials.

## FROM THE EDITOR/WEB-MASTER

Responding to Jim's opening comments, I too have seen people show up, join and never come to another meeting. I have a collection of nametags made for new members who have never returned to claim them.

If you want to publicize your upcoming author event, signing, reading, or participation in a local arts and crafts fair, please let me know as soon as possible. I'll try to get it listed in “Programs” on the web-site, as well as in the newsletter. Please allow enough time for information to be uploaded to the web-site and for the next edition of SASP NEWS to be published.

If you wish to respond to the original



sender of an e-mail that has been forwarded one or more times before reaching you, you cannot just reply to it. It will only go back to the entity that forwarded it to you. It does not go back to the individual that sent the original e-mail. You must put that individual's e-address in the "to" line and actually send it to the person it's meant for.

Between the web-site and SASP NEWS, we have a list of members' books available on Amazon and/or Kindle. Do we want to start lists for other on-line platforms, such as Barnes and Noble On-Line, etc?

We are doing pretty well with dues for the current year, with forty people paid up so far. But I'm showing a significant number of folks who were members last year who have yet to pay for this year. If you want to stay an active member, please make sure we get your dues as soon as possible. Please save me the time and effort of having to remove your member web-page from the web-site, only to put it up again once you've paid. Probably after our March meeting I'll remove those not current from the "Members" list on the web-site.

If you haven't yet paid for 2020, you are welcome to pay dues at or next meeting, or to send them to our Post Office Box. I check mail every Friday and immediately deposit any received dues.

The address is:  
Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers  
P. O Box 18573  
Spokane, WA 99229-0573

If somehow you did not pay for 2019, we will not charge you back dues, but we'd like to have you as paid up members for 2020.



## OUR JANUARY 2020 MEETING

(Compiled by Linda Sonntag-Noble and  
Dave McChesney)

President Jim Parry, shown with guest speaker F. James Blair, started the meeting with a couple comical questions. One was,

"What author doesn't kill off his main character? An autobiographer!"

Then he asked any guests to introduce themselves.

These included Carol Anderson who writes anything from autobiographical works to fiction.

She has just finished two novels but is not currently writing. Also with us for the afternoon were Mark, Mary, Callie Westover (Kate Poitevin's daughter) and Connie Wynecoop. Connie has since joined and is now a member of Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers. Mary has written adult fiction, published two books to date, and now writes for children and young adults.

Sue introduced our featured speaker, Blair Miller, who writes as Francis James Blair. He graduated from Central Washington University, works as a tax accountant and finds writing relaxing. It took three years to write his first book but admits "it was terrible." He then decided to try science fiction and wrote the first in a "Weird West" series, which features a fantasy world that mirrors 1850s history. He looked into self-publishing, finding it to be more flexible. He talked about Josiah Bancroft and Will Wright, two very successful authors writing in the same genre.

He told us social media platforms are good ways to launch one's book, along with services offered by Amazon, Good Reads, and Kindle Unlimited. Self-publishers who join Kindle Unlimited receive a commission based on the number of pages read online. This helps make their work known, but they also pay a small fee for each page clicked on. Because the Urban Fantasy market is so small and saturated, it made sense to offer his first book for free. To date there have been 1500 downloads and 53 sales.

Blair mentioned that traditional Fantasy



readers like long books, but noted one that sold like hotcakes was John Bier's *Into the Labyrinth*, at 60,000 words. Blair is planning on releasing a second book and plans to combine his first book into a four-book series.

Going around the room we learned that Tiffani Harvey will be at the Hearts Forever Vendor Fair on Saturday February 1<sup>st</sup>, from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. This will be at the Museum Event Center, 5225 North Freya Street. A week later, she will be at the Be Mine Vendor Market and Craft Fair. This Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> event will be at the Mirabeau Park Hotel, 1100 N. Sullivan Rd. and runs from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm. Tiffani's books will be available in audio format next month.

Esther Hildahl recently won a Northern Lights Book Award for her children's book, *Mr. Inky: Spider with an Attitude*. The day after Christmas she was featured in a half page, above the fold article in the *Spokesman-Review*.

Both M. Kari Barr and Bob Manion have had (or will have) book signings at the Barnes and Noble store at the Spokane Valley Mall. Chuck Lehman noted that his eleventh book has reached the publishing stage.

Over the past couple of months, Sue Eller spent many hours writing up lists and sending e-mails out to all area high schools offering a \$500 scholarship to a senior wanting to pursue a career writing. This money will come from the excess funds in our treasury. The winner will be announced April.

Bob Manion again talked about the possibility of having Bob Dugoni of the Pacific Northwest Writers Association teach a class or hold a mini writers conference here in Spokane. He has also mentioned the idea of Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers members being eligible for and associate membership in PNWA. SASP members would be able to join PNWA for reduced dues, but would have benefits of full membership.

Door prize winners included, Sue Eller, Sandy Philbin, Marian Sheafor, Betty Deuber, Larry Danek, Stan Parks, M. J. Hudon, Callie Westover, Joyce Caudel, Dave McChesney, and Mel Brown.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday,

February 6<sup>th</sup>. ~~As usual we'll meet at the Golden Corral on North Division Street in Spokane.~~ **Due to renovation work at the Golden Corral, we'll meet at Denny's, 3525, N. Division Street.** Our meeting will start at 2:30 pm, but the room will be available at 2:00 pm so we can eat and visit beforehand. Tom Reppert, who was originally slated to be with us in November, is scheduled to be speaker.

## 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.
  - 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.

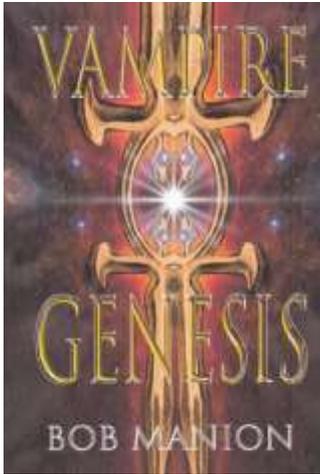
Contact your web-master if your page needs to be updated or corrected.

## MEMBER MILESTONES

Bob Manion's latest book, *Vampire Genesis*, was published in December 2019 by The Write Place, with printing, by Gray Dog Press occurring in January 2020.

It is a prequel to *Vampire Justice*, originally titled *Vampire and the Cop*. The new book deals with the beginning of the Vampire race; how it came about, and how a teen orphan grew up to become Queen of the Vampires. The result of actions by Hindu Goddesses against an invading army causes many of the supernatural gifts of vampires to

come about and create the laws governing a race of long-lived people.



Many characters were previously introduced in *Vampire Justice*. Bob is planning a third book set between the current two. The primary protagonist is still Selma, who deals with the tragedies of her life while attempting to live a normal, for a vampire, life.

### AN OPPORTUNITY

On Monday, 27 January, 2020 Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers received the following via e-mail:

Hello,

I'm Jesse Chapel the Secretary of PTO here at Whitman Elementary School in Spokane. Our school would like to invite an author in to speak with K-6.

We are interested in background/influences, journey and writing for the individual (assembly, visit classrooms, etc.).

We have what we call a 'Young Authors Celebration' where our 1st graders are able to show off their bound books they have created to include their writings and illustrations. This would be an ideal day to have a guest author (May 21st 2-3 is the celebration our kids will be doing).

We really want to celebrate with a local author to show our kids that it is happening here in Spokane and not just in the "big cities".

Please let us know if your able to support such an activity with our school.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Contact [daveeva@comcast.net](mailto:daveeva@comcast.net) or e-mail [authors@spokaneauthors.org](mailto:authors@spokaneauthors.org) to get your event listed.

### On Going:

The **Inland Northwest Writers Guild (INWG)** meets the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm at Perkins Restaurant and Bakery, 12 East Olive Ave., (downtown) Spokane, WA.

**Note: This is a new meeting location for the INWG.**

### BOOK SALES & SIGNINGS

Fellow SASP member **Tiffani Harvey** will be participating in some upcoming vendor and artisan events.

### HEARTS FOREVER VENDOR FAIR

Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 10a - 4p  
The Museum Event Center  
5225 N. Freya St. Spokane, WA

### BE MINE VENDOR & CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 11a - 4p  
The Mirebeau Park Hotel  
1100 N. Sullivan Rd, Spokane Valley

### SASP BOOKS ON AMAZON/KINDLE

Many SASP members' books are on Amazon and/or Kindle™ (We print short segments of this list on a rotating basis. The complete list is available on the web-site, under "NEWS")

(Contact the editor/web-master at [daveeva@comcast.net](mailto:daveeva@comcast.net) or at [authors@spokaneauthors.org](mailto: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](http://www.amzn.com/dp/B008TXC332)  
or: [www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044](http://www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044)

#### Ed Des Autel

*III Minutes to XII*

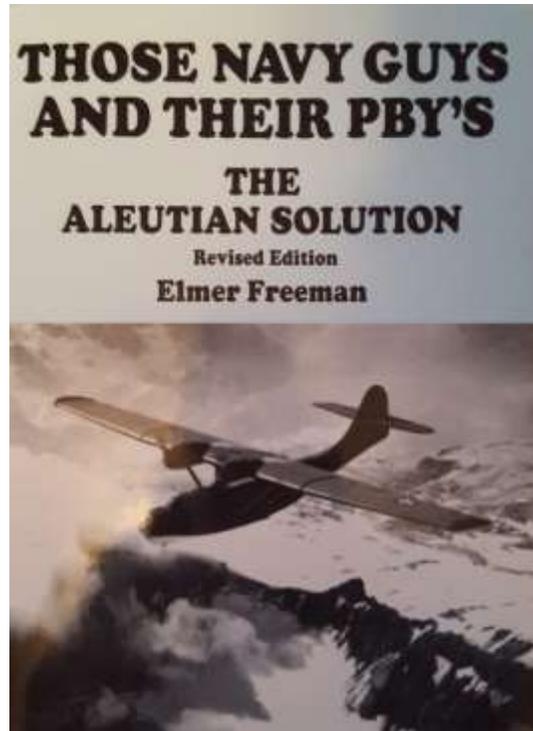
**B07B3YDPLK 1641382511**

#### Marilee Hudon

*Waxing Is Useless*

**B07HY4Y85T 172128186X**

## FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS



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-deprecation, 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

**Joan Carter**  
*Gray Swallow*

B07PXM1VXC

**Sonja Mongar**  
*Two Spoons of Bitter*

069205524X

**Michael Zargona**  
*Turn Red Tomorrow* B07Q7TNLTC 1092144404

**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

**Dennis Held**  
*Betting on the Night* 0966861280

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

**Phillip Jones**  
*The Casebook of Thadeus Rede & Other Stories* B00HWXAWTW 1492181730  
*Inventions and Discoveries: A Trip Through History* B00FBHNRW 149038460X  
*Forensic Science for Writers: A Reference Guide* B008Y2MX8S 1475267207  
*Criminal Investigators, Villains, and Tricksters: A Trip Through History* B00DVP4YHQ 148279960X

Visit : [www.amzn.com/e/B003ZPI81K](http://www.amzn.com/e/B003ZPI81K) for more of Phillip's books.

**Gail Saunders**  
*Cluckenstein: The Halloween Chicken*  
1946882054

**Asia Rachel Cohen**  
*Fire of Thorns* B07YW6838N 1973671298

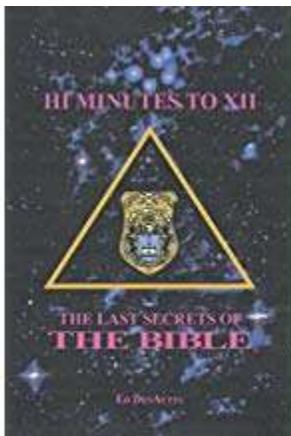
Machinist Mate. Early on he was in the beaching crew that retrieved his squadron's PBV seaplanes from the water. Gaining experience, he became part of a flight crew. During Freeman's advancement to senior enlisted man (plane captain) aboard the aircraft, the United States became involved in World War 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 PBV'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.

(The Late Elmer Freeman was one of the founders of Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers.)

### III Minutes To XII: The Last Secrets of the Bible



By Ed Des Autel

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

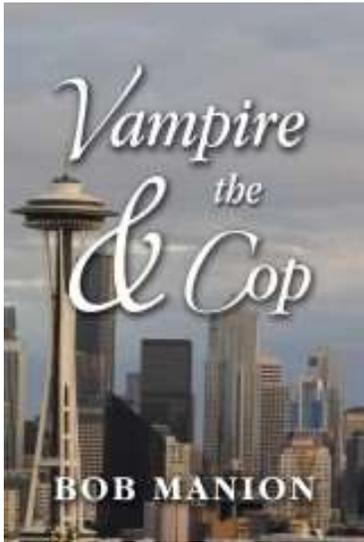
How long ago were Adam and Eve on the Earth? Where was the Garden of Eden? What really happened when Cain killed Abel? Were angels really spiritual beings, or were they aliens from an advanced civilization? These are some of the questions the author asks and attempts to answer based on his research of 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.



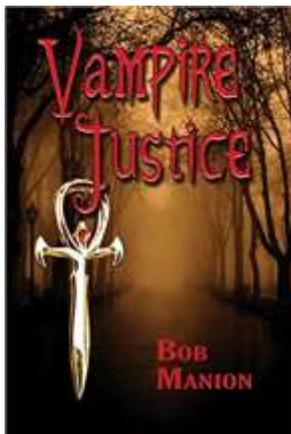
Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

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.

(This has been re-published as *Vampire Justice*. New cover, new title, same story!)



Reviewed by James B. Parry

This is a first-person account of the 1994 twin tragedies at Fairchild Air Force Base: a mass shooting followed by a B-52 crash four days later – written by the very airman who took out the shooter! It's a thoroughly gripping book that would make a thoroughly gripping movie, as it has an *In Cold Blood* vibe. Although this is Mr. Brown's first book you'll be amazed by his excellent, professional, matter-of-fact writing style.

Having lived in Spokane all of my life I vividly recall these two incidents, but knew few of the details. Brown provides all of those details. Besides having been in the middle of the bloodshed he has researched the heck out of both tragedies, finding that both were quite preventable had any of the "professionals" taken the time to think things through. Hundreds of interviews, medical records, and other transcripts show that colossal mistakes in judgement were made. They seemed like two unrelated events, but Brown has tied them together by showing us that both were caused by warnings that went unheeded.

Towards the end of the book, Brown discusses the trauma experienced by all involved – that continues to haunt them still. Andy has had a particularly difficult time of it but has finally made peace with it. He currently

has a good job and a wonderful, supportive family.

A fast-paced, exciting (and sad) book with a good ending.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

I was living in Spokane in 1995 when the events depicted in *Warnings Unheeded* took place. I remember being glued to the TV, waiting for any bit of news to explain what was happening. We heard how the hospitals were filling up and sketchy details, film of, what looked like, every first responder in the county gathered together. There was one of those info bites that they kept repeating about the young man who stopped the rampage. I remember my heart aching for him and I thought this will change his life forever. I never was giving the answers I needed, but frequently thought about that day and the brave young man who saved so many more lives.

Imagine my surprise, 22 years later, when that same young man stood up to speak at my writer's group. I nearly burst into tears! Andy spoke to us of that day and about the research he had done to put this book together. It was clear that I was right all those years ago; his eyes revealed that he is still haunted by the events, not only the one he was involved in, but also the tragic B-52 crash later that week.

Mr. Brown has finally answered all my questions and more, not only in the minute-by-minute telling of the events of that day, but of the histories of the shooter and all those involved. He tells the story in a fair and completely non-judgmental way. Just the facts. And with those facts, he lets us decide where to lay the blame.

Recently, a former military man, with a bad conduct discharge for violent acts, entered a church and killed 26 people with a gun he should never have been able to buy. He did buy it because the military "forgot" to put him on the list. My first thought when I heard the news, was of Mr. Brown. After all these years and so many unheeded warnings, they still foist their damaged men out onto an unsuspecting population with no back up plan.

From the eyes of an author, *Warnings Unheeded* is very well written, extensively researched, on-the-edge-of-your-seat, best non-fiction book I've ever read.