

SASP

NEWS

February 2021

Another "Stay Home Stay Healthy" Issue



Looks like we won't be meeting for a while, due to Covid-19 concerns

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

Happy
Valentine's
Day

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.

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. (Or when the next meeting would normally be held.) **(February 25th for the March 2021 issue.)**

2021 (and continuing) Officers:

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

“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/>

OUR NEXT MEETING!

This pandemic seems to be dragging on longer than we expected. At this point it's hard to predict when we will be able to meet again. Until then, until vaccines are distributed in sufficient quantities, stay home as much as possible, wear a mask when out and about, and maintain your social distancing.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello my fellow SASPers and SASPerillas,

My wife and I had the good fortune of receiving our first shot of the covid19 vaccine on the 23rd. Except for a little arm soreness, no side effects. If you have not been vaccinated yet, I urge you to schedule an appointment soon.



They seem to be having rollout problems, but let's keep our fingers crossed and get this terrible disease behind us. Don't know about you, but I would like to be able to hug my kids, grandkids, and friends once again – and maybe we SASP members can meet

once again.

I was all set to leave the awful year 2020 behind me, but it turns out that the first month of this new year has also been very interesting. The pandemic has been getting even worse, yet now there is a vaccine. There was a violent attack on the U.S. Capitol Building. And now a new administration – with our first woman, Black, Asian-American Vice President!

And how about that Amanda Gorman?!

I did make one New Year's resolution – to lose 10 pounds. So far, I've missed it by 15 pounds.

Fun fact (primarily for Sue): Mr. Spock actually had 3 ears – a left ear, a right ear, and a final front ear.

Another fun fact: I love to knit, so much so that I sometimes knit while driving! (Shame on me!) While I was driving (and knitting) on I-90 the other day, a state trooper pulled alongside of me, rolled down his window, and yelled, "Pull over!" I yelled back, "No, it's a cardigan."

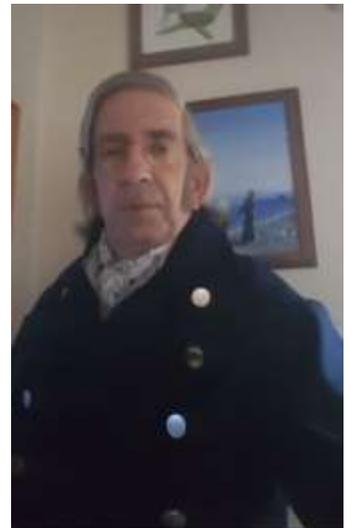
Be safe, be kind, wear a mask, and get that vaccination,

Jim

FROM THE EDITOR/WEB-MASTER

A year ago when we were first hearing about the Corona Virus/Covid 19, I don't think any of us imagined just how much of an effect it would have on our daily lives. And I don't think any of us realized that we'd still be caught in its grip a year later. I can't speak for anyone else, but until recently I could not say I knew anyone who has had it, or for that matter, anyone who has passed away from it.

Recently I heard from one of our members who had a fairly mild case a month or so ago, and upon reading the paper a few days ago discovered that a former member of the Inland Northwest Corvair Club had passed away from it. No doubt before we are back to something resembling normal, we will all be closely and personally involved with it.



As editor, I'm constantly looking for

material to include here in SASP NEWS. If anyone wants to share their Covid 19 related experiences with the rest of Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers, write it up, send it along, and I'll publish it. If you would prefer it not going out to the general public, which it has the potential of doing via the newsletter, but want to share with your fellow SASP members, let me know and I'll distribute it via e-mail.

I'm going to switch hats now and write from the perspective of our Treasurer. Usually at this time of year I'm bugging everyone to pay their dues for the current year. But a few months ago the board decided that we shouldn't worry as much about dues while in the grips of this pandemic. Even with extensions a year beyond the last year actually paid, some folks are again due. Specifically, if you last paid in 2019, you were extended into 2020. Now, however, you are due for 2021 and we'd appreciate payment of this year's dues. (It'll also save me the trouble of taking you off the membership list on our web-site, and removing the link to your member web-page.) And again, because of the pandemic I will not be as prompt to remove unpaid members from the web-site, but...

Speaking of member web-pages, we still have a lot that are very basic. Many could use author headshots, bios, information on books, etc. Feel free to send any of this information my way and I'll try to get it incorporated and posted as soon as is practically possible.

Since we are currently not meeting, the easiest way to pay dues is to mail a check or money order for \$15.00 to:
Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers
P. O. Box 18573
Spokane, WA 99228-0573

I generally check the mail weekly, and if we've received any dues payments, take those payments directly to our financial institution for deposit.

On a related note, I sometimes receive e-mails from members who want to pay dues, and who want to know the address where they can send them. If you are ever looking for our mailing address, it's on the front cover of each and every issue of SASP NEWS. It's also on

our web-site, on the Welcome Page, where you end up when going to the site, and on the membership forms page. I hope that helps.



OUR JANUARY 2021 MEETING

Due to the Corona Virus/Covid 19 pandemic, we did not meet on Thursday, January 7, 2021.

WELCOME!

Recently joining Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers were:

Karen Jean Matsko Hood (returning)
James G. Hood
Raynor Smith
Natalie Streeter

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,
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. **A lot of them are still "bare bones basic." Send information to your editor/web-master and let's get them up to speed!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Note: Many events have been cancelled or postponed to a later date because of the current Corona Virus/Covid 19 outbreak. If cancellation or change isn't indicated here, please check to see if it is still taking place.

Contact daveeva@comcast.net or e-mail authors@spokaneauthors.org to get your event listed.

On Going:

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

Currently they meet on-line via Zoom, and typically send out a notice and invitations to join in a few days before the event.)

For your future planning, we schedule our meetings for the first Thursday of the month. Hopefully when we are able to meet again, we will be able to do so on those days, and at the time and place we used to. There is of course, the possibility that we will need to choose a different day, a different site, and a different time.

As always, let me know of any upcoming writer related events you might have coming up and I'll try to get them listed on the web-site's "Programs" page and here in SASP NEWS.

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
(Recently it seems Amazon is assigning its own unique ASINs to the paperback editions of books, rather than using the ten-digit ISBN as they previously did. In the future we will attempt to point this out in individual listings.)

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

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 B00FBHNFRW 149038460X
Forensic Science for Writers: A Reference Guide B008Y2MX8S 1475267207
Criminal Investigators, Villains, and Tricksters: A Trip Through History B00DVP4YHQ 148279960X

Gail Saunders

Cluckenstein: The Halloween Chicken
1946882054

Asia Rachel Cohen

Fire of Thorns B07YW6838N 1973671298

Lauri "Midge" Cline

Prey to the Order: An aon Lah Hathra Adventure B07Z48BR56 1700086456
Wyndham Hall B07FY59VRP 1723480436
Shadow Blades (The BREED Fae Chronicles) B07MDT8B52 1791691226

Kylea Carter

Out of the Sand B01E4FARAE

Johanna Price

Raising Buckshot: A Family's Experience with Autism B00RKH993A 1483420205

George Critchlow

Travels with Vamper: A Graybeard's Journey
0787NRJ8Y 1506905277

Joan M. Kop

The Freedom Chaser B07PNYVCSF 0578217740

Joy Linn

I've Been Born Again! Now What? 0977342808
Ten Keys to Freedom B07B67SQ4M

FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

The Lenders



By Helen Christine

Reviewed by Robert G. Hildahl

This book is about the housing market just before its fall around 2007-2008. Bad home loans, which involved changing figures to qualify buyers for homes they couldn't afford, led to this disaster.

The story begins with the murder of Justin Diamond, an accountant at Franklin Mortgage. Justin's friend, Annie Robinson, one of the only honest loan processors at the company, and his wife, Stephanie, set out to solve his murder. Along the way, they find out that Stephanie's neighbor witnessed the murder but can't go to the police for reasons of his own. They discover fraud, greed, dishonesty, and other schemes to become rich. After they discover who killed Justin, Annie's child is kidnapped!

The Lenders is another great book by Helen Christine. It's very well written and is an exciting page turner. I really enjoyed reading it, and I recommend it to anyone who enjoys a good mystery.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

In *The Lenders*, Ms. Christine tells the other side of the story we only saw in the headlines and evening news. They were all about the big boys, the ones that stole millions. Her story might be a murder mystery, but the

background tells the tale of how greed in the lending business caused countless people to lose their life savings and homes. Ms. Christine paints a believable picture of the fraud that took place with strong, interesting characters, including the city of Seattle which is very recognizable. The story pulls you right along and has a satisfying ending. It is written with short chapters that make it great to grab and read while waiting in the car or at bedtime.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

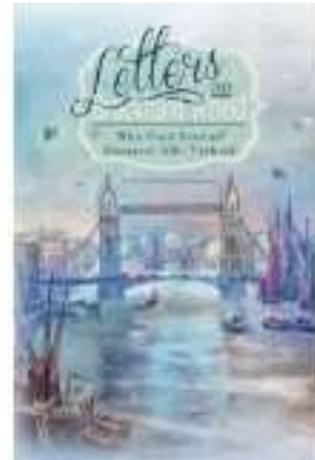
The Lenders is about mortgage fraud, the housing crash of 2008, and why it happened. It's about extreme greed and not caring whether buyers could really afford their home mortgages or not. Subprime home loans became the norm and were given to buyers with poor credit ratings and/or not earning enough money to make monthly payments on their newly acquired grossly overpriced homes. These poor risk loans were packaged and sold to secondary investors and then sold over and over again all over the world. When the housing market crashed, many buyers couldn't make their payments. They soon discovered they had no idea who actually held their loans, and thousands of buyers ended up losing their homes.

This story takes place in Seattle, Washington, where Annie Robinson is a loan processor for Franklin Mortgage. She is suspicious of some of the other loan processors and their dealings with prospective buyers. One day her friend, Justin Diamond, an accountant at Franklin Mortgage, is murdered. Annie wonders if he knew something incriminating about mortgage fraud at Franklin Mortgage. Justin's wife, Stephanie, befriends Annie and together they set out to try to solve Justin's murder.

Helen Christine is a very talented writer. She did a great job writing about mortgage fraud in a way that all could understand what went wrong in 2008. I thoroughly enjoy reading her books. I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys

reading mystery books and/or wants to learn about the housing crash of 2008.

Letters from Brackham Wood



By Rita Gard Seedorf
and
Margaret Albi Verhoef

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

Here is the rarely told tale of the lives of those who are left behind when the men go off to war. It is written in the rarer still style of letters sent by cousins, one in England and the other in Spokane, WA.

It gives the viewpoint of the two women as they go about their lives with the specter of war hanging over them. There is a mystery that may or may not involve spies (no spoilers from me!) and in the background touches on the day to day life of air raids and rationing, with historical facts woven in to give time perspective.

I found it to be a delightful read.

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

This is a compelling book written in an unusual way. Other than a brief introduction in which an individual is handed a container of letters to sort through, the bulk of the story is told via those letters. In pre-World War II England, Moira Edwards takes a chance to write to her cousin Margaret, now living in the Northwest United States. The letter reaches Margaret's parents living in Chicago and her mother forwards it on to her. Thus the cousins

establish a correspondence which lasts nearly to the end of the war.

As they exchange letters, the cousins inform each other of the conditions each are living under, and at times compare cultural difference between England and the United States. "I just read that in America the Post Office delivers the mail while here in England the Royal Mail delivers the post."

As the story goes on, it seems that something isn't right with the couple that Moira works for as a "maid of all work," or "helper to the woman of the house." There are hints of espionage and other activities that may impact on the war effort. Meanwhile cousin Margaret Walker is one of Spokane, Washington's pioneering female physicians. As war looms, and as America is finally drawn into the conflict, she finds herself helping both refugee Jews and displaced Japanese Americans.

It is the ability of the cousins to confide in each other which moves the story forward. Only in the end does the narrator reappear to tidy up loose ends. The authentic feel of the letters was achieved in part by each of the authors writing as one of the two cousins. They in effect exchanged and answered letters just as the cousins did.

The story also serves to illustrate just how much things have changed since World War II. Prices and wages mentioned seem minuscule compared to today's standards. Communication was primitive in light of the internet, web, most often done by mail or post. The story also touches on civil rights, women's rights, and the changes in society over the years.

This was an interesting and intriguing read, one that was hard to put down, and one this reader anxiously awaited to pick up again. As a result this reader looks forward to the next book by these talented co-authors: *Letters from a Wary Watcher: A Moira Edwards Walker Mystery*.



Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

In this slim volume, the author recounts his life, pivoting on the moment when he thought to end it. It was his discovery of Faith in Jesus Christ that stopped him from pulling the trigger, led him to a life of Truth, and allowed him the Grace to share his story.

Harland tells his very personal story in a straight forward honest way. He describes his earliest years and does not omit the details of parental neglect that led to self-doubt and a lack of self-respect. He is also sincere when describing the moment he found Faith and in the doubts he had, and the trials he faced afterwards.

Besides a declaration and testimonial of Faith, this is also an auto-biography. From it the reader gains a picture of Harland's life, from the earliest days of his existence, to the near present. One also learns how he developed a passion for collecting old bottles and other antiques, and came to write several historical works about Washington's Adams County. This is a very personal work and the author is to be commended for his willingness to share both the good and the bad details with the reader.