



SASP

NEWS

February 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** Thursday of each month at the **Shadle Park Library**, 2111 W. Wellesley Ave., Spokane.

Presentations are slated to begin as soon as possible after **2:00 pm**. After a 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.

The library does not allow individuals to bring food in, but we provide refreshments such as cake or cookies. We pass the hat, so to speak, to help reimburse whoever brings such refreshments.

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. We provide space to display 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 two weeks prior to the next scheduled meeting. **(February 23rd for the March 2023 issue.)**

2023 Officers:

President: **Sue Eller**
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Vice-President and Public-Relations: **Marilee Hudon**
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Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Web Master: **Dave McChesney**
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Member: **Chuck Lehman**
(509) 299-7802 cmlehman4@yahoo.com

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

Member: **Bob Weldin**
(509) 327-2897 minersquest@comcast.net

"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: 16 X Mom: A Mastery of Motherhood by SASP member *Barbara Cagle*

OUR NEXT MEETING!

We are scheduled to meet at 2:00 pm. on Thursday, February 9th, 2023, at the Shadle Park Library, 2111 W. Wellesley Ave., Spokane. The Events Room will open at 1:00 pm.

Our speaker will be Alexander Manzoni, a local poet and writing enthusiast, who has been writing poetry for over twenty-five years. In 2014, he got clean and moved to Spokane, Washington, from Newfield, New Jersey. He performs at arts events, burlesque/drag shows, and public radio in the Spokane-C.D.A. area. Mr. Manzoni has not missed a day of writing since 2018.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

What do a Groundhog and a Hobbit have in common?



Hint: a groundhog is afraid of his own shadow, and a hobbit is scared of adventure.

As most of you know, I was out of town during the January SASP meeting. Our youngest daughter took us on a wonderful adventure to New York City.

At first, like a groundhog on February 2nd or a hobbit faced with an adventure, I was

reluctant to go. I had never been to New York, and I wasn't sure I could do the things she had planned for us to do. Everything I had seen on television and in the movies made me believe it would be miserably



crowded, cold and rainy, prone to muggings and other crimes perpetrated against the naïve tourist, and full of people who were either rude or oblivious to those around them. And no sane person would ever have embarked on a journey that required a ride on the subway.

I have never been so glad to be wrong. Nearly everything we did was within walking distance of our hotel. I only saw wall-to-wall people on the sidewalks once – Friday night at Madison Square Garden. Everyone I encountered was helpful and kind. We even got lost in the subway system and had many people glad to point us in the right direction.

As a bonus, I got a total immersion into Manhattan Island—one I can use to write about in future stories and novels. I got a feel for what it's like to live day by day in a big city and a better understanding of why people would love New York and express loyalty and fondness for their way of life. It's a different vision of home, and I now understand some of the great movie lines about the city.

As you write your next masterpiece, I hope you continue to be inspired by new adventures. Don't crawl back into your hobbit hole. Don't fear the sunshine or the great unknown. Have that unique experience.

I look forward to reading about it in your next story, and I'll see you on February 9th at the Shadle Library.

Sue Eller President

FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Hello everyone,

I have 2 questions for you.

1. Do you have any upcoming events you'd like to have posted to our social media pages? If so, please email me directly at SASPworks4u@gmail.com. We have a page on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and coming soon to Instagram.

2. Do you have a 10-minute presentation about the writing life, books you love, or anything writing-related you'd be willing to share at a meeting? Again, if so, please email me and I'll add you to the roster.



I am looking forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

Take care and keep

writing!

Marilee Hudon Vice President

FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

About the time the last issue of SASP NEWS was ready to go out, a member asked about our practice of collecting dues. She noted that other similar groups, such as the Inland Northwest Writers Guild do not collect dues. Therefore, this month I'll offer an explanation of what we do with the dues you pay.

For most of us, I believe the \$15.00 a year we pay is a token amount, and if anything demonstrates our willingness to be a part of the organization. I also believe that we are generous enough that if someone really wants to be a member but finds the payment of dues

poses a hardship, we, as a group, would cover for them. (This doesn't imply one should simply not pay dues, but rather contact a SASP Officer or Advisory Board member to see if something can be worked out.)

Primarily, the dues we collect are used to cover expenses incurred by our organization. Expenses for 2022 include:

Post Office Box rent	\$166.00
Speaker fees/lunch	215.00
Website domain renewal	23.08
Our email account	36.49
Refreshment reimbursement	99.97
Website hosting	<u>143.88</u>

For a total of: \$684.42

(Please note, web-site hosting is paid every two years, so in 2021 we paid \$287.76.) It took dues paid by over 45 members to cover these costs during the past year.

There are also other miscellaneous expenses that are not listed here, such as nametags,

nametag holders, fees for new checks, etc. We typically do not charge for paper, ink, or postage for the handful of copies of the newsletter that are printed and mailed out. Nor do we charge for



printing membership forms and the like. That could be another \$75.00 or so a year.

Looking back, we'll find that in some years we come out ahead, while in others, we might spend more than we take in. Thus it's nice to have a bit of a surplus.

Besides contributing to the cause, paying dues and being up to date in one's membership also ensures that one will be listed on our Members Page on our web-site and will have a link to their Member Web-Page.

Paying dues is easy. You can pay at any SASP meeting, or you can send 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.

If your personal situation means paying dues will pose a financial hardship, please contact a SASP Officer or Advisory Board Member. We will see what we can do to accommodate you.



OUR JANUARY 2023 MEETING

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers met for the first time in 2023 on Thursday January 12th, at the Shadle Library. Those attending included Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Betty Deuber, Russ Ford, Dennis Held, Marilee Hudon, Joan Kopczynski, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Kate Poitevin, Pete Quint, Linda Sonntag-Noble, Mikel Stevenson, and Bob Weldin. Attending for the first time and joining the group was Thomas Benner. Welcome! A few other guests attended, but we did not get their names. If you were there, thank you for coming and we hope you enjoyed your time with us.

As President Sue Eller was out of town, Vice-President Marilee Hudon opened the meeting and introduced our guest speaker.

Our guest speaker was Laurie Buchanan, author of the Sean McPherson novels, fast-paced thrillers set in the Pacific Northwest, featuring a trifecta of malice and the pursuit and cost of justice. She began her presentation by saying the best thing an author can do is “show up, be consistent, and stay on brand. Establish and maintain brand recognition.” Laurie also noted the difference

between mysteries and thrillers. Mysteries don’t reveal the solution until the end, while thrillers let the reader know what is going on, but keep the characters in suspense.

Laurie talked at length about her daily writing schedule and her planned use of social media to promote her books. Amongst other things, she reminded all to be good social media citizens and to help promote the work of others in the literary field. The key to it all, she said is, “visibility, visibility, visibility.” When asked about the hostility that sometimes exists on various social media platforms, she stated she “won’t be held hostage by the opinions of others.” [View Laurie’s presentation.](#)

Following her presentation we took a short break, during which members had a chance to chat with Laurie and perhaps buy one or more of her books. Then re resumed our meeting with announcements from our members. Pete Quint said he was going to be attending the AWP Writers Conference in Seattle from March 8th to the 11th. Stephen Pitters was there and put in a plug for guests to appear on his Saturday morning radio show on KYRS. Marilee told us of a retired Los Angeles Firefighter now living in the area who would like to write his memoir and would like a ghost writer to help him. Kate Poitevin announced completion of the book she has been working on and excitedly told us that she is now a great grandmother.

Marilee told us our speaker for February would be Alexander Manzoni, a local poet and writing enthusiast. Then we held a drawing for door prizes donated by various members, adjourned the meeting, and everyone went home.

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/blurbs/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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

The INWG will meet via ZOOM on Wednesday, February 15th, at 7 PM. They plan to discuss finding and working with a literary agent.

For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at lindathewriter@gmail.com

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.

Tiffani Harvey:

A Journey to Independence 1533499438
 Revised and retitled
Freedom Seeker
Growing Independent 1533499926
 Revised and retitled
Freedom Seeking

Fred Jessett:

My Name is Tamar B00DH3REWO
Drummer Loves Dancer B073H2RP7P
Getting Past Point No Point 1725865211
Love's Arithmetic is Different
 B09BXWNJG7 B09BYPQRW

Lewis Meline:

Lies Exposed! The Truth about Diets...
 0997915501

J. B. Rivard

Illusions of Magic: Love and Intrigue in 1933 Chicago B01EGSC8N8 0996836306
Illusions of Magic: The Movie B0751RL53G 0996836330
Low on Gas: High on Sky B07V2V48XD 0996836349

Larry Danek

I'm the Ghost in this Body: The Nomadic Ghost B0110Z500Q
Jed's World B00MWDJ1YY
Jed's World (New, Revised Edition) B08HSPQPG6 B08HW4F323L
Ghostly Reunion: A Nomadic Ghost Story B077KHR33M
The Runaway Ghost: Story of the Nomadic Ghost (Vol. 3) 1986978605
Ghost at the Border B089S6TWXT B089M1D93T (pb)
Pioneer Ghost: A Story of the Nomadic Ghost B0957397G1 B094TCDGZG (pb)

FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

Reviews featured here are typically those written by our members of books written by our members. On occasion one may find a review a member wrote of a non-member's book, or a review a non-member wrote of a

member's book. Each month we try to share a small portion of the reviews that are posted on our web-site. Once we reach the end of those reviews we start over.



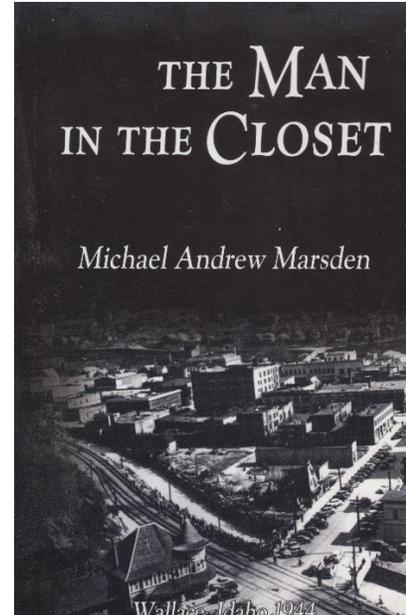
Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

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 autobiography. 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.



Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

When Kyle Carraher's family moves from Washington, D. C. to Wallace, Idaho, his fear of large rodents gnawing through the wall is replaced by dread of the man in the closet. Over the subsequent years, the supposed presence in the upper floor storage room exerts unusual influences over members of his extended family. Eighteen years later Kyle returns to the house to determine if there really is a man in the closet.

As it begins, this book reads like one intended for a younger reader. The straight forward writing clearly depicts extraordinary events in what were quite ordinary lives. As the story progresses, darker, more sinister, more adult themes are introduced, taking the tale to a level meant for a more mature audience. When one reaches the final page, murder, arson, sex for sale, sex as a means of coercion, and criminal insanity have all made their presence known. Each chapter takes the reader to greater heights of suspense and

increases the “can't put it down” factor.

The Man in the Closet is the author's second ghost story set in north Idaho and is pleasantly devoid of many of the faults associated with self-published work. In all aspects it is a well-written, well-edited, and professionally produced book.

The Man in the Closet, from Marsden Publishing, ISBN 1-59975-485-1, is priced at \$16.00 and is available at local Spokane, and Coeur d'Alene bookstores and at www.amazon.com. Check out the author's web-site at www.michaelmarsden.com

Marie's Marvelous Tomato



Esther J. Hildahl

Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

Marie's Marvelous Tomato is a delightful story of a young girl's summer project. Marie and her best friend, Ginger, have planned a summer full of excitement. When Ginger announced her parents were getting a divorce and she must move to Seattle to live with her grandparents, Marie's summer plans all vanished. Marie felt very sad for Ginger

because her own parents divorced years ago and she lost touch with her father.

Marie is a girl that loves to eat tomatoes and suddenly she comes up with a plan for her summer project, she will grow a tomato plant. She plants it with care and tends to it daily. Finally, a small green tomato appears on her plant. It is the only tomato on the plant, but it grows and grows into a giant tomato! Marie's family encourages her to enter her tomato in the fair.

The judges agreed, Marie's tomato was the largest tomato entered in the fair, but it had the best shape and color. Marie was given a blue ribbon for her successful summer project.

The story ends very happily when Ginger announces her parents are getting back together and she won't have to move to Seattle. Marie receives a letter from her father saying he missed her and her brother and would like to come to visit them if it would be alright with her mother. Marie was very happy; she had her best friend back and was going to get to know her father.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

This is a delightful story about Marie who is faced with a lonely summer. Her best friend, Ginger, is gone, Mom is busy with her work, and stinky brother, Mel, is no help at all. Marie decides to grow a tomato plant to fill her lonely time. Through the ups and downs of horticulture, Marie stays focused on her task and loyal to the helpless plant she has vowed to tend while also keeping in touch with Ginger. Ms. Hildahl has created great characters (I was especially fond of the grandmother...) and a sweet story that will charm any age. It has a satisfyingly happy ending, as all children's books should, with an added surprise.