



**SASP**

# Winter Stories

## NEWS

January 2023

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



**Eather J. Hildahl**

**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](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. 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. **(October 27<sup>th</sup> for the November 2022 issue.)**

## 2023 Officers:

**President:** *Sue Eller*  
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**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  
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**Member:** *Chuck Lehman*  
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**Member:** *Esther Hildahl*  
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**Member:** *Bob Weldin*  
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**“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)

*Cover: Winter Stories by SASP member Esther Hildahl*

## OUR NEXT MEETING!

We are scheduled to meet at 2:00 pm. on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the Shadle Park Library, 2111 W. Wellesley Ave., Spokane. The Events Room will open at 1:00 pm.

Our speaker is scheduled to be Laurie Buchanan. She writes the Sean McPherson novels— fast-paced thrillers set in the Pacific Northwest that feature a trifecta of malice and the pursuit and cost of justice.

A cross between Dr. Dolittle, Nanny McPhee, and a type-A Buddhist, Buchanan is an active listener, observer of details, payer of attention, reader and writer of books, kindness enthusiast, and red licorice aficionado.



Her books have won multiple awards, including Foreword INDIES Book of the Year Gold Winner, International Book Award Gold Winner, National Indie Excellence Awards Winner, Crime

Fiction/Suspense Eric Hoffer Awards Finalist, PenCraft Award for Literary Excellence, and CLUE Book Awards finalist Suspense/Thriller Mysteries.

Laurie and her husband live in the Pacific Northwest, where she enjoys long walks, bicycling, camping, and photography—because sometimes the best word choice is a picture.

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

*Happy New Year!*

The start of a new year—in this case, 2023—has traditionally been a time of planning for the year ahead. Some people call it making resolutions. I prefer to think of it as setting

writing goals. It's a little less intimidating and dictatorial to me, and it actually works better. Here are a few insights and suggestions I have applied in the past:



1. Every good and successful goal is specific and has a completion date. (The word “deadline” is scary and too negative for me.)
2. Write your goals down, seal them in an envelope, and don't look at them again until December 31, 2023. (You will be pleasantly surprised.)
3. Take time to set realistic, achievable goals for yourself. (Don't make it so hard that you defeat yourself before you even get started.)
4. Make sure the goals you set are yours, not ones you think someone else would want you to accomplish. (In the words sung by a long-ago singer, “You can't please everyone, and so you got to please yourself.”)

Have a wonderful rest of 2022, and enjoy the renewal the concept of a new year can bring. I will see you at the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. I hope all of you enjoy the meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup> at the Shadle Library.

*Sue Eller* President

## FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Hello fellow writers/authors,

Before all else, I'd like to take a moment to remember Stan Parks who passed away in June at the age of 98. He was a solid and enthusiastic presence at most of our meetings and a remarkable man of character. I did not get to spend as much time with him as I would have liked, but I am grateful to have met him. If you are reading this, I ask that you please

take a moment to remember him and maybe say a quick prayer. Thanks.

Now, heading into 2023, our lovely President, Sue Eller, will be out of town for our first meeting of the year. This means, my friends, you are stuck with me in the lead. I'll do my best, but any help/reminders/input is welcome.

With that in mind, Sue and I have been wanting to hear from all of you. What we are looking for is a 10-minute presentation to be given after our regular speaker finishes up. We'd like to hear about your personal writing experiences/lessons learned/expertise. If you would like to address the group at any of our upcoming meetings please see me and I'll put you on the calendar.

I hope you all have had a wonderful holiday season and to see you soon.

*Marilee Hudon* Vice President

**FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER,  
TREASURER**

I hope everybody had a wonderful Christmas and or Holiday Season and a Happy New Year Celebration. If you traveled anywhere, I hope you were not super inconvenienced by all the problems we saw every day via the news.

As always, our December meeting was fun, as we got to hear several of our members read a bit of their work to us. If my count was accurate, we heard from



ten of our fellow writers. It would be great if that number were to increase next year.

It would also be nice to see a larger number of members at our monthly meetings. We have the largest of three meeting rooms at the library and can welcome many more than normally show up. If you haven't been for a while, come on by and check us out.

Over the past few months, I've been trying to feature books by our members on the cover of SASP NEWS, and I've been trying to do so in member order, as we appear on the Members list on the web-site. Last month I stepped away from that as I wanted something appropriate for the Holidays. This month I have again opted for something that should fit in with the season. Next month should see us back on track.

Now that 2023 is upon us, it's time to pay your dues if you haven't already. Your dues need to be current for you to be listed on our Members Page on the web-site, and to have a link to your 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 DECEMBER 2022 MEETING**

Our Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting followed established tradition and was an open

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mic session, allowing members and guests to share small portions of their work with the group. Those reading included: Pete Quint, Bob Weldin, Lindsay Hill, Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Dave McChesney, Larry Danek, Sandy Mason, Carl Northrup, Fred Jessett, and Sue Eller.

Other members present included Bob Manion, Kate Poitevin, and Linda Sonntag-Noble. Guests included Sharma Shields, Will Mellott, Ray Eller, Sara Jones, and Gene Hudon. Joining Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers upon his first ever visit was Lindsay Hill. Rachel, our ASL interpreter was with us once again.

President Sue Eller introduced an exercise sheet designed to get us all to write more book reviews for each other's books. We all hope this will spur an increase in book reviews that can be posted on the SASP Web-Site.

Our first meeting of 2023 will be on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Once again, we will be at then Shadle Library, with the program beginning at 2 pm. (The meeting room will be open from 1 to 5 pm.) Our speaker will be Laurie Buchanan. (See *Our Next Meeting* on page 1.)

### 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### On the Radio!

Stephen Pitters has invited SASP member **Caryl Briscoe-Michas** to read on his January 7<sup>th</sup> Saturday morning broadcast on KYRS.

Carol also read on air last January.

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild

The INWG will meet via ZOOM on Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM. They plan a "Member Quick Read," which has been rescheduled from last month.

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

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.

### Joyce Caudel:

*The Hat Pin Murders*  
*The Hat Box Mystery*

1936178397  
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

*Summer Rain*

B00ZM3S2IM

*Vampire and the Cop*

B00ZM4BBOS

Retitled *Vampire Justice*

0996864415

*Sabrina's Promise*

0996864407 097885070X

**Sandra L. Mason:**

*N is for Nativity*

1517614880

(Illustrated by Natalie J. Apodaca)

*Into the Fire*

B08Z2GX2TC

**Stan Parks:**

*Jakob's Ladies*

1532910762

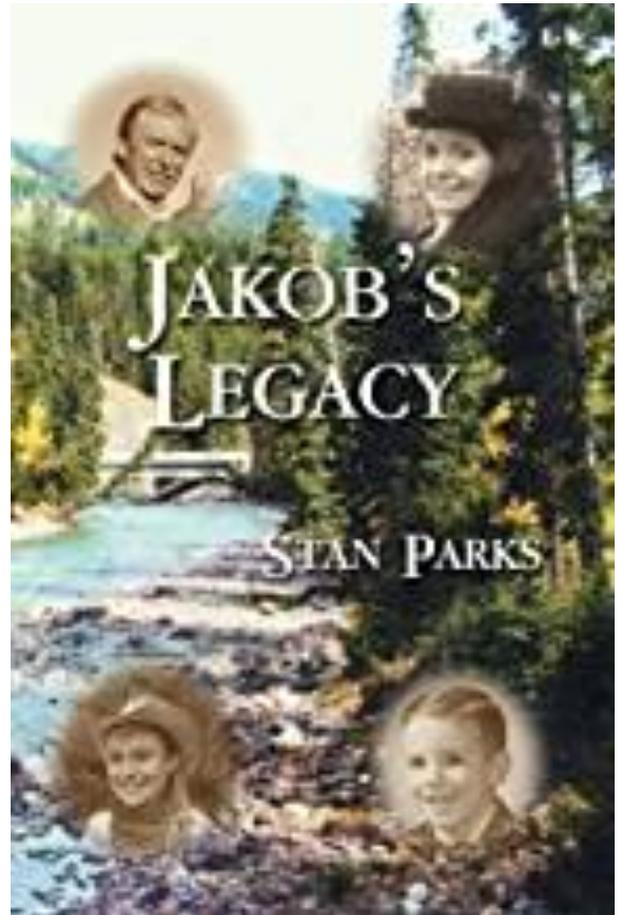
*Jakob's Legacy*

B09HLCNG21

## FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

If you have read a fellow SASP member's book, don't forget to write a review so we can include it on our web-site and here in our newsletter. (To be honest, your editor has a number of reviews to write, hopefully in the near future.)

Reviews here and on our web-site are most often reviews of books by our members, reviewed by our members. Some may be reviews our members have written of other books, and on occasion they are of our members' books written by someone outside the group.



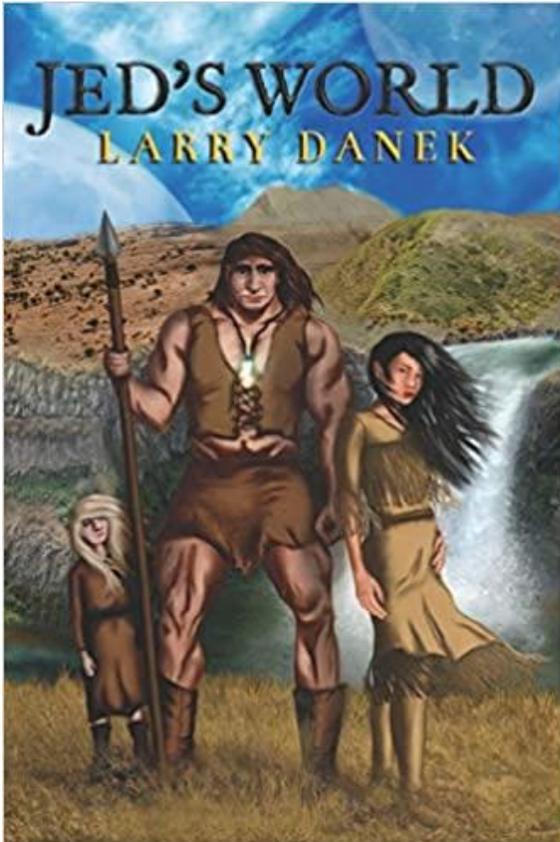
Reviewed by Robert Hildahl

*Jakob's Legacy* is about Jakob's second marriage to Lady Geraldine, who owns a large cattle and horse ranch. Even though they love the ranch, they decide to live in Sheridan, where Jakob will continue his dental practice. Along with Jakob's daughter, BethAnn, they have a son of their own named Randy.

Jakob is a very successful dentist. He not only tends to his own patients, he goes to the hospital to set broken jaws and perform other dental surgeries. He is an important part of the community and is also a blood brother to the Chief of the Crow Nation. And, he frequently goes to the Crow Indian Reservation to help those who are suffering with dental problems. Plus, when their ranch has problems with cattle rustlers, Jakob helps catch the thieves.

This book is full of other adventures and life in Sheridan, Wyoming. It's a good read

and a good follow up to Stan Parks' first book, *Jakob's Ladies*. It's well written and I recommend this book for all.



Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Aliens are trying to populate a particular planet. They've tried different species, but failed. Now they decide to transfer an older specimen from the planet Earth. Thus, enter the main character, George Martin, later to be known as Jed.

Read and see how he struggles to survive as he makes his way through new adventures on this strange, but familiar, planet with the help of a fox named Fred and a short-tailed bobcat named Bob. Later he discovers there are other inhabitants here when after a disastrous flood, he pulls a young woman and a little girl out of the water. He calls them Mary and Ann.

Every so often, the reader is privy to the Aliens' thoughts and comments as they watch their subject progress from one stage of

survival to another. Danek has written a very creative story with interesting characters. It's well-worth the read. I recommend this book for one and all and especially for those who like to read science fiction.

## Jody Visits Tooth Fairy Land



(Sorry, no cover image available for this book)

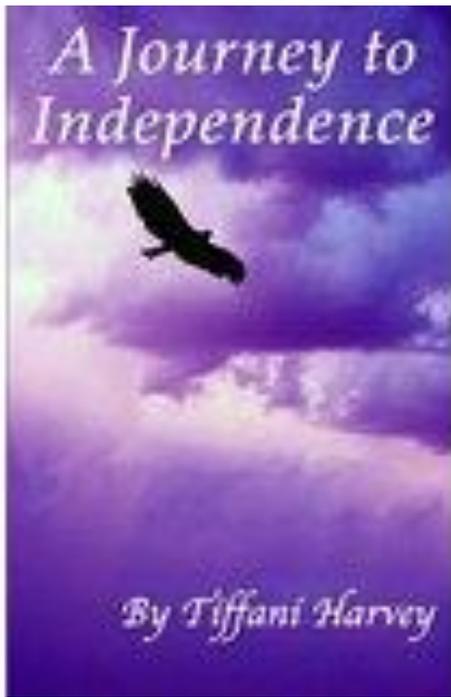
Written by E. J. Deuber  
Illustrated by Harry H. Deuber

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Jody has lost a tooth and she wants to talk to the Tooth Fairy. Her wish comes true when the Tooth Fairy appears and invites Jody to fly with her to Tooth Fairy Land. Here the Tooth Fairy, Wee Fairies, and Wee Elves live. Jody, wearing her magic tooth necklace, has an exciting time exploring Tooth Fairy Land and discovering where teeth go and what they are used for after the Tooth Fairy takes them.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this charming children's book. It's creative, well-written with interesting characters, and has a surprise ending. An excellent story to read aloud to young children. Plus, the illustrations are great. They, too, are creative, well-drawn, colorful, and fun to look at.

I recommend this book to anyone who has ever lost a tooth!



Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

*A Journey to Independence* was written by the author who was born with many disabilities. It's the story of her life experiences and the choices she has had to make—often not easy. She has a strong belief in God and herself and sometimes has to prove to others that just because she is disabled doesn't mean that she isn't capable of doing many things. I learned from this book that there are things that can make life better and safer for the disabled. One of these things is public transportation. It should be a lot easier to schedule rides on the disability van and the people who ride them should be dropped off and picked up as close to the time the person signed up for as possible. More drivers should be hired. No one likes to have their time wasted, waiting for long periods of time or being dropped off hours before an appointment.

Ms. Harvey takes us into her world and offers good advice for other disabled people and to those who are interested in what she has to say. She's also written a workbook to go along with this book.



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.

## Lets Share Our Patriotic Thread



(Sorry, no cover image available for this book)

by Jerry Garcia

Reviewed by Elizabeth J. Deuber

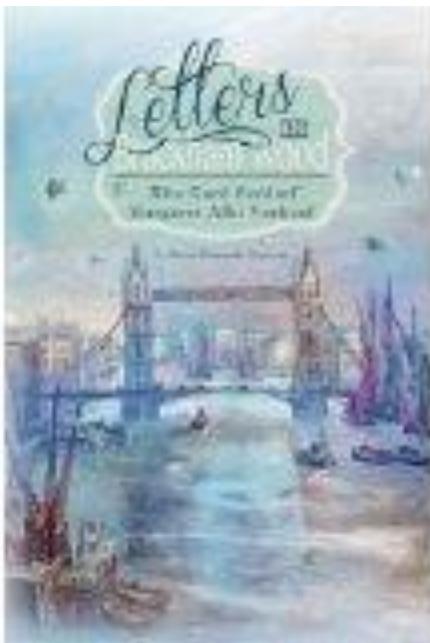
*Lets Share Our Patriotic Thread* by Jerry Garcia, is an anthology that provided an opportunity for veterans to share their thoughts and feelings about war experiences, why they joined the service and patriotism with other ex-GI's, family and friends.

Jerry's opinion as well as the accounts from the other men and women retired from the United States Military differed somewhat in that some had negative reactions about their tenures in the service, others positive. In general, however, all admitted to still being very patriotic.

The title is great, and the information he and his peers shared in this book is invaluable to non-service people, including our future citizens.

I'm a collector of personal history and enjoyed the book very much.

## 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*.