

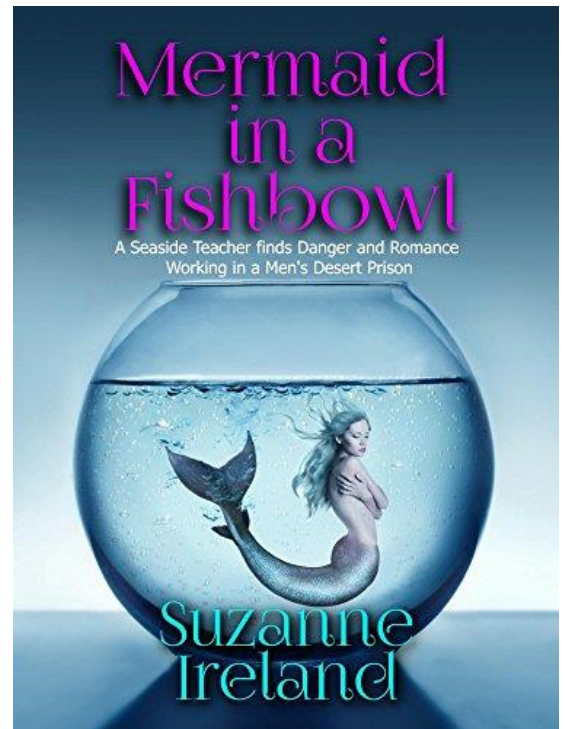
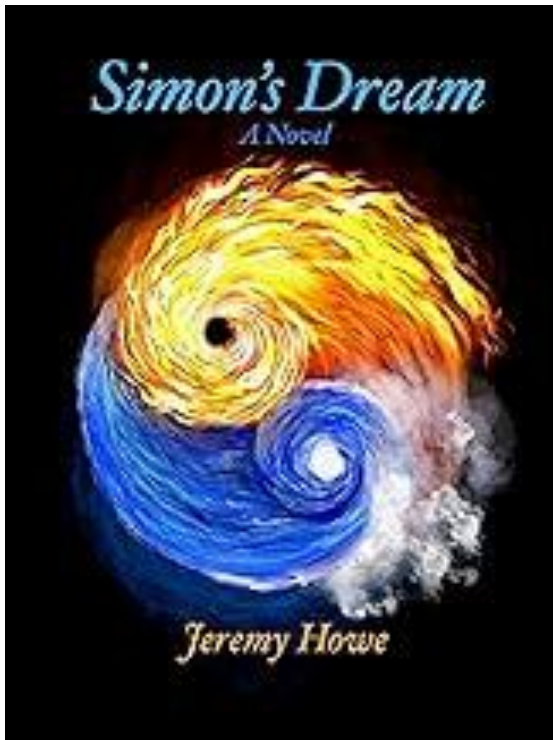


SASP

NEWS

January 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 to share knowledge and experience with those interested in writing and alternative publishing. Today, SASP is an organization dedicated to anyone interested 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 meetings provide inspiration and education by way of knowledgeable and entertaining guest speakers, and the cheerful camaraderie of people sharing common interests and goals. Membership is open to all who love writing, art, and interesting people.

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers meets the **second Friday** of each month at the **Corbin Senior Activity Center**, 827 W. Cleveland Ave., Spokane.

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

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers also meets the **third Saturday** of each month in the social hall of **St. Francis of Assisi Church**, 1104 W. Heroy Ave., Spokane.

Meetings begin at **2:00 pm**. We must be out of the room and building by **4:00 pm**.

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

Membership benefits include listing on the SASP website, www.spokaneauthors.org. 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 website to connect with members' webpages. Our "links" page connects to interesting on-line locations.

Guest speakers inform, inspire, and entertain with a variety of topics designed to provide knowledge about writing and publishing.

SASP members are encouraged to purchase or trade completed works of and with fellow members. They are also encouraged to donate copies of their work as door prizes. Winners of other members' work are expected to provide a review.

Note: Your name tag is yours to keep and maintain. We provide space to display your books, but *you* must bring them to each meeting.

Newsletter Submission Deadline:
(January 25th for the February 2024 issue.)

2024 Officers:

President: **Carl Northup (Nathaniel Bennett)**
(509) 445-0166
(509) 671-3949
iknadedthat53@yahoo.com

Vice-President: **Bob Manion**
(509) 448-2901
heygunnerbob@gmail.com

Secretary: **Linda Sonntag-Noble**

Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Web Master: **Dave McChesney**
(509) 325-2072
(509) 768-6178
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mjnoduh2@gmail.com

Advisory Board:

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

Member: **Mary De Bord**
(509) 999-4797
violetpetalsbook@gmail.com

Member: **Bob Weldin**
(509) 514-2747
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
Or: saspworks4u@gmail.com

Cover: Simon's Dream by recently joined SASP member Jeremy Howe.

Mermaid in a Fishbowl by SASP member Suzanne Holland (Suzanne Ireland).

THE BOOKS ON THE COVER...

Spokane Authors member Jeremy Howe is new to the group, but when placed in alphabetical order on our website membership list, he turned out to be next in line to have his book featured. Susanne Holland, who joined the group a year or so ago came next. Learn more about both books and authors by visiting their member web pages.

OUR JANUARY MEETINGS!

We will meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, January 12, 2024, at the Corbin Senior Activity Center, 827 W. Cleveland Ave., Spokane, WA 99205. The Lower South Room will be open from 1:30 to 4:30 pm.

Alexander Manzoni, who spoke to us this past February will be our speaker.

We will also meet at 2:00 pm. On Saturday, January 20th, 2024, at St. Francis of Assisi, 1104 W. Heroy Ave., Spokane, WA 99205. The conference room in the social hall is available from 1:30 to 4 pm.

Plans for this meeting are still in the works, but we are hoping to focus on the craft of writing at these alternate meetings.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The seed catalogs have all arrived, giving us visions of new things to come. In this New Year we need new seed to get new stories to sprout.

In 2023, when Janice and I planted our garden some of our bean seeds were old and wouldn't germinate. We replanted three times: (From the seeds that did germinate we had a bountiful harvest. More than enough for our needs and lots to give away. Ideas are like seeds, if they are old and haven't germinated yet, get some new ideas (seeds). My vision for 2024 is to help each other germinate new ideas so that our writing can flourish.

Example: Maybe Inky the Spider goes down to Texas to visit his cousin, Terence

Chula. If he takes the train down, he can pretend he is a hobo spider.

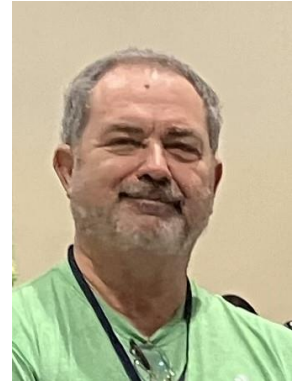
In this way we can plant seeds with our fellow authors. Sometimes a little cultivation is needed and if the soil lacks nutrients, I have enough fertilizer for everyone...

When an idea sprouts, we can all help water it.

I would like 2024 to be a community garden for SASP. Let's grow some stories!

Carl Northrup (Nathaniel Bennett)

President



FROM OUR FORMER PRESIDENT

As the dolphins said: So long, 2023



We have elected new officers for next year. They will officially take office at our January 12, 2024 meeting. They will be Carl Northrup, President; Bob Manion, Vice President; Linda Sonntag, Secretary; Dave McChesney, Treasurer; and the Advisory Board will consist of Esther Hildahl, Bob Weldin, and Mary DeBord. Marilee Hudon will still be doing public relations work and social media outreach.

I have spoken with Carl Northrup, our incoming president, and he has some exciting plans for the new year. I hope all of you will support our new slate of officers and that the SASP group will have a fun and productive 2024.



It has been a pleasure to serve you since we began meeting after the COVID-19 shutdown was lifted. Our first meeting consisted of (if memory serves me) eight members. We have grown and survived through many changes and setbacks since then, and I am confident the new officers will lead us successfully through the next term.

As Douglas Adams would have said, "So long, and thanks for all the fish... until January 12, 2024."

Sue Eller (former) President

FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Here it is a new year, and we have new guys up front. SASP President Carl Northrup and I welcome you back to a new agenda and shift to the art we all share, writing and getting our work into the hands of readers. I ask myself, "what will rejuvenate us as a group of writers, a bit older and a bit younger than those before us?" So let us merge ages together and do what we love to do, write, edit, pitch, and sell books. Whether it's a poem, prose, short story, novel, or just written patter; let's get it into the hands of readers.

Topics proposed include, putting a story together, character development, memoir

formats, romance writing, the short story, writing a review, play acting, e.g. pitching to an agent, beta readers and editors, how to write dialogue (thinking in two or more minds), and advertising. This list is just a few of the many subjects we can share



with each other at our meetings. Occasional speakers sharing their experiences will be a bonus.

It is my hope and goal to get our group to share, critic, suggest, and assist each other. I know this is a shift, but one we can all benefit from. We can meld our monthly primary meeting in with our Saturday group. Why are we limited to only one or two meetings. We can promote smaller groups that get together to give a three-minute report on what they have done or the pitfalls they have encountered. Let us all get together and charge into the new year. Let's get our books on the bookshelves. Let us be speakers and ambassadors to other writing groups, social clubs, schools, etc.

Bob Manion Vice-President (Incoming)

FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

2024 looks to be promising for our organization, with new leadership and a second monthly meeting. We plan to focus more on the craft of writing and will look for any amount of expertise. If you believe you have some, contact our new Vice President, Bob Manion, and possibly he can schedule you for a presentation or workshop.

Please send me information about your upcoming events as soon as you possibly can. I can't list it on the website or include it in SASP NEWS if I don't know about it. The newsletter is published monthly, and it can take a few days before I get something posted to the website. I want to help publicize your signings, craft fairs, and other author events. I

can't do that if I am not aware of them. As well let Marilee Hudon know about your events so she can get the information out on social media. While she is no longer Vice-President, she is still our public affairs person.

We are in a new year and dues for 2024 are due. I thank the twenty-six individuals who have paid dues for 2024. That means approximately twenty who were members for 2023 have yet to pay for 2024. There are also people on the roster who last paid for 2021 and 2022.

Those last paid in 2021, we will be removed from the roster and all mailing lists. We will send you your member webpage and delete it from our files. Your books will no



longer be listed as being available on Amazon.

Those last paid in 2022 or 2023 will remain on the roster, mailing lists, and the list of books available on Amazon. They will not be listed on the website "Members" list, and there will be no link to

their member's webpage.

We typically delay such actions until the end of March or so, which should provide plenty of time for dues to be made current. We do not ask anyone to pay back dues, but simply to pay for 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave McChesney".

OUR DECEMBER 2023 MEETINGS

Compiled by Linda Sonntag-Noble and Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers met Friday December 13th at the Corbin Senior Activity Center. Upon arrival, we were shocked to see the parking lot jammed full of cars and a note on the entrance saying our meeting was moved to a church across the street. Evidently the Corbin Senior Activity Center was holding

an arts and crafts fair and had forgotten to let us know about it. Once we found someone with access to the church, things proceeded in a more normal fashion.

As this was our December meeting, we followed tradition with an *Open Mic* session. Sharing a little of their work with us were Larry Danek read an excerpt from *Old Men*, Sue Eller presented a preliminary piece from *Taming the T-Bird*, and Jennifer Day offered with a story about a little black cat. Dave McChesney shared the opening scene from *Mr. Townsend's Chromometer*. Caryl Briscoe-Michas read some of her writing, and Roger Aschenbrener entertained us with some short poetry selections. Linda Sonntag-Noble presented a chapter from her upcoming book, *Dandelions* in which we learned what nuns were like in boarding schools. To round out our presentations, M. J. Hudon read a scene from her latest book, *Lilac City Lunacy*. Other members present were Mary De Bord, Bob Manion, Carl Northrup, and Kate Poitevin. John Kenney joined us as a guest.

Following the readings, we took a break, had some refreshments, during which, some members bought books from other members. We held a drawing for donated door prizes, wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, a Happy New Year, and went on our way. Before we left, Sue reminded up of our upcoming alternate meeting on Saturday December 16th at 2:00 pm in the social hall at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers alternate meeting was held on Saturday December 16th at St. Francis of Assisi Church, in the social hall/conference room. In her last official act, President Sue Eller called the meeting to order and introduced Vice-President Marilee Hudon, who in turned introduced those who had volunteered to read a bit of their work.

First up was Marilee, also known as M. J., who read a bit from her first book, *Waxing is Useless*. She was followed by new member Jeremy Howe, reading the beginning of his book, *Simon's Dream*. Dave McChesney offered another scene from his short story, *Mr. Townsend's Chronometer*, while Sue Eller read

a short story from *Short Trips to Alternate Universes*. The story was called *The Corndog Continuum*.

New member Jon Miller shared a story based on his teaching of Economics at the University of Idaho and looked at the idea of monopolies relating to the only place in the county with a liquor license. Roger Aschenbrener related a couple of poems to us, one was rather deep and moving, while the other was written and read in a lighter mood. The individual who writes as Nathaniel Bennett read the opening chapter from *The Ant Doctor*. Caryl Briscoe-Michas related a meeting between two people on board a recently docked ship, and Bob Manion rounded out the readings with a tale of Christmas Angel Steve saving Santa Claus and thus saving Christmas.

Also at the meeting were Cherise Marshall and Carl Northrup. As mentioned above, we also had two writers join our group. Welcome to Jeremy Howe and Jon R. Miller! Jeremy writes fantasy and has one book published. Jon is working on a non-fiction work, that aims to explain economics to the average individual in a straight-forward and perhaps entertaining way.

Incoming Vice-President Bob Manion noted efforts to form a small writing group of six or so people that would meet regularly at his house. He also talked a little about running ads for books in one of the regional advertising flyers.

With that, people began to stir, individual conversations took place and we wound our way out of the building and to our individual deeds for the day.

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 webmaster if your page needs to be updated or corrected. Have you recently published a new book, or have you by chance republished an old one? Let your webmaster know!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Auntie's Bookstore: Local Authors Book Club

ZOOM Meeting, Wednesday January 3, 2024 at 2:00 pm. For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at lindathewriter@gmail.com or Auntie's Bookstore at: auntiesbooks@gmail.com

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

ZOOM Meeting, Wednesday January 17, 2024 at 7:00 pm. For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at lindathewriter@gmail.com

National Independent Bookstore Day

Celebrate the Day at Auntie's Bookstore on Saturday April 27. More information will come as the date gets closer.

SASP BOOKS ON AMAZON/KINDLE

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

To speed your search, add the provided

ten digit numerical or alpha-numerical code (ASIN) to: [www\(dot\)amzn\(dot\)com/dp/](http://www.amazon.com/dp/)
 Example: www.amazon.com/dp/B008TXC332
 or: www.amazon.com/dp/1936178044
 ASINs for each book are the same, regardless of what Amazon Marketplace you use.

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

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 B08HSPQPG6 B08HW4F323L
Ghostly Reunion: A Nomadic Ghost Story
 B077KHR33M
The Runaway Ghost: Story of the Nomadic
Ghost (Vol. 3) 1986978605
Ghost at the Border

SASP NEWS

B089S6TWXT B089M1D93T (pb)

Pioneer Ghost: A Story of the Nomadic Ghost
 B0957397G1 B094TCDGZG (pb)

Esther J. Hildahl

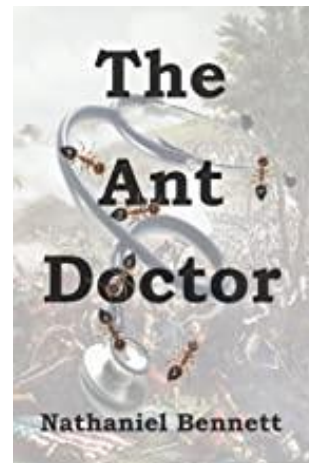
Meadow Pond B072FS1CLL 154244828X
Mr. Inky: Spider with an Attitude
 B07177PLGX 1542451248
Marie's Marvelous Tomato
 B073SFTS74 1548307653
Poopie the Fly and Friends
 B07HNQLKMW 1724038427
Winter Stories B09BGF8TGL

Russell H. Ford

Depop B019NGA00Q 159849175X
Re-Ring B011RW4XVY

FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

This month will limit the reviews so we can share some photos of SASP members participating in Arts and Craft Fairs. (These books have recently had new reviews added.)



Reviewed by M. J. Hudon (new)

The Ant Doctor by Nathaniel Bennett is a post-civil war adventure full of virtuous heroes and dishonorable villains. The main character, Jonathan Haggan, is a blend of a southern gentleman, the Lone Ranger, and a dash of Chuck Norris. With his no-nonsense friend, a freed slave, Moses beside him, the

two travel until they find a place to build their home and a community.

Educated, honorable, and wise to the world's ways, the two share many adventures, establish a civil society within their town, and punish any scoundrels who get in the way.

Bennett's well-written story moves back and forth through time weaving vignettes from his characters' lives together in such a way as to keep the reader engaged and bring the ending to a satisfying fruition.

*Some may have trouble with the use of era-related language if they haven't read the Author's Note beforehand.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

I purchased *The Ant Doctor* because I liked its cover and title. I was anxious to read it to see who or what the ant doctor was. The story began with a young man lying in the hot sun in pain. He thinks he may have been shot but wasn't sure. He ached all over, was miserable and worst of all, he had this sensation of crawling all over his body. After a while, he discovered, to his horror, that the crawling sensation was due to red ants, and they were eating him alive!

His name is Daryl Haggen. And thus, began the story of his and his family's history. It's a good story of the Old South, the evil institution of slavery, slave catchers, abolitionists, and the Civil War.

This book is well-written, full of interesting characters, both good and evil. And it has a satisfying ending. I recommend this book for one and all.

Reviewed by Larry Danek

I took this book to read while on a round trip flight of three hours each way. I planned to read one half in each direction but found it hard to put down. I finished the book in my hotel room despite a hectic schedule. This Civil War era novel was well researched and quite entertaining. I did find the book wasn't written in a straightforward way and bounced around a bit through different time periods. It caused me

to stop and think back to where the current chapter related to a past one.

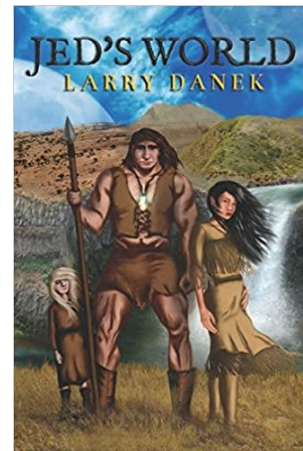
It didn't stop me from enjoying the book and I highly recommend it.

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney (new)

At first glance, the title of the book might suggest a story about an entomologist, a person studying ants and other insects. That is not the case, although upon reading the story one will discover that there is a doctor and there are ants.

This is a story of a family set against the backdrop of the American Civil War. Jonathan Haggen is a son of the old slave-owning South, but an individual who has different, perhaps radical opinions regarding many of the practices of the time. While he could stay and control his family's plantation, he sets out on a different path. The story relates his tale as well as the tales of many of his family and friends, tying all together at the end.

This is a book one will read in a minimum number of sittings, as it is nearly impossible to put down.



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.

Reviewed by M. J. Hudon (new)

A second chance at youth on a strange new world....

Author Larry Danek has written an intriguing story about an elderly man's abduction by aliens. These all-seeing creatures give Jed a new neandertal-type body and drop him onto a sparsely populated wilderness planet. To survive, he must call upon his muddled memories from his previous life, trust his intuition, and overcome many obstacles. Along the way, he acquires some interesting friends and a few enemies. How will he and his friends survive?

Written as a 1st person, stream-of-consciousness narrative with an occasional interruption by an alien intelligence (or 2), this book is very detailed, and it draws the reader in. By the time I finished reading, I felt as if I'd been on the adventure myself. This would be a great book for any boy/girl scout, survivalist, adventurer, or anyone who enjoys a good yarn.

SPOKANE AUTHORS... OUT AND ABOUT

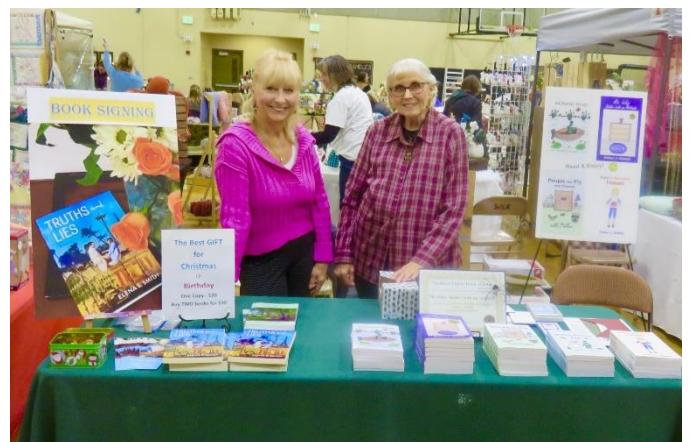
Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers took part in local arts and craft fairs, even taking photos of the events, and we share a few of them here.



Sue Eller and Larry Danek at The Garland Street Marketplace in early summer



Carl Northrup and M. J. Hudon at the Garland Street Marketplace a week or so later.



Elena Smith and Esther Hildahl at the Shadle Park High School Arts and Crafts Fair.



Carl Northrup, M. J. Hudon, and Dave McChesney at the Mead High School Arts and Crafts fair. (Photo courtesy of Beth Camp)



Dave McChesney, Elena Smith, and M. J. Hudon at Ridgeline High School's Arts and Crafts Fair.



Marilee Hudon at Mead High School. (Photo courtesy of Beth Camp)



Elena Smith gets her picture taken with a sweet pup who happened by the booth. (All of us there that day had photos taken with him.)



To the right: Elena Smith and Tiffani Harvey at Ridgeline