



SASP

NEWS

July 2019

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



HAPPY  
INDEPENDENCE  
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](http://www.spokaneauthors.org). Many members provide short biographies and links to external personal websites, creating more marketing exposure. Current members may list and describe their published works on the SASP website and offer their work for sale at meetings. (Visit the “members” page on our web-site to connect with members’ web-pages. Our “links” page connects to interesting on-line locations, including those of many SASP members.)

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

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

**Note:** SASP no longer transports name tags and display books to and from meetings. Your name tag is yours to keep and maintain. Please take books you provide for display. We provide space for displaying your books, but you must bring them to each meeting.

**Submission Deadline:** Items to be included in the next edition of SASP NEWS must be received by the editor a week prior to the next scheduled meeting.

## 2019 Officers:

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**“Like” the SASP Facebook Page:**  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Spokane-Authors-Self-Publishers/1640079982945679](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Spokane-Authors-Self-Publishers/1640079982945679)

**“join” the SASP Facebook Group:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1646364128981815/>

**“Follow” us on Twitter:**  
<https://twitter.com/AndAuthors>

Contact us at:  
[authors@spokaneauthors.org](mailto:authors@spokaneauthors.org)

## OUR NEXT MEETING!

Please join us **Thursday, July 11, 2019** at the **Golden Corral** on Spokane's **North Division Street**. The meeting room is open for dining, conversation, and general socializing at 3:00 pm. **Our meeting and scheduled presentation begin at 3:30.**

Our guest speaker will be Elinor Young, who was nine years old when she first thought about working overseas. Weakened by Polio as a child, it seemed like an impossible dream. But in 1973 Elinor reached Papua, Indonesia, to begin linguistic, translation, and community development work among the primitive Kimyal people of Papua, Indonesia. During her nearly 17 years there, the Kimyal tribe gave Elinor the name Bad Legs, saying her bad legs were a symbol of God's love for them. Now retired, Elinor writes, speaks, mentors, and anticipates the day her memoir will be published.

wore the shape of the wind. Oak forests bunched around the other sides of the shack and sheltered the closest lagoon, its surface so rich in life it churned. Salt air and gull-song drifted through the trees from the sea."

Sheer poetry! (Actually, Owens was able to effortlessly slide a few of her own poems into the story. She did this by letting the protagonist, during dark times, read poetry from her *favorite* author.

So I would urge all of us: Reread your manuscript. Go back, and during that final edit, see if there is a better, more descriptive way to say what you are trying to say. Use more interesting words to bring the reader into your story. (And, maybe, sneak in some of your own poetic works.)

When writing my second book I shall attempt to emulate Delia Owens.

Jim

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Just finished reading *Where the Crawdads Sing*, by Delia Owens. What a beautiful, well-written novel, especially considering it's her first! It had everything: wonderfully descriptive writing, a coming-of-age story, *and* a murder mystery – all under one cover (well, two, counting the back.) The only negative was that it gave me a feeling of



inadequacy about my own writing. My one and only book, *Book All the Teachers*, \$14.95 on Amazon, could have used more interesting descriptors, more metaphors. Instead of saying, "The shack was by the water," Ms. Owens would write and *did*

write...

*"The shack sat back from the palmettos, which sprawled across sand flats to a necklace of green lagoons and, in the distance, all the marsh beyond. Miles of blade-grass so tough it grew in salt water, interrupted only by trees so bent they*

## FROM THE EDITOR/WEB-MASTER

This month I have a couple of ideas that might allow smoother communications between SASP members and others.

When we send out updated versions of our roster, please note any changes your fellow members may have made to their addresses, phone numbers, or e-mail addresses. These do change from time to time. I try to high-light those I change upon notification by the member. (Of course, I high-light new entries on the roster, such as when we have someone new join our organization.)

If you find you need to respond to an e-mail forwarded by SASP, please send your reply directly to the original sender and not back to SASP. I try to leave the e-address of the original sender in the message. If you simply "reply," it only goes back to the SASP e-mail address. Then I, as SASP, have to forward it to the intended



recipient, or notify you to e-mail that individual directly.

Lastly I'm hoping that everyone is aware our schedule is changed a bit for July. Our meeting will be a week (and an hour) later than usual. I'm hoping to get this edition out so no one takes time out of their Independence Day celebrations and perhaps drives a considerable distance only to discover we won't meet until a week later.



## OUR JUNE MEETING

(Compiled by M. J. Hudon  
and  
Dave McChesney)



In keeping with the tradition started upon becoming President, Jim Parry opened our June meeting with a joke. A couple of members also related humorous anecdotes, so we began the day's program with a few chuckles and possibly some groans. Jim also mentioned that our July meeting will be a week later than normal so we don't interfere with anyone's celebration of Independence Day. Due to scheduling at Golden Corral, our host establishment, we will be meeting an hour later than normal. Our July meeting will be Thursday, 11 July, with the meeting room open at 3:00 pm. Our program will start at 3:30.

We had one guest who told us a bit about herself. Mayla, if we heard correctly, is a wood carver and not a writer, but she has a poem she would like to get published. New member Samijo Tinsley said she works as a wedding coordinator and is writing a book about wedding traditions.

Vice president Sue Eller introduced our speaker, fellow SASP member Joy Linn. She is an author, a poet, and an ordained minister. Her presentation was entitled "Alice in Wonderland, Navigating the Publishing World." In it, she compared an author's journey to Alice's adventures. As Joy began, she shared a poem called "Keep Walking"

She spoke about working with a formatting editor/expert named Jeff Doles when publishing her first books, and said this went well. When it came time to publish another book she signed up with Christian Faith Publishing a part of INRI (INRIE?) and was greatly disappointed. A good portion of her talk dealt with the back and forth that ensued as she tried to get things straightened out. She advised anyone looking to publish with a self-publishing service company to beware those advertising on television, to check with fellow writers, and to check on line for better business bureau recommendations.

Joy concluded her presentation by reading another poem. This one was called "Ernie the Eaglet."

After our break, Bob Manion talked about setting up an author event at the Valley Barnes and Noble. He is thinking of an event with four to six people who have fairly new books that are available through Ingrams. There was also mention of having books printed by Gray Dog Press and Russ Davis.

Chuck Lehman and Bob Weldin both emphasized the fact that we have the power to promote each other's books. As it was Thursday June 6<sup>th</sup>, the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Normandy Invasion, Stan Parks spoke about the day and the trials faced by those involved. (For those who don't know, Stan served in the Pacific Theater during World War II.)

Member Kari Barr noted she is taking submissions for her quarterly magazine, *Intangience*, and that she is currently looking for work dealing with *lazy summer days*. She also mentioned being an editor and providing other writing and publishing services.

Door prize winners included: Esther Hildahl, Samijo Tinsley, Cindy Silliman, Henry Sasser, Dave McChesney, Marian Lehman, Rich McKay, Joyce Seebaum, Jim Silliman,

Kate Poitevin, Sue Eller, Betty Deuber, and Bob Hildahl. (Apologies if anyone was inadvertently omitted.)

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 11<sup>th</sup>, with the meeting room available at 3:00 pm. Again, this is a week later and an hour later than normal. Otherwise we would be meeting on the Fourth of July. Our guest speaker is slated to be Elinor Young who is writing a memoir about her life as a polio survivor and as an overseas missionary.

## THEY SIGNED FOR US



Of all our national holidays, **Independence Day**, or the **Fourth of July** is the most favorite of most Americans. **Memorial Day** and **Veterans Day** are more sober events, but the **Fourth of July** usually brings forth nostalgic thoughts of happy days past. I still remember those fireworks, picnics, and parades of days gone by.

Today it seems that people have to hit the road and get away in order to celebrate the day. I also remember one **Fourth of July** back in 1945. We were sitting at anchor in a transport area named Kerema Retto, a small group of islands a little south of Okinawa when the Kamikazes flew in low. The fireworks display was quite impressive, but we didn't have a picnic.

I always liked the fireworks displays we used to have sitting at anchor in my boat off of Navy Pier Chicago much better as we watched the splendor.

What about that first **Fourth of July** back in 1776? The events that unfolded in Philadelphia changed the political thinking of the world and were placed on a piece of paper we call the **Declaration of Independence** had never been tried. I am amazed that those early patriots could come up with the far-fetched ideas of *truth* and *inalienable rights* to be *self-evident*, that *all are created equal*, deserving *life, liberty*, and entitled to the *pursuit of happiness*, with governments deriving their *just powers* from the *consent of the governed* and so on. We should take the time to re-read the *glorious document* that made it possible for us today to live our lives in such plenty. What a piece of magnificent thinking!

I keep thinking of those men who had the indomitable courage to sign the document. These were not an anarchist rabble, but men who had wealth, substance, and much to lose if the revolution fizzled. If you delve into the history of the signers, you will find that they "mutually pledged to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor." Many lost their fortunes and ended up penniless. Thomas Nelson Jr., a signer from Virginia, ordered troops to shell his own mansion when he learned it was a British headquarters. He was left in financial distress as a result of the war. Two signers, Hayward and Rutledge, were captured by the British and imprisoned. Arthur Middleton's homes were ravaged by the British. Philip Livingston of New York had his home used as a British barracks and hospital. They confiscated his business interests. John Hart from New Jersey had his farm and mills wrecked by the redcoats and was driven into hiding. On returning after American victories at Princeton and Trenton, he found his wife sick and dying and his family scattered.

Thus was the plight of many of the signers. Not all of them signed on **July 4th**, but there were a total of 56 signers. The **War for Independence** had already begun. The British Army was a brutal force to be reckoned with. It was an experienced military and used all the tactics an invading army uses. There was no Geneva Convention in those days. No video cameras recorded their atrocities. Hanging was a common thing for them, as well as the firing squad. They had little concern for humiliation of the prisoners. Of course, they didn't have news media to report their indiscretions.

Today, there are disagreements and dissensions amongst Americans. But, just think what it was like in **1776**. A great segment of the population remained loyal to the King. Not all were in favor of an **Independent Country** and were content with the indiscretions of the King. Fortunately, the *patriots* had greater zeal. The army of George Washington was hardly a match for the professionally trained British army, yet with all their handicaps, they were able to persevere and prevail over the British. What developed from that grand effort was our great country. And I repeat that! "**Great Country!**" We have every right to celebrate and remember how it all happened, and to remember those who had the indomitable courage to put their name on that great document we refer to as the **Declaration of Independence**. Remember, they signed for us.

*Stan Parks*

## 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.
  - c. Amazon ASIN, ISBN or other
  - d. Locations where available.

If you would like a member web-page that is as complete as possible, please e-mail information to [daveeva@comcast.net](mailto:daveeva@comcast.net), [authors@spokaneauthors.org](mailto:authors@spokaneauthors.org), or send to:

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

Please check out member web-pages on our web-site at [www.spokaneauthors.org](http://www.spokaneauthors.org). Click on the "Members" button along the left and then on the member whose page you wish to view.

We are ready and willing to update and correct any web-page. Contact your web-master if you think your page needs attention.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### On Going:

The Inland Northwest Writers Guild (INWG) meets the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm at Frankie Doodles in downtown Spokane, Washington.

### Idaho Writers League

State Writers Conference  
Sandpoint, Idaho, September 19, 20, & 21.  
Info at: [www.sandpointwritersonthelake.com](http://www.sandpointwritersonthelake.com)  
Or: [www.idahowritersleague.net](http://www.idahowritersleague.net)

### Write on the Sound Writers Conference

Edmonds, WA, October 4, 5, & 6.  
Info at: [www.writeonthesound.com](http://www.writeonthesound.com)

## SASP BOOKS ON AMAZON/KINDLE

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

(Contact the editor/web-master at [daveeva@comcast.net](mailto:daveeva@comcast.net) or at [authors@spokaneauthors.org](mailto:authors@spokaneauthors.org) to get your Amazon/Kindle books listed)

To speed your search, add the provided ten digit numerical or alpha-numerical code (ASIN) to: [www\(dot\)amzn\(dot\)com/dp/](http://www(dot)amzn(dot)com/dp/)  
Example: [www.amzn.com/dp/B008TXC332](http://www.amzn.com/dp/B008TXC332)  
or: [www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044](http://www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044)

### Sandra L. Mason:

(Illustrated by Natalie J. Apodaca)

*N is for Nativity*

1517614880

### Don Brockett:

*Tyrannical Rule of the U. S. Supreme Court*

B01GW712VU

### Stan Parks:

*Jakob's Ladies*

1532910762

### 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

### Lewis Meline:

*Lies Exposed! The Truth about Diets...*

0997915501

### J. B. Rivard

*Illusions of Magic:*

*Love and Intrigue in 1933 Chicago* B01EGSC8N8

*Illusions of Magic: The Movie*

B0751RL53G

*Low on Gas: High on Sky*

### Larry Danek

*I'm the Ghost in this Body:*

*The Nomadic Ghost*

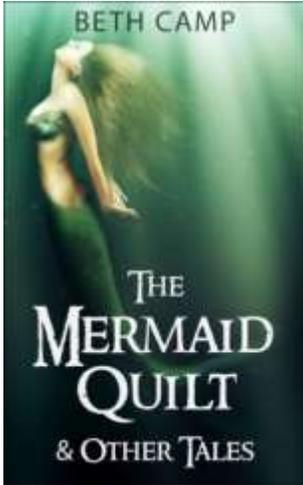
B01I0Z500Q

Jed's World  
Ghostly Reunion:  
A Nomadic Ghost Story  
The Runaway Ghost:

B00MWDJ1YY

B077KHR33M

A Story of the Nomadic Ghost (Vol. 3)  
1986978605



## FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

Reviewed by Sue Eller

A collection of short stories and poems centered around the myths and legends of mermaids, *The Mermaid Quilt and Other Tales* will entertain and delight the reader. Some of them are poignant, some a bit scary, but all will leave the reader with a sense of the magical world under the sea. A good book to pick up for a quick break, since each story or poem is a stand-alone piece, although once I started reading, it was hard to put down.

*The Mermaid Quilt and Other Tales* is available at Amazon.com and CreateSpace in paperback and on Kindle and Smashwords in e-book format, or through the author.

### Mountain Secrets

(Sorry, no cover image available)

By Joyce Nowacki

Reviewed by Bob Weldin

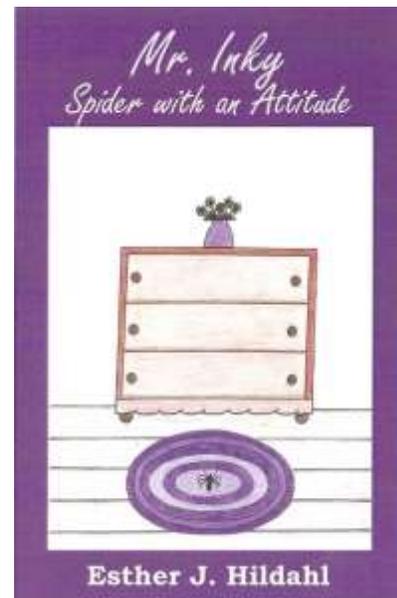
The setting for *Mountain Secrets* is Rathdrum, Idaho and vicinity, prior to and during the early days of Prohibition, 1919 and 1920. A young woman is on the run from cops and Chicago mobsters, carrying secrets and a satchel of money. She rides the trains, changing her name

and destination frequently, until she ends up at Rathdrum. She meets Ralph, the bartender, and becomes a popular singer at his bar until she is recognized by a mysterious stranger. Ralph hooks her up with moonshiners who take her to their mountain hide away. The locals conspire against the laws of Federal Prohibition. There is a mysterious murder and the young woman's secrets are found out.

The author does a good job of describing the characters and the physical surroundings. Likewise, she does a good job of distinguishing the hickish draws of moonshiners from the slicksters from Spokane, Seattle, and Chicago. The story is a quick enjoyable read, but my wife and I agree that the sudden conclusion left us with many unanswered questions. However, that seems to be the modern trend for novels... maybe that's the setup for a sequel.

*Mountain Secrets* is Joyce Nowacki's third novel. She writes historical fiction, combining historical periods with places where she grew up in North Idaho. I look forward to reading her first two novels: *The Other Side of the Fence*, 2010, which is an historical novel about Chinese immigrants, and *The Magic of Ordinary Times*, 2012, which is about growing up in North Idaho during the 1950s,

From Write Offsite Publishing, 2018, 211 pages



Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

I must admit that I spent most of my life terrified of spiders. I never killed them, I just jumped on a chair and yelled for someone else to come and do the deed. At some point, well into my adult

years, I realized their worth and turned to 'catch and release': much to the dismay of my grandchildren.

Now that I have read Mr. Inky, I'm so glad that I don't have the blood of innocent crawly creatures on my hands.

Ms. Hildahl tells a delightful tale about the budding relationship between ten year old Victoria and her unexpected 'roommate.' But wait, it's not just about that! Hidden in the story are lessons about things like not judging others who are different, there just might be a wonderful friend inside. It addresses the topic of bullying, and teachers and parents not really listening to their children and how it makes the child feel. It touches on the angst of the everyday fifth-grader in a touching and respectful way. There is even a stinky brother, (a subject dear to my heart, having one of my own). It is full of great characters, found in every school, and artfully woven into the tale.

It is a perfect read for fifth and sixth graders and this grandma can attest to the fact that it is fun to read to younger ones. I'm sure that the lives of countless creepy-crawlies will be saved as the children learn that all creatures have a place in our world and should be left to do their jobs.

Reviewed by Sue Eller

The last thing 10-year-old Victoria Wyatt wanted to find in her bedroom was a spider. How did Victoria go from wanting to squish it with her flip-flop to wanting to protect it against the classroom bully? Author Esther Hildahl spins a tale of a most unlikely friendship and leaves the reader with a whole new perspective on spiders – especially talking ones. A delightful chapter book that I highly recommend to children of all ages. *Mr. Inky, Spider with an Attitude* is available at the Hastings Book Stores in Spokane, Washington and at Auntie's Bookstore, also in Spokane.

Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

Vicki Wyatt is a normal ten year old except for the fact she shares her bedroom with a spider. A spider that talks!

Vicki tells her family the spider talks, of course, they do not believe her. She must be imagining things. Vicki's brother, Neal, teases her and tells some of the boys at school about Vicki's 'talking spider'. Vicki gets into a fight on the playground, with the meanest kid in school. They both get sent to the principal.

The real excitement begins when Mr. Inky agrees to go to school, in a glass jar, for Vicki's science project. Since no one believes her, she tells the class her spider is just an ordinary house spider. The meanest kid in school calls Vicki a liar. Mr. Inky can't help himself and with a booming voice lets the class know he is really a talking spider. Mr. Inky escapes and chaos breaks out as the whole school searches for him.

I found *Mr. Inky: Spider with an Attitude* by Esther J. Hildahl to be a delightful story any child will love to read or have read to them. The characters seemed very real to me and brought back memories of my childhood on the playground. I'm going to think twice before squashing another spider.

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

Vicky Wyatt's reaction when she sees a spider in her room is natural. She's going to kill it. However, this spider is unusual and in order to save his live, reveals to Vicky that he can talk. His gamble pays off and he is spared. Mr. Inky, as he is later named develops a sometimes cantankerous relationship with Vicky.

Larger problems result for the fifth grader because no one believes her story about a talking spider. She eventually has to see the school counselor and in an attempt to calm things down says she made the whole thing up. But when she takes Mr. Inky to school for a science project, things get out of hand and Mr. Inky is forced to speak in front of the entire class in order to protect Vicky.

This was a fun read, a book that while written for elementary school age readers, is entertaining for those of any age. Most notable is the way in which the author captures the feel of being in the fifth grade. That brought back a number of memories, and in itself recommends this book for all.

*Mr. Inky: Spider with an Attitude* is available in several Spokane area bookstores.