



SASP

NEWS

July 2020

Another "Stay Home Stay Healthy" Issue

**Our July 2020 meeting has
been CANCELLED!**

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

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

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

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

Submission Deadline: Items to be included in the next edition of SASP NEWS must be received by the editor a week prior to the next scheduled meeting. (Or when the next meeting would normally be held.) **(July 30th for the August 2020 issue.)**

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“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

OUR NEXT MEETING!

While some of the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy and Safe” orders have been lifted, business is not yet to the point where we can meet as we would like. Hopefully in another month things will be closer to normal and can meet without fear of catching something.

SPIRIT BOOSTING

Last month we provide contact information as to where our members could send items of their work in order to help boost the spirits of those impacted by the current pandemic. In case you have mislaid the information, we are including it again.

My name is Laurie Awbery; I'm the Activities Director at Brighton Court Assisted Living. We house 47 residents and many staff members. During this difficult time I have been trying to boost spirits. I work 9-4 Monday through Friday.

Our address is
**1308 N Vercler Rd
Spokane Valley, WA 99216**

You are welcome to text me or email me at: 509-710-7071
or lawbery@brightoncourt.com

Thank you for being amazing and bringing joy to our seniors.

Laurie Awbery

If interested in helping boost some spirits, please contact Laurie and share a bit of your work with them. You can send it direct, rather than relaying it through SASP.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

So the pandemic just won't go away. The only positive thing is that it has caused us all to slow down and has given us time to think (and write.) Here are a few unrelated thoughts that have floated through *my* mind during this break in the action:

I've written about this previously, but I have to say, once again, how I admire those of you who write *fiction!* From your creative brains all sorts of characters and



situations come alive. On top of that, you have to keep track of each while moving the story along. My book was *nonfiction*, and I still had trouble keeping track of everything!

Another thought is a repeat of what Dave asked for a few months ago: Send us some fodder for this newsletter (since there's more room now that we don't have *Minutes of the Last Meeting* – actually, no meetings at all!) Hate to be a Debbie Downer, but I don't see us meeting until there's a vaccine – which is probably a year or so away. I'm trying to stay positive, but sometimes wonder if we'll ever meet again, since most of us are older and the virus tends not to be kind to seniors.

One more thought (that's a little more positive): Years ago, we set up a formal critiquing program. Several members signed up to critique the work of others, but very few actually submitted writings, and so the program gradually faded away. But we've always had members who informally exchange material to be reviewed/edited/critiqued. Since we now have more time on our hands, perhaps we can once again fire up the old program or, at least, expand what some of you are currently doing. (I still possess a copy of our old formal rules.)

And, as if the pandemic wasn't enough, we now have racial tension exploding on top of it.

Stay safe - and *Rest In Peace* **George Floyd** (and others),

Jim

FROM THE EDITOR/WEB-MASTER

I had an e-mail from one of our members mentioning that Golden Corral was open and wondering when we would meet again. Part of the answer might be found in Jim Parry's column. The number of cases seems to be increasing at an alarming rate as of late, so the idea of gathering as a group may not be in the best interests of the health and safety of our members. Most of us qualify as senior citizens, a group more susceptible to and at greater risk from the virus. Even with our meeting location open, could we have a real honest meeting? Would everyone fit into the meeting room with current social distancing requirements?

Like the rest of you, I want this pandemic stuff to be over with so we can get back to some semblance of *normal*. But when we do meet again, I want it to be when we can be reasonably sure that everyone in attendance is safe and that we can hold the type of meeting we are used to.



Several months ago I expanded our roster so we could include additional information about each of our members. We (I) made a small start at it, and for some at least have tried to list what it is that person writes. I'd also like to include other skills and abilities, especially those that could be of aid to our fellow members. Do you edit? Can you format for e-book publishing? Could you paint or draw cover art or provide illustrations for a book? How about skills in cover and interior design? Are you adept with social media, the internet,

or other on-line functions? Would you be willing to help your fellow SASP members in these areas, whether or not you would charge for your services?

Anyway, I don't want to add or include such information completely at random, even though I do have some idea of what skills some of you might have. Therefore, it would benefit all of us if you were to pass along to me those skills and abilities you might want to have listed. Again, these would go on the expanded portion of the roster which is shared only between members. If you would want the information sent out over a wider area, let me know and we can include in the newsletter and on the web-site.

As Jim mentioned, I can still use inputs for the newsletter. Book reviews are great, as are excerpts from your work, opinion pieces, your thoughts on the current situation, news about your writing life, and thoughts on the current situation. Ideally submissions should be no more than 300 to 350 words or so. That's basically one full column, such as at the left on this page.

As Jim also mentioned, let's revive our critiquing program. As editor, I'd be willing to list those with books they want to have read and critiqued, and as well, list any members looking to read and critique the work of others.

Finally, if you have time, check out your Member Web-Page on our web-site. I believe most could use some improvement. Is your bio up to date? How about information about your books? Do you have a new one that isn't listed yet? Do you have an author head shot with your Member Web-Page, or would you like a different or new one? Send me the information, the photos, and the book information and I'll get the page updated for you.

On a completely unrelated note, I finally put gas in my truck earlier this month. If I remember correctly, the last time I drove it, the needle was still riding slightly above the "F."



OUR JUNE 2020 MEETING

Due to the Corona Virus/Covid 19 pandemic, we did not meet on Thursday, June 4, 2020.

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/blurb.
 - c. Amazon ASIN, ISBN or other
 - d. Locations where available.
 5. Send as much information as possible to: daveeva@comcast.net, authors@spokaneauthors.org, or Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers P. O. Box 18573 Spokane, WA 99228-0573
- Check out other member web-pages at www.spokaneauthors.org. Click on the "Members" button and then on the member's page you wish to view.

Contact your web-master if your page needs to be updated or corrected. A lot of them are still "bare bones basic." Send information to your editor/web-master and let's get them up to speed!

MOVING ON

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers members Anya Carlson and J. B. Rivard have sent word they will be moving permanently to Arizona. "We regret leaving our friends here in Spokane." They expect to leave the area on or about July 10th.

If fellow SASP members should wish to get in touch with them, the roster will be updated with their new contact information.

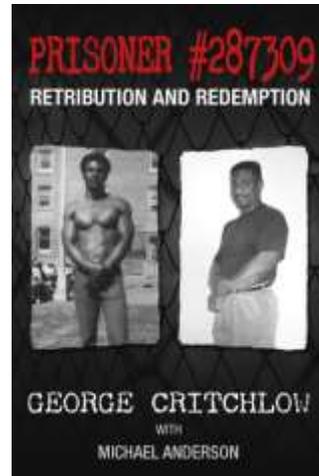
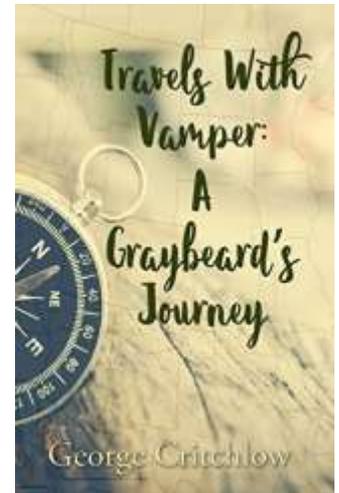
MENTOR SEARCH

Fellow SASP Member LeAnn Aakre is

hoping to find a non-fiction mentor. If that's something up your alley, or if you know of someone who might fit the bill, get in touch with her. She's on the roster. (If you are not a member and do not have access to the roster, contact the editor or other SASP Officer, and he or she will put you in touch with LeAnn.)

WELCOME!

Our newest member is George Critchlow. He is the author of *Travels with Vamper: A Graybeard's Journey* (Amazon ASINs B0787NRJ8Y or 1506905277) and *Prisoner #287309: Retribution and Redemption* which will be available in November.



A NOTE OF THANKS!

Not long after sending out the June Edition of SASP NEWS, your editor received the following e-mail. We thank them for their support and for sending along the link they've provided. It will be on our links page in the near future.

June 5, 2020

Hi,

We hope you're doing well! My Junior Girl Scouts and I just wanted to give a proper thanks for your awesome page,

<http://www.spokaneauthors.org/Links.htm>

since it's been such a great source of information for our "Scribe" badges. We've been doing some distance learning together since Girl Scouts meetups have been canceled until further notice. They miss the sense of community that the meetings gave them, so this is another positive way to stay connected!

To pay it forward, the girls thought it would be a nice gesture to suggest another page on writing that they came across and found useful to you. It's

<https://www.wristbandexpress.com/content/hand-hobbies-a-resource-guide-to-writing-basics/> and it's a guide to writing basics! It covers everything from inspiration and outlining all the way to editing and proofreading. It also refers you to other great resources to continue research.

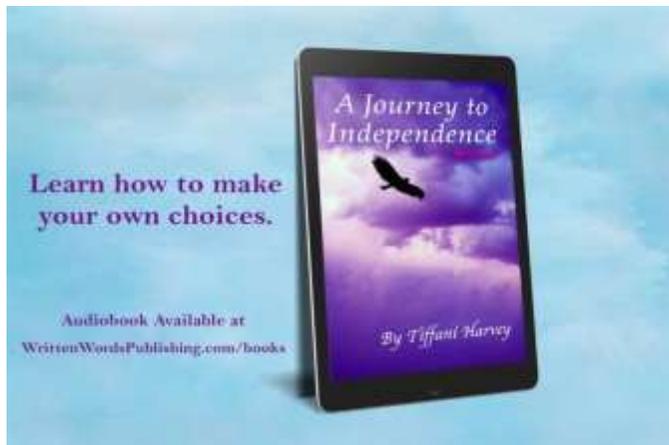
Please let us know what you think if you have the time! If you decided to add it to your page, I'd love to show the girls that their suggestion was up and running to help others become better writers! Writing is such a wonderful way to stay grounded and constructive during these confusing times.

Take care & best wishes,

Michelle Bass and Junior Scouts

AUDIO BOOK

Tiffani Harvey's book is now available as an audio book.



FEATURED!

Fellow Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers member Dennis Held was featured in the *Local Writ* column by Stephanie Hammet in the Spokesman-Review on Sunday June 28th. The column focused on Dennis's newest book of poetry, *Not Me, Exactly*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

On Going:

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

(Probably cancelled for the immediate future. If you are on the group's mailing list, you may have received an invitation to participate in an on-line meeting.)

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 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

Various SASP members

*Celebrating Spokane Authors:
A Collection of Poetry, Essays, and Short
Stories* **B077GBTQ67**

D. Andrew McChesney:

*Beyond the Ocean's Edge: A Stone Island Sea
Story* **B008TXC332 1432780379**
*Sailing Dangerous Waters: Another Stone
Island Sea Story* **B00HF9Y05K 1478721898**

James Parry:

*Book All the Teachers: An Irreverent Ride
through Middle School* **1501042211**

Bob Weldin:

The Dry Diggin's Club **0578106825**
The Adventurists **153027253X**

Sue Eller:

Return from Armageddon **B005JVAJKQ**
Meadowlark Madness **B0097D599I**
Send in the Drones **1726834662**
The Gluten Free Gourmand **150853134X**
Taming of the T-Bird **1505963982**

Beth Camp:

The Mermaid Quilt and Other Tales **B0090VHKBC**
Standing Stones **B00I3RYFW6**
Years of Stone **B00LF3FY4S**
Rivers of Stone **B077M1TFLP**
The Seventh Tapestry **B087YPLMK7**
Poetry in a Time of Pandemic **B0889TDKR2**

Kate Poitevin:

Saving Tir Gaeltacht (original, entire story)
1503167844 B00QJA8B3I
Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part One) **1986153959**
Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part Two) **1986179486**
Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part Three) **1986179923**

Joyce Caudel:

The Hat Pin Murders **1936178397**
The Hat Box Mystery **1481959107**
A Hat to Die For **1530028612**

FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

No new book reviews were submitted for this issue, so we are back to the normal rotation through the list of those we have. (Thanks to those who provided new reviews for the last couple of issues.)

As a reminder, reviews on our web-site or published here are either:

By a SASP member and reviewed by a SASP member.

By a non-member, reviewed by a member, or

By a member, reviewed by a non-member.

Reviews are retained on our web-site or in our file as long as either the author or the reviewer is a current or recently current member of Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers.

Banana Grama's Bible Nobodies Who Were Really Somebodies



(Sorry, no cover art available)

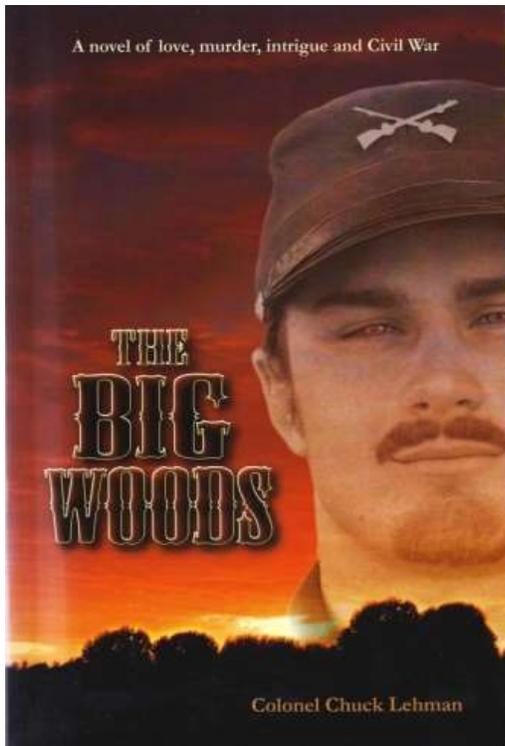
Written and Illustrated
By Banana Grama

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

This book is different than your usual Bible stories for children. Instead of only writing about the famous people in the Bible, this author chose to write

about those who were considered by their peers and themselves a nobody but were in reality a somebody for something they did. Take for example, Elisha, who saved a town's water system, or the blind beggar who managed to get his eyesight back by making sure he got the attention of Jesus. Then there was Jubal who made musical instruments to make people happy and Mordecai who gave Queen Esther the courage to talk to her king about a very important matter. Another nobody was the princess with no name who saved baby Moses from being thrown into a river to be eaten by alligators! This is just a few of the nobodies that you can read about.

I think the idea for this book was a clever one, and I enjoyed reading this book and looking at its many colorful illustrations. I recommend *Bible Nobodies Who Were Really Somebodies* for anyone interested in getting children interested in the Bible and Biblical times. Plus, I'm sure it would lead to lots of lively discussions about what makes a person a nobody or a somebody.



By Colonel Chuck Lehman

Reviewed by Robert G. Hildahl

Based on a true story, *The Big Woods* is a very exciting historical novel that tells the story of a young man's life and problems and adventures around and during the Civil War. It's also about his love of a young woman and all the problems she goes through to help her young soldier.

It's a real page turner that keeps you reading and not wanting to stop. The adventures and life changing times keep the excitement going and really makes you aware of the hard times people went through back in the early and mid-1800s.

Lehman is a very good writer and, as with his other books, *The Big Woods* is an enjoyable story that does not disappoint.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

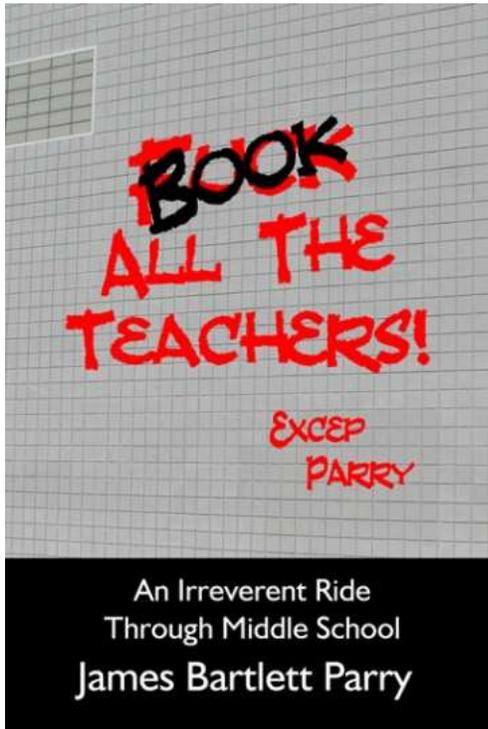
Once while out to dinner with relatives, I found that they had all read the book *The Big Woods*. While I listened to their lively discussion about why they enjoyed this book so much, I decided that maybe it was time for me to read it, too. When I did, I discovered that everyone was right. It is a great book!

I liked the fact the book was based on real people and true events. It's a love story between Willie Meyer and Louisa Kiekenapp (the author's great-grandparents) who lived in Southern Minnesota near the Big Woods. And it's the story of their separation for many years when Willie goes off to fight in two wars-- the Indian Wars, where he finds himself fighting against his two Sioux Indian friends, and then the Civil War.

It's also about the murder of Willie's father who disappeared in the Big Woods when Willie was sixteen years old. Being the oldest of six children, he was now the head of his family. His many responsibilities included building a permanent log home for his mother, sisters, and brothers. And finally, many years later, it's about the clever way Willie goes about figuring out how his father died, and eventually, discovering who killed him.

The Big Woods is an interesting and well-written book. If you like romance, history,

a good murder mystery, or you just want to learn how to build a log house--then this book is for you!



Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

James Parry spent the majority of his career in education teaching middle school students in Spokane, Washington. The fact that he survived and was able to write about his experiences is testament to his fortitude. From the obviously manufactured page of “blurbs” concerning the book, i.e., “Steinbeck, Hemingway, Faulkner, and, now, Parry. A remarkable book: dazzling. James Parry is a treasure. (Signed) James Parry, Author,” and, “This book better sell after all the time you’ve spent on it. (Signed) Lynda Parry, Author’s Wife,” one is immersed in the hilarity and hi-jinks that is middle school. Even the title, *Book All the Teachers* was inspired by a true incident. Mr. Parry arrived at school one morning to find that someone had spray painted, “(Expletive Deleted) All the Teacher Excep Parry” on the wall. As it would be sometime before a pressure washer could be obtained to remove the offending language, the

custodian used his own spray paint to change the obscenity to “book.”

While *Book All the Teachers* is an over the top hilarious look at Middle School, it is also the story of one man’s dedication to making a difference in the lives of his students. That dedication never faltered during the entire span of James Parry’s teaching career. A *must read* for those who taught, attended, or want to know the truth about middle school life.

Book All the Teachers, ISBN 978-1-936178-00-1, was published by Gray Dog Press, and lists for \$14.95. It is available through Gray Dog Press (www.graydogpress.com), Spokane area book stores, and at (www.amazon.com).

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Book All The Teachers! is a true, educational, often humorous story that depicts the ups and downs of all those involved in a certain middle school in Spokane, Washington. It's told by the author whose teaching career spanned 35 years, including five spent tutoring kids that had been suspended or expelled from school.

As a former teacher, I really enjoyed reading this book; wondering about the title and having it humorously explained in chapter one; reading the creative front pages "Here's what they're saying about *Book All The Teachers!*" written by the author, his friends??, and his wife--very funny stuff; and the "Warning" page--again, very funny.

Parry is a gifted writer who knows how to bring his characters and settings to life. This story is well constructed, fast paced, and a real page turner.

Everybody who cares or has ever had an opinion on our school system or its teachers must read *Book All The Teachers!* to truly understand what it's really like to be on the "ground" level of teaching in a middle school.

Reviewed by Sue Eller

Parry gives the reader an insider’s look at life as a middle school teacher, and it’s not what you might expect. Any teacher who can

spend 30 years trying to implant information in the brains of children who have the mistaken idea they are adults and already know it all, deserves a medal or a complimentary stay at Eastern State Mental Hospital, or both. Parry got neither, but he did get to know that he impacted the lives of at least a few of his students in a positive way. I think I would have liked to have had Parry as a teacher. Who knows? I might have even developed an interest in history. Excellent autobiography.

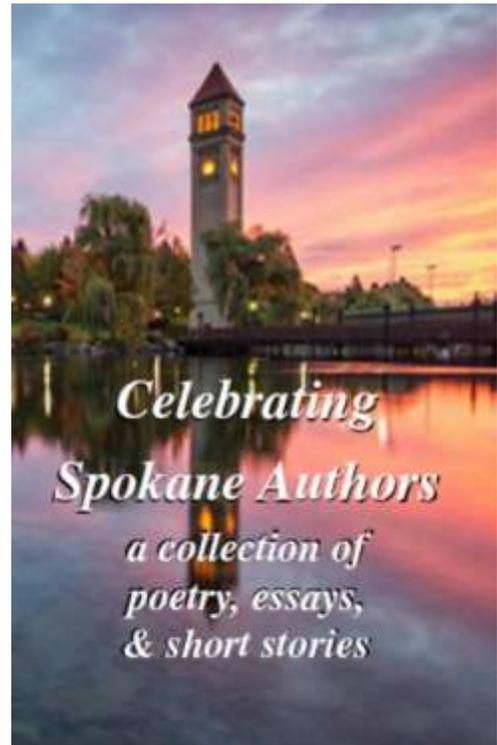
Available at Gray Dog Press or at local Spokane book stores.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

I thoroughly enjoyed *Book All the Teachers!* Mr. Parry has given us a window into the world of teachers. When I was in middle school, teachers were mysterious beings that must have lived at the school, and it never occurred to me that they had a life that didn't revolve around us. I would walk slowly past the teacher's room, hoping to catch a glimpse of what went on in there. After all these years, I finally know. I never would have believed it then.

I laughed all the way through the book, but there were also sad moments about the struggles of some of his students in their home lives. I was glad that the book followed Daniel and Holly to a satisfying conclusion, as I had become invested in their lives.

I only wish that Mr. Parry had been my grandchildren's teacher, the youngest starts middle school this year. I wish he had been my children's teacher. Really, if he weren't too young, I'd wish he'd been **my** teacher!



By members of
Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers

Reviewed by Larry Danek

I found this book to hold my interest with the fine collection of short stories and poems. It was well worth the read.

Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

This is a collection of shorts by the members of SASP, Spokane Authors and Self Publishers. As a member of SASP, I do have a small piece in the book. The other shorts are very good, and I recommend the book to anyone that is interested in what Spokane authors are writing about.