



SASP

NEWS

July 2023

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

*Violet
Petals*

on my heel...

pondering life one day at a time

Mary Anne De Bond



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 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.

We will 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 web-site to connect with members' web-pages. 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 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 for inclusion in SASP NEWS must be received by the 25th of the month preceding the issue month. **(July 25th for the August 2023 issue.)**

2023 Officers:

President: **Sue Eller**
(509) 499-2012 author@emilytracemysteries.com

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
(509) 768-6178 (c)

Advisory Board:

Member: **Chuck Lehman**
(509) 299-7802 cmlehman4@yahoo.com

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

Cover: **Violet Petals on my Heel** by SASP member *Mary Anne De Bord*

THE BOOK ON THE COVER

Do you allow yourself the luxury of a few quiet moments each day to assess your own life and contemplate where you are headed?

Violet Petals is a random series of daily thoughts, stories and experiences meant to prompt introspection and hopefully inspiration. Consider the choices offered to you each day, each moment, and how you might thoughtfully respond to life, instead of rapidly reacting. There are signs all around you guiding you on your journey. Slow down and take notice. There is also an entire universe within you just waiting to be discovered and acknowledged; unexpected whispers in your mind directing you to your happiest most harmonious life.

Allow yourself some quiet, uninterrupted time to discover your Divine purpose, to pay attention to your feelings, and to inform your best intentions. Day by day we can improve ourselves, and together, our world.

OUR NEXT MEETING!

We are scheduled to meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, July 14, 2023, at the Corbin Senior Activity Center, 827 W. Cleveland Ave., Spokane, WA 99205. The Lower South Room will be open at 1:30 pm, and we will need to be out by 4:30 pm.

Enter the building through the south entrance from the parking lot. Take the elevator to the basement. Step off the elevator and the room will be to your immediate right.

SASP President Sue Eller will speak.

A SOMBER NOTE

Notice of the passing of one-time SASP member Karen Estes appeared in a recent edition of the Spokesman-Review. She was the author of *Plane of the Ecliptic*.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Happy Birthday, U.S.A.

The Fourth of July is the symbol of independence, not only for our country, but for the people who live here. We at SASP are a good example of independent spirits, since we have published our books independently of the big publishing houses. We are entrepreneurs in our own way, yet we work together and help each other through the publishing process.



Along those lines, I will be speaking to the group this month and sharing a few of the marketing tips that have worked for me. I'll also touch on the goals we set for ourselves with respect to writing, and why we do what we do.

I hope you enjoy the fireworks on the Fourth and have a good celebration of our nation's birth. See you July 14th as we meet at the Corbin Senior Activity Center.

Sue Eller President

FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Hello fellow authors!



I don't have much to say other than to gladly announce our speaker for July is none other than our illustrious president, Sue Eller. She will share some marketing tips & insights with us.

I hope you all are well & that we'll see each other at our next meeting. See you soon.

Marilee Hudon Vice President

FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

A small number of Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers participated in the first four weeks of the Market on Garland. The Market was (is) in the parking lot behind The Gathering Place and is expected to be in operation every Thursday afternoon from 3:30 to 7:30 through August.

Some of us did fairly well, while others came up a bit short. Perhaps what we need (for next year) is an ongoing, continuous presence. That would require the involvement of a few more of our members. We would need enough people taking part that no one would need to be there week after week...



unless, of course they wanted to.

While none who took part sold a lot of books, we did contact several self-proclaimed writers and told them about our organization. Perhaps some of these individuals will show up

at our next or future meetings and help bolster our group.

With this issue I'm going to try and include a little more information about the book(s) we feature on the front cover. And as for who will be next... I'm simply going

(alphabetically) down the list of currently paid members.

As always, don't forget to pay your dues, or if your Member Web-Page needs updating, contact me with the information.



OUR JUNE 2023 MEETING

Compiled by Linda Sonntag-Noble and Dave McChesney

On June 9th, Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers met at the Corbin Senior Activity Center for the third time in our existence. Present for our Friday meeting were: Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Betty Deuber, Sue Eller, Tiffani Harvey, Dennis Held, Marilee Hudon, Bob Manion, Sandy Mason, Dave McChesney, Rich McKay, Carl Northrup, Bob Slack, and Linda Sonntag-Noble.

The speaker for our June meeting was Robert Slack, DVM, a new member of our authors' group. His book, *Tails: Curious Stories of the Human-Animal Bond*, is based upon his career in veterinary medicine. The book tells of the relationships people have with their animal companions. Bob also talked about his travel, work, and adventure in Australia, and Asia. He earned a counseling degree after retiring as a veterinarian. He has counseled doctors, nurses, and physician's assistants.

He shared a little about the challenges of marketing his writing and that he often found himself procrastinating about getting his book out there.

You can find more about this amazing author at: www.petsforlife.com and can contact him at: info@petsforlife.com or Pets for Life Publishing, P. O. Box 497, Colbert, WA 99005.

Following our break, Dennis Held noted he would be reading some of his poetry, much of it from *Not Me Exactly*, at Auntie's Bookstore on Thursday June 15th, beginning at 7:00 pm. Marilee Hudon noted that members of

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers would be participating in the Market on Garland on Thursday, June 15th, from 3:30 to 7:30 pm. (While the Market continues through the summer, this is the last scheduled day for members of SASP.) Information about this is available at:

www.garlanddistrict.com/summermarket

Linda Sonntag-Noble mentioned the web-site: www.selfpublishing.com saying it might have good advice for on-line marketing and more. Tiffani Harvey said she is changing the target audience of her books to focus more on victims of violence.

We then drew tickets for a small selection of door prizes, adjourned the meeting, and went our separate ways.

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 web-master 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 web-master know!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

The INWG will meet via ZOOM on Wednesday, July 19th, at 7 PM.

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

Garland Street Market

Whiles SASP members are no longer participating, this open-air market continues to take place every Thursday from 3:30 to 7:30 pm. in the parking lot behind The Gathering Place, at the corner of Post and Providence. It is scheduled to be in operation through the end of August. Learn more

at: www.garlanddistrict.com/summermarket

Auntie's Bookstore: Local Author's Book Club

SASP President Sue Eller will be the featured author when this group meets via ZOOM at 2:00 pm on Wednesday July 5th. Contact Linda Bond at lindathewriter@gmail.com

SASP BOOKS ON AMAZON/KINDLE

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

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

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

FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

Reviews featured here are typically those written by our members of books written by our members. On occasion one may find a review a member wrote of a non-member's book, or a review a non-member wrote of a member's book. Each month we try to share a small portion of the reviews that are posted on our web-site. Once we reach the end of those reviews we start over.

The Road Chosen

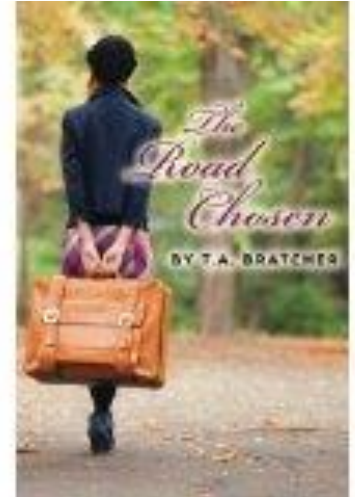
By T. A. Bratcher

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

This story begins when Grace is born to an unwed drug addict and is adopted by an older couple, who have two grown sons that they adopted many years ago. When she was thirteen, her parents decided to move from England to the United States, eventually settling in New Hampshire. Being very smart, she was placed in high school where she did not fit in and experienced brutal bullying. Her life took another turn when her mother became very ill and she had a life-changing decision to make that resulted in a violent altercation with

her father. After that, she and her brother Lee set off on a fact-finding adventure to learn the truth about Grace's life.

The Road Chosen is a book well worth reading. It's different, interesting, and never boring. Bratcher has done a wonderful job of bringing her main character,



Grace, to life. The reader truly cares about her as she searches for a meaningful life and cheers her on as she struggles to overcome one obstacle after another.

This book is available at bookstores and online.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

Ms. Bratcher has shared a compelling, sometimes heart-wrenching, tale about a young girl's struggle to survive high school bullies and an unconventional family dynamic. At one point she caused me to burst into tears, while sitting in my car in a parking lot. (You'll know where it was when you get there)

It is sometimes hard for those of us who had 'normal' childhoods, to believe these things really happen, but they do. It is also hard for us to be confronted with these realities, but we must.

This book really opens your eyes as to what might be lurking in the past of those around us. One never knows what hardships and horrors might have been the norm for the person we see on the bus daily. The old adage, "walk a mile in his shoes" is so true. Ms. Bratcher allows us to walk along with Grace, to experience with her, as she suffers through her teens and comes out a strong, caring, young adult. I know there is more to her story and I hope we get to read it. Grace's story will stay with me for a long, long time.

Reviewed by Sue Eller

Grace's life is filled with challenges most of us never have to face. An orphaned child of a drug addict, she is adopted by a couple who eventually move from England to the United States. Through adversity she maintains a positive outlook on life. *The Road Chosen* encompasses true and lasting friendships, unconditional love, the importance of family, and a positive outlook on life. The author draws the reader into Grace's story and creates memorable and loveable characters. Note: some scenes are too intense for young children.

Available at local bookstores in the Spokane area, across the United States, and in the United Kingdom. Visit T. A. Bratcher's website: www.tabratcher.com for more information.

Reviewed by Robert G. Hildahl

Grace as she learns the truth about her biological mother and her past. This story is about Grace, a young teenage girl who has just moved to the States from Europe. Her first year of high school in North Conway, New Hampshire is not a very happy one. Being an outsider, being from Europe, and being very smart means she is not accepted by the local students. She ends up being brutally bullied and makes only one friend.

Later in high school when she is named valedictorian of her class, she is beaten by two boys and put in the hospital. Then her life takes another tragic turn when her mother becomes very ill.

After that, Grace and her brother Lee go to Europe to learn the truth about Grace's early life and why her elderly parents adopted her after raising their two sons, who were also adopted. Many surprises await

I highly recommend this book. It's well written and a good read. *The Road Chosen* is available at bookstores and online.

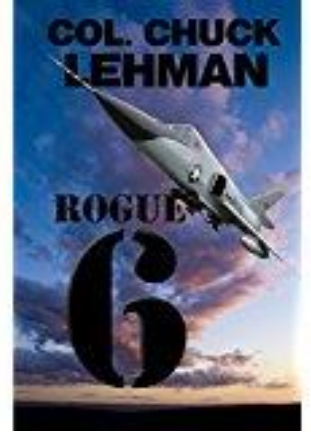
Rogue 6

By Col. Chuck Lehman

Reviewed by
Sue Eller

Air Force Captain Rusty Markham is sent on a mission to shoot down his childhood friend, who is flying an F-106 fighter plane to Cuba to turn over to Communist dictator Fidel Castro. Set in the era of the Cuban Missile Crisis and an uneasy peace between Cuba and the United States, agencies and countries on both political sides focus on the chase. Lehman begins near the end of the tale and uses the tension and conflict to keep the reader engaged as he weaves back story and relationships in ever more complicated detail.

The author's first-hand knowledge of the planes, the techniques, and the lingo bring a realism to the story that makes it hard to believe it's fiction. The values of duty, honesty, integrity, and friendship sometimes seem to war against each other, while an unexpected element tweaks the outcome.

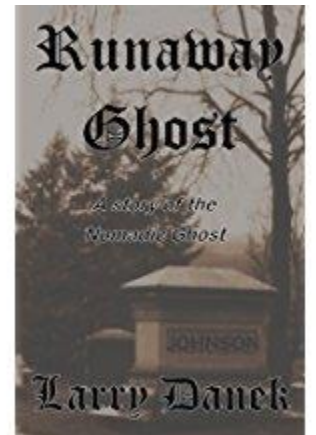


The Runaway Ghost

By Larry Danek

Reviewed by Robert Hildahl

I have read all of Larry's books and this one, the third in his *The Nomadic Ghost series*, is my favorite one. It takes place in a ten-year-old boy's body who was abused and starved. The Nomadic ghost enters the boy's body and what he does is unexpected and surprises



everyone. This story is fast paced, well written, and very entertaining. I recommend it to everyone, especially, those who like ghost stories.

Sailing Dangerous Waters

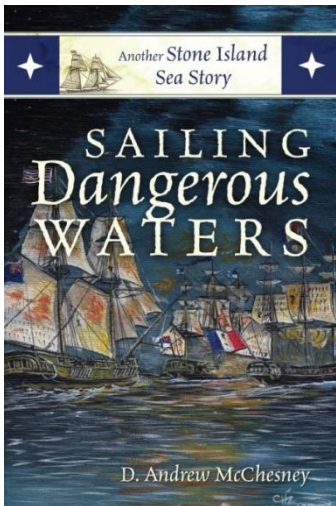
By D. Andrew McChesney

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

Sailing Dangerous Waters picks up where *Beyond the Ocean's Edge* left off. Equally well written, I continued to love/hate the characters accordingly, and was present as they explored and settled into the new world, made new friends and got caught up in the local politics. I was frustrated along with Pierce and his men as they strove to make ready to return to England.

Mr. McChesney is a talented writer who can make you smell the sea air, feel the deck roll beneath your feet, and even duck and cringe and cover your ears at the sounds of cannon. He really must get that third installment out.

Reviewed by
Sue Eller



Captain Pierce misses his beloved Evangeline and tries everything in his power to get back to her. He leaves Stone Island to return home, but his plans and hopes are thwarted by an enemy who should have been a friend. Pierce struggles to understand an unfamiliar government

dynamic, uses all his diplomatic skills to try to get his ship released, and makes some unexpected friends along the way. *Sailing Dangerous Waters* continues the Stone Island Sea Stories as McChesney captivates the reader and draws him in to another thrilling adventure.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

It's the early 1800s. Captain Edward Pierce of the HMS Island Expedition and his crew, who are thought to be pirates by the Tritonish Government, have been held captive for a year.

When they are finally freed, Edward's hope is to leave this parallel world and sail home to England. He is anxious to see Evangeline, the love of his life, who he hasn't seen for three years. But before they can leave, their ship needs to be repaired.

After repairs are completed, they are on their way. However, their journey is a dangerous one, for England and France are still at war. They have a fierce battle with a French ship and Captain Pierce is shocked when he discovers who the captain of this vessel is.

Eventually, Edward and his crew arrive home. Edward worries that no one will believe his stories of the strange, but similar other world, he and his crew discovered beyond the ocean's edge.

Sailing Dangerous Waters, the second of the *Stone Island Sea Story* series, ends with Edward and Evangeline meeting to discuss their future. Much has happened since they last saw each other, especially in Evangeline's life.

McChesney spins an exciting story with lots of detail and action. His characters are well-defined and interesting. He is very knowledgeable on naval history. He has a good command of the language of the time and knows how a ship and its crew works.

I enjoyed reading this book and recommend it for one and all.