

SASP

NEWS

March 2021

Another "Stay Home Stay Healthy" Issue



Looks like we won't be meeting for a while, due to Covid-19 concerns

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



Happy St. Patrick's 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.

Due to the Pandemic we are currently not meeting. When we do meet, we will let everyone know the place, the day and the time.

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. arch 25th for the April 2021 issue.)

2021 (and continuing) Officers:

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Member: *Esther Hildahl*
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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/>

OUR NEXT MEETING!

This pandemic seems to be dragging on longer than we expected. At this point it's hard to predict when we will be able to meet again. Until then, until vaccines are distributed in sufficient quantities, stay home as much as possible, wear a mask when out and about, and maintain your social distancing.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Howdy all SASPers and SASPerillas,

My wife and I just received our second vaccine shot (Feb.20). Hope you have gotten, at least, your first shot, or, at the very least, been able to schedule an appointment. Heard



you're more likely to have side effects after the second. Sure enough, I felt like I had a light case of the flu for two days. My wife, however, escaped with zero side effects. But it definitely feels good to know we're now 95% safe. Better to be slightly ill for a couple of days than

to get the corona virus (or as Donald Trump Jr. once said, "I got the 'Rona.")

Our last SASP meeting, I think, was in March of last year. Can't believe it's been a whole year! And I hear we all won't be safe until approximately 80% of us have been vaccinated (herd immunity – Moo!), which probably won't be until late summer or early fall! (Boo!) Our next non-meeting will be March Fourth so no real meeting, but we shall

march forth and one day meet again. (I hate people who use a lot of exclamation marks!)

"Most writer's block isn't writer's block at all: It's necessary time that allows the subconscious mind to do its deep work. The great 'Aha!'"

J.M. deMatteis

Be safe and, although it's sometimes difficult, be kind,

Jim

FROM THE EDITOR/WEB-MASTER

As Jim points out in the latest From our President, it has been a year since our last meeting. If memory serves, that was at Perkins in early March. It's been a long time, to be sure. But the vaccine is being distributed, numbers are going down, and things are slowly reopening. Let's hope we don't get into big of a rush and negate all the recent progress. It would be a shame to have to prolong it more than necessary.

Like all of you, I'm anxious to get back to meeting in person, to seeing each other and sharing tidbits of our writing lives. I'm hoping we will be able to resume meeting at our old location and on the same day and time. Quite possibly, though, we might have to settle for changes all around, so be prepared just in case things change.

If you have things you would like to share with fellow SASP members, send it to



along and I'll either forward via e-mail to the group, include it in the newsletter, and/or both. If anything, book reviews are always welcome, both for the next newsletter, but also for our files. You may have noticed that we rotate through those, so all reviews get published on a regular basis.

And as I mentioned last month, perhaps some of you would be willing to share your experiences of the past year as you dealt with the Covid 19 Pandemic. Did you successfully avoid contracting it? If you did have it, how did you cope? What have you done to maintain your sanity over the past twelve months? If you would rather not share your Covid story to the general public, which would be the case of it being printed in SASP NEWS, let me know and I'll send it along to SASP members only.

Another thing I'm always on the lookout for is updates, additions, and changes to member web-pages. There are several on the web-site that are quite basic. Name, generic male or female image, and a note saying this individual just joined and lives somewhere. So, pics or headshots, bios, book info, links to web-sites, etc, would all be appreciated. And please let me know if you have new books coming out or available.

Because of the Pandemic we haven't been screaming for dues, but if you want to pay, the easiest way is to mail a check or money order for \$15.00 to:
Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers
P. O. Box 18573
Spokane, WA 99228-0573

I check the mail weekly, and if we receive any dues payments, I take those payments directly to our financial institution for deposit.

If you are ever looking for our mailing address, it's on the front cover of each and every issue of SASP NEWS. It's also on the Welcome Page and the Membership Forms page of our web-site. I hope that helps.



OUR FEBRUARY 2021 MEETING

Due to the Corona Virus/Covid 19 pandemic, we did not meet on Thursday, February 4, 2021.

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. **A lot of them are still "bare bones basic." Send information to your editor/web-master and let's get them up to speed!**

NEW BOOKS

Word is a few SASP members have new books coming out in the near future. Because they have not been asked and haven't given permission, we cannot list them at the time.

If you have a new book coming soon and would care to have it mentioned, please let your editor know. Cover images and blurbs are also welcome.

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)** used to meet the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm at Perkins Restaurant and Bakery, 12 East Olive Ave., (downtown) Spokane, WA.

Currently they meet on-line via Zoom, and typically send out a notice and invitations to join in a few days before the event.)

As always, let me know of any upcoming writer related events you might have coming up and I'll try to get them listed on the web-site's "Programs" page and here in SASP NEWS.

SASP BOOKS ON AMAZON/KINDLE

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

(Contact the editor/web-master at daveeva@comcast.net 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
(Recently it seems Amazon is assigning its own unique ASINs to the paperback editions of books, rather than using the ten-digit ISBN as

they previously did. In the future we will attempt to point this out in individual listings.)

Various SASP members

Celebrating Spokane Authors:

A Collection of Poetry, Essays, and Short Stories

B077GBTQ67 1978483619

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

B00US5918V 1501042211

Bob Weldin:

The Dry Diggins' Club

0578106825

The Adventurists

153027253X

Sue Eller:

Return from Armageddon

B005JVAJKQ 1477655727

Meadowlark Madness

B0097D599I 1479181714

Send in the Drones

B07TFDFVS9 1726834662

The Gluten Free Gourmand

B00TRBKT9U 150853134X

Taming of the T-Bird

B00S2ZDIQTQ 1505963982

Short Trips to Alternate Universes

B08P342L5V B08P3QTJQL (pb)

Beth Camp:

The Mermaid Quilt and Other Tales

B0090VHKBC 1479180971

Standing Stones

B00I3RYFW6 1494772434

B01ATPTL5U (audio)

Years of Stone

B00LF3FY4S 1500129585

Rivers of Stone

B077M1TFLP 1545217491

The Seventh Tapestry

B08GJ8VRGL B097SKDWRF (pb)

Poetry in a Time of Pandemic

B0889TDKR2 B088LKF66G

Kate Poitevin:

Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part One)

1986153959

Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part Two)

1986179486

Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part Three)

1986179923

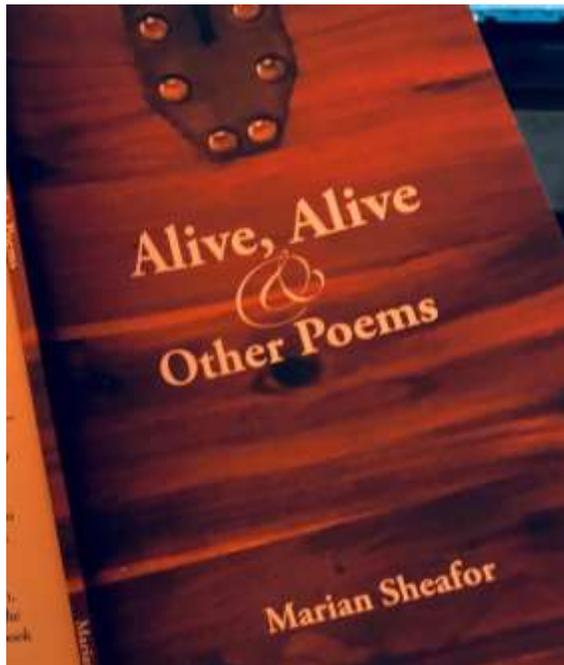
Joyce Caudel:

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

Chuck Lehman:

Angels Three Six B00KMJXQR8
The Big Woods B007SQ4CTE
Asher B00HNZ6TTG
Lazarus Arise B007R0NPW6
The Shepherd B00HJBN4P6
Rogue 6 B01H7N8G2G
Exposure: A Story of Survival and Intrigue B01H5W4V64
The Apostle's Wife B07NJ4DFCW 179039239X

FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS



Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

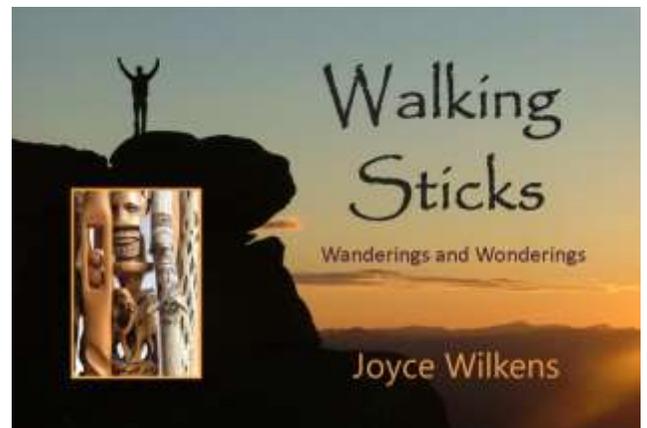
Marian Sheafor is a very talented poet. Her book *Alive, Alive & Other Poems* is a collection of poems divided into four parts. Some of these poems tell of love and the difficulty of letting go. Others show the deep thinking of the poet as she writes about war and prejudices and aging and the history of the Oregon Trail and beyond.

However, my favorite part was the third part of the book, which tells the stories of the people in a small graveyard and how they died. These stories are told in their own words when they discover they can wake up and share their stories with others buried there.

I loved this book. It's a keeper. It's well-written, a page turner, and I recommend it to all.

Reviewed by Robert Hildahl
(New Review)

Generally, I don't care for poetry books. Mostly they put me to sleep. However, my wife loves poetry and is always telling me how much she enjoys reading it, and she says that you can tell what people are like by their poetry because they usually speak from their hearts. So recently, I decided to try reading one of her poetry books. The first four, I didn't care for, but then she handed me *Alive, Alive & Other Poems*. I opened the book to the first poem and read and then I read the second one and then I discovered that I really liked this poet's poems and I read them all in one sitting. So, I guess, I really do like poetry, especially, Marian Sheafor's poetry. If she writes another book of poetry, I will gladly read it.



Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl
(New Review)

Walking Sticks is Joyce Wilkens' second coffee table book. I especially like her clever subtitle *Wanderings and Wonderings*. This book tells the history of walking sticks around the world. Some of them are crooked, some are straight; some are perfectly carved with delicate shapes, interesting faces, or with animals sitting at their tops—one is even a snake with the top of its body looped around for a handle; and some have messages burned into them or they are painted or adorned with beadwork. They are made from many different types of wood and materials. Her book is truly a work of art with many beautiful pictures showing the sticks themselves and the locales from which they came. I enjoyed the writings and the wonderful poems, often by Joyce herself. I highly recommend this book for all. It's a great book. It made me want to get a walking stick myself—preferably one with a carved animal at its top.

(and back to our regular rotation of reviews)

The Man in the Closet



(Sorry, no cover illustration available)

By Michael Andrew Marsden

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

When Kyle Carraher's family moves from Washington, D. C. to Wallace, Idaho, his fear of large rodents gnawing through the wall is replaced by dread of the man in the closet. Over the subsequent years, the supposed presence in the upper floor storage room exerts unusual influences over members

of his extended family. Eighteen years later Kyle returns to the house to determine if there really is a man in the closet.

As it begins, this book reads like one intended for a younger reader. The straight forward writing clearly depicts extraordinary events in what were quite ordinary lives. As the story progresses, darker, more sinister, more adult themes are introduced, taking the tale to a level meant for a more mature audience. When one reaches the final page, murder, arson, sex for sale, sex as a means of coercion, and criminal insanity have all made their presence known. Each chapter takes the reader to greater heights of suspense and increases the "can't put it down" factor.

The Man in the Closet is the author's second ghost story set in north Idaho, and is pleasantly devoid of many of the faults associated with self-published work. In all aspects it is a well-written, well-edited, and professionally produced book.

Marie's Marvelous Tomato



Esther J. Hildahl

Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

Marie's Marvelous Tomato is a delightful story of a young girl's summer project. Marie

and her best friend, Ginger, have planned a summer full of excitement. When Ginger announced her parents were getting a divorce and she must move to Seattle to live with her grandparents, Marie's summer plans all vanished. Marie felt very sad for Ginger because her own parents divorced years ago and she lost touch with her father.

Marie is a girl that loves to eat tomatoes and suddenly she comes up with a plan for her summer project, she will grow a tomato plant. She plants it with care and tends to it daily. Finally, a small green tomato appears on her plant. It is the only tomato on the plant, but it grows and grows into a giant tomato! Marie's family encourages her to enter her tomato in the fair.

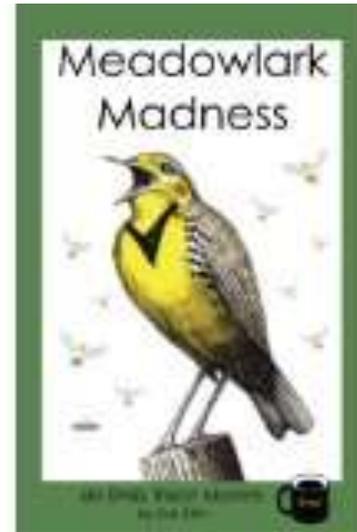
The judges agreed, Marie's tomato was the largest tomato entered in the fair but it had the best shape and color. Marie was given a blue ribbon for her successful summer project.

The story ends very happy when Ginger announces her parents are getting back together and she won't have to move to Seattle. Marie receives a letter from her father saying he missed her and her brother and would like to come to visit them if it would be alright with her mother. Marie was very happy, she had her best friend back and was going to get to know her father.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

This is a delightful story about Marie who is faced with a lonely summer. Her best friend, Ginger, is gone, Mom is busy with her work, and stinky brother, Mel, is no help at all. Marie decides to grow a tomato plant to fill her lonely time. Through the ups and downs of horticulture, Marie stays focused on her task and loyal to the helpless plant she has vowed to tend while also keeping in touch with Ginger. Ms. Hildahl has created great characters (I was especially fond of the grandmother...) and a sweet story that will charm any age. It has a satisfyingly happy ending, as all children's books should, with an added surprise.

Meadowlark Madness: An Emily Trace Mystery



By Sue Eller

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

Naturally one would assume that E. T. Investigations was formed to look into encounters with UFOs and aliens from beyond this world. In fact, Emily Trace opened this detective agency to find out why her husband had been murdered. To fund her personal investigation she takes on a client who, like us, mistakes the significance of the initials "E. T." Assigned to look into the apparent disappearance of the region's meadowlarks, Emily and her friends are drawn into a bigger mystery, one that does involve aliens and other worlds.

This book is very hard to place into a specific genre. It is a mystery, a science-fiction novel, perhaps a police procedural, and may even qualify as a "cozy." Regardless of where it fits, it is a most entertaining and enjoyable read. Set in and around Spokane, Washington, and told as if by Emily herself, the pages turn at a rapid rate. Uniquely, Emily sometimes stops to admonish the reader or to remind them of bits of popular culture from days gone by, which adds to the direct conversational tone of the story.

Meadowlark Madness is a very

enjoyable book, created by a writer with a clever and unusual view of the world. This reviewer looks forward to reading more of the *Emily Trace Mysteries* as they become available.

Meadowlark Madness: an Emily Trace Mystery, ISBN 9781479181711 is available in paperback at a number of Spokane area bookstores, as well as on Amazon in both paperback and Kindle™ formats.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Emily Trace's husband, Jared, has been murdered, and the police can't figure out who did it, so Emily opens up her own detective agency to solve the crime herself. However, business is slow--no customers. Without customers she has no money to pay her bills and rent, and soon she'll be forced to close her office and move out. If only she had one paying client...

Then the office door opens and in walks a birdlike little character named Mr. Archibald Wren. He has a case for her to solve. A very strange case, for you see, he wants her to solve the mystery as to where all the world's meadowlark birds have disappeared to. And thus, the strange, sometimes out-of-this-world adventure begins.

Meadowlark Madness is Eller's first *Emily Trace Mystery*. It's well-written and her characters are well-defined, clever, and interesting. The story is fast-paced and exciting. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, and I recommend it to all who love a good mystery.

Available at local Spokane bookstores, as well as on Amazon, and Kindle.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

Ms. Eller has woven an interesting tale, full of quirky characters and surprising twists and turns. Her ability to break the forth wall at regular intervals gives us the feeling that Emily is sitting with us as she tells her story. She keeps it moving right along so that you don't even want to stop to get a fresh cup of coffee.

But, you must, because she has subliminally made you **need** one.

I have heard that there is a second book in the works and I will be first in line to get it. I must know if Emily will find Jared's killer. In the meantime, I must put on a fresh pot of coffee and wait.

Reviewed by Beth Camp

This 5-star cozy mystery is sure to delight!

Just when overdue rent threatens to close the doors of Emily Trace's E.T. Investigations, a new client arrives with an unusual concern (and a bundle of cash): The meadowlarks are missing!

Willing to accept nearly any commission to keep the doors of her private eye business open, recently widowed Emily Trace is determined to prove that her husband's death was not accidental.

What ensues is a riotous and eventually overlapping series of events, engaging characters that come to life, and a plot that mixes a cozy mystery with science fiction flair. Within a very few sentences, I was hooked by Sue Eller's witty and entertaining voice and imaginative storytelling. She brings to life the pleasures of living in a city with a small town heart, where people know each other and are willing to help when needed. Bird lovers and Star Trek fans will appreciate the allusions sprinkled throughout, and I thoroughly enjoyed Sue Eller's ability to characters so fully that I felt I knew them – even Mr. Wren and Mr. Finch.

Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

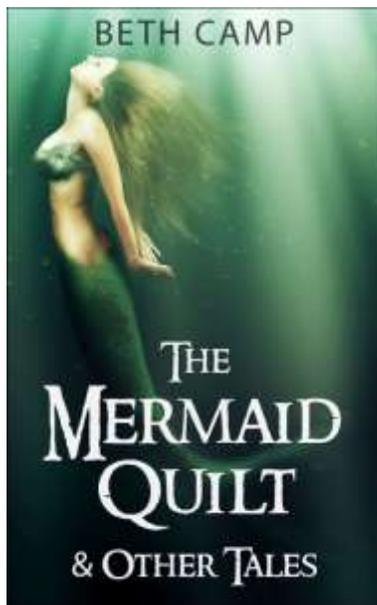
Emily Trace opens her own detective agency after her husband is murdered. While she looks for clues a relative of her late husband turns up, a guy she didn't know existed and is the spitting image of her late husband. Darla, an office temp, becomes a valuable part of E. T. Investigations.

Emily's first client thinks aliens have abducted all the Meadowlarks, a species of

bird. Deputy Clyde Burton seems intent on watching over Emily in the hunt for the Meadowlarks. Strange folks keep popping up in this story to make a fun and enjoyable read. If you're a fan of mysteries and science fiction you will love Meadowlark Madness.

Reviewed by Joyce Seebaum

I have never read anything in this genre before but Meadowlark Madness kept my attention. Way to go Sue Eller.



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.



A fairly rare Corvair Lakewood, the station wagon version of Chevy's air cooled, rear-engined vehicular offering of the 60s. Picture included, primarily because the color fits in with this month's St. Patrick's Day theme.