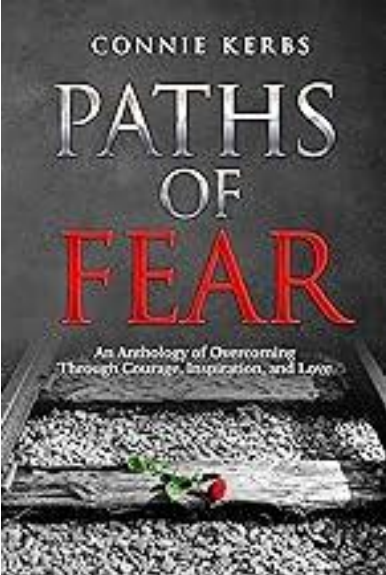


Gazette

May 2024

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



Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers (SASP) began in 1998 when *Chuck O'Conner*, *Elmer Freeman*, *Joe Meiners*, and *Dan Vollmer*, Spokane area authors, formed a club to share knowledge and experience with those interested in writing and alternative publishing. Today, SASP is an organization dedicated to anyone interested in any aspect of writing and art. Members include aspiring (and successful) authors, poets, journalists, illustrators, editors, publishers, printers, writing instructors, and many others. Monthly meetings provide inspiration and education by way of knowledgeable and entertaining guest speakers, and the cheerful camaraderie of people sharing common interests and goals. Membership is open to all who love writing, art, and interesting people.

Spokane Authors meets the **second Friday** of each month at the **Canaan Buffett**, 9606 N. Newport Hwy., Spokane.

Presentations begin at **2:00 pm**. After a short break, members and guests relate their accomplishments, note upcoming activities, and we draw for door prizes.

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

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

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

Membership benefits include listing on the SASP website, www.spokaneauthors.org. Many members provide short biographies and links to external personal websites, creating more marketing exposure. Current members may list and describe their published works on the SASP website and offer their work for sale at meetings.

Visit the "members" page on our website to connect with members' webpages. Our "links" page connects to interesting on-line locations.

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

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

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

**Newsletter Submission Deadline:
May 25th for the June 2024 issue.**

2024 Officers:

President: *Carl Northup (Nathaniel Bennett)*
(509) 445-0166 ikneadedthat53@yahoo.com
(509) 671-3949

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

Secretary: *Linda Sonntag-Noble*

Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Web Master:
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Advisory Board:

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

Member: *Bob Weldin*
(509) 514-2747 minersquest@comcast.net

"Like" the SASP Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/pages/Spokane-Authors-Self-Publishers/1640079982945679

"Join" the SASP Facebook Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1646364128981815/>

"Follow" us on "X": <https://twitter.com/AndAuthors>

Contact us at: authors@spokaneauthors.org
Or: saspworks4u@gmail.com

Videos of many of our presentations are available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/@spokaneauthorsself-publishers>

Cover: Paths of Fear, Whatsoever Things, A Season for All Things, What is a Camel? and The Giraffe Gaffe by Spokane Authors member Connie Kerbs

THE BOOKS ON THE COVER...

Spokane Authors member Connie Kerbs joined the group late in 2023. Learn more on her Member Web Page. Visit www.spokaneauthors.org Go to "MEMBERS," scroll down and click on her name.

Or visit: www.conniekerbs.com or www.finereadspress.com

OUR MAY MEETINGS!

We will meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, May 10, 2024, at the Canaan Buffett, 9606 N. Newport Hwy., Spokane, WA.

Join us for our first meeting at our new location. Amongst other things we are likely to have more members read what they have written based on the writing prompts we drew in March.

We will also meet at 2:00 pm. on Saturday, May 18, 2024, at St. Francis of Assisi, 1104 W. Heroy Ave., Spokane, WA 99205. The conference room in the social hall is available from 1:30 to 4 pm.

We plan to continue to use this meeting to share ideas and thoughts about writing. It is likely these alternate meetings will feature group discussions.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Roses are red, violets are blue, spring rains have started...and now my hinges are rusty.

Ok, getting back to reality. I absolutely loved the short stories and I'm looking forward to more this meeting.

Just a reminder, we are meeting at the Caanan Buffet this month on the north end. I have also been recently updated about a new place and possibly a forever home for our group. The manager is an author and wants to join our group. They will be with us on the tenth to give us a complete rundown on their facility.

I am also working on a guest speaker for June who has a degree in marketing and is also a graphic designer.

I know this isn't my usual letter, but I'm on vacation and had to beg some Wi-Fi to get this is out.

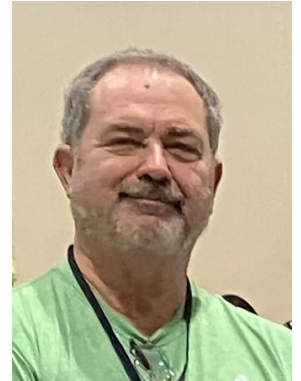
See you all on the tenth.

Carl/Nathaniel

The Prez.

Author of *The Ant Doctor*

and three other books that will be out soon.



FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

MARKETING YOUR BOOK

Now that you have written a book, what are you going to do with it? Let's talk about options.

The first thing is to make up your mind as to what you want to do. Once you have done that, write it down, look it over once, twice, three times. Rewrite it and put it in your manuscript so you don't lose or forget it. If you are really up to it, go on right then. Don't hesitate! Get to it!

If you are going to self-publish, you will need a few things, such as ISBN and who you want to print your book. At that point there are a number of options to consider, including the color of the paper, font, font size, the number of copies, cover design, front and back, and of course, the cost. Have you had it edited and beta read? After it is at the printers, it's too late.

If you are considering traditional publishing, you will need to get an agent. Then you have the query letter to write. Don't rely only on yourself. Get help! The PNWA conference, September 2024, is a good place



to start. There is a publication of all agents, what they are looking for and what they want in a query and or submission. The public library may have a copy or possibly you can find a copy to use elsewhere.

After you have copies of your book in hand, getting it out there and on store shelves can be difficult. Advertising is an option.

I plan to suggest that Spokane Authors form a small committee to assist with public advertising. We need to investigate “Who,” “What,” “Where,” and the cost involved. There are many options in the public domain. Book signings are important and can be profitable. They might at least cover the cost of printing and leave enough to buy a Wendy’s burger. Getting your book into the public’s hands takes work and advertising, not to mention money. There are more options available than you may realize. You just need to find them.

Okay, that’s enough babble from me. Happy Writing!

Bob Manion Vice-President

FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

If anyone has an idea of what we should call our newsletter besides **Spokane Authors Gazette**, let me know. And if a majority of members want to insist it be known by a specific name, I’ll be glad to change it. Otherwise, we can stay with what we have.



As I work on the newsletter and update items on the web site, I’m trying to change those places that reference Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers or SASP to simply SA or Spokane Authors. It may take a while, and we should

remember that Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers is still our official name. We are simply trying to downplay that part of our existence as self-publishing can be a turn off for some potential readers.

I’m also working on new name tags for everyone, featuring our new logo. I think I have new ones made for just about everyone and should have them at our next meetings.

Thanks to all who have paid dues or joined for this year. At this point we have eight more members than last year and two more than in 2022.

Not long after sending out the April issue of Spokane Authors Gazette, I began having some problems with the Spokane Authors email account. For some reason I could not get into the address book in order to choose who I wanted to send e-mails to. My original thought was to create an account tied to my “home” email account, but I wasn’t sure about how to do that. I ended up adding group listings for Spokane Authors to my home account. I find the platform, if you want to call it that, that I have to be much easier and straight forward to work with. That means you will be seeing stuff from Spokane Authors coming from my comcast(dot)net email address instead of the spokaneauthors(dot)org email address. That address is still usable and I’m leaving it as a public point of contact. Also remember we have a second email address that connects us to our public relations person.

As we move forward, I hope to provide a more comprehensive “Upcoming Events” section in the newsletter. Ideally it will be parallel to the PROGRAMS page on the website, although it won’t extend out as far. Ideally it should list or show events for the next two months. Of course, that means I need to know about the events, and I need to know in time to get them listed and published, both in the newsletter and on the website. I would also like to include writer-related events from the local writing community, even if they do not directly involve our members. So, if you know of a writer somewhere having a signing or a book release, let me know and I’ll try to get it listed.

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

OUR APRIL 2024 MEETINGS

Compiled by Linda Sonntag-Noble
and Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors met on Friday, April 12th at the Corbin Senior Activity Center. Members present included Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Mary De Bord, Sue Eller, Tiffani Harvey, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, Kevin Hostbjor, Marilee Hudon, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Sandra Philbin, Elena Smith, and Linda Sonntag-Noble. Guests included Mark Lee Golden, Barry Philbin, Lily and Melanie Reiersen, Shandra Tanner, Terry Stratton, D. J. Guy, and Denise Guy. Terry, D. J., and Denise joined Spokane Authors that day and are now members.

Our first order of business was to determine where we would meet in the future. Our choices were Canaan Buffet or Spokane Art Supply. President Carl Northrup passed ballots out to everyone and when they were tallied, Canaan Buffet was the overwhelming choice. Sixteen votes were cast for it as opposed to four for Spokane Art Supply. We will begin meeting there on Friday May 12, the second Friday of the month, at 2:00 pm. The address is 9606 N. Newport Hwy., in the shopping area to the northeast of the intersection of the highway and Holland Ave. Someone suggested My Fresh Basket if we later determine we need to find a different place.

Larry Danek told us he was working on a new book that is set in Long Beach, Washington. Carl Northrup had with him a preliminary copy of ***A Penny for Your Thoughts***, which will be published soon. Bob Manion talked about a number of books that might be of help to writers. Sue Eller announced that she and Larry Danek would be at a Craft Fair at University High School on Saturday the 4th of May.

We learned that several members and guests had completed the writing exercise based on the writing prompts drawn at our previous meetings, and many of them read their stories to us. Readers included Esther,

Hildahl, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Elena Smith, and Kevin Hostbjor. (Kevin's story will be continued at our next meeting.)

Linda Sonntag-Noble announced she had finally published her memoir, ***Dandelion***.

We had our usual raffle, and the meeting was adjourned.

Spokane Authors met on Saturday April 20th in the social hall at St. Francis of Assisi Church. Joining us were Larry Danek, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Kevin Hostbjor, Marilee Hudon, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, and Terry Stratton. Guests included Pat Moreno and Kathy Peterman. Both became members of Spokane Authors that day.

President Carl Northrup started the meeting by reminding us that our next meeting would be at 2:00 pm on May 10th at our new location, the Canaan Buffet at the "Y." He also told us he was making some size adjustments to ***A Penny for Your Thoughts*** and was editing a children's book.

Vice-President Bob Manion announced he is scheduled for a book signing at the Valley Barnes and Noble on Saturday May 4th from 11 am until 3 pm. He also noted he was in the process of editing two manuscripts and challenged everyone to write a short story using 100 words or less. Additionally, Bob talked briefly about the so-called "poor man's copyright." That involves mailing a copy of one's work to oneself and leaving it wrapped and sealed. The postmark date then proves that the work was created on or before that date.

Larry Danek read from an in-work story and passed around a clipping of Just Between Friends. The comic indicated an autobiography was factual, while a memoir was "whatever sells." Newly joined member Pat Moreno read a short story created using the writing prompts she had drawn at a previous meeting. There was some general discussion with regards to writing, publishing, and self-publishing. Dave McChesney reminded everyone to get information about upcoming events to him in a timely manner so he can include it in the newsletter and on the website.

By then our time was nearly up, so we said "good-bye" and headed our separate ways.

members who closely resemble these two individuals. I'm proud of my little cartoon characters, but...

MEMBER WEB-PAGE GUIDE

1. Name and photo/headshot
2. Brief biography
3. Links to any 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 catalog number
 - d. Locations where physically available.

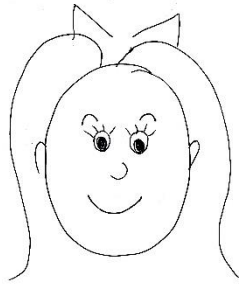
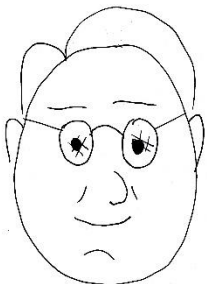
In many cases your editor/webmaster can find much of this on-line, if it is there. If it's not and you would like to have a member web-page that is as complete as possible, please e-mail information to daveeva@comcast.net, authors@spokaneauthors.org, or send via USPS to:

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

Please note: We are always ready and willing to update and correct any webpage. Do not hesitate to contact your webmaster if you think your page needs attention.

PICTURES WANTED!

If the headshot on your Member Web Page looks like this... or this....



...we need an author photo or headshot from/of you. Currently there are a number of

UPCOMING EVENTS

Auntie's Bookstore: Local Authors Book Club

ZOOM Meeting, Wednesday May 1, 2024, at 2:00 pm. For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at lindathewriter@gmail.com or Auntie's Bookstore at: auntiesbooks@gmail.com

Book Signing

Bob Manion, Valley Barnes and Noble, Saturday May 4, 2024, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Arts and Craft Fair

Sue Eller and Larry Danek, University High School, Saturday May 4, 2024.

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

ZOOM Meeting, Wednesday May 15, 2024, at 7:00 pm. For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at lindathewriter@gmail.com

Auntie's Bookstore: Local Authors Book Club

ZOOM Meeting, Wednesday June 5, 2024, at 2:00 pm. For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at lindathewriter@gmail.com or Auntie's Bookstore at: auntiesbooks@gmail.com

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

ZOOM Meeting, Wednesday June 19, 2024, at 7:00 pm. For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at lindathewriter@gmail.com

Auntie's Bookstore: Local Authors Book Club

ZOOM Meeting, Wednesday July 17, 2024, at 2:00 pm. For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at lindathewriter@gmail.com or Auntie's Bookstore at: auntiesbooks@gmail.com

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.

Various members of Spokane Authors

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 B0BTRTCJZ3**
Sailing Dangerous Waters: Another Stone Island Sea Story **B00HF9Y05K B0BV1SS8HN**
Darnahsian Pirates: The Third Stone Island Sea Story **B09FFJSSGC B09BC9P9WL**

Bob Weldin:

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

Sue Eller:

Return from Armageddon **B0B1WB4C4L B0B1HXV2KS**
Meadowlark Madness **B0B2HZXVQD 1639445979**
Taming of the T-Bird **B0B2V4H1FN B0B2TVKRXS**
Send in the Drones **B0B#X7SJ2 B0B3JMF374**
The Gluten Free Gourmand **B00TRBKT9U 150853134X**
Short Trips to Alternate Universes **B08P342L5V B08P3QTJQL (pb)**

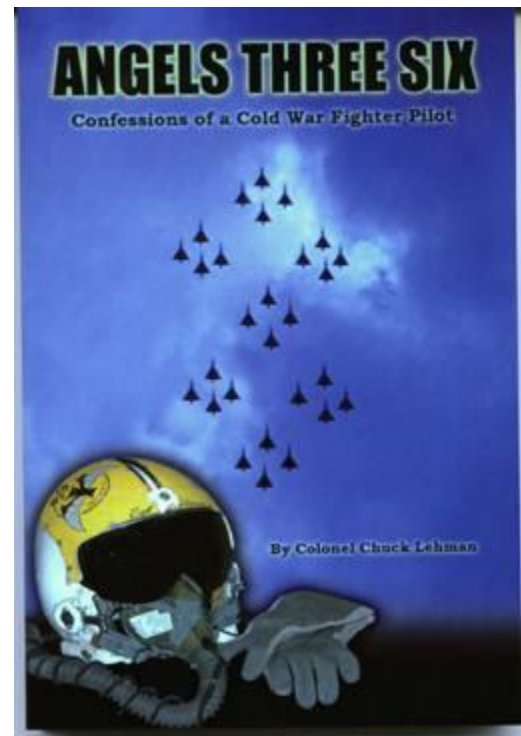
SPOKANE AUTHORS GAZETTE

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**
Scattered Stones **BZ0B6WNNCSN B0B8RP66QD**
The Seventh Tapestry **B08GJ8VRGL B097SKDWRF (pb)**
Poetry in a Time of Pandemic **B0889TDKR2 B088LKFB6G**
The Cowboy and the Lady **B0C74VL5Z2 B0C76QGZMV**
Mothers Don't Die **B0CGS1SJK6 B0CH26VZLK**

FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

Last month we only had room for one of two reviews of *Angels Three Six*. Here is the second review in our files, plus reviews of a few more books.



By Col. Chuck Lehman

Reviewed by James B. Parry

In the late 50's and early '60s, while I was hiding under my school desk, Colonel

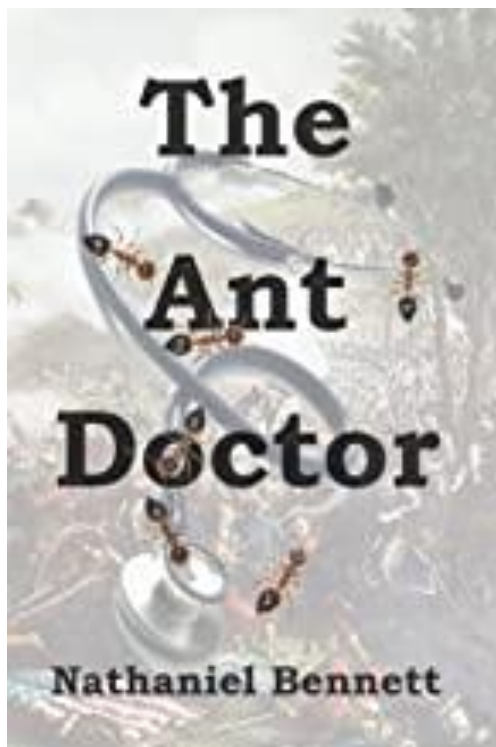
May 2024

Lehman was practicing shooting down Russian planes so that they would not drop atomic bombs on me. Now he has written a book about his exploits piloting jet planes, primarily F-102s and F-106s. And what a book it is! One harrowing experience after another (mostly at 600 miles an hour); near misses, forgetting he had a pistol in his pocket as he stood next to President Kennedy, icing up so severely that the plane was nearly uncontrollable. A brief book that you can't put down because you're always anxious to get to the next adventure. Just wish it was longer.

Whether it's the Cuban Missile Crisis or bringing lobsters back to the base in a missile pod, there's never a dull moment in Colonel Lehman's "Cold War" fighter pilot career.

In addition to being a highly skilled pilot, turns out Lehman is also a highly skilled writer, relating these exploits in a You-Are-There style that will keep you engrossed right up to the end of his Cold War career.

Thank you, Chuck, for your service in protecting all of us U.S. citizens, and thank you Chuck for writing this wonderful book.



Reviewed by M. J. Hudon

The Ant Doctor by Nathaniel Bennett is a post-civil war adventure full of virtuous heroes and dishonorable villains. The main character, Jonathan Haggen, is a blend of a southern gentleman, the Lone Ranger, and a dash of Chuck Norris. With his no-nonsense friend, a freed slave, Moses beside him, the two travel until they find a place to build their home and a community.

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

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

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

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

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

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

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

Reviewed by Larry Danek

I took this book to read while on a round trip flight of three hours each way. I planned to read one half in each direction but found it hard

to put down. I finished the book in my hotel room despite a hectic schedule. This Civil War era novel was well researched and quite entertaining. I did find the book wasn't written in a straightforward way and bounced around a bit through different time periods. It caused me to stop and think back to where the current chapter related to a past one. It didn't stop me from enjoying the book and I highly recommend it.

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

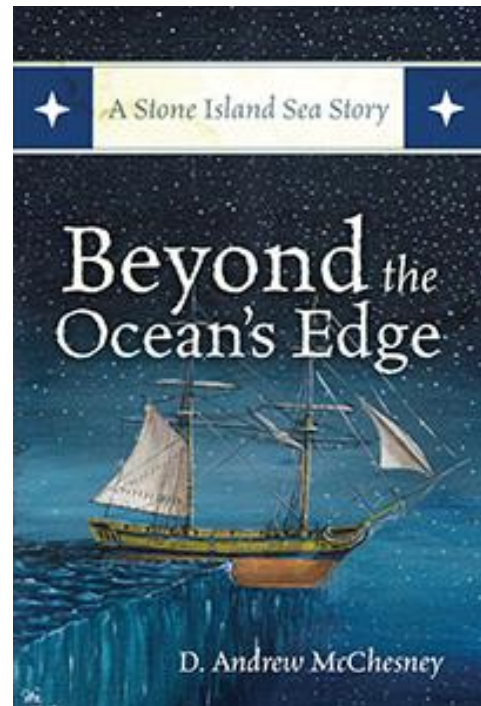
At first glance, the title of the book might suggest a story about an entomologist, a person studying ants and other insects. That is not the case, although upon reading the story one will discover that there is a doctor and there are ants.

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

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

When their father is apparently killed in a plane crash, life for Toby and Katie Cypher suddenly changes. As they try to discover what happened, they enter a world of futuristic high tech, combined with what might be considered magic, dating back to ancient times. Author Bill Riley skillfully combines these elements into a gripping and compelling story. It's one that is hard to put down.

While written and marketed for younger readers, it is a tale that readers of all ages will enjoy. I did.



Reviewed by James Bartlett Parry

I had never been a fan of books on naval history nor of fantasy... until now. D. Andrew McChesney has made me a believer. *Beyond the Ocean's Edge* is an extremely well-written, fascinating tale about the good ship, *Island Expedition*, its captain, Edward Pierce, and their amazing adventures. This book, my friend, is the work of a professional author – as if Tolkien and Michener had collaborated. McChesney has excellent command of the English language and takes you on an adventure that you'll have a tough time pulling away from. It has just the right amount – and at the right times – of excitement. It's



Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

beautifully paced writing. And he does what all good fantasy writers do: He makes the unbelievable, believable.

Beyond the Ocean's Edge is set at the beginning of the nineteenth century just after England and France have agreed to an uneasy peace. Pierce and company set sail toward an island that does not appear on any map; it is found only in legend. They overcome many obstacles, including a ferocious sea battle, as they zigzag their way there. And I'd best not give away any additional parts of the story.

I was all geared-up for a fantastic ending that would blow me away, but then I remembered that this book is Part I of the *Stone Island Sea Stories*, so I'll have to wait till I've finished the last in the series for that fantastic ending. But his writing has left me wanting more. I'm very anxious for that second book to appear. And the third.

If you like a well-written naval history with cannon fire and a little fantasy thrown in, you're gonna love *Beyond the Ocean's Edge* (and, I'm sure, the entire series).

Reviewed by Robert G. Hildahl

Beyond the Ocean's Edge is a very exciting sea story that takes place around the 1800s. It's about Edward Pierce, a young British Navy Lieutenant, who is given command of a sailing vessel to go in search of a legendary island.

He and his crew have many adventures trying to find this island and their lives change dramatically along the way.

Beyond the Ocean's Edge is so well written by McChesney that it keeps you wanting to read every chance you get. As I finished the book, it left me with one question-- "When is the sequel coming out?"

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

Mr. McChesney has a talent for putting his reader in the moment. From the first pages that put me in the middle of a battle at sea, I felt like I was part of the tale.

Written with a mix of action and character development, the story moves along

and makes it hard to put down. I loved, or hated, his characters and my heart pounded as they fought their way through storms and skirmishes. It melted at interjections of romance and tapped away in excitement as they found a new world.

The end leaves you wanting more and luckily, I have the second book and was able to read on. I would suggest that anyone who purchases *Beyond the Ocean's Edge* should go ahead and get *Sailing Dangerous Waters*, so you don't have to wait for shipping time.

Reviewed by Sue Eller

McChesney instantaneously transports the reader back in space and time to the deck of the *Theadora* in the year 1802. She is a British sailing ship about to do battle with the French, and hero Edward Pierce leads a boarding crew to victory. McChesney's use of nautical terms soon creeps into your own vocabulary, and his descriptions can draw you into the belief that you can smell the salt air and feel the ship roll with the waves beneath your feet. Then the real story begins. After a short stint on land, newly commissioned Captain Pierce and his fine crew set off with a group of would-be colonists in search of the uncharted Stone Island. The quest takes them further from home than they could have imagined, and Pierce even more distant from Evangeline, the woman he loves. The first of a series, *Beyond The Ocean's Edge* will sail you beyond the charted seas and into a fantastic adventure.

(Once again we find ourselves with an additional review of this last book and no room to include it in this month's issue of Spokane Authors Gazette. We'll include it in the next issue.)