



# SASP

# NEWS

November 2020

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



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

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers **meets** the first Thursday of each month at **Golden Corral**, 7117 N. Division Street, in Spokane.

Presentations begin at **2:30 pm**. The room opens at **2:00 pm** so members and guests can dine, visit, join, pay dues, browse, and perhaps buy each other’s books. After short break, members and guests relate their accomplishments, mention upcoming activities, and we draw for door prizes. Members and guests must be present to win.

Attendees are requested to buy lunch upon entering the establishment, and to leave an appropriate tip for the waiter/waitress.

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

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

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

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

**Submission Deadline:** Items to be included in the next edition of SASP NEWS must be received by the editor a week prior to the next scheduled meeting. (Or when the next meeting would normally be held.) **(November 26<sup>th</sup> for the December 2020 issue.)**

## 2020 (and continuing) Officers:

**President:** *James Parry*  
(509) 325-9922 jimparry@q.com

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

**Secretary:** *Linda Sonntag-Noble*

**Treasurer:**  
**Newsletter Editor:**  
**Web Master:** *Dave McChesney*  
(509) 325-2072 (h) daveeva@comcast.net  
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(509) 325-9465 mjnoduh2@gmail.com

## Advisory Board:

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

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

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

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

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

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

## OUR NEXT MEETING!

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, stay home as much as possible, wear a mask when out and about, and try to maintain your social distancing.

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Don't have much to say this month – think I'm getting all covided out. A quick shout-out to Joyce Wilkens for her new book and book signing event. Sorry I missed the signing, but recently read that 80% of Covid deaths are



people over the age of 65, and the majority of those are males, so I'm staying home, or as Yogi Berra once said, "Include me out!"

Since I'm all out of literary thoughts, here are a few plays-on-words (play-on-words, plays-on-word?) to fill up this space and to,

hopefully, tickle your funny bone:

*No matter how much you push the envelope, it will still be stationery.*

*A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.*

*Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.*

*I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.*

**SASP NEWS**

*The person who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.*

Stay safe, spread kindness, and, if you haven't already, please vote,

*Jim*

## FROM THE EDITOR/WEB-MASTER

First of all, I'd like to restate Jim's reminder to vote if you haven't already done so. In my opinion it is more important that you vote than who or what you vote for.

Thanks again to all of you who have contributed material for this edition of SASP NEWS. As I said last month, it is much easier to put a newsletter together when I have material to work with. Honestly, I have plenty for this time. But keep it coming!

I've always imagined myself as a blogger of some sort, and for years I've posted this and that in a now and then fashion over at my Live Journal. Among other things I've tried to post excerpts from the Stone Island Sea Stories. However, there would be times when I'd get off track and not put anything up for days or even weeks. This summer I tried to get onto some kind of schedule and for a couple of months adhered to it fairly well. On at least a weekly basis now I'm trying to put up a short excerpt from each chapter of my books. (I recently posted from the last chapter of *Beyond the Ocean's Edge* and since have posted bits from the first two or three chapters of *Sailing Dangerous Waters*.)

Alternating with those posts I'm trying to post what I call, "Thoughts on Writing." Basically I'm trying to pass along my thoughts and experiences, sharing what I've learned or figured out along the way. For those who



might follow my Facebook Page, I usually post a link to the Live Journal posts there, and if you are on Twitter, they also get mentioned there. Otherwise you can just go to: <https://vespican.livejournal.com/> Alternately, if you go to my web-site, [www.stoneislandseastories.com](http://www.stoneislandseastories.com) there is a link to my Live Journal there.

I have a couple of rather important announcements to include this month, but I'll add them as a separate article. I'm thinking it might stand out more if I do so. Should I bury it here, there is a chance that at least a few won't see it.

Keep writing,



P. S. Hope the new pic isn't too scary. If anything it's more up to date than what I've been including.

## A LETTER OF RESIGNATION

To members of SASP.

I have enjoyed my time with SASP as an advisor. However, when I switched Toast Masters groups in the middle of COVID and a couple of members have come to my home to teach me, I have discovered what I was missing.

SASP is a well-established group, but very few people seem to help those struggling by coming alongside in ways that help the struggler. For example, in AA there's a mentor of some kind and there is in Moonlighters Toastmasters.

Plus, I'm more interested in getting MY message out of gaining freedom and maintaining independence! The main thing I have done with SASP is tell others and bring them to you. I can do that without being an advisor.

I might not attend the meetings once they start up, but I'm keeping my membership so my books will still be available online.

Now I just need to figure out how to get rid of my signature line.

Tiffani Harvey

## OUR OCTOBER 2020 MEETING

Due to the Corona Virus/Covid 19 pandemic, we did not meet on Thursday, October 1, 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/reviews
  - c. Amazon ASIN, ISBN or other
  - d. Locations where available.
5. Send as much information as possible to: [daveeva@comcast.net](mailto:daveeva@comcast.net), [authors@spokaneauthors.org](mailto: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](http://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!

## IMPORTANT STUFF

As you can see by her letter in the previous column, Tiffani has resigned her position as an advisor. Her doing so raised a couple questions, and after some electronic communications amongst members of the board, that is, SASP Officers and Advisory

Board members, the following decisions were reached.

We agreed that there is no need to immediately select a replacement for Tiffani's Advisor position. Secondly, while we would normally hold elections at this time, it was felt it would be prudent to hold off until we are actually meeting in person again.

As we move into November we would typically be reminding everyone it is close to time to pay dues for 2021. But because we haven't been able to meet or engage in many of those things we join SASP to do, we will be extending everyone's dues forward by a year. So if you've paid for 2020, you are automatically paid for 2021. If you haven't yet paid for 2020, please do so and you will automatically be paid up for 2021. If you wish to pay anyway, we'll extend you a year ahead. And if you haven't paid for the last couple of years, one year's worth of dues (\$15.00) will give you membership for 2021.

Any questions? If so, contact your Treasurer at: [daveeva@comcast.net](mailto:daveeva@comcast.net) or via the SASP e-mail account at: [authors@spokaneauthors.org](mailto:authors@spokaneauthors.org)

## MEMBER NOTES AND ACHIEVMENTS

I just had a nice review of my recent book, *Not Me, Exactly*, published in the online journal, [terrain.org](http://terrain.org). All you have to do is put [www.terrain.org](http://www.terrain.org) in your search engine and the review should come right up.



Thanks.

*Dennis Held*

(Editor's note: This appears to be a time oriented web-site, with new items coming to the forefront as time goes on. Thus, you might

have to search through it a little to find the review of Dennis's book.)

My continuation (or sequel if you must, but it's not) of *Turn Red Tomorrow*, titled *Sixteen Hooves Thunder*, is now published and live on Amazon. In conjunction with the release, the Kindle and paperback versions of the first book have been reduced in price as far as Bezos and Co. will allow.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08LHK5PKF>

I wish we could meet and I could dole out a couple copies at the Golden Corral, but alas I can't. I'm actively looking for a publisher, so if anyone has leads into that unicorn publisher that's down for a 3 book series of 500+ page paperbacks of Christian apocalyptic fiction, I'm all ears.



*Michael Zargona*

This month I donated 20 books (10 of *Mr. Inky: Spider with an Attitude* and 10 of *Poopie the Fly and Friends*) to the KREM 2 News and Franz Bakery "Sweet Reads." Every Wednesday from 3-5 pm, they handed out one free book and a treat to each child. The event was a drive through and no one was allowed to get out of their cars. Each Wednesday, it was held in a different location. My books were to be handed out either at the Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena lot or at the Spokane Fair and Expo Center.

Also, I sold two (one of each of the above) on Amazon. This was a

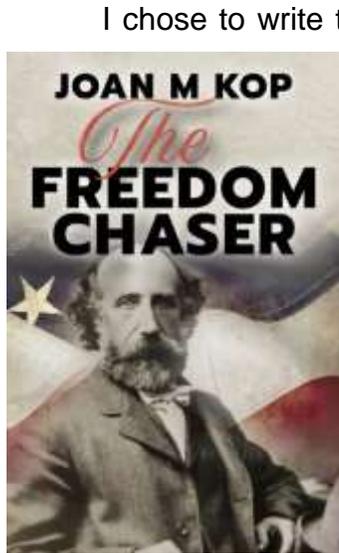


pleasant surprise as I've been unable to sell my books lately due, of course, to the coronavirus.

When I'm not procrastinating, I'm been busy writing and illustrating my latest book *Winter Stories*. This picture is from the story "Zuri the Squirrel." It shows Zuri in her nest and Mr. Birch, the tree. Until later...

Esther Hildahl 🍵

My latest book, *The Freedom Chaser*, was a finalist in the (Seattle) PNWA Pearl Book Awards which is judged by librarians.



I chose to write this book, based on the true story of my great-grandfather's journey to America, because it had a natural story arc and plenty of conflict. Since I knew little about their personalities, I fashioned my characters after their astrological signs.

August, a blacksmith and farmer, escapes the Franco-Prussian war, travels to America under a false passport, survives a harrowing storm aboard a Clipper sailing ship where he falls in love with Marie. He works for his blacksmith sponsor in Chicago and later marries Marie. They move to central Kansas, become pioneers and survive three crop failures as well as the death of four children. After moving seven times, he settles in Cottonwood, Idaho, where he realizes his dream of freedom and prosperity.

Visit my web-site at: [www.JOANMKOP.com](http://www.JOANMKOP.com)

*Joan Kopezynski*

Hi Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers,

A new book is building. And you can peek inside. Yes, you can look over J.B.'s shoulder as he writes *Dangerous Parallel*.

This story follows Billy and Captain Zack when their charter-fishing boat *Reel Time* is hijacked at sea. It's a comedic adventure that affords a thrilling ride.

All this is better explained if you read the *Personal Note from J.B.*:

<http://www.illusionsofmagic.com/illusions-of-magic-book-blog>

We have moved permanently to our home in Arizona. So sorry SASP is not able to meet together at this time. Great to receive so much news about the writing community. Thank you.

We may meet again this lifetime. So nice to know you all!

Best,

*Anya and J.B.*

On Sunday and Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>,

SASP Member Joyce Wilkens held a socially distanced book-signing/art exhibition to celebrate the release of her new book, *Poetry Pie*. At the event, held



at 3010 S. Southeast Blvd., Joyce sold several copies and added small water color images along with her

signature. Also on exhibit were items pertaining to her earlier books, *Tea Cup Art...*

and *Reflections*, and *Walking Sticks: Wanderings and Wonderings*.

The new book is available on her website: [joycewilkens.com](http://joycewilkens.com) or by mailing check to:

Joyce Wilkens  
PO Box 30942



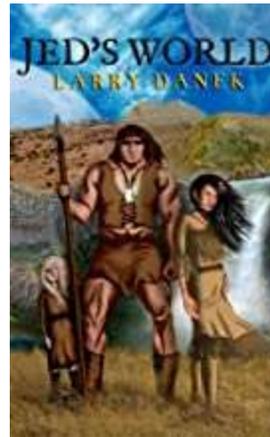
Spokane, WA 99223

Let me know if you'd like it signed!  
Cost is \$21.73 per book, which includes tax and shipping. (Free in the US).

The book is also for sale at:

**2nd Look Books**

2829 E. 29th Ave, Suite C  
Spokane, WA 99223



(Note: Your web-master is at work trying to get member web-pages and Amazon/Kindle ASINs updated to reflect new books and new editions by our members.)

## READERS WANTED

Dave McChesney is still looking for individuals willing to read and provide critical feedback of the third *Stone Island Sea Story*. (He appreciates the comments and the finding of many small typos that have so far pointed out.)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

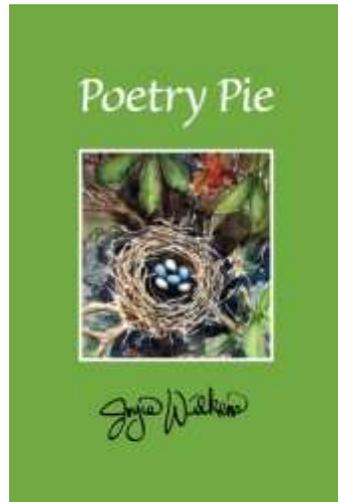
**Note: Many events have been cancelled or postponed to a later date because of the current Corona Virus/Covid 19 outbreak. If cancellation or change isn't indicated here, please check to see if it is still taking place.**

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

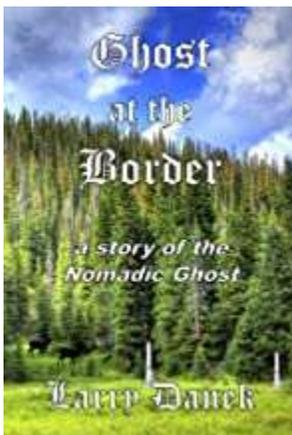
## On Going:

The **Inland Northwest Writers Guild (INWG)** meets the 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**



SASP member Larry Danek has recently released two books. *Ghost at the Border* continues *The Nomadic Ghost* series. *Jed's World* is a revised and updated edition of that story.



**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 parts of the list on a rotating basis. The complete list is available on the web-site, under "NEWS")

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

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

### 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**

## SASP NEWS

### 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**

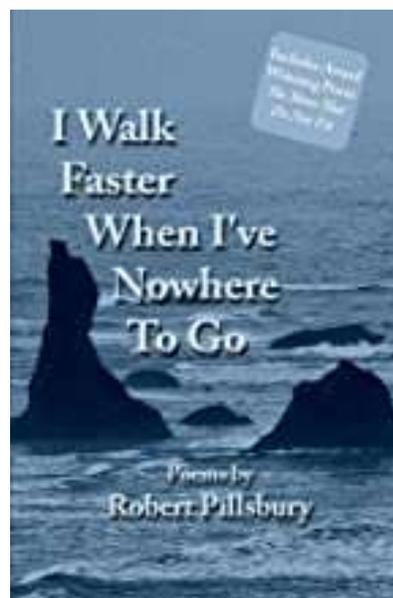
### Kate Poitevin:

*Saving Tir Gaeltacht (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



By Robert Pillsbury

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

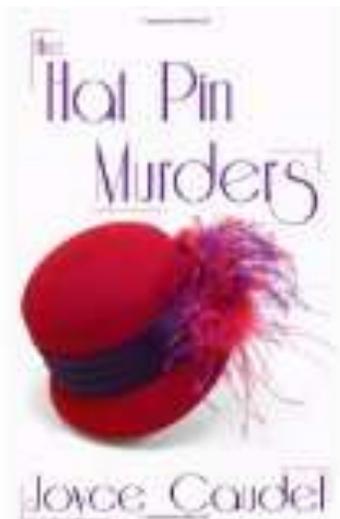
*I Walk Faster When I've Nowhere to Go* is a book of poems written by one of our former SASP members. It includes the award winning poem "The Shoes That Do Not Fit." I like to read poetry that rhymes and makes me happy,

laugh, nostalgic, sad, and introspective. I like poems about the beauty of our seasons, our surroundings, and our planet. This book of poems has all that and more.

The following are some of my favorite poems in this book: "Brother Gone" tells of finding happiness in a dream. "Christmas Too" is about life as we age from youth to old age. Another poem I enjoyed is "Howling" which I can identify with, for it's about procrastinating when one should be writing their wonderful stories. "Spring" is a poem that expresses sadness at losing a loved one. I also liked "Last Leaf on the Tree, which Pillsbury wrote with Charles Semtner. And for humor with a surprise ending, read "Library."

Pillsbury has written an enjoyable book that is fun to read aloud. I recommend this book to one and all.

(The above is a newly written and submitted review. Those below are older and continue the ongoing loop of reviews in our files. Typically they are written by SASP members for books by other SASP members. Occasionally they are by non-members for members' books or are by members for non-members' books. Reviews remain in place as long as at least one reviewer or the author are current (or recently current) members.)



Reviewed by Helen Foster

Maggie Coppenguee loves her Red Hat Chapter and the "Hatties," as she calls her friends. Fun loving and committed to having great times, she can't believe anyone at a Red Hat luncheon would kill her special friend, Mary Reed, and with a hat pin, of all weapons for a killer to use. Maggie becomes the prime suspect and must find the real murderer in order to clear herself.

The Hat Pin Murders is a fun book to read. Joyce Caudel writes in an easy manner as she leads the reader on a trail of discoveries and clues in her search. Along the way Joyce lets us know why the Red Hat Society has become such a popular group.

The Hat Pin Murders is an enjoyable book and was an award winner in the General Fiction category of the USA "Best Books 2011" Awards. It's available at several Spokane area bookstores, as well as on Amazon.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Maggie Coppenger and Mary Reed live in Sommer, Washington, and have been best friends since kindergarten. Mary, a recent widow, only lives a few blocks away from Maggie, and they often do things together. Both enjoy being members of the Red Hat Society, which is all about dressing up in purple, wearing red hats, having fun, and spending time with their friends.

However, things turn tragic at the Red Hat Society Spring meeting, at the Sommerset Hotel, when Maggie finds Mary murdered with a rhinestone hat pin. Maggie and her friends are shocked that Maggie becomes the prime suspect. Therefore, her fellow Hatties, the Mystery Mamas, set out to find the real killer.

But who would want to kill Mary? Could it be Edith, Mary's neighbor, who pushed her and threatened to do her harm after an incident involving Edith's dog? Darlene, Mary's unfriendly, greedy stepdaughter? The mystery woman at the club? Or, could it be the driver of the black Mercedes who tried to run Maggie and her friend Jess off the road?

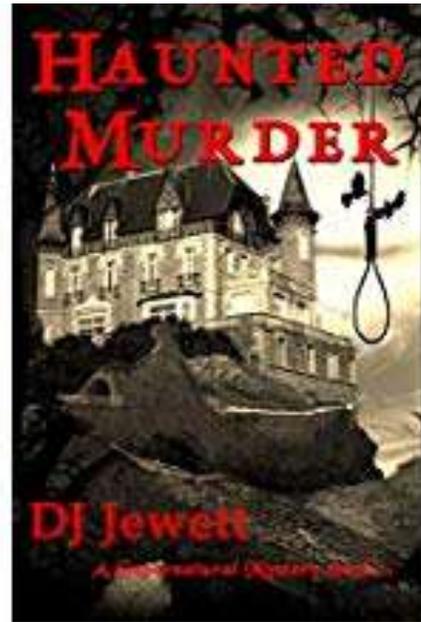
When the killer strikes again, this time attacking Marie Reader, a member of the Singing Sisters, and others at the Red Hats fashion show at the mall, Maggie and her friends come closer to having their questions answered.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, the first of Caudel's *Red Hat Mystery* books, and learning about the Red Hat Society. Caudel is a talented writer who spins a great mystery with numerous twists and turns. The reader is never bored. Her characters and settings are well-defined and interesting. I recommend this book to anyone who likes to read a good story that is a page turner and has a very satisfying ending.

Available in several Spokane area bookstores and on Amazon.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

*The Hat Pin Murders* is a delightful cozy murder mystery. Ms. Caudel has created a group of interesting characters, ladies "of a certain age" who are members of The Red Hat Society. Excitement abounds as they prepare for an event with all the area groups. Sadly, it wouldn't be a murder mystery without a murder. When one of their own is killed, it rattles her friends to the core. No one would really expect them to sit by and wait for the police to do their jobs, especially the prime suspect. Then the story takes a turn. We find ourselves immersed in mob activities. I've read many books of this genre and am pretty good at guessing where it's going to end. This one artfully twisted and turned until I was totally clueless and I couldn't venture a guess at all. The ending was certainly not on my radar! Well, done!



Reviewed (four stars) by Larry Danek

I normally don't read ghost stories although I wrote some. This story by Mr. Jewett contained a lot of the usual lines associated with this genre, but I found the plot to be quite interesting

I had trouble putting the book down although I had a heavy schedule