

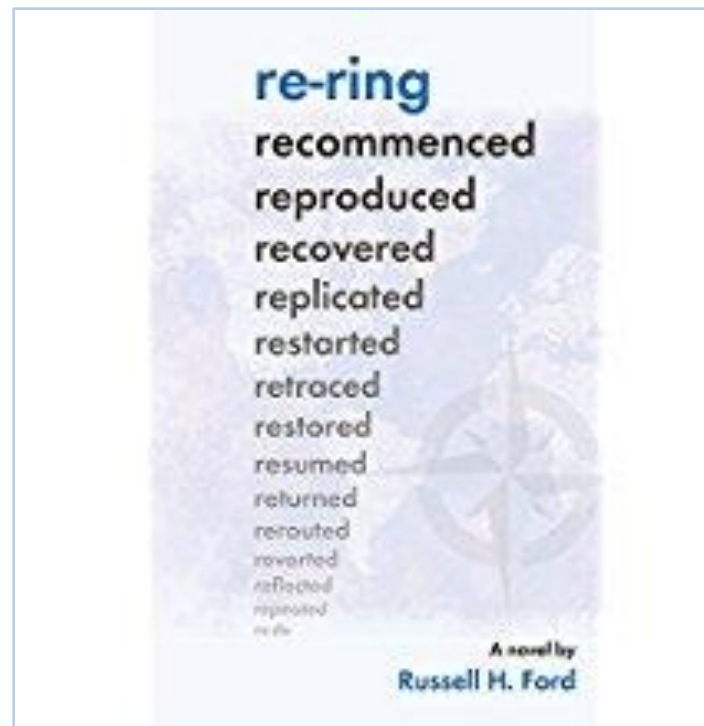
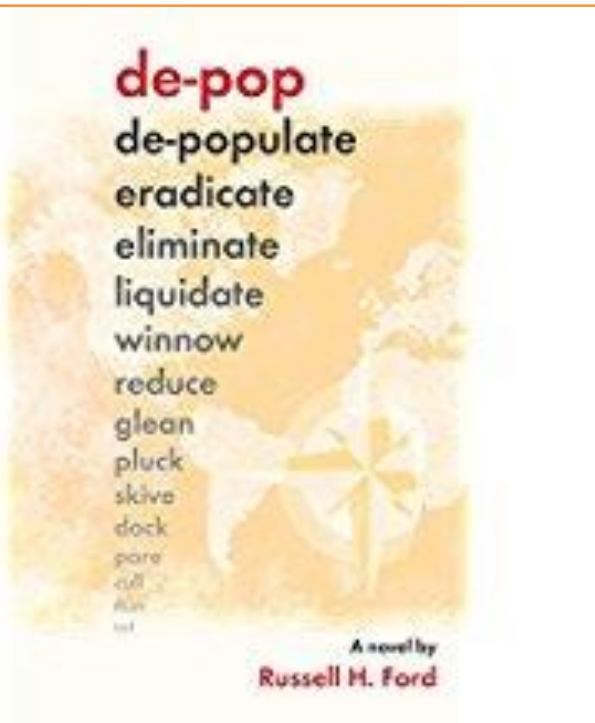


SASP

NEWS

October 2023

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 **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. **(October 25th for the November 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
Or: saspworks4u@gmail.com

Cover: De-pop and Re-ring by SASP member
Russ Ford.

THE BOOKS ON THE COVER...

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers member Russell Ford writes modern day thrillers which in tune with much of today's world, feature what might be called conspiracy theories.

OUR NEXT MEETING!

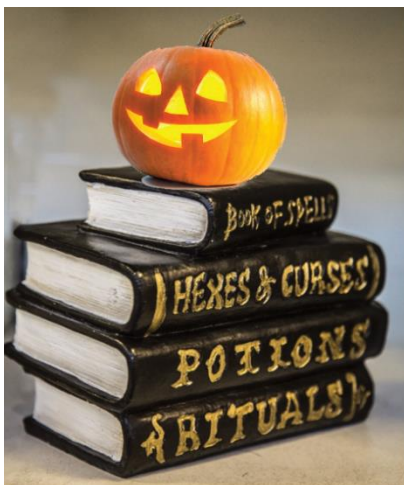
We are scheduled to meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, October 13, 2023, at the Corbin Senior Activity Center, 827 W. Cleveland Ave., Spokane, WA 99205. The Lower South Room will be open at 1:30 pm, and we need to be out by 4:30 pm.

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.

Our speaker will be Patricia Meredith, author of the Spokane Clocktower Mysteries, the Sam Shovel Mysteries, the Anna Katherine Green Mysteries, and more! With any luck, we may also have a second presentation from a new author.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

A very ~~un~~lucky day



October is upon us, and the year is approaching extinction. In addition to our monthly meeting being held (appropriately, I might add) on Friday the 13th, October is the month of spooks, spectres, and scary movie syndrome. It also includes the Fall Festival at Greenbluff, area high school craft fairs, Oktoberfest in all its manifestations, and (speaking of manifestations) Halloween.



In addition to our speaker, we have a full agenda. Nominations for next term's officers will be taken, and elections will be held at the November meeting. Please give it some serious thought because I regret I will not be running for office this time.

We will have a short discussion of upcoming events and activities of our members, and we will talk about an exciting event planned right here in Spokane for Indie Author Day on April 27, 2024. Our local celebration of Indie Authors will be called "Northwest Indie Bookfest," or N.I.B. for short, and will be held at Auntie's Book Store in downtown Spokane. Nominations and offers to volunteer at this event will be taken between now and our Oct. 13 meeting and we will vote on our representatives at that meeting. We will be allotted four slots for book signings, one to conduct a mini-workshop, and a few to do readings. N.I.B. could possibly be extended an extra day depending partly on willingness to participate, so don't be shy. Also, anyone and everyone is welcome to attend and mingle. Be sure to wear your SASP name tags. If you don't yet have one, see Dave. Updated author pages on our website will be to your advantage as well. The event is free to writers and attendees alike. All book sales must go through Auntie's, and books must be consigned before the event. We will have updates from the planning committee and organizers regularly and will keep you apprised of the progress.

The planning committee was formed by the organizer, Erik Schubach, and consists of SASP, represented by Dave McChesney, M. J. Hudon, and Sue Eller; Spokane Fiction Writers, Charles R. (Rick) Oliver; INWG, Linda Bond and Steven LaLonde; Sci-Fi, Fantasy, and Horror group, Allison Dunlop; organizer Erik Schubach; and artist Wayne Spitzer.

I hope to see you at our next meeting on the very lucky Friday, the 13th of October, at the Corbin Senior Activity Center. The room opens at 1:30, and the meeting begins at 2:00.

Sue Eller President

FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Autumn has begun, and cooler weather invites us to cozy up with good books, warm sweaters, hot beverages, and pumpkin treats. It also means that many of us have events coming up.



The first is our meeting on Friday the 13th, the perfect Halloween-ish date. Our speaker will be Patricia Meredith, author of the Spokane Clocktower Mysteries, the Sam Shovel Mysteries, the Anna Katherine Green Mysteries, and more! With any

luck, we may also have a second presentation from a new author. We're still working on scheduling so keep your fingers crossed.

Other events coming up involving some of our members are the Central Valley Craft Fair, the Mead High School Band Booster Fair, and the Riverside High School Craft Fair. These events and the authors showing there will be posted on all our social media platforms. If you have an event coming up and would like to announce it via the SASP website, Facebook page, Instagram, and X please let me know by

sending the information to our group email address SASPworks4u@gmail.com.

Thanks and I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting!

Marilee Hudon Vice President

FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

Not long ago I went through our roster and noticed that about twenty people who had been members in 2022 have not renewed membership for 2023. In addition, there are approximately the same number of people who have not renewed since 2021. I'm sure we'd all like to see our membership numbers rise by that amount. (It would effectively double our current membership level.)

Normally we would ask these folks to pay full dues for the current year, but for a limited time, we have a special offer for you.

Simply pay \$5.00 for the remainder of this year, plus \$15.00 for next, and be up to date on your dues, with membership good through the end of 2024.

To take advantage of this one-time special deal, dues

payment must be received by or at our November 10th meeting. Any dues payments sent by mail will need to be postmarked on or before November 10th in order to qualify.

I would prefer to not harp about dues and dues payments, but we do have certain expenses to take care of each year. We now pay rent for our meeting location, and as well we rent a post office box. The cost of the post office box seems to go up every year. Beyond that, we also spend for our web-site and our e-mail service. It is only fair we share and contribute to pay for these services.



For those pinching pennies, please note we no longer need to purchase a meal as we did when we met at Golden Corral and other buffet style eateries. With the cost of a meal and tips, we could easily spend nearly as much at a single meeting as we do for a year's dues.

If you are a paid up member, your name appears on the Members Page on our web-site, complete with a link to your Member Web-Page.

If your dues are no longer current, your name and the link have been removed, but you remain on the roster and on our e-mailing list. Any of your books listed as being available on Amazon remain so listed. After two years of not paying dues, you will come off the roster, the mailing list and your books will be removed as well. Those who last paid in 2021 will be facing that situation as we move into 2024.



these positions, please contact me (our Treasurer, Web-Master, SASP NEWS Editor) to be included on the ballot. If you currently hold office and wish not to run again, let me know. Otherwise I will consider you as wanting to stay and will include you on the ballot.

Ideally, we'll have ballot ready when the November newsletter is sent out, and all members will receive a copy. You can return it by e-mail, surface mail, or bring to our November meeting. Ballots will also be available at the meeting for those who wish to vote there. **For your vote to be counted, you must be current in your dues.**

OUR SEPTEMBER 2023 MEETING

Compiled Dave McChesney

ELECTIONS

As we approach the end of the year, it is once again time for elections, to choose those who guide and direct the functioning of Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers. Normally we vote and tally the results at our November meeting, with newly elected individuals beginning their terms of service in January of the next year

All offices and positions are open or eligible for new occupants. Our President, Sue Eller, has indicated she will step down, so we need volunteers to run for President. If you are interested in that or any other position, please let us know so we can get you on the ballot. Positions consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Advisory Board members.

If you would like to run for any of

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers met at the Corbin Senior Activity Center at 2:00 pm. on Friday September 8th. Attending were: Larry Danek, Jennifer Day, Mary De Bord, Sue Eller, Bob Hildahl, Esther Hildahl, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Sandra Philbin, Kate Poitevin, Elena Smith, Linda Sonntag-Noble, and Bob Weldin. Also joining us were Shane Murdock-Stephan, Darlene Stevens, Jerry Garcia and Theresa Topp. Lola Weldin appeared late in the day in order to provide Bob with a ride home.

Our speaker for the days was Stephen Pitters, a local poet, writer, and radio personality. He noted that writing might provide one with fame, but not necessarily fortune. He also reminded us that he does a radio show on KYRS from 11:00 to 11:30 on Saturdays which features local authors and poets. Stephen also hosts and coordinates events at local libraries. He then mentioned that there might be as many as 155 or more types of poetry. He ended his presentation by having those attending complete a short writing exercise. The basic idea was to write from the viewpoint of an inanimate object or to recall

something from the past.

Beth Camp told us of her newest book, *Mothers Don't Die*, and note she would be willing to provide copies to those who want to read and review the work. Jerry Garcia asked for a received some guidance on publishing his latest book. (Jerry was a member of Spokane Authors several years ago and is the author of *Let's Share our Patriotic Thread*. There is a short review of this still available on the SASP web-site at www.spokaneauthors.org.

We ended our session by drawing for door prizes. Thank you to the over half dozen members who donated copies of their books to be given away.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday October 13th, again at the Corbin Senior Activity Center. The meeting room will be available at 1:30 and we'll start the meeting at 2:00 pm. At this point in time, no speaker or program has been announced.

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!

OF INTEREST Any Poets Amongst Us?

Dear Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers,

My name is Rhiannon Cochrane and I work with **Spokane Public Radio**. I'm reaching out to you today to let you know about our **Poetry Moment** segment, which was launched in 2018 and showcases a multitude of poems read by poets and poetry lovers with an emphasis on the Inland Northwest.

Poetry Moment airs one poem on KPBX weekdays at 9am. The weeks' worth of poetry is typically performed by one reader or an affiliated group of readers. Sometimes the poems are the reader's own, and sometimes they're written by poets whose work they admire and want to share with listeners.

If anyone in your group would be interested in showcasing some of their own work, along with poems from poets they admire, I can provide you with more information. Selecting and recording the poems is designed to be simple and straightforward, so don't worry if this is unfamiliar territory. We can help walk you through each step.

And if you'd prefer to see and hear some recent examples of Poetry Moment, please visit our website <https://www.spokanepublicradio.org/show/poetry-moment>.

I appreciate you taking the time to look this over and hope you'll join us in reading. Don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions!

Rhiannon

Rhiannon Cochrane
509-328-5729

rcochrane@kpbx.org

poetry@kpbx.org

<http://www.spokanepublicradio.org/programs/poetry-moment>

Like to read psychological thrillers?

Contact Beth for a free review copy of *Mothers Don't Die* at bluebethley@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Auntie's Bookstore: Local Authors Book Club

Will meet via Zoom on Wednesday
October 6th, at 2 PM.

Will meet via Zoom on Wednesday
November 1st 6th, at 2 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

Will meet via ZOOM on Wednesday,
October 18th at 7 PM.

Will meet via ZOOM on Wednesday,
November 15th at 7 PM.

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

Arts and Craft Fairs

Several Spokane Authors and Self-
Publishers members will be participating in
upcoming arts and craft fairs in order to sell
their books. These include:

Central Valley High School
Saturday and Sunday, November 4th and 5th.

Mead High School
Saturday and Sunday, November 11th and 12th.

Ridgeline High School
Saturday and Sunday, December 2nd and 3rd.

If you know of other craft fairs, please let
your editor know so we can add it to the list.

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.

Nathaniel Bennett

The Ant Doctor

B09QP55ZSX

Julie Bergman

Sahar's Creation

0578323656 B09N9D4Z2X

Fatal Creation

B0B6LJ2NML B0B663Q9X4

The Fatal Family Affair

B0BTGFLC4M B0BRMPC1MV

Stephen B. Smart

Whispers of The Greybull

B00795J47Y 148205700X

Vanishing Raven

B00JV159IM 1505906636

Greg Clark, DC

Ashes of Arson

B0768PCRYJ 1976986370

Arson Revisited

B07P9BDFXB 1798492032

Arson and Opioids

B07X85NKNM 1692105906

Arson's Revenge

B0852SKMRR B08761CN2M

Arson's Exit

B09PDG8RM6 B09P452BQW

Elinor Young

Running On Broken Legs: My Journey to Joy

B09XFDWC4X 1646455746

Sarah Vail

Old Schoolhouse Road

B09PMNPPMW 1490025583 1940025575

James Street

B09V1SG5CR 1480844683 1940025648

Snow Country Lane

B09YL18654 1480886378 1940025664

Mary A. De Bord

Violet Petals on My Heel

1667858688

Elena Smith

Why Birches Are White

B004PLNL4M 1419627511

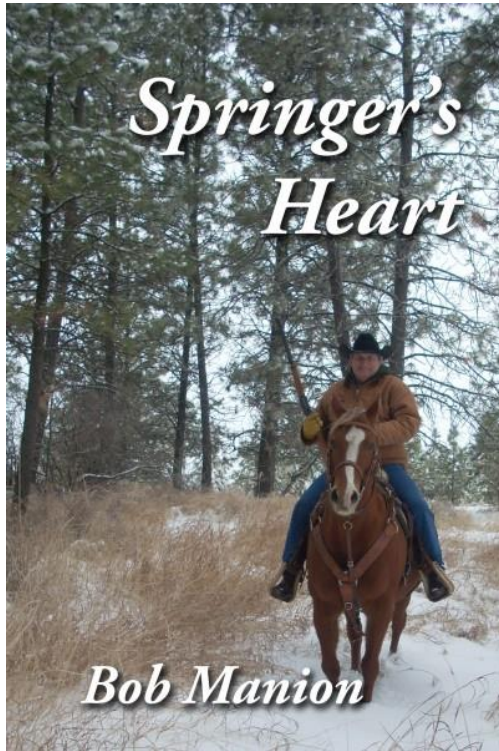
Truths and Lies

B0BXFSSGMP 1667891650

Reviewed by Jim Harris

FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

This month we will continue with our usual order.



Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

All I ever needed to learn about the Marine Corp I learned in Springer's Heart.

Marine Sargent Hank Springer loves his life as a Marine but when the love of his life, Lori dies, Hank retires and moves his family to a ranch in Montana. There Hank fills his life with his growing family, orphaned children, ranch hands and the vast land of the beautiful Montana countryside. Hank's heart is full of love for all of this but there is still something missing, a hole in his heart until the lovely Bess Clemons comes on the scene.

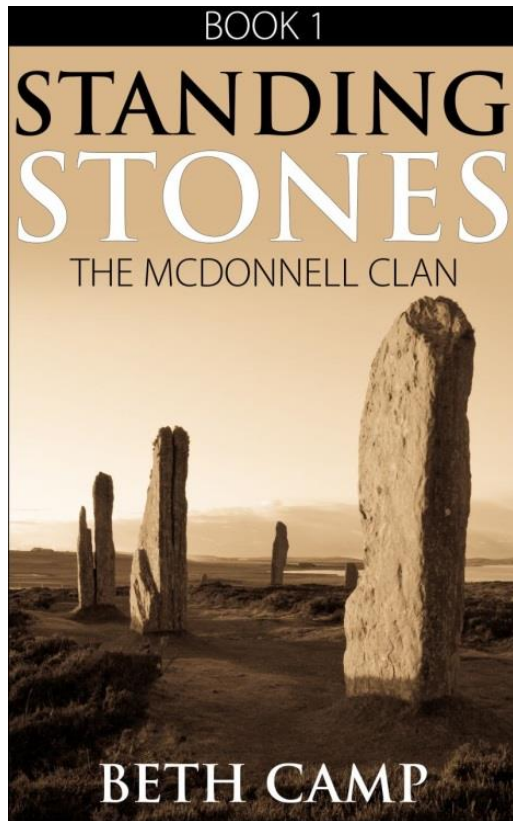
Springer's Heart is a story full of adventure and romance. Anyone interested in cowboys, cowgirls, rodeos and all the

I met the author, BOB MANION, three years ago at a writer's conference. This summer, I finally bought a copy of SPRINGER'S HEART (ISBN 978-0978850746, trade paperback, \$14.95). From my personal experiences of talking with the author, I knew he was a great storyteller. The book did not let me down. Before I go any further, I have to tell you that based on what the book says its category is "Romance/Western", I would not have purchased the book. I am not a fan of either "romances" or "westerns". SPRINGER'S HEART is mainstream fiction with romantic situations in a western setting (Montana primarily). There are some rodeo scenes thrown in for background that I found to be informative but not boring in the least.

The story begins with a horrific, fatal car crash. Then Hank Springer's life story unfolds with the one great romance of his life. That produces three great kids - two boys and a girl - who turn out to be wonderful adults. Hank serves in the U.S. Marine Corps for over twenty years. When Hank's wife dies of a serious disease, he moves his family to the ranch in Montana owned by his foster parents. The kids grow up and two move away while one son stays behind. Eventually Hank ends up being the foster parent for the three kids orphaned by the fatal car crash in the opening chapter. Total strangers meld into a happy family.

This happy circumstance begins to show cracks when Hank and his son fall in love. And it is a Mother/Daughter combination! Hank adopts another orphan girl who is being stalked by her mother's killers and who raped and nearly killed her. How it all ends makes a wonderful tale. These are characters you will fall in love with. You will find yourself cheering for them in good times and crying with them in bad times. I highly recommend this story for ALL readers. I am happy I did not let the "Romance/Western" keep me away from an inspiring tale.

Reviewed by Bob Hildahl



Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

Having recently joined Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers group, my first newsletter told me of the release party for Beth Camp's new book, *Standing Stones*. I went, thinking it was only right to support fellow authors, even if we hadn't met.

At first glance of the cover, I knew I had to buy it. Later that day I found myself transported to a time and place I have only ever wondered about. Being of Celtic descent, I was aware of the Orkney Islands, but had no idea what a hard life the people there lived. Ms. Camp painted a perfect picture of the day to day life of the wonderful characters she created. When they are forced from their homes, we follow the McDonnells as they try to find a new life.

This book ends in a way that had me begging for more. I waited, very impatiently, for the second book to be released.

Mac McDonnell and his brother Dougal are both fishermen, trying to make a living off the sea. Mac, his sister, and three brothers live on Foulksay Island in northern Scotland. There they live in a stone cottage owned by Lord Gordon. When Lord Gordon wants to evict small farmers from their homes because he wants to use their land to raise sheep, Mac leads a protest against him. This results in Mac being arrested, the McDonnell's boat confiscated, and the family home destroyed.

Beth Camp is an excellent writer who has created an interesting story with great characters and dialogue. The story is a page turner, which encourages the reader to just keep reading and not stop! *Standing Stones* is the first book telling the continuing story of the McDonnell clan.

Stillpoint



(No Cover Image Available)

By Patricia Campbell Kowal

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

As readers we often prefer a certain author, a certain genre, or a particular theme in our reading. Many of us are loathe to step outside of our preconceived and often narrow range of reading opportunities. As bookstore customers and library browsers, we make many of our decisions based on the cover illustration and title. It is a shame that we do, for often that story that does not appeal to us at

first glance can turn out to be an inspiring and uplifting read.

Such is the case with *Stillpoint* by Patricia Campbell Kowal. Because of the title and the cover, my first assumption was that it was probably a little too feminine and a little too self-analytical for my reading tastes. But, having won a copy of it at my second ever SASP meeting, and having had it graciously autographed by the author, I determined that I would read it, and that I would try to keep an open mind as I did so.

Was I ever wrong regarding my first impressions of the story! I found it to be a touching and emotionally moving story, nearly a lifelong “biography” of a very likable, believable, and yet fictional character. The writing itself is clear, concise, and inspiring; qualities that allow the reader to progress steadily through the story without the need to reread or try to guess at the author’s meaning and intent. As with all exceptionally well written stories, I found that I lost track of my surroundings and was physically present, perhaps as a silent observer, in the events unfolding on the page.

Stillpoint encompasses Sam Barsby’s life, from his childhood in Vermont, through a cross country hobo-like train trip during the Great Depression, his military service in the Pacific during the Second World War, and his migration to Australia. It covers his times of great loss and sadness, as well as his moments of extreme joy and happiness. The story pivots on that instant in Sam’s life when, with help of a Native Australian, he gently drives away the despair and agony of his suffering and begins to look forward to a continued existence. This is his *Stillpoint*, that moment when directions change but there is no movement at all. It is a rebirth, a renewal, and following this, Sam eventually returns to his boyhood home for one last visit.

Stillpoint is a very well written, uplifting, and inspirational story. I most strongly urge everyone to read it and to pass it along to others so that they might read it as well.

Stillpoint was published in 2005 through Vantage Press, Inc. and at that time had a

cover price of \$12.95. It carries an ISBN of 0-533-14782-4.

Reviewed by James Bartlett Parry

Ms. Kowal skillfully weaves past with present in this intriguing romantic, tragic epic. Through chapters that alternate time periods, we witness wars and other calamities between brief respites of love and happiness. All of this happens through the eyes of several generations of the Barsby family.

This style of writing is difficult to pull-off and, in many books, confuses the reader, but Kowal relates her tale in a skillful and seemingly effortless manner that truly makes the story flow. She masterfully details the ambience of each location and era.

The first page will draw you into Sam’s dreams of flying geese - that eventually take him on an odyssey around the world. Brace yourself for a plethora of tragedies (but there is, ultimately and thankfully, a happy ending).