

# SPOKANE AUTHORS & SELF-PUBLISHERS



March 2001

## Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 1

### Check List

- **Mark your calendar for upcoming meetings**
- **Submit your bio for publication on the website**
- **Write a review for another member**
- **Send a note on your accomplishments to Tim Hillebrand**
- **Pay your dues**

## Highlights of Future Meetings—March Through June

SASP members and guests have four more informative meetings to look forward to before we are dark over the summer. We meet the first Thursday of the month at 11:30 AM, at the Old Country Buffet, 5504 N. Division in Spokane.

### March 1

John Church, author of *Pasadena Cowboy*, will lead a panel discussion with four other of our members (Ruth Dixon, Lee Dominey, Margaret Grafmiller, and Eleanor McKenna) who will share

insights from their experiences in writing memoirs. The focus of the presentation will be on methods and techniques that they have found helpful in planning, recalling, writing, presenting, and publishing memoirs. They will each talk for about five minutes, show any pertinent exhibits then open the meeting to questions and statements from the floor.



### April 5

**Dan Webster**, Book Reviewer, *Spokesman Review*

We know what it's like to write a book and have it reviewed or try to get it reviewed, but what is it like to BE the book reviewer? Dan Webster, staff writer, book reviewer and *Book Notes* editor of the *Spokesman Review*, will tell us on April 5. He will discuss what makes a good book and what he looks for in deciding what books to review. If you have questions about how

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## Book Review

**Where The Buf Fellows Roam**  
By Jim Hooppaw

Colonel Hooppaw takes us on a tour of what it was like to fly in one of those big ugly fellows, the B-52, as they stood vigil, protecting our country through all the years of the Cold War. He recalls personal war stories, "Not the blood and guts kind, but the ones that begin, 'There I was at 30,000

feet when the only engine flamed out. The automatic pilot bailed out with the only parachute....'"

The reader, sometimes with throbbing heartbeat, follows the various phases of the missions from preflight to post-flight with plenty of adventure along the way. Hooppaw, in recounting his twenty-five year career, brings this period of our history alive as he unfolds the inner workings of the Strategic Air Command and the lives of the flight crews.



## Spokane Authors & Self-Publishers



### President's Message

As you can see, we have a most worthwhile set of meetings lined up through June. We are fortunate indeed to have so many members willing to share their talents and expertise and members who know people to invite to be our speakers. No one can say that this is not an enlightening group with informative meetings. I'd like to thank Robin Heflin for arranging for Dan Webster to speak to us. Robin, by the way, is the chair of our newly-formed development committee and has been responsible for all of our press releases to the media. Your treasurer Phyllis Heinel would like to remind you to pay your dues. I'd like to take this

opportunity to thank our secretary Jolene Feher and her husband Ferenc for all their work in getting this newsletter mailed. My vision of course is that we can one day soon transmit newsletters electronically, saving trees and money. Come on, you slackers, get an email address.

You may recall that my goal is to continue to make SASP a more useful organization for its members. But first we have to become better acquainted. One way to do that is to submit your biography, about one type written-page, for publication on our Website. Those already listed include Mickey Alferrez, Tony & Suzanne Bamonte, John Church, Phil Collozzi, John

Dalmas, Al Jack Dymond, Jolene Feher, Elmer Freeman, Jerry Garcia, Robin Heflin, Tim Hillebrand, Jim Hooppaw, James Nelson, Chuck O'Conner, Dan Vollmer, and Sherry Waldrip. If your name is not on this list, why not? Please send your bio to [chief@synergetics.org](mailto:chief@synergetics.org) before I grow weary of posting these and start charging \$1000 a page.

Another way SASP can be useful is if we support one another by writing reviews of each other's works. These reviews can be used in our portfolios for publicity purposes. Each review will be linked to an author's book on our Website and available for the general public to view. I also encourage you to post these same reviews elsewhere on the Internet, such as on Amazon.com or Barnes and Noble.com.

Don't be bashful. Ask someone to review your work. Ask if you can review someone else's work. Dan Vollmer has offered anyone a free book for a review of his work, or, should we let the computer generate a random list for us?

If anyone is interested in publishing an eBook, let me know. I'd be glad to help you. In fact, (another one of my visions) I'd like to see SASP become electronic publishers, making the work of our members available on our Website ([www.synergetics.org/sasp](http://www.synergetics.org/sasp)). From our home page, click the link for the new Website I just created on eBooks.

*Tim Hillebrand*

### eBooks

At our February meeting Tim Hillebrand reviewed the virtues of eBooks, pointing out that they never go out of print, can be published and delivered instantly, and are more reasonably priced because of lower or non-existent production, shipping, and warehousing costs. "You can cuddle with an eBook," Hillebrand assured us. To prove his point, he demonstrated several different eBook readers now on the market and discussed the pros and cons of each. His personal favorite is his HP Jornada 548, which performs a myriad of other tasks as a Pocket PC running on Windows CE. He pointed out that a much lower priced alternative is the Franklin eBookman reader starting at only \$129, compared to \$699 for the RCA reader. The eBookman is available for

shipping this month.

Hillebrand argued that the eBook is here to stay; it has been well received as illustrated by Stephen King's experiments, and is a viable, profitable means of publication. "You all need to consider eBooks as a viable publishing alternative.

For those of you who missed his presentation, or if you would like to delve into eBooks and ePublishing in more depth, Tim has created a new Website devoted to the subject. He has created a link to it from the SASP Website ([www.synergetics.org/sasp](http://www.synergetics.org/sasp)). Or you can visit it directly at [www.synergetics.org/eBooks](http://www.synergetics.org/eBooks).

While the traditional publishing giants struggle with digital rights

management (DRM), reader formats, and reading devices, the independents move ahead. Now is your opportunity to position yourself in this exciting new world of open opportunity. Unfortunately, the high cost of the reading devices are a negative factor to explosive growth. However, competitive pricing should drive prices down as perceived demand increases soon.

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## Future Meetings Continued...

to get published or reviewed in the *Spokesman*, this is your chance to ask.

### May 3

Dr. Carolyn Gravelle, vice president of Pine Orchard Publishing Co., will introduce her company to SASP and talk about its services of interest to self-publishers and writers. She will discuss the company's book production services, have samples of Pine Or-

chard books, and explain what Pine Orchard can do for you with lots of information about getting your ideas into print for the general public to read.

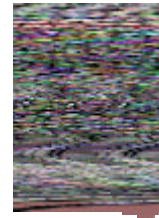
### June 7

Romana Hillebrand, a rhetorician who teaches composition and technical writing at WSU, will share with you some of her favorite common errors to avoid

that could embarrass you. She will also show you how to write more enticingly by varying your sentence patterns in weaving your web that would woo wreaders. She does not, however, usually recommend alliteration as a literary tool.

**Please Remember to  
Pay your Dues**

**Don't Forget to Submit  
Your Biography  
for Our Website**



## Book Review

### The Messenger

By Robin Heflin

The story is set in Seattle under the umbrella of traveler John Metcalf who has traversed between worlds visiting his dead grandmother since age six. As a young man, Metcalf runs a psychic business bringing comfort to his clients in messages from their loved ones from the other side. Life becomes difficult for

him when one of his clients turns out to be a female undercover agent investigating him for fraud, but can never find sufficient evidence against him. Then romance enters the life of this lonely young man when he falls in love with the cop's roommate. Totally smitten, Metcalf chooses not to reveal to his beloved his true identity as a psychic because she loathes these lowly creatures ever since

her mother had been taken by one.

Heflin skillfully weaves a sticky, bouncy web for her protagonist to escape from to claim his reward, leaving the reader wondering until the end if he will be able to pull it off because of his deceit, and the forces operating against him.

This book screams for a sequel.

## The Messenger



ROBIN VALAITIS HEFLIN



## Book Review

### Las Primas de Loreto

By Jack Poole

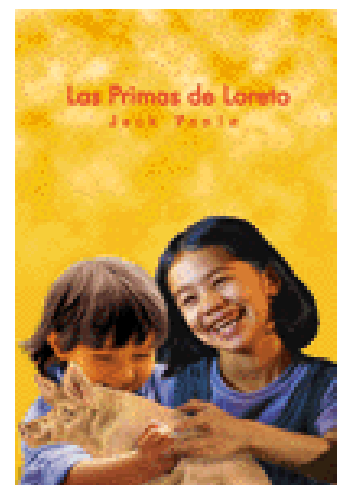
If you have ever had wonderful adventures in learning as a child, you will be happy to meet Carmelita and Manuelita, two cousins in Loreto, Mexico. During the year they were ten, they


saved the life of their pet pig, made friends with a baby whale, helped a clutch of hatching turtles get to the sea, and learned about taking care of horses. When grandmama visited they were fascinated by her stories of the revolution and of Pancho Villa. They worked all summer to participate in a swimming meet for their

school, and at Christmas-time they learned about the true meaning of Christmas. These may not be your adventures, but you will wish they had been!

Poole shows a great empathy for and understanding of the culture.

Available from [www.ipublish.com](http://www.ipublish.com).



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## Book Review

### **I Don't Remember Signing Up for Cancer**

By Sherry Karuza Waldrip

Sherry Karuza Waldrip's title **I Don't Remember Signing Up for Cancer** hints at the upbeat tone that acts as armor in her fight against this modern woman's affliction. The very act of writing the book tells us she won the war. Reading about the battles that led to that victory, however, provides the suspense, the urgency, and the satisfying outcomes that make for a good story, a story that transcends simply being entertaining. This account of her per-

sonal struggle acts as a primer--not only for women who must confront their own fears and struggles but also for those friends and family members who want to provide comfort and care.

Although Sherry's subject matter is not one we associate with humor, her account of dealing with the big C is downright humorous. She justifies this approach by explaining how humor is good for the spirit and the body. She identifies it as "a miracle drug with no side effects," one that will keep hips from spreading and bones from drying up. Her self-described "sanguine personality" helped

her face the terrors of surgery as well as write an account of her ordeal that offers hope and laughter. Along the way, we also learn that women who suffer breast amputation need not finish life with a cyclop chest. The Free TRAM Flap, the reconstructive surgery Sherry introduces as an alternative to the now-banned implant procedure, offers a bonus, a "tummy tuck" since fat is removed from the abdomen to rebuild the breast.

Sherry shows us that an amalgam of humor, good friends, a loving family, and a knowledgeable surgeon can scrub away at that proverbial dark cloud to reveal a shiny

silver lining. By doing so, she offers a good read even for those of us who have no intention of ever "signing up for cancer." *Romana Hillebrand*

