

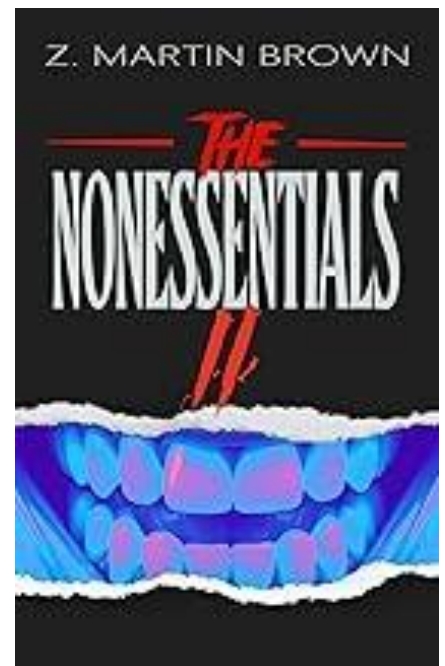
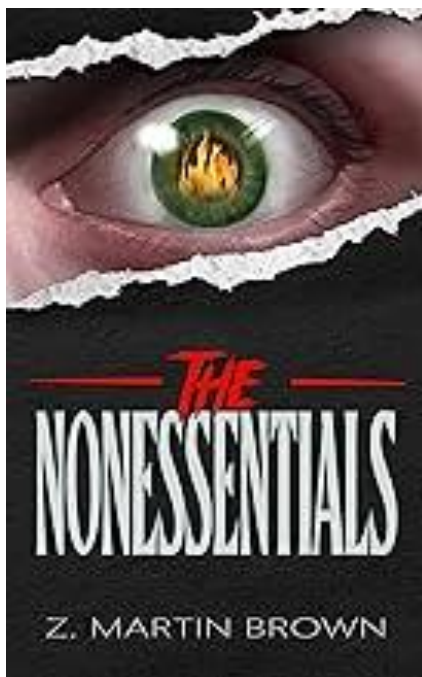


Literary

Gazette

April 2026

**Spokane Authors**  
**2504 W. Walton Ave.**  
**Spokane, WA 99205-1569**



**Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers (SASP)**, now known as **Spokane Authors**, 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, Spokane Authors is an organization dedicated to anyone interested in any aspect of writing and art. Members include aspiring (and successful) authors, poets, 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 **Sans Souci West Club House**, 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane.

The meeting room opens at **1:30 pm**. Presentations and discussions begin at **2:00 pm**.

**Spokane Authors** also meets the **third Wednesday** of each month, at the **Sans Souci West Club House**, 3231 W. Boone Ave.

The meeting room opens at **5:30 pm**. Presentations and discussions begin at **6:00 pm**.

We set up a collection jar for those who wish to help reimburse whoever might bring refreshments.

**Membership benefits** include listing on the Spokane Authors 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 Spokane Authors 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.

**Spokane Authors members** are encouraged to purchase or trade completed works 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.

**Submissions Due  
April 30<sup>th</sup> for the May 2026 issue.**

## 2026 Officers:

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

**Vice-President:** **Sue Eller**  
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**Secretary:** **OPEN**

**Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Web Master:**  
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violetpetalsbook@gmail.com

**Member:** **Debby Putman**  
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**"Like" the Spokane Authors Facebook Page:**  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Spokane-Authors-Self-Publishers/1640079982945679](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Spokane-Authors-Self-Publishers/1640079982945679)

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

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

**Contact us at:** [spokaneauthors@gmail.com](mailto:spokaneauthors@gmail.com)

**Videos of many of our presentations are available at:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/@spokaneauthorsforyou>  
Links for newer videos are in the Vice-President's message and in accounts of our most recent meetings

**New Video Channel!**  
<https://www.youtube.com/@SpokaneAuthors-Org>  
(Eventually all videos of our meetings will be on this channel)

*On the cover: Spokane Authors member Z. Martin Brown is the author of The Nonessentials and The Nonessentials II.*

## OUR APRIL MEETINGS!

We will meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, April 10, 2026, at the San Souci West Club House, 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA. The meeting room will be open at 1:30 pm. Fellow Spokane Authors member Gary Edwards will present: *“The Art of Musical Storytelling with Film.”*

We will meet at 6:00 pm. on Wednesday April 15, 2026, at the Sans Souci West club house at 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA. The meeting room will be open at 5:30 pm

## FROM THE PREZ

**Today** is our last day to March into Spring. Tomorrow, the jokes start rolling in.

**April** is a much anticipated month. Just fooling. (Couldn't wait.)

**April** heralds in gardening, getting the onions planted, making sure your tomato's are doing well. Watching Crocuses bloom and the return of the mighty mosquito. Not that I'm into mosquito's. But they seem to be into me. I know they're coming soon, because the swallows have been swooping in and checking out my nesting boxes. They don't show up unless there's food. And we are long past Robins, I saw my first robin this year in early February.

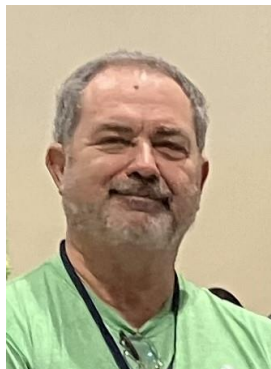
**April** is also a good month to write. April showers and all that. Put a heating pad in your favorite chair for writing and let it rain.

**Of** course next month we have a great opportunity as Spokane Authors is showcased at the MAC, or Museum of Arts and Culture on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Also, May the 4<sup>th</sup> be with you.

**As** always, getting together this month is greatly anticipated. See all of you at the appointed time. Most of you remember: Same Bat time, Same Bat Channel.

Your Prez.

*Carl Nathan*



## FROM THE VP

### Spring Has Sprung



As I write this on the next to the last day of March, the sun is shining, the temperature is warming, and it seems spring has arrived. It appears that March will go out in the same way it arrived: like a lamb. Just in time for the onset of April.

For a special treat for our next Friday meeting, April 10<sup>th</sup>, we will have as our guest speaker Gary Edwards. He has titled his talk... (*...We interrupt this message to bring you a news flash. Sue has temporarily lost access to her main email address...It is now April 5<sup>th</sup> and Dave is wishing he had this message so he could send the newsletter out...Sue has now recovered her email and here is the abbreviated message...*) *“The Art of Musical Storytelling with Film.”* Gary is an accomplished screenwriter, musician, author, and composer, and an enthusiastic member of Spokane Authors. I'll save the rest of his story for the introduction at the meeting. Our guest speaker for June, since she got snowed in for the March meeting, will be Anna Goodwin. She will share her experiences writing about her father's journey in her book *“By Force and Fear - a stolen homeland.”*

The Friday meeting at the Sans Souci West clubhouse, 3231 West Boone Ave. in Spokane, begins at 2:00 pm, and the room is open



at 1:30 for setup and pre-meeting visiting. Our Wednesday evening meeting, added to encourage those unable to attend the Friday meeting and open to all members and those interested, will be at the same location. The room opens at 5:30 p.m., and the meeting begins at 6:00.

The Guy twins, Denise and D. J., have taken over the video recording of our guest speakers and learned how to upload them to the Spokane Authors YouTube channel. They have been working with Dave McChesney and me to make the transition. Go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/@SpokaneAuthors-Org> to access the videos (or click on the link). One more thing I just discovered. If you want subtitles, all you have to do is click the CC button in the bottom-right corner of the screen. One last tip on the videos. It will help us all if you like the video, to hit the thumbs-up icon and subscribe to the channel.

And don't forget to check and follow our Facebook page for more information and the latest on current member activities. See you on April 10.

*Sue Eller*

## FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

I recently began the process of updating our roster for the new membership year. The handful of people who last paid in 2023 have been removed. The next step will be to remove those not paid for 2026 from the list of members on our website. That means their member web pages will no longer be accessible via the website. (Hint! Hint! If you aren't yet paid for this year.)

Once I get the roster and the membership list updated, I can get back to working on an updated version/ new edition of our catalog. Remember, to have your books included in the upcoming edition, you must be a paid member for 2025 and/or 2026.

If, your circumstances are such that paying dues is a problem, please let an officer

or board member know, and we'll work something out.

If you want to pay your dues, you can bring cash or check to a meeting, or if I remember my "Square" card reader, you can use a credit or debit card. You can also send dues payments to:

**Spokane Authors**  
**2504 W. Walton Ave.**  
**Spokane, WA 99205-1569**



## OUR MARCH 2026 MEETINGS

Friday March 13, 2026

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors met at the Sans Souci West Club House, on Friday March 13, at 2:00 pm. Attending were Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Joel Craig, Larry Danek, Sheri Decker, Sue Eller, Mark Lee Golden, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Bob Hildahl, Esther Hildahl, Stephen Lalonde, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Jon Miller, Carl Northrup, and Terry Stratton. Jane Hughes attended as a guest.

Due to weather conditions that day, our scheduled speaker was unable to be at our meeting. President Carl Northrup instead asked for inputs from members to bring us all up to date on our writing projects. He mentioned he and his wife were working with a group to reproduce old time radio shows as a stage production. He also noted that the anthology by the students at the private school he has been mentoring would be published in May. He also hopes to publish **Yank** by September, "if it kills me."

Sue Eller and Larry Danek plan to be at a craft Fair at Central Valley High School in the near future. This event will only run on Saturday, rather than the normal Saturday and Sunday.

Bob Manion suggested it was time for the group to compile and publish another



anthology. It was suggested folks could submit writing prompts to the newsletter editor who would in turn make them available to folks wanting to contribute to the project. Ideally we'd publish in October of this year and require submissions by July.

Larry Danek shared a brief book review he had recently written for Sarah Vail's Old School House Road. Mark Lee Golden shared some of his short stories, including one about a conspiracy to destroy Daylight Saving Time.

As usual we ended our day by drawing numbers for door prizes.

Wednesday March 18, 2026

Compiled by Sue Eller

Seven Spokane Authors members attended the 6:00 pm meeting at the Sans Souci West Clubhouse: Bob Manion (presenter), Sue Eller, D. J. Guy, Denise Guy, Genny La Morgan, Terry Stratton, and Caryl Briscoe-Michas. We also had three guests: Jalen Easton, Janet Boone, and Kathryn L. Robinson. Kathryn joined our group. Both she and Jalen said they would try to be at the next Friday meeting, which will be April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Fellow member Bob Manion was the guest presenter at the March 18, 2026 meeting. He spoke about how to engage with prospective buyers at a book signing or craft fair event. He also talked about ideal locations, working with the bookstore owners and employees, and touched on craft fair venues and working with Ingram-Sparks. Denise and D. J. Guy recorded the meeting and will post it to our YouTube channel. As a side note, you can subscribe to the channel and get notified of new video posts.

Because of a misunderstanding of the timing of our meeting, we quit a little earlier than scheduled, but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and helped put the room back in order. We had been requested to leave the tables out for the dinner event the following day.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

(Note: INWG's First Wednesday and Third Wednesday events may be switching times to avoid time conflict with Spokane Author's Third Wednesday evening meeting.)

### Spokane Authors

Friday, April 10, 2:00 pm  
Sans Souci West Clubhouse

### INWG "Coffee With Linda"

Saturday April 11, 2:00 pm  
The Meeting House, 11th and Pittsburg  
[lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) for info, to RSVP

### Spokane Authors

Wednesday April 15, 6:00 pm.  
Sans Souci West Clubhouse  
General Discussion

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Wednesday April 15, 7:00 pm (ZOOM)  
Contact [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) for link

### The Being Real and Banned Book Club

Saturday April 25, 2:00 pm  
The Meeting House, 11th and Pittsburg  
[lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) for info, to RSVP

### INWG First Wednesday

Wednesday May 6, 2:00 pm (ZOOM) Contact  
[lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) For link

### Spokane Authors

Friday, May 8, 2:00 pm  
Sans Souci West Clubhouse

### INWG "Coffee With Linda"

Saturday May 9, 2:00 pm  
The Meeting House, 11th and Pittsburg  
[lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) for info, to RSVP

**Write Local, Publish Smart: A  
Spokane Authors Learning  
Showcase  
An Educational Writing and  
Publishing Program in Cooperation  
with the  
Northwest Museum of Arts and  
Culture, Spokane**

**Location:** MAC Auditorium—E.A. Johnson, 2316 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., #100, Spokane, WA 99201

**Date:** Saturday, May 16, 2026

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

**Duration:** 4 Hours

**Cost:** Free

**Venue:** MAC Auditorium & Helen South Alexander Gallery

## About the Program

Join the **Museum of Arts and Culture (MAC)** and **Spokane Authors** for an engaging educational showcase designed for readers, writers, and aspiring authors of all experience levels. This free program highlights practical knowledge, creative insight, and real-world guidance from accomplished local authors.

### Morning 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

10:00–10:15	Nathaniel Bennett—Getting Started in Creative Writing
10:20–10:35	Elena Smith—From Idea to Impact: Writing, Publishing, and Promoting Your Book, and the Role of AI in This Process
10:40–10:55	Sue Eller—Assembling Your Writing Team
11:00–11:15	Gail Bergan—Writing Memoir: Guidelines and Guardrails While Telling Our Truths
11:20–11:35	Sarah Vail—Adding Emotion, Body Language, and Inner Thoughts to Develop Empathetic and Relatable Characters.
11:35–12:00	Q&A

**Afternoon 12:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m.—Meet and mingle with your presenters and other members of Spokane Authors. Enjoy a rare opportunity to purchase signed copies of their books.**

Following the presentations and Q&A, the presenters will be available to:

- Demonstrate their work
- Discuss writing and publishing experiences
- Sell and sign their books

## Who Should Attend

If you enjoy reading, are curious about writing, or want to publish your own book but aren't sure where to start, **this event is for you.**

### Spokane Authors

Wednesday May 20, 6:00 pm.  
Sans Souci West Clubhouse  
Bob Manion, attracting people at craft fairs, book signings

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Wednesday May 20, 7:00 pm (ZOOM) Contact [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) for link

### The Being Real and Banned Book Club

Saturday May 23, 2:00 pm  
The Meeting House, 11th and Pittsburg  
[lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) for info, to RSVP

### INWG First Wednesday

Wednesday June 3, 2:00 pm (ZOOM) Contact [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) For link

### Spokane Authors

Friday, June 12, 2:00 pm  
Sans Souci West Clubhouse

### INWG “Coffee With Linda”

Saturday June 13, 2:00 pm  
The Meeting House, 11th and Pittsburg  
[lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) for info, to RSVP

### Spokane Authors

Wednesday June 17, 6:00 pm.  
Sans Souci West Clubhouse  
Bob Manion, attracting people at craft fairs, book signings

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Wednesday June 17, 7:00 pm (ZOOM) Contact [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) for link

### The Being Real and Banned Book Club

Saturday June 27, 2:00 pm  
The Meeting House, 11th and Pittsburg  
[lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) for info, to RSVP

### INWG First Wednesday

Wednesday July 1, 2:00 pm (ZOOM) Contact [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) For link

## Sandpoint Writers on the Lake

Meet twice each month, both in person and via ZOOM for critiques. Information at [bonniemcdade@gmail.com](mailto:bonniemcdade@gmail.com)

## SASP BOOKS ON AMAZON/KINDLE

Many members' books are on Amazon and/or Kindle™ (We print short parts of the list on a rotating basis. The complete list, RECENTLY UPDATED, is available on the website, 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/)

### Sandra Philbin

*Whispers of Hope for Busy Women*

**B09PCB81JY 1794695001**

*Whispers of Hope for Busy Women: Journal*

**B09NQRVYVVK**

*Whispers of Hope for Dog Lovers*

**B0D8KM8ZH5**

### Gail Bergan

*Arts and Artifice: A Memoir*

**B0FN8FT5LF B0FQ1JVDQ**

*Journey Into Time (Journey Anthology Book 2)*

**B0DFTYHFC5 194442850X**

### Gary A. Edwards

*Chinese Curse* **1496051262 B01E0MUA30**

*Troubleclef: Life of a North Idaho Musician*  
**1448644461**

*The Gallery* **1448655099**

*Cast Out The Demons* **1448658373**

*Grandma Swank's Recipe Box* **1448657350**

*Timebomb* **1448697220**

*Phantasy* **1496043286 B01E0TF2W2**

### 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 Digger's Club*

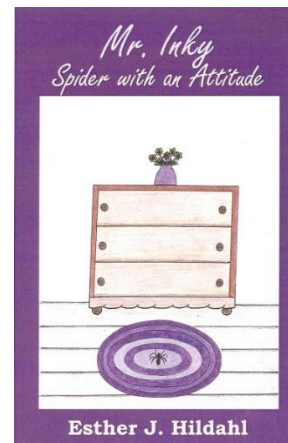
**0578106825**

*The Adventurists*

**153027253X**

*Secrets of an Enigma* **B0BT6QS1ZX B0BSY2FZLS**

## FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS



(Reviews continued from last month)

Reviewed by *Northern Dawn Awards*

When ten-year-old Vicki Wyatt finds a house spider in her bedroom, her first instinct is to kill it. Perturbed Mr. Inky, the spider, tells Vicki to spare his life. He wants to continue living under the dresser. After all, it's his home, too.

At first Vicky is not happy with this new arrangement. What if Mr. Inky bites her?

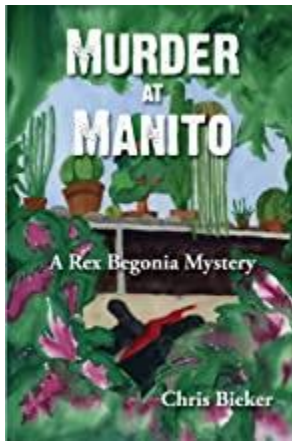
However, when Mr. Inky goes missing, she changes her tune. When he comes back, she realizes it's pretty cool having him around, even if he does have bad grammar.

Then disaster strikes when her brother tells the whole school that Vicki thinks she has a talking spider living in her bedroom. As a result, she is excluded, teased, and even sent to the school counselor.

Later, Mr. Inky reluctantly agrees to go to school as part of Vicki's science project. Will he survive Rory Picklebok, the meanest kid in the fifth grade? And what happens when his secret is discovered?

Hildahl's nineteen years of teaching has served her well, as she clearly knows the

minds and concerns of the middle-school crowd. Preteens will clamor for Mr. Inky: Spider with an Attitude because it's a whole lot of fun. Parents will also appreciate that it is well-executed and a clean read.



By Chris Bieker

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

*Murder at Manito* begins when Bill England, Manito Park's head gardener, is found murdered in the greenhouse. He was very charming and popular with the public, but as the story unfolds, the reader discovers he is a bit of a cad and has enemies in the gardening world.

Since the Lilac Parade is coming up soon, the mayor wants this murder to be solved quickly. Thus, Chief Detective Rex Begonia and his new partner, Ivy Lizej, arrive on the scene. Through numerous cups of coffee and good detective work, they eventually solve this crime and capture the murderer in a very dramatic way.

Local writer Chris Bieker has written a page turning murder mystery with a surprise ending. I liked the creative names she gave to some of her characters. I liked that the story took place in Spokane in my favorite park, and that she wrote about the goings on of the various garden clubs and the Lilac Parade. If you like mysteries, this book is for you. It's a good read.



By Kevin Hostbjoer

Reviewed by Elena S. Smith

I once went book shopping with a friend who had an unusual method for choosing her reads. She would flip straight to page 78, read a few lines, and then decide whether the book was worth buying. "It never fails," she told me. Perhaps that's a clever trick for most books—but *The Musher Man* is an exception. You don't need to wait until page 78 to know it's extraordinary; the strength of Kevin's storytelling is evident from the very first page.

Kevin is a master of suspense and tension, drawing the reader in with prose that is both gripping and intelligent. What impressed me most, however, was his remarkable use of perspective. By allowing each chapter to be told through a different character's eyes in the first person, he creates an intimate connection with the reader—bringing to life not only the characters' voices, but also their emotions and inner worlds. This is the mark of a writer with rare empathy and skill, one who can translate human experience directly from his imagination onto the page.

The story itself is clever, layered, and wholly engrossing. I found myself utterly absorbed, unable to set it down until the final page. Kevin has delivered a novel that is not just a page-turner, but a testament to his talent as a writer. Bravo, Kevin—*The Musher Man* is a triumph.

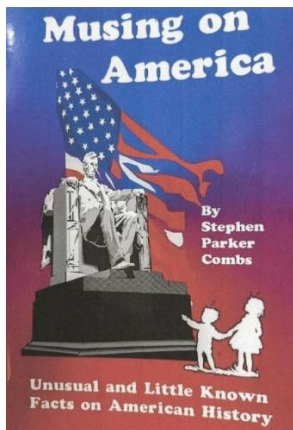
Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

*The Musher Man* begins with Denny, a Marine, coming home four years after the worst

day of his life. He is part Haitian American like his mother and part Kootenai Indian like his deceased Marine father. Denny and his mother live in the Montana woods where his mother sets up shop in the large kitchen of an old farmhouse, selling her voodoo concoctions, mostly to women in the area. Denny has a dog sled and loves his nine dogs, especially his lead dog Pixie.

The author lets each character, including a serial killer and his victims, tell their own story as it relates to the main story, which is very creative and the reader gets to know each of these characters well.

This is a good read. It is well-written and has a satisfying ending. I recommend this book for one and all, especially if you like to read about Montana, dog sledding, the Marines, a plane crash, and much more. Plus, it has a great cover.



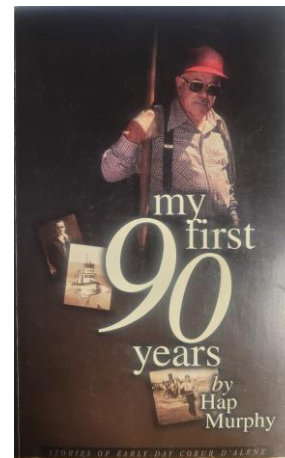
By Stephen Parker Combes

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

I love this book and use it as a game to see how many of my friends and relatives know the answer to unusual and little-known facts in American history. Examples: Daniel Boone died from indigestion from his favorite food. What was it? Answer—sweet potatoes. What was the original color of the White House? Answer—gray. Who said, “Opportunity is often missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”? Answer—Thomas Edison. *Musing on America* has over a hundred such questions, answers, and facts in this book of 110 pages.

The author has written many small, interesting books on many topics. The books

are all well written and I have purchased several over the last few years. I have given copies of two of his books, *Saying Goodbye* and *Nearing the Shoreline*, as gifts. Combs can usually be found at the Annual Chattaroy Community Church Craft Fair.



By Hap Murphy (An autobiography)

Reviewed by Bob Weldin

Henry "Hap" Murphy was a storyteller with a remarkable memory for names and details. Except for a few years in the Army during WWII, and a short time at Lake Roosevelt, Hap spent his active life on and around the lakes and rivers of Northern Idaho. He was born in Coeur d' Alene (CDA) and spent his early youth on the banks of the Pend Oreille River at Dover, at that time a bustling sawmill town. His father worked for the Dover Lumber Company and was in charge of the tugboats that towed the logs to the mill. Hap occasionally went with his father on two or three day trips up Pend Oreille Lake for a tow of logs for the mill. He tells several stories of his mischievous boyhood in and around Dover.

Hap became a tugboat captain and spent most of his adult life on or near Lake CDA living a full and rich life around family and friends. He worked hard and sometime played hard. He tells stories of Harrison and St. Maries when they were bustling, rowdy towns with bar fights and brothels. He tells stories about making and selling home brew and moonshine during Prohibition. He tells of the 1933 flood and how tough it was for some people during the great depression.

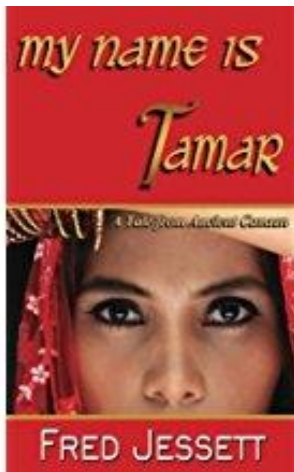
He learned to cook on the tugboats or

while batching in his boat house, tied up at the CDA beach. Army cooks were famous for being sloppy and bad. Hap was so good at KP duty that he rose to chief cook and was the pride of his unit. He later opened the Boat Drive Inn Cafe in CDA for more than a decade.

*My First 90 Years* is a good read, and of special interest to those who grew up in the CDA area. Or maybe you just want to remember the men who piloted the tugs and walked the tow lines, to get the logs down the river and across the lake to the sawmills.

Reviewed by Robert Hildahl

This book is about Hap Murphy who for most of his adult life was a tugboat captain who moved logs up the St. Joe River to Lake Coeur d' Alene and to the sawmills. Being a good storyteller, it's full of many entertaining, interesting, and humorous stories. I really enjoyed reading *My First 90 Years* and I recommend it to anyone who likes a good



Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

*My Name Is Tamar* tells the story of a young Canaanite girl, whose character is taken from the Bible, Chapter 38 in the Book of Genesis. The author tells her story as he imagined it might be. When she is fourteen, she is married to the eldest son of a Hebrew man named Judah. Judah has high hopes that she will produce heirs, especially sons, but instead she experiences rape and much abuse. After her husband dies unexpectedly, she marries Judah's second son who is also cruel and he, too, dies. Judah does not offer

his third son because he is afraid that he might die, too. Meanwhile, Tamar is desperate to be married and have children. In disguise, acting as a prostitute, she decides to seduce her widowed father-in-law, who she feels is a good and decent man. This was a very dangerous thing to do, for she could be put to death.

This is a well-written book with well-defined characters. It's a page turner and a good read. I've always enjoyed reading stories taken from the Bible and Jessett did a good job describing what life was probably like back in Biblical times and how poorly and unfairly women were often treated.



By Wayne Kyle Spitzer

Reviewed by Sue Eller

Jan Vasquez, a specialist in animal behavior, finds herself face to face with a dinosaur. A living, breathing, and hungry dinosaur. Her top-secret government job is to find a way to communicate with it. As she draws nearer her goal, strange events lead her to believe someone is trying to sabotage her work.

Wayne Kyle Spitzer shows his mastery of the novella with his succinct character development and plot line. His use of a nine-minute countdown near the end drives the story to its conclusion while it keeps the reader on the edge of his seat.