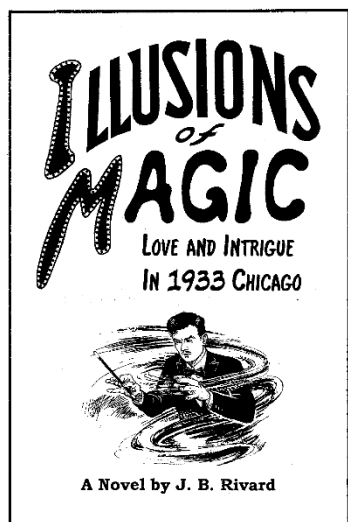
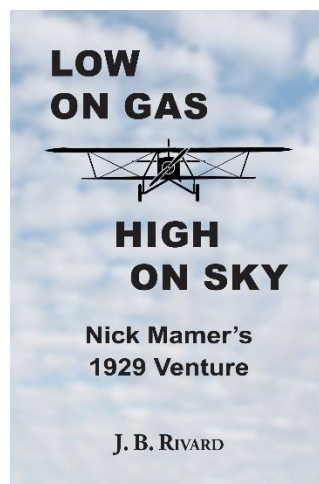




Literary Gazette

February 2025

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



**Submissions Due by:
February 25th for the March 2025
issue.**

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, SASP is an organization dedicated to anyone interested in any aspect of writing and art. Members include aspiring (and successful) authors, poets, journalists, illustrators, editors, publishers, printers, writing instructors, and many others. Monthly meetings provide inspiration and education by way of knowledgeable and entertaining guest speakers, and the cheerful camaraderie of people sharing common interests and goals. Membership is open to all who love writing, art, and interesting people.

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

Presentations and discussions begin at **2:00 pm**. Members and guests also have a chance to relate accomplishments and note upcoming activities. We usually draw for door prizes.

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

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

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

Membership benefits include listing on the Spokane Authors 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 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.

2025 Officers:

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

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

Secretary: **OPEN**

Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Web Master:
Dave McChesney
(509) 325-2072 daveeva@comcast.net
(509) 768-6178

Public-Relations: *Marilee Hudon*
(509) 325-9465 mjnoduh2@gmail.com

Equipment Manager: *Bob Hildahl*
mr.inky@yahoo.com

Advisory Board:

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

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

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

"Like" the Spokane Authors Facebook Page:

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: authors@spokaneauthors.org

Or: saspworks4u@gmail.com

Videos of many of our presentations are available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@spokaneauthorsself-publishers>

Cover: Books by Spokane Authors member J. B. Rivard.

THE BOOKS ON THE COVER...

Spokane Authors member J. B. Rivard writes both fiction and non-fiction. He has also illustrated at least one of his books. He currently lives in Arizona but stays in touch with the group here in Spokane. To visit his Member Web Page, go to www.spokaneauthors.org click on "MEMBERS," scroll down and click on his name.

OUR FEBRUARY MEETINGS!

We will meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, February 14, 2025, at the San Souci West Club House, 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA. Local Indie Author Erik Schubach will be our speaker.

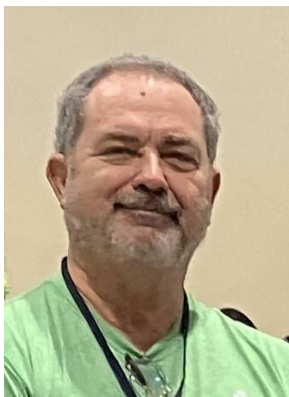
We will meet at 2:00 pm on Saturday, February 15, in the social hall of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1104 W. Heroy Ave., Spokane, WA. No specific program has yet been announced, but we hope to develop a series of presentations for this meeting as well.

Note the unique calendar line up for this and next month causes our meetings to be on consecutive days.

FROM THE PREZ

Where has the year gone? It's February already, only so many days left till Christmas!

What's happening this year? Well, for the next two months we have great guest speakers.



We have had new people come to our meetings, both the Friday meeting and the Saturday meeting. Greetings and welcome to our new friends and writers.

This month our Saturday meeting is the day following our Friday meeting. Same in March and November. That's what happens when the first day of the month lands on a Saturday.

I don't have any upcoming events yet on

my calendar. If any y'all have something on the horizon, please let us know.

That's all for now, see y'all on Friday and Saturday.

Your Prez.

Carl/Nathan

FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

One of my favorite movies of all time is "Groundhog Day," starring Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell. The concept is that the star, Bill Murray, who is portrayed as an irritating prima donna weatherman, is doomed to relive Groundhog Day over and over until he finally gets it right. Since Feb. 2 is Groundhog Day, I feel compelled to make the analogy to the writing experience. The process of going over your manuscript until you get it right is one we both love and dread. The promise of the editing and revision process is a successful book launch and increased sales. The promise of reliving the same day over and over is that Bill Murray has a chance to revise his approach to people, which, in turn, helps him win the heart of Andie MacDowell.

Now, to our February meeting, which takes place on Valentine's Day, the 14th of February, at 2:00 p.m. in the clubhouse at Sans Souci West. Our guest speaker this month is Indie Author Erik Schubach of Nine Mile Falls. Erik is a prolific author whose latest book, "Coven Tales: Blood and Dirt," is an urban fantasy novel released Oct. 1, 2024. It was the fifth book he self-published in 2024 and has well over 100 books he has published since 2013.



In March, we will welcome Ben Van Voorhis, who has agreed to speak to our group once again. More details will follow in the next edition of the Gazette. I have also talked to Frank Zafiro, retired law enforcement officer and police procedural author formerly of Spokane. We are in the process of

coordinating his speaking to our group with Frank's next trip to Spokane.

This year will be a banner year for Spokane Authors. I know this because all of you are making it happen. We are growing in numbers, we have a nice facility in which to meet, and we are consistently producing new reading material for Spokane, the surrounding area, and, consequently, the world.

See you on Valentine's Day!

Sue Eller

FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

In case anyone is wondering, the new printer seems to work just fine. As is often the case, it is different than the old one and I have to adapt to a different procedure when using it. Still, it does a great job and at the very least, I have a printer. Huzza!



We've had a great start on people paying their membership dues for the current year. Let's keep

it going. It's easier to update when a person has paid than it is to remove them from the Member list on the website and later have to add them back in... which will be done in late March, early April for those who aren't current in 2025. That also means those folks will not have their books listed in our catalog. Make it worthwhile for me to drive to the Rosewood Post Office and check the Spokane Authors' mailbox.

As always, you can send dues to:

Spokane Authors

P. O. Box 18573

Spokane, WA 99228-0573

Or bring cash or check to a meeting. (If I remember to bring my "Square," or someone else does, there is the chance you can charge your dues to a card.)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan McElroy".

SECRETARY NEEDED!

We are currently without a secretary, primarily someone to record our meetings. While we can and have operated without one, we should have someone in that position. If anyone wants to assume these duties, let us know and we would no doubt elect you by acclaim.

SPOKANE AUTHORS CATALOG

The current plan is to release a new edition of our catalog in the fall. We want to include new members and those who have renewed their memberships since issuing the first edition last year. If you and your books are currently listed, please make sure to keep them there by renewing your dues for 2025.

A QUESTION?

Last month I included a picture of my attempt to make a larger version of our logo. I realized that in the lower right corner, there is a brown mass, which may not be identifiable. That leads me to ask and to suggest that your answer may be something you would want to write about.

What do you still have from your earlier life, your childhood? Is it something you remember with fondness or something that brings back memories?

What you saw but probably couldn't identify at the bottom right of the photo in last month's issue is Teddy, my aptly named Teddy Bear from my early childhood. I don't remember a time before I had him, and over the years Mom sewed and repaired him many times. When I grew up and moved out, Mom held on to him. When I and my family moved back to Spokane, we ended up with many of my childhood memories, including Teddy. Jessica may have enjoyed his company when she was small, but he is still here, largely a

decoration occupying a where the computer, the printer, and other such stuff is. He's simply there, perhaps keeping an eye on the "office."

My late sister Leslie had a slightly smaller version of the same bear whom she called Susie.

This picture allows a better view of the bear.



OUR JANUARY 2024 MEETINGS

Compiled by Dave McChesney

On Friday January 10, at 2:00 pm., Spokane Authors met at the Sans Souci West Club House at the far end of West Boone Avenue. Present were Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Sheri Decker, Mark Golden, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, T. Hammond, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, Kevin Hostbjor, Steve Lalonde, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Jon Miller, Carl Northrup, Elena Smith, Linda Sonntag, and Terry Stratton. Guests included Jerry Johnson and Steven Pitters.

When the meeting started, President Carl Northrup asked if anyone had any new projects or was working on any old ones. He mentioned that he is about one-third of the way done with one, and that it combines Science Fiction, Mystery, and Romance. With no other input from the floor, he introduced our speaker

for the day.

Spokane Authors member Dave McChesney had volunteered to speak and attempted to take a step back and look at some of the more basic ideas of writing and being a writer. He mentioned that writers are unique and different, even amongst themselves. Dave illustrated this with a brief description of how the writing process works for him. He also talked a little about the choices writers make, often it would seem without even thinking of it. He suggested that what writers see or imagine as they write is not what the reader sees as they read. In closing he noted that a writer needed to establish a link or connection with the reader.

Guest Jerry Johnson introduced himself, saying he had spent many years as a bush pilot in Alaska and was hoping to compile some stories about his experiences. Steven Pitters talked about his show on Clean Air Radio and invited those who would be interested to contact him if they wanted to be a guest. He passed out contact information for those who might decide they would like to do so.

Once all with something to say had been heard, we held our drawing for door prizes, straightened up the room and headed home.

Spokane Authors also met at St. Francis of Assisi Church at 2:00 pm. on Saturday, January 18th. In attendance were: Larry Danek, Sue Eller, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Cal Northrup, and Terry Stratton. Guests joining us included: Gary A. Edwards, Christina Martin, and Titus May.

Gary Edwards told us of his writing project, a story of a couple happily married for fifty or so years. Near the end of our meeting, he read a short excerpt from the story, hoping to get some critique on it. After some discussion he revealed that this portion had been written via AI. That explained why many felt something was lacking.

The Guy Twins mentioned they are redoing their first book, *Bubby Books: From Ragamuffin to Lovestuffin!* before working on a

second. Carl said he is up to twenty-seven thousand words on his new project, which he had mentioned at our Friday meeting the week prior.

Guest Titus May said he writes Science Fiction and Fantasy, and Bob Manion announced he completed his latest work in progress. *Honor the Threat* is a story about counterterrorism.

Sue Eller, following an idea via Writers Digest, had everyone write down ten writing goals for the year and seal them into an envelope. We are then to open it at the beginning of next year and see how much we have done. She also circulated a list of possible topics and ideas for future meetings and had us circle those we were most interested in. She collected these and will use them to plan future meetings.

Bob Manion talked a little about various writers conferences, including one put on by Spokane County Libraries, and the PNWA Conference in the Seattle area. He also suggested that everyone should have a writers book, in which one could record information about writing and publishing as it was received.

Finally, our time was up, so we said “goodbye” and went our separate ways.

MEMBER NEWS

Elena Smith was the guest of the Local Author Book Club on January 1. Here is a link to the U-tube video of that gathering.

[Local Authors Book Club w/ Elena S. Smith](#)

Linda Sonntag appeared on Stephen Pitters radio show on KYRS radio at 11:00 am on Saturday January 18th. Visit <https://kyrs.org> and click on “ARCHIEVES” to listen to the broadcast.

MEMBER WEB-PAGE GUIDE

1. Name and **photo/headshot**
2. Brief biography
3. Links to any website, blog, or other online locations.
4. Information about any books published.

- a. Book cover shot/thumbnail
- b. Brief description/blurb.
- c. Amazon ASIN, ISBN or other catalog number
- d. Locations where physically available.

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

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

We are always ready and willing to update and correct your member webpage. Do not hesitate to contact your webmaster if your page needs attention.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Note: The alignment of days and dates in February and March means the third Saturday of the month is the day after the second Friday of the month. INWG's “Coffee with Linda” will be the Saturday before Spokane Authors' Friday meeting, rather than the day after.

Local Author Book Club

Wednesday February 5, 2:00 pm (ZOOM)

Inland Northwest Writers Guild Coffee with Linda

Saturday February 8, 2:00 pm
The Meeting House, 11th and Pittsburg,
Please RSVP at lindathewriter@gmail.com

Spokane Authors

Friday February 14, 2:00 pm
Sans Souci West Club House

Spokane Authors

Saturday February 15, 2:00 pm
St. Francis of Assisi Social Hall

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Wednesday February 19, 7:00 pm (ZOOM)
Contact Linda at lindathewriter@gmail.com
For link

Local Author Book Club

Wednesday March 5, 2:00 pm (ZOOM)

Inland Northwest Writers Guild Coffee with Linda

Saturday March 8, 2:00 pm
The Meeting House, 11th and Pittsburg,
Please RSVP at lindathewriter@gmail.com

Spokane Authors

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Spokane Authors

Saturday March 15, 2:00 pm
St. Francis of Assisi Social Hall

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Wednesday March 19, 7:00 pm (ZOOM)
Contact Linda at lindathewriter@gmail.com
For link

Sandpoint Writers on the Lake

Meet twice, both in person and via
ZOOM for critiques. Information at
bonniemcdade@gmail.com

SASP BOOKS ON AMAZON/KINDLE

Many SASP members' books are on Amazon and/or Kindle™ (We print short parts of the list on a rotating basis. The complete, and hopefully up to date list is available on the web-site, under "NEWS")

To speed your search, add the provided ten digit numerical or alpha-numerical code (ASIN) to: [www\(dot\)amzn\(dot\)com/dp/](http://www(dot)amzn(dot)com/dp/)
Example: www.amzn.com/dp/B008TXC332
or: www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044
ASINs for each book are the same, regardless of what Amazon Marketplace you use.

Stan Parks:

Jakob's Ladies
Jakob's Legacy

1532910762
B09HLCNG21

Tiffani Harvey:

A Journey to Independence 1533499438
Growing Independent 1533499926

Fred Jessett:

My Name is Tamar B00DH3REWO
Drummer Loves Dancer B073H2RP7P
Getting Past Point No Point 1725865211
Love's Arithmetic is Different B09BXWNJG7 B09BYPQRW

Lewis Meline:

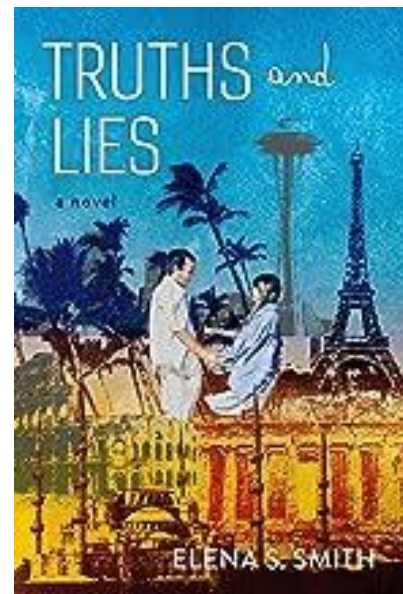
Lies Exposed! The Truth about Diets...
0997915501

J. B. Rivard

Illusions of Magic: Love and Intrigue in 1933
Chicago B01EGSC8N8 0996836306
Illusions of Magic: The Movie B0751RL53G 0996836330
Low on Gas: High on Sky B07V2V48XD 0996836349
Dead Heat to Destiny: Three Lives and a Spy 0996836365 B0BL5P29YP

FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

This month we have a new review for Elene S. Smith's *Truths and Lies*. We are also displaying the previous reviews.



By Elena S. Smith

(NEW)

Reviewed by Bob Manion

Truths and Lies, a trade paperback begins at a professional football game. A spilled beer, an advertent touch and a disappearing beautiful woman.

Tom wonders who the woman is. Vicki is embarrassed and quickly leaves. Alone after a failed relationship, Vicki is distrusting. Tom and Vicki meet and are interested. Vicki is hesitant, afraid, and a weak dating relationship begins. Her doubts are there, but they weaken and begin to fall away.

Truths and Lies is a wonderful story of doubts overcome, a story crafted by a skilled and talented author, a story you will enjoy reading again.

Reviewed by Emma Megan for Readers' Favorite

Truths and Lies by Elena S. Smith is an absolutely enthralling read. Vicki is a university professor and considers herself a lucky lady. She thought her life was over when she got divorced, but now she is happy and enjoys her freedom, independence, and a life free of lies and manipulation. But her best friend, Darlene, is not convinced and decides to make Vicki a profile on a dating site. When Vicki sees the guy she splashed with beer at a Seahawks game a while ago, she decides to give him a chance. Tom is a lonely guy in his late 50s. He has been divorced for almost a decade and stopped taking care of himself. Tom believes he is a decent man who doesn't deserve to be manipulated and deceived. He is afraid of getting hurt again, but after a brief encounter with a woman at a football game, he starts to believe that it is still possible to find a soulmate.

I did not expect such a fascinating and uplifting contemporary romance novel. ***Truths and Lies*** by Elena S. Smith is the perfect combination of fun, adventure, peace, love, tenderness, care, and intimacy. It's about truths and lies, freedom and commitment, trust, loss,

and survival. Elena writes so well that she draws you into her characters' lives. Her characters are realistic and wonderfully flawed. Their fears and experiences with truth and lies allowed me to connect deeply and relate to them. Vicki is now one of my favorite female characters. I highly recommend this moving novel to all readers looking for a mature romance with strong characters.

Reviewed by Mikel Stevenson

Elena masterfully develops a real-life narrative addressing core issues of both life and self. While reading the story, I came to realize she has identified the most important issue — relationship. That life is about relationship, and what is life without relationship? And much of one's character and personal issues are revealed in relationships. Without saying it, Elena shows there is far more to the internal than we perceive from observing the external.

The story has a *realness* to it in expressing the universal human condition. That life has paradox; life has risk; life has potential; we are vulnerable when we love; life has loss, pain, betrayal; fear of being hurt again is universal. They are powerful forces in my psyche. Yet, life is doable for it is formed by our response to what happens to us.

"Is the truth a bitch?" Elena's question is for the reader to answer. Tom, a main character in the book, grappled with truth as truth seemed to frustrate his desires and actions. "I hate this poisonous phrase 'the truth is'; it always spoils everything" (p. 29). But whether a bitch or not, he finally realized lies are worse: "Yes, maybe some truths will hurt, but lies eventually always hurt more" (p. 43). How and why did Tom come to this conclusion? How did he make this truth a reality in his life? Intriguing, indeed. And all can relate to Tom and the process.

Vikki, the other main character in the book, finally voices to herself the age-old question, "Why is life so unfair?" (p. 156). Elena does not answer the why, but Tom and Vikki show us *the how* to live with it. This includes the courage that is often overlooked,

i.e., the courage within the human spirit . . . courage to face reality and accept truth; courage to risk being hurt again; courage to engage the unknown. Elena presents it well.

The rather surprising ending is, like the whole story, real life. Poignant, yes, while comforting and inspiring. An engaging read because I see myself with my thinking, emotions and behaviors living in same circumstance, same experiences, with same issues as Tom and Vikki.

Truths and Lies offers the truth that awareness of shared humanness can cultivate virtues of empathy and compassion.

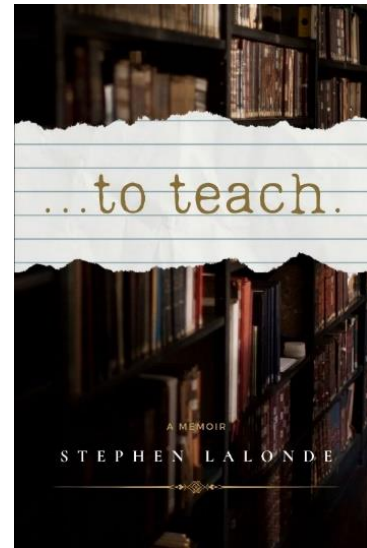
Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Truths and Lies is the bittersweet love story between Vicki and Tom that had its ups and downs for almost eleven years. Both are divorced. Vicki decided she was through with men because of lies and manipulations she had experienced before. She convinced herself that she was very happy and loved her new freedom of being very independent and doing whatever she wanted. Tom, on the other hand, after his divorce let himself go, gained a lot of weight, was lonely and bored. He got mixed up in one relationship, but it didn't work out because she had a drinking problem. After that, he pretty much gave up.

Then one day on a dating site, Vicki spotted Tom's picture and recognized him as the man she accidentally spilled beer on during a Seahawks football game. She met him and thus, slowly at first, began their relationship.

The author has done a wonderful job creating this story. It is well-written, interesting, and a page turner. The characters are well defined, seem very real, and ones that the reader can easily identify with. I recommend this book for one and all and especially for those who like romance stories.

We also have a new review, our first for **To Teach...** by fellow Spokane Author Stephen LaLonde.

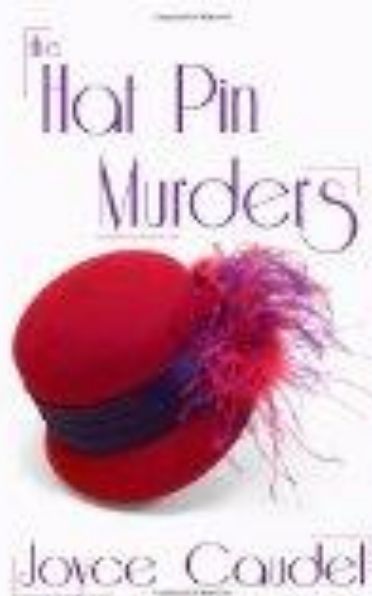


Stephen LaLonde

Reviewed by Elena S. Smith

At first sight, Stephen LaLonde's memoir **... to teach...** seems to be a life story of an ordinary teacher of English and Greek mythology at a regular high school. However, by the end of his book, I realized there is nothing ordinary about Stephen LaLonde. He, like Hercules, one of the mythological Greek Heroes, possesses superior powers of an extraordinary Human, and an exceptional Teacher. His memoir proves that if you are passionate about something, go for it without any hesitation. It would be great if every beginner teacher read **... to teach...**

Last month we did not have room to include all the reviews we have for **The Hat Pin Murders** by Joyce Caudell. Here are the remaining reviews.



By Joyce Caudel

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!