

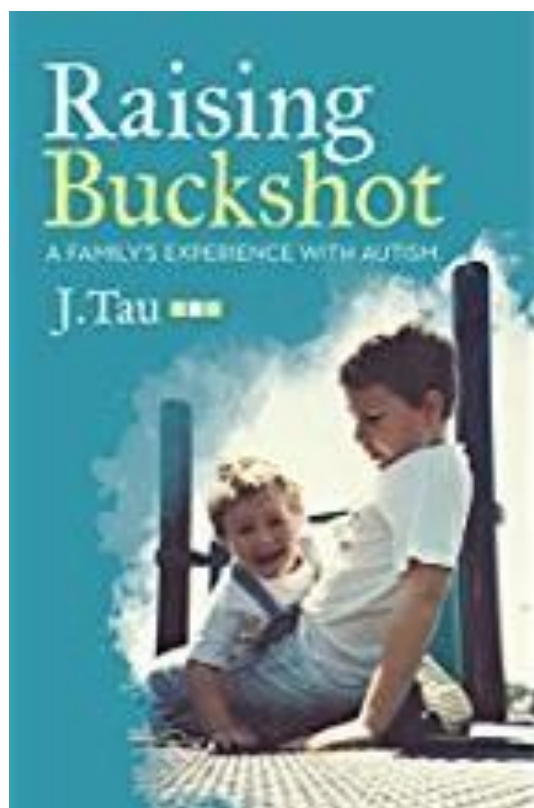


# Literary

# Gazette

January 2025

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



**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](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 by:  
January 25<sup>th</sup> for the February  
2025 issue.**

### 2024 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  
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**Public-Relations:** *Marilee Hudon*  
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### 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](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:** [authors@spokaneauthors.org](mailto:authors@spokaneauthors.org)  
Or: [saspworks4u@gmail.com](mailto:saspworks4u@gmail.com)

**Videos of many of our presentations are available at:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/@spokaneauthorsself-publishers>

*Cover: From the pen of Spokane Authors member  
Johanna Price.*

## THE BOOKS ON THE COVER...

Spokane Authors member Johanna Price, writing as J. Tau, has detailed her family's progress and setbacks in raising an autistic child in ***Raising Buckshot: A Family's Experience With Autism***. She lives in Spokane, Washington. To visit Johanna's Member Web Page, go to [www.spokaneauthors.org](http://www.spokaneauthors.org) click on "MEMBERS," scroll down and click on her name.

## OUR DECEMBER MEETINGS!

We will meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, January 10, 2025, at the San Souci West Club House, 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA. Spokane Authors member D. Andrew McChesney will be our speaker.

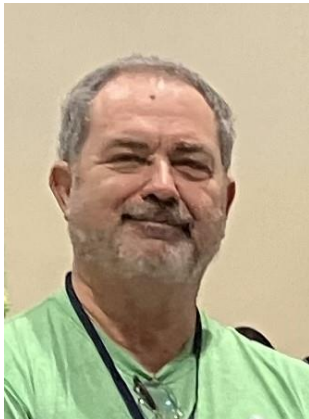
We will meet at 2:00 pm on Saturday, January 18, 2024, in the social hall of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1104 W. Heroy Ave., Spokane, WA. No specific program has yet been announced.

## FROM THE PREZ

It is 2025, and we have hit the quarter century mark. Only 75 years left to go.

Have any of you ever been working diligently on a project, only to have it temporarily derailed by another project?

That's what has happened to me. Here I was working away on my third book in 'The Ant Doctor' series...**BAM!** Along came "The Mystery of Caroline."



Yes, it is mystery and sci-fi and romance and it's driving me nuts. I know, I know, going nuts is either a short drive or a long putt. And you squirrels in the back, don't get any ideas.

Sorry about all that, I got a sign for Christmas with a squirrel picture on it telling me to protect my nuts.

In other news, we have at least two speakers lined up for this year that I am aware of. However, at the moment none for January, that I'm aware of.

Hope you all had a great Christmas and are looking forward to a literarily prosperous New Year. (No Dave, literarily is not spelled wrong. You can't spell a word wrong that you just made up).

See you all again when we turn the page on 2024 and start the new chapter of 2025.

The Prez,  
*Carl/Nathan*

## FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

### Happy New Year!

Hello, fellow Spokane Authors. I hope you had a wonderful time celebrating the quarter-century mark last week. Did you make any resolutions or set any goals for the coming year? Especially writing goals? Some wise person once suggested you write down three goals for this year, three to accomplish in the next five years, and three 10-year goals. Then seal them up, put them in a drawer, and don't look at them again for 10 years. I did this once, and it surprised me how many I had accomplished. It was also helpful to note which ones didn't make it. As a challenge, I'd like to amend the process to have those members who wish to participate write down 10 things they would like to accomplish this year, seal them up, and don't look at them again until 2026. Perhaps in our 2026 January meeting, we could share the results or at least how many goals were met. Just a thought.

We have a few interesting and fun programs lined up for this year. To start it all off, our own Dave McChesney will speak at our January meeting. Dave has been a stalwart member and officer of Spokane Authors for a long time and has spoken on many occasions to not only our group but to other writers as well.

February will bring us Eric Schubach, an indie writer from Nine Mile Falls, and a driving force in the effort to unite the various groups around the area. Along with a couple of others, he was instrumental in organizing the Northwest Indie Bookfest at Auntie's Bookstore last April and is one of the most prolific writers I have had the pleasure of knowing. Eric will share some of his secrets on how he makes a living writing. Check out Erik's website at [www.erikschubach.com](http://www.erikschubach.com) or follow him on Facebook.

In March we will welcome back Ben Van Voorhis. Ben is a writer, editor, and musician from Santa Clarita, California, now living in Spokane. He holds an MFA in fiction from Eastern Washington University and is the former managing editor of *Willow Springs*. A recipient of the PEN/Dau short story prize, his fiction and other writing have appeared in *Nimrod*, *Salamander*, *The Masters Review*, and *Best Debut Short Stories 2024*. He is the current editor of *ArcUser*, a magazine for users of geospatial technology. He also runs community writing programs for teens and adults at Spark Central and occasionally teaches English at Gonzaga University.



There are several other guest speakers in the queue who will share their expertise with us once we can match up our schedules. I hope you will enjoy and benefit from each of them.

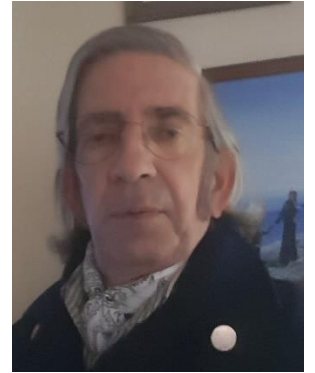
See you at our January meeting on Friday the 10th at 2:00 p.m. in the Clubhouse at Sans Souci West, 3231W. Boone Ave, in Spokane, Washington  
The Veep.

*Sue Eller*

## FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

As I sit down to write something for this

issue of the LITERARY GAZETTE, it's New Year's Eve. Once I finish this I'll be that much closer to getting the January issue out to everyone. If all goes according to plan, I should be emailing it to you on Friday. Ideally, the handful of printed copies will get mailed on Friday or Saturday.



That will give me a couple of days to see if I have my new printer figured out. I'd printed something on my old one around Christmas time, and went to print something else the next day, and it had died. I followed some of the troubleshooting procedures listed, but it seems like something broke and is rattling inside a subassembly. I had the old one for quite some time, so it will probably take me some time to get used to the new one.

I hope everyone has had and is having a wonderful Holiday Season. As we move forward, let's wish each other success in the coming year. are finishing the year on a strong positive note, with a Christmas themed anthology and a catalog of our books. For the coming year

With the coming of the New Year, we need to remember that for most of us, dues are due. It makes things easier for me if you all pay your dues as soon as possible. And remember, being current in your membership determines if you will have a Member Webpage accessible via our web-site. It will also determine if you will have any of your books listed in the next edition of our catalog.

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.)



## 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.

## CHRISTMAS ANTHOLOGY

The 200 copies we had printed have been sold to various members. We don't have any left. Some members might still have a few copies on hand.

## SPOKANE AUTHORS CATALOG

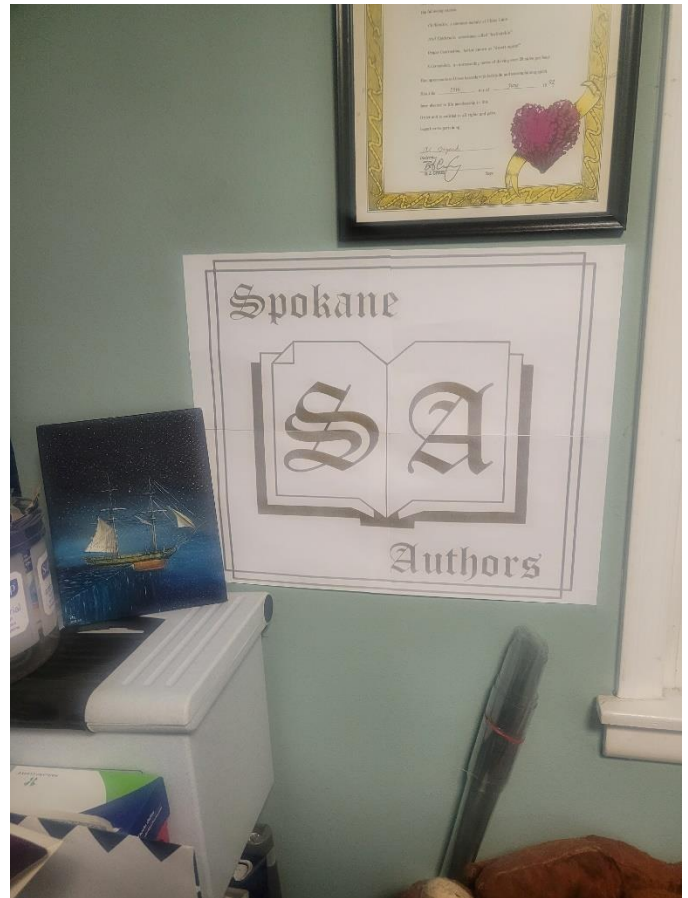
The current plan is to release a new edition of our catalog in the fall. We want to include new members and those who have renewed their memberships since issuing the first edition last year. If you and your books are currently listed, please make sure to keep them there by renewing your dues for 2025.

## AN EXPERIMENT

For several years now, we have had a sign displaying our logo at our meetings. For both the old logo and the new, we've had these specially printed because they are larger than what most of us can print at home. But what if one enlarged each corner of the sign and printed each corner separately. Could one then piece the four images/corners together?

That is not to suggest replacing the sign(s) we have had professionally printed, but what if someone wanted something at a book signing or while participating in a Craft fair? What if someone wanted something that if damaged or destroyed wouldn't be that big of a loss?

So, a few days ago, I tried cropping the image for the logo into four corner images. I printed them out and joined them together. It came out better than I had expected.



My painting to the side is 8" X 10", which should give you an idea of the size. If anyone wants the files so you can print and make your own logos/signs, let me know.

As a final note: we took the old logo sign to a couple of outdoor events a couple of summers ago and it got beat up, which is why I'm thinking we should have a cheaper version or method to use for events.

## OUR DECEMBER 2024 MEETINGS

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors met on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Sans Souci West Club House. Members present included Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Mary De Bord, Betty Deuber, Carolyn Eller, Sue Eller, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, T. Hammond, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, Kevin Hostbjor, Marilee Hudon, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Jon R. Miller, Carl Northrup, Terry Stratton, and Sarah Vail. We welcomed guest Grace Spitz.

John R. Miller announced publication of his first book, which deals with economics for normal people. Marilee Hudon noted she had received her first two-and-a-half-star review and was strangely thrilled to have received it. Denise and D. J. Guy were happy to say they had been able to break ties with the company that had published the original version of their children's book. Dave McChesney mentioned that all but six copies of the anthology had been sold to members of Spokane Authors at the reduced member price. (Over the course of the meeting, those copies were sold as well.)

As we typically do during December, the majority of time was given over to an Open Mic session in which members and guests could share short excerpts of their work with the rest of the group. Those reading were. Sue Eller, Any Logan, Dave McChesney, Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Esther Hildahl, Larry Danek, Mary De Bord, Carl Northup (reading a story by Elena Smith who couldn't be here), Denise and D. J. Guy, Kevn Hostbjor, Bob Manion, and Terry Stratton. When Terry finished, our allotted time was nearly up, but we still had time to hold a drawing for door prizes. Once that was done, Carl declared the meeting adjourned, and we left to our individual pursuits.

Spokane Authors also met on Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup> in the social hall of St. Francis of Assisi. Larry Danek, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Marilee Hudon, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Jon R. Miller, and Terry Stratton were there.

We had another open mic session, hearing from Larry, Terry, Dave, Jon, and Bob Manion, who read a portion of a piece he was writing as the others read. Larry asked for volunteers to beta read his next book, and a couple of the others in attendance agreed to do so. We socialized for a while and then locked up and headed our separate ways.

We wish all our friends a warm Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season!

## MEMBER WEB-PAGE GUIDE

1. Name and **photo/headshot**
2. Brief biography
3. Links to any web-site, blog, or other on-line 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](mailto:daveeva@comcast.net), [authors@spokaneauthors.org](mailto: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

### Local Author Book Club

Wednesday January 1, 2:00 pm (ZOOM)

### Spokane Authors

Friday January 10, 2:00 pm  
Sans Souci West Club House

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild

#### Coffee with Linda

Saturday January 11, 2:00 pm.  
*The Meeting House*, 11<sup>th</sup> and Pittsburg,  
Please RSVP at [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com)

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Wednesday January 15, 7:00 pm (ZOOM)  
Contact Linda at [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com)

For link

### Spokane Authors

Saturday January 18, 2:00 pm  
St. Francis of Assisi Social Hall

**(Note: The alignment of days and dates in February and March is such that the third Saturday of the month is the day after the second Friday of the month. This also means that the 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*, 11<sup>th</sup> and Pittsburg,  
Please RSVP at [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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*, 11<sup>th</sup> and Pittsburg,  
Please RSVP at [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com)

### Spokane Authors

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

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.amzn.com/dp/B008TXC332)  
or: [www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044](http://www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044)  
ASINs for each book are the same, regardless of what Amazon Marketplace you use.

### Beth Camp:

*The Mermaid Quilt and Other Tales*

B0090VHKBC 1479180971

*Standing Stones*

B00I3RYFW6 1494772434  
B01ATPTL5U (audio)

*Years of Stone*

B00LF3FY4S 1500129585

*Rivers of Stone*

B077M1TFLP 1545217491

*Scattered Stones* BZ0B6WNNCSN B0B8RP66QD

*The Seventh Tapestry*

B08GJ8VRGL B097SKDWRF (pb)

*Poetry in a Time of Pandemic*

B0889TDKR2 B088LKFB6G

*The Cowboy and the Lady*

B0C74VL5Z2 B0C76QGZMV

*Mothers Don't Die*

B0CGS1SJK6 B0CH26VZLK

### Kate Poitevin:

*Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part One)* 1986153959

*Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part Two)* 1986179486

*Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part Three)* 1986179923

### Joyce Caudel:

*The Hat Pin Murders* 1936178397

*The Hat Box Mystery* 1481959107

*A Hat to Die For* 1530028612



**Bob Manion:**

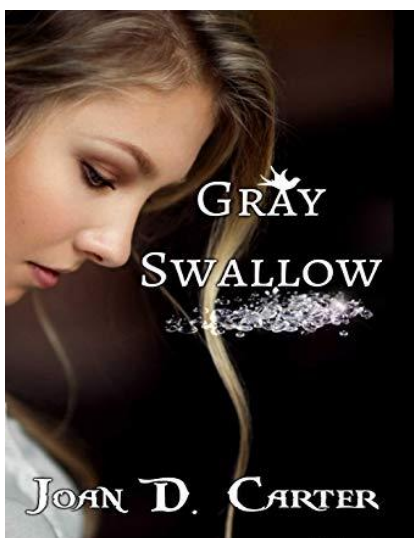
<i>Santa's Heroes</i>	1936178095
<i>The Tree House</i>	B004IZLHLE
<i>The Tree House (new edition)</i>	1946882003
<i>Springer's Heart</i>	0978850742
<i>Summer Rain</i>	B00ZM3S2IM
<i>Vampire and the Cop</i>	B00ZM4BBOS
Retitled <i>Vampire Justice</i>	0996864415
<i>Sabrina's Promise</i>	0996864407 097885070X

**Sandra L. Mason:**

<i>N is for Nativity</i>	1517614880
(Illustrated by Natalie J. Apodaca)	
<i>Into the Fire</i>	B08Z2GX2TC

**FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS**

As we begin the new year, we resume or regular rotation through the reviews in our files.



Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

*Gray Swallow* tells the story of two brothers, one adopted, who at the advice of their dying mother leave France and travel to Canada to get some worldly experience before they settle down. They communicate with their father, Stephan, by letter and when they mention lemons or lemonade, it means that there is a secret message to be revealed by the use of a match.

David, the oldest son, meets and falls in love with a fellow doctor named Marsha, who had been raised in an orphanage in Russia. After they are married, they decide to go to Russia to be doctors for a while. Soon they are blessed with a daughter. Then the unthinkable happens—David is murdered. And Marsha and her daughter disappear for years. David's family is heart-broken.

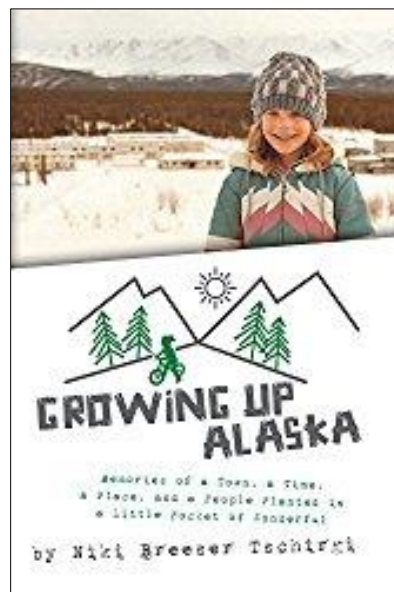
Meanwhile, Joe becomes a Mountie and after a failed relationship with a Native Canadian woman, he takes a job as an undercover agent who tracks stolen and smuggled diamonds across the world.

Carter has written an exciting mystery with well-defined characters and lots of twists and turns as Marsha searches for her daughter and Joe and Stephan search for them. It's fast-paced and has an exciting ending. A good read.

Reviewed By Kari Barr

Nice conclusion!

The book starts slowly but still keeps one's attention. It becomes more intriguing as we go along. The ending was expected but satisfying. It makes a nice rainy day read.



By Niki Breeser Tschirgi

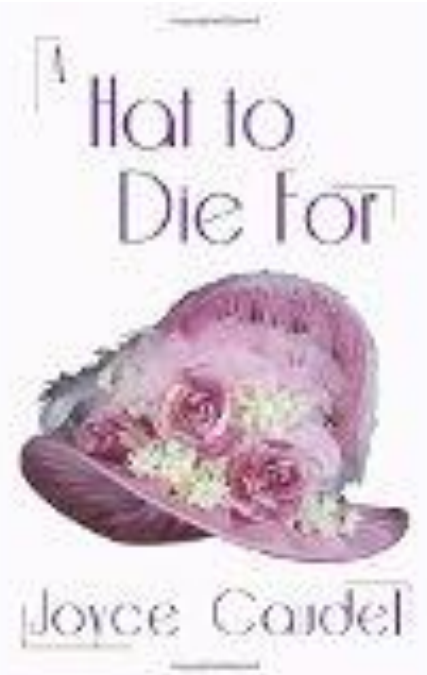


Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

During her first-grade year, Niki and her family moved to Tok, Alaska. Her Dad worked with the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the position in Alaska fulfilled a lifelong dream. Niki soon adapted to the uniqueness of life in a small remote town in Alaska. The cold long dark winters, the brilliant short summers, and the distances travelled to connect with others became normal. She and her family resided there until she was nearly ready to graduate from high school. Once again, they followed her Dad as he moved on to another desired position, this one back in the *Lower Forty-Eight*.

This slender volume is Niki's recounting of the time spent in Alaska, starting with the trip north. Besides describing the realities of life in such a rugged and cold place, she vividly describes the people, the animals, and the bonds that made her experience unique and memorable. It allows the reader to sample a small portion of what life was (is) like in Alaska, and perhaps causes a desire to partake of it themselves.

Born and raised in Alaska until beginning the first grade, this reviewer has a special interest in this book. It points out what life may have been like during his school years, had he and his folks stayed. Much of what Niki describes brings back ancient, half-buried memories or provides a sense of familiarity and understanding. Reading this also reinforces the idea that once someone experiences Alaska, it will always be a part of them.



Reviewed by Robert G. Hildahl

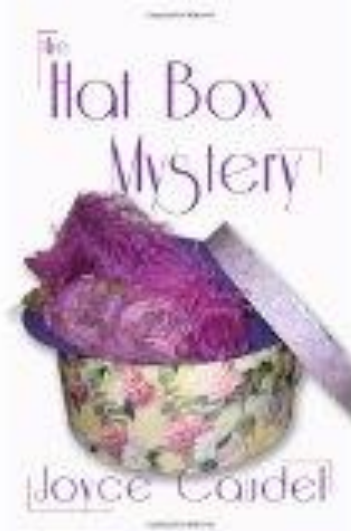
*A Hat to Die For* is Caudel's third mystery novel involving the Red Hat Society and the good people of their town. Like her other two novels, this one is just as exciting and interesting to read.

Chancy Goodnight is a bestselling author. She writes mystery novels. One day, she receives some red roses and a package with no return address on it. Since she has been receiving threatening phone calls, she tells the delivery boy to take it back. Later she finds out that inside the package was a dead rat!

When Chancy throws a party at her home for all her friends, it is interrupted by a dead man found in one of her flower beds. And the next day, she discovers that her granddaughter, Brandy, is missing.

This book tells a very good story about changing your life for the better and finding forgiveness from new friends because of the changes you have made. I recommend this book to anyone who likes a good mystery.

Available in several Spokane area bookstores and on Amazon.



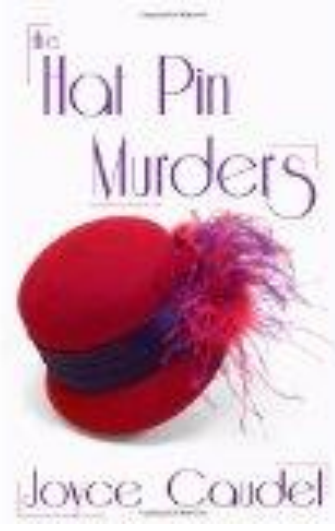
Reviewed by Robert G. Hildahl

Rachel Davis, a member of the Mystery Mama's Red Hat Book Club, awoke around three in the morning to find three masked men in her kitchen. When she confronted them, they were surprised that she was there, for they only broke into homes where the owners were not home. When one of the men got rough with her, she called Jake, her Great Dane dog. Jake ran into the kitchen and attacked the man, clamping his big teeth on the man's arm. The other two men ran off while Rachel called the police.

When Jake is wounded in a drive by shooting a few days later, Rachel wonders if the same masked men that broke into her house could be trying to get even with her and her dog.

Thus, begins another great story by Joyce Caudel. I recommend this book to anyone who likes a good mystery with many interesting characters, such as Milo Jenkins, Rachel's wealthy uncle. It has a good ending and a good lesson in humanity and caring for those who have very little to nothing.

Available at several Spokane bookstores, Amazon, and on Kindle.



Reviewed by Helen Foster

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

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

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

We'll continue with reviews of *The Hat Pin Murders*. In next month's issue of the Spokane Authors LITERARY GAZETTE.

