



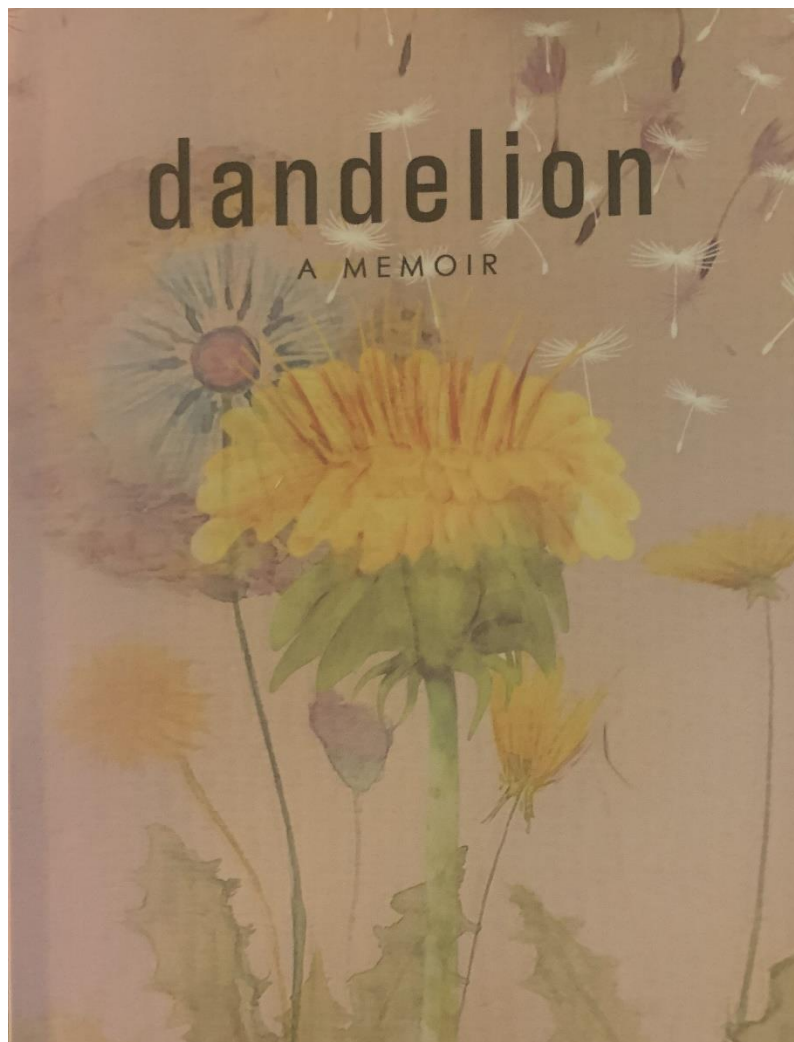
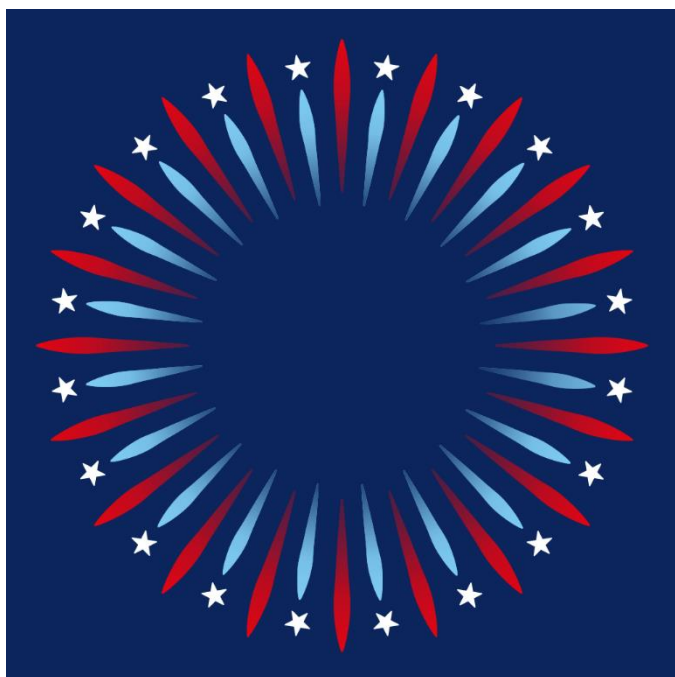
Literary

Gazette

July 2025

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

*Happy Independence Day!*



**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: July 25<sup>th</sup> for the August 2025 issue.

### 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:** **OPEN**

**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](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)

If no response : [daveeva@comcast.net](mailto:daveeva@comcast.net)

Or: [saspworks4u@gmail.com](mailto:saspworks4u@gmail.com)

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

**Cover:** *Spokane Authors member, Linda Sonntag is the author of Dandelion*

## THE BOOKS ON THE COVER...

Spokane Authors member Linda Sonntag's *Dandelion* is a memoir of her rather tumultuous life. Go to [www.spokaneauthors.org](http://www.spokaneauthors.org) click on MEMBERS and then on her name.

## OUR JULY MEETINGS!

We will meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, July 11, 2025, at the San Souci West Club House, 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA. Author Lee Kessler will speak about imagination.

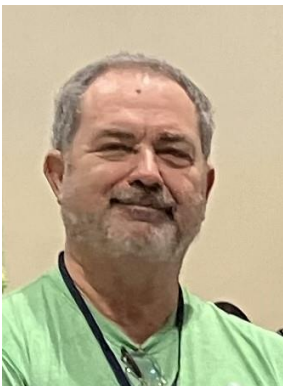
We will also meet at 2:00 pm. on Saturday, July 18, 2025, in the social hall of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1104 W. Heroy Ave., Spokane, WA. Bring your phone so you can call for entry if you arrive to discover the door locked. (Number will be posted at the door.)

## FROM THE PREZ

As I was checking my calendar, I found out that we are halfway through the year and one fourth of the way through the century. Which means I have 140 years to finish the sequel to *Caroline's Secret*.

It also means our country is 250 years old. Sometimes I feel like I was there when it was a toddler, but I'm getting better...I think. July is a great month to be outside enjoying the sunshine and all the things that go with it. It's also a great month to be enjoying the air conditioning and working on your latest writing project. However, you spend July it'll be a great month. I hope everyone has a great 4<sup>th</sup>.

I also want to encourage our members that come to the Saturday meetings to please come. Four old guys sitting around reminiscing old guy stuff is OK, but we would really like you younger folks to come and share your latest writings and musings. We know that being retired makes it easier for us to be there, not having work schedules to



contend with and all. It's, we just really like your company and hearing all about what you've written.

I can hear Bob in my head as I write this... "Who you calling old?"

\*(four letter word for deep subject), I hope to see sunglasses tan lines on all your smiling faces on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Until then, have fun and stay hydrated.

The Prez!

*Carl*

\*Well

## FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Indie Authors rejoice!

A happy Independence Day to our Independent Authors!

There has been a change in our speaker schedule. Gena Bradford was slated to speak to us on July 11<sup>th</sup>, but she requested a postponement due to a death in her family. Lee Kessler has agreed to drive over from Montana to speak to our group on the subject of "Imagination."

Upcoming speakers include an as-yet-unnamed member of the Spokane South Rotary Club who will speak to us in August about their work with children to encourage them to read. In September, Robin Bishop will give us insights into magazine and newspaper writing. Robin is now the editor of the *Deer Park Tribune* and was the former managing editor of *Art Chowder Magazine*. Gena Bradford will speak either in October or November, and of course, December will give us all a chance to read from one of our published works or a work in progress.

I am getting a little more adept at the videos of our guest speakers. The latest video, featuring our June speaker and member Tina Hammond, is now live on YouTube. I have my own YouTube





channel, and my video software has uploaded her presentation to my channel by default. I have made the Spokane Authors videos public so that all of you can watch them. I have also provided Dave McChesney with the links to share with each of you. I'm working on getting the videos to upload directly to the Spokane Authors YouTube channel, but I haven't yet worked out the bugs. Fingers crossed. By the way, here is the link to T. Hammond's video presentation — <https://youtu.be/CdhPehIC-3A>

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy our meeting venue, our speakers, and the camaraderie of our group. Be sure to let your friends and fellow authors know about our meetings and, of course, continue to write.

*Sue Eller*

## FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

There's that old saying about the "best laid plans of mice and men..." and I have fallen prey to its clutches. My plan was to have this issue ready to go on Friday the Fourth, or the next day. I wanted to be able to put those few copies that go Via USPS in the mail no later than Saturday. But things didn't work out as planned, and perhaps my own ambition has turned on me. But as you can see, I'm working on it, and I suspect the emailed copy will go out later today or perhaps tomorrow (Sunday). However printed copies won't be able to go until Monday.

Anyway, I hope everyone had a nice Independence Day, and that no animals in your lives were not super stressed by all the noise.

We are still meeting on the third Saturday of each month in the social hall at St. Francis of Assisi on the third Saturday of the month at 2:00 pm. Please note, the church likes us to keep the doors locked, so we will

have someone at the door to let folks in prior to the meeting. If you arrive late, a phone number will be posted for you to call so someone can open the door for you. As long as we all know what's up, it shouldn't be super inconvenient.

However, we are looking for someplace else to meet on the third Saturday of the month

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," you can charge your dues to a card.)



## PUBLIC RELATIONS PERSON, SECRETARY NEEDED!

We can and have operated without either, but we should have someone in those positions. If anything, it takes the load off those with other duties to perform. If you want to assume these duties, let us know, and we will elect or appoint you by acclaim.

## SPOKANE AUTHORS CATALOG

If you want your books listed in the upcoming edition of our catalog, please ensure your dues are paid for 2025.

## OUR JUNE 2025 MEETINGS

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors met on Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at the Sans Souci West Club House. Members present included Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Joel Craig, Larry Danek, Mary DeBord, Betty Deuber, Sue Eller, Mark Lee Golden, Tina Hammond, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, Kevin Hostbjor, Joan Kopczynski, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Sandra Philbin (and spouse), Mikel Stevenson

)and spouse), Elena Smith, and Terry Stratton. Gary Edwards attended as a guest.

President Carl Northrup introduced Vice-President Sue Eller, who in turn introduced our guest speaker, Tina Hammond, a fellow member of Spokane Authors.

She spoke about working with an editor to improve the quality of one's work. During her presentation she had us go over three short paragraphs that possibly needed editing, and that resulted in a group discussion. She also talked about common discrepancies, such as the overuse of *that* or *just*. Additionally, she mentioned including excessive detail, not enough detail, and reaching historical agreement. Tina also talked a little about *that* vs. *who* or *which*.

She had also compiled a large packet of information on the topic, and it will be (was sent) via email to all active members of Spokane Authors. Additionally, her presentation was recorded and can be found on You Tube at: <https://youtu.be/CdhPehIC-3A>

Spokane Authors also met on Saturday June 21, at the St. Francis of Assisi Social Hall. Attendance was light, with Carl Northrup, Bob Manion, Terry Stratton, and Dave McChesney showing up. Carl had purchased ad couple dozen or so bookstands for use at our Friday meetings and passed them on to Dave, who will in turn pass them along to our equipment person, Bob Hildahl.

While those there waited to see if anyone else was going to arrive, a general conversation ensued, and for the most part it was not directly connected with writing or publishing. At various times such things as Naval Aviation occupied the interest of those there.

Once it was understood no one else was coming, we packed up and went home, or to wherever we were scheduled to be, making sure as we left that the building was properly locked up.

## 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](mailto:daveeva@comcast.net), [authors@spokaneauthors.org](mailto:authors@spokaneauthors.org), or send via USPS to:

Spokane Authors  
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 July 2, 2:00 pm (ZOOM)  
Contact [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) For link  
(This event may be cancelled this month.)

### Spokane Authors

Friday July 11, 2:00 pm  
Sans Souci West Club House  
Speaker: Lee Kessler on Imagination

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild Coffee with Linda

Saturday July 12, 2:00 pm  
*The Meeting House*, 11<sup>th</sup> and Pittsburg,  
RSVP at [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com)

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Wednesday July 16, 7:00 pm (ZOOM)  
Contact [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) for link  
(This event may be cancelled this month.)

### Spokane Authors

Saturday July 19, 2:00 pm  
St. Francis of Assisi Social Hall

### Local Author Book Club

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

### Spokane Authors

Friday August 8, 2:00 pm  
Sans Souci West Club House  
Speaker: Spokane South Rotary Club

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild

#### Coffee with Linda

Saturday August 9, 2:00 pm  
*The Meeting House*, 11<sup>th</sup> and Pittsburg,  
RSVP at [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com)

### Spokane Authors

Saturday August 16, 2:00 pm  
St. Francis of Assisi Social Hall

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Wednesday August 20, 7:00 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 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.

### Connie Kerbs

*Paths of Fear*

B017Z1EQT8 0996966110

*Whatsoever Things*

B07L8J8QK7 099696617X

*A Season for All things*

1736741926

**SPOKANE AUTHORS LITERARY GAZETTE**

*What is a Camel?*

B091DFCCQG 0996966196

*The Giraffe Gaffe*

173674190X

### T. Hammond

*Blind Seduction: Team Red, Book 1*

B00C8UB0JK

*Color Blind: Team Red, Book 2*

B00E652OTK

*Blind Faith: Team Red, Book 3*

B00H8IH80W

*Blind Rage: Team Red, Book 4*

B00KCDLN06

*Blind-sided: Team Red, Book 5*

B00PE9YOVI

*Blind Luck: Team Red, Book 6*

B00WW64CR2

*Team Red: Omnibus 1 (Books 1 – 3)*

B00HI50VAY

*Team Red: Omnibus 2 (Books 4 – 6)*

B019LS2VOS

*Posse: Duoviri*

B01D3EK5NQ

*Posse: Legends*

B075DFSGJ1

### Michael Zargona

*Turn Red Tomorrow*

1092144404 B07Q7TNLTC B0914WWCYS

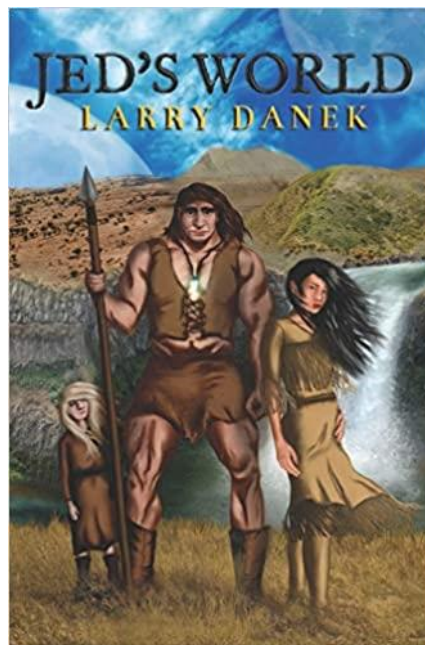
*Sixteen Hooves Thunder*

B08LJPKCM2 B08LHK5PKF B0194PW7RV

*The Sunset of All Sorrows*

B0CQ2P6SCV B0CPLHSY8R B0CQ87THCL

## FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS



Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Aliens are trying to populate a particular

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planet. They've tried different species but failed. Now they decide to transfer an older specimen from the planet Earth. Thus, enter the main character, George Martin, later to be known as Jed.

Read and see how he struggles to survive as he makes his way through new adventures on this strange, but familiar, planet with the help of a fox named Fred and a short-tailed bobcat named Bob. Later he discovers there are other inhabitants here when after a disastrous flood, he pulls a young woman and a little girl out of the water. He calls them Mary and Ann.

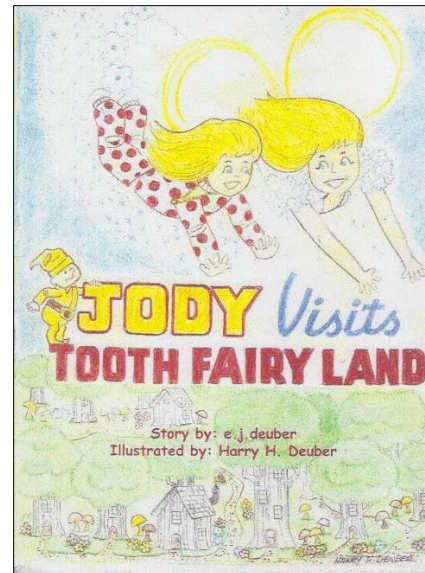
Every so often, the reader is privy to the Aliens' thoughts and comments as they watch their subject progress from one stage of survival to another. Danek has written a very creative story with interesting characters. It's well worth the read. I recommend this book for one and all and especially for those who like to read science fiction.

Reviewed by M. J. Hudon

A second chance at youth on a strange new world....

Author Larry Danek has written an intriguing story about an elderly man's abduction by aliens. These all-seeing creatures give Jed a new neandertal-type body and drop him onto a sparsely populated wilderness planet. To survive, he must call upon his muddled memories from his previous life, trust his intuition, and overcome many obstacles. Along the way, he acquires some interesting friends and a few enemies. How will he and his friends survive?

Written as a 1st person, stream-of-consciousness narrative with an occasional interruption by an alien intelligence (or 2), this book is very detailed, and it draws the reader in. By the time I finished reading, I felt as if I'd been on the adventure myself. This would be a great book for any boy/girl scout, survivalist, adventurer, or anyone who enjoys a good yarn.



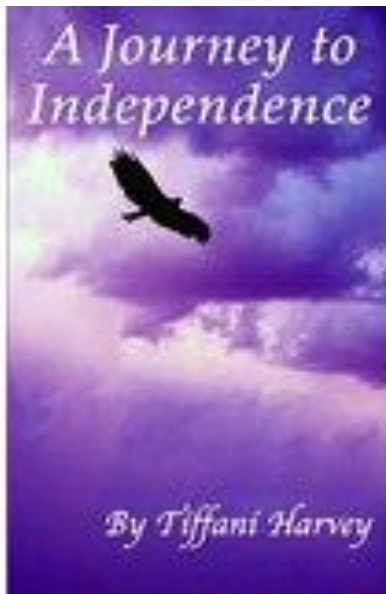
Written by E. J. Deuber  
Illustrated by Harry H. Deuber

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Jody has lost a tooth, and she wants to talk to the Tooth Fairy. Her wish comes true when the Tooth Fairy appears and invites Jody to fly with her to Tooth Fairy Land. Here the Tooth Fairy, Wee Fairies, and Wee Elves live. Jody, wearing her magic tooth necklace, has an exciting time exploring Tooth Fairy Land and discovering where teeth go and what they are used for after the Tooth Fairy takes them.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this charming children's book. It's creative, well-written with interesting characters, and has a surprise ending. An excellent story to read aloud to young children. Plus, the illustrations are great. They, too, are creative, well-drawn, colorful, and fun to look at.

I recommend this book to anyone who has ever lost a tooth!



By Tiffani Harvey

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

*A Journey to Independence* was written by the author who was born with many disabilities. It's the story of her life experiences and the choices she has had to make—often not easy. She has a strong belief in God and herself and sometimes has to prove to others that just because she is disabled doesn't mean that she isn't capable of doing many things. I learned from this book that there are things that can make life better and safer for the disabled. One of these things is public transportation. It should be a lot easier to schedule rides on the disability van and the people who ride them should be dropped off and picked up as close to the time the person signed up for as possible. More drivers should be hired. No one likes to have their time wasted, waiting for long periods of time or being dropped off hours before an appointment.

Ms. Harvey takes us into her world and offers good advice for other disabled people and to those who are interested in what she has to say. She's also written a workbook to go along with this book.



By Helen Christine

Reviewed by Robert G. Hildahl

This book is about the housing market just before its fall around 2007-2008. Bad home loans, which involved changing figures to qualify buyers for homes they couldn't afford, led to this disaster.

The story begins with the murder of Justin Diamond, an accountant at Franklin Mortgage. Justin's friend, Annie Robinson, one of the only honest loan processors at the company, and his wife, Stephanie, set out to solve his murder. Along the way, they find out that Stephanie's neighbor witnessed the murder but can't go to the police for reasons of his own. They discover fraud, greed, dishonesty, and other schemes to become rich. After they discover who killed Justin, Annie's child is kidnapped!

*The Lenders* is another great book by Helen Christine. It's very well written and is an exciting page turner. I really enjoyed reading it, and I recommend it to anyone who enjoys a good mystery.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

In *The Lenders*, Ms. Christine tells the other side of the story we only saw in the



headlines and evening news. They were all about the big boys, the ones that stole millions. Her story might be a murder mystery, but the background tells the tale of how greed in the lending business caused countless people to lose their life savings and homes. Ms. Christine paints a believable picture of the fraud that took place with strong, interesting characters, including the city of Seattle which is very recognizable. The story pulls you right along and has a satisfying ending. It is written with short chapters that make it great to grab and read while waiting in the car or at bedtime.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

*The Lenders* is about mortgage fraud, the housing crash of 2008, and why it happened. It's about extreme greed and not caring whether buyers could really afford their home mortgages or not. Subprime home loans became the norm and were given to buyers with poor credit ratings and/or not earning enough money to make monthly payments on their newly acquired grossly overpriced homes. These poor risk loans were packaged and sold to secondary investors and then sold over and over again all over the world. When the housing market crashed, many buyers couldn't make their payments. They soon discovered they had no idea who actually held their loans, and thousands of buyers ended up losing their homes.

This story takes place in Seattle, Washington, where Annie Robinson is a loan processor for Franklin Mortgage. She is suspicious of some of the other loan processors and their dealings with prospective buyers. One day her friend, Justin Diamond, an accountant at Franklin Mortgage, is murdered. Annie wonders if he knew something incriminating about mortgage fraud at Franklin Mortgage. Justin's wife, Stephanie, befriends Annie and together they set out to try to solve Justin's murder.

Helen Christine is a very talented writer. She did a great job writing about mortgage fraud in a way that all could understand what went wrong in 2008. I thoroughly enjoy reading her books. I

recommend this book to anyone who enjoys reading mystery books and/or wants to learn about the housing crash of 2008.

## Let's Share Our Patriotic Thread



(No cover image available)

by Jerry Garcia

Reviewed by Elizabeth J. Deuber

***Let's Share Our Patriotic Thread*** by Jerry Garcia, is an anthology that provided an opportunity for veterans to share their thoughts and feelings about war experiences, why they joined the service and patriotism with other ex-GI's, family and friends.

Jerry's opinion as well as the accounts from the other men and women retired from the United States Military differed somewhat in that some had negative reactions about their tenures in the service, others positive. In general, however, all admitted to still being very patriotic.

The title is great, and the information he and his peers shared in this book is invaluable to non-service people, including our future citizens.

I'm a collector of personal history and enjoyed the book very much.

## Letters from Brackham Wood



By Rita Gard Seedorf and  
Margaret Albi Verhoef

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

Here is the rarely told tale of the lives of those who are left behind when the men go off to war. It is written in the rarer still style of letters sent by cousins, one in England and the other in Spokane, WA.

It gives the viewpoint of the two women as they go about their lives with the specter of war hanging over them. There is a mystery that may or may not involve spies (no spoilers from me!) and in the background touches on the day to day life of air raids and rationing, with historical facts woven in to give time perspective.

I found it to be a delightful read.

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

This is a compelling book written in an unusual way. Other than a brief introduction in which an individual is handed a container of letters to sort through, the bulk of the story is told via those letters. In pre-World War II England, Moira Edwards takes a chance to write to her cousin Margaret, now living in the Northwest United States. The letter reaches Margaret's parents living in Chicago and her

mother forwards it on to her. Thus, the cousins establish a correspondence which lasts nearly to the end of the war.

As they exchange letters, the cousins inform each other of the conditions each are living under, and at times compare cultural difference between England and the United States. "I just read that in America the Post Office delivers the mail while here in England the Royal Mail delivers the post."

As the story goes on, it seems that something isn't right with the couple that Moira works for as a "maid of all work," or "helper to the woman of the house." There are hints of espionage and other activities that may impact on the war effort. Meanwhile cousin Margaret Walker is one of Spokane, Washington's pioneering female physicians. As war looms, and as America is finally drawn into the conflict, she finds herself helping both refugee Jews and displaced Japanese Americans.

It is the ability of the cousins to confide in each other which moves the story forward. Only in the end does the narrator reappear to tidy up loose ends. The authentic feel of the letters was achieved in part by each of the authors writing as one of the two cousins. They in effect exchanged and answered letters just as the cousins did.

The story also serves to illustrate just how much things have changed since World War II. Prices and wages mentioned seem minuscule compared to today's standards. Communication was primitive in light of the internet, web, most often done by mail or post. The story also touches on civil rights, women's rights, and the changes in society over the years.

This was an interesting and intriguing read, one that was hard to put down, and one this reader anxiously awaited to pick up again. As a result, this reader looks forward to the next book by these talented co-authors: *Letters from a Wary Watcher: A Moira Edwards Walker Mystery*.