



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

Remembering







Marilee Hudon

Authors and Self-Publishers Spokane (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, <u>www.spokaneauthors.org</u>. 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: June 25<sup>th</sup> for the July 2025 issue.

#### 2025 Officers:

<i>Carl Northup (Nathaniel Bennett)</i> ikneadedthat53@yahoo.com		
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<b>Bob Weldin</b> 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": <u>https://twitter.com/AndAuthors</u>

Contact us at: <u>authors@spokaneauthors.org</u> If no response : <u>daveeva@comcast.net</u> Or: <u>saspworks4u@gmail.com</u> Videos of many of our presentations are available at: https://www.youtube.com/@spokaneauthorsforyou

Cover: Spokane Authors member, the late Marilee (*M. J.*) Hudon was the author of **Waxing is Useless** and **Lilac City Lunacy.** 

### THE BOOKS ON THE COVER...

Spokane Authors member Marilee (M. J.) Hudon was the author of two Christian Fantasy books based on her experiences dealing wing chronic illness. A third story was in progress when she passed. Her member webpage is still on the Spokane Authors web site. Go to <u>www.spokaneauthors.org</u> click on MEMBERS and then on her name.

## **OUR JUNE MEETINGS!**

We will meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, June 13, 2025, at the San Souci West Club House, 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA. Fellow Spokane Authors member Tina Hammond will be our speaker.

We will also meet at 2:00 pm. on Saturday, June 21, 2025, in the social hall of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1104 W. Heroy Ave., Spokane, WA. Bring your phone so yu can call for entry if you arrive to discover the door locked. (Number will be posted at the door.)

### FROM THE PREZ

I'm pretty sure that you are all aware that it is June. Give or take a day or two, we are half way through 2025.

It is also the traditional month that most couples get married. I missed that distinction by one day. My wife and I married on May 31, 1980. It was a joyous day, even though Mt. St. Helen's celebrated 14 days early. After 45 years we still celebrate, thankfully the Mountain doesn't.



At our last Saturday meeting I gave a writing prompt to the folks that were there. It should be fun to hear what comes of it. We all have our styles and genera s, but random prompts can be fun and get us out of any ruts we may be in. In my other

writing group we are given a prompt every two weeks. While I don't write to every one, many **SPOKANE AUTHORS LITERARY GAZETTE**  have become short stories for my next Boxers or Briefs edition. And one looks like it will be a full novel.

Add it to the list, right? The prompt? "*It Was a Dark and Stormy Night.*" Go figure.

Cliche's aside, It'll be great to see everyone again.

The Prez

### Carl/Nathaniel

P. S. Why is Wednesday a camel's favorite day of the week?

### FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

For the first meeting in June, abandon your superstitions and join us Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Spokane Authors member Tina Hammond will be our speaker. "Things My Editor Taught Me" is the subject, and Tina told me she would have a handout for us. The meeting begins at 2:00 p.m. in the Sans Souci West clubhouse, located at 3231 W. Boone Ave., and the room

will be available to us starting at 1:30 p.m. to set up and greet our fellow members.

The Saturday meeting will resume this month on June 21 at our usual meeting place, St. Frances of Assisi



Catholic Church's recreational hall, 1104 West Heroy Ave. I will not be in attendance this time, as I have a 60<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion in Tekoa that day. I hope some of you will be able to attend.

We now have guest speakers lined up through September. In July, another of our members, Gena Bradford, will share some of her experiences with writing and publishing. In August, we will have one of the members of the Rotary Club (which member will soon be determined), and in September, Robin Bishop will talk about writing for a newspaper. Robin is the former managing editor for Art Chowder magazine and is now editor of the Deer Park Tribune.

The video of our May meeting with guest speaker Cindy Hval is now live on my YouTube channel. (I haven't yet figured out how to upload it to the SASP channel. Marilee was a genius at videos and social media. We are all doing our best to fill in. If anyone is interested and willing to take on some of the Public Relations duties, we could use your help.) Anyway, the link to the May video is <u>https://youtu.be/i0o5\_sMin0g</u> If you get your newsletter via email, you can click on that link. Otherwise, type it into your browser.

Our speaker videos are posted on either the Spokane Authors YouTube channel or on mine. I find it helpful to go back and view them every now and then to refresh my memory of hints and tips that they have shared with us.

See you on Friday the Thirteenth. Try not to walk under any ladders or break any mirrors. And watch out for black cats.

# Sue Eller

## FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

It was nice to see so many of Marilee's fellow writers at her service in May. I'm sure her spirit was gratified at seeing so many of you there. We'll miss her!

For those who haven't heard, our second monthly meeting is back on track. Currently it is still 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 that you can call, and someone will come open the door for you. The process worked smoothly last month, so 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. There is the matter of accessibility for some of our members at the church. If you know of a place, let an officer or board member know. Until we find a place we'll continue at St. Francis.

As always, you can send dues to:

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Or bring cash or check to a meeting. (If I remember to bring my "Square," you can charge your dues to a card.)

Dan Mr. CAFE

## PUBLIC RELATIONS PERSON, SECRETARY NEEDED!

We are currently without a secretary, primarily someone to record our meetings. We are now also without a public relations person. While we can and have operated without either, we should have someone in those positions. If anything it takes the load off of those who have other duties to perform for the organization. If anyone wants to assume these duties, let us know and we will no doubt elect or appoint you by acclaim.

## SPOKANE AUTHORS CATALOG

We hope 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. If you have published a new book or books, let us know so we can include them.

## **OUR MAY 2025 MEETINGS**

Compiled by Dave McChesney

On Friday May 9, at 2:00 pm., Spokane Authors met at the Sans Souci West Club House. Those present were Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Joel Craig, Larry Danek, Mary DeBord,

**SPOKANE AUTHORS LITERARY GAZETTE** 

Sheri Decker, Carolyn Eller, Sue Eller, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Bob Hildahl, Esther Hildahl, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Elena Smith, Terry Stratton, and Shandra Tanner. Guests included Gary A. Edwards and Anna Goodwin. (Anna was a member of Spokane Authors several years ago, and it was great to have her back with us. She has written a new book.)

The meeting started on a somber note when news of Marilee Hudon's passing was announced. M. J., as she was known, had served as Spokane Authors Vice-President and was our Public Relations person. She was the author of *Waxing is Useless* and *Lilac City Lunacy*, both inspired by her ongoing battle with chronic illness. We were informed that her funeral would be at St. Francis of Assisi Church at noon, on Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> of May.

Vice-President Sue Eller introduced our speaker, Cindy Hval. Cindy is a columnist for the Spokesman-Review. She shared toe process she went through to become a writer for the local paper and included several excerpts from her column, many of them dealing with humorous things her husband had said or did. She also talked about writing her book, War Bonds: Love Stories from the Greatest Generation. She has plans for another book, based on and taken from her newspaper column. Cindy has also had work published in the Chicken Soup for... series and told us it was relatively easy to connect with them for possible inclusion.

the meetina ended. As it was announced that if all went well, we would be resuming our Saturday meetings at the St. Francis of Assis social hall on Saturday the 17h of May. Dave McChesney would check with the church to see if we could still meet there and would inform everyone as to the (Dave contacted the church the outcome. following Tuesday and got the "ok" to resume our meetings.)

We ended the day with drawings for door prizes.

Note: Marilee had been recording and posting our meetings on You-Tube. Sue is in the process of trying to do the same, so eventually videos of our meetings should be **SPOKANE AUTHORS LITERARY GAZETTE**  available.

We resumed our meetings at St. Franics of Assisi Church at 2:00 pm on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. In attendance were Carl Northrup, Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Dave McChesney, Mikel and Mrs. Stevenson, and Terry Stratton. Guests included Christina Martin and Titus May.

Because the church prefers that we keep the building locked, we posted someone at the door to let people in until the meeting started. We also posted an attendee's phone number at the door so that late arrivals could call for access. All in all, entry went smoothly.

We spent our time in general conversation about writing, editing, alpha readers, beta readers, and more. Titus shared the first page of his WIP, a fantasy novel, with us. He was concerned that it might be too bloody or gory. We agreed that it was, but also agreed that it had a great hook, and that many people would want to read on. In many ways, this was an example of the critique process. No one suggested any specific changes or edits but rather relayed their impressions.

Carl provided us with a writing prompt that we could work on over the next month and share at our next Saturday meeting. Key points would include: Adolescent(s), Science Fiction, and Time Travel.

With time running down and topics for discussion fading away, we called it a day, shut off the lights, locked the door, ensured the building was secure, and went home.

## 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:

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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 June 4, 2:00 pm (ZOOM) Contact <u>lindathewriter@gmail.com</u> For link

#### **Spokane Authors**

Friday June 13, 2:00 pm Sans Souci West Club House Speaker: Tina Hammond

#### Inland Northwest Writers Guild Coffee with Linda

Saturday June 14 12, 2:00 pm *The Meeting House*, 11<sup>th</sup> and Pittsburg, RSVP at <u>lindathewriter@gmail.com</u>

#### Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Wednesday June 18, 7:00 pm (ZOOM) Contact <u>lindathewriter@gmail.com</u> for link

#### Spokane Authors

Saturday June 21, 2:00 pm St. Francis of Assisi Social Hall

## Local Author Book Club

Wednesday July 2, 2:00 pm (ZOOM) Contact <u>lindathewriter@gmail.com</u> For link

### Spokane Authors

Friday July 11, 2:00 pm Sans Souci West Club House

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild Coffee with Linda

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

#### **Spokane Authors**

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

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Wednesday May 21, 7:00 pm (ZOOM) Contact <u>lindathewriter@gmail.com</u> for link

### Sandpoint Writers on the Lake

Meet twice each month, both in person and via ZOOM for critiques. Information at <u>bonniemcdade@gmail.com</u>

## SASP BOOKS ON AMAZON/KINDLE

Many members' books are on Amazon and/or Kindle<sup>™</sup> (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/ Example: <u>www.amzn.com./dp/B008TXC332</u> <u>or: www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044</u>

ASINs for each book are the same, regardless of what Amazon Marketplace you use.

### Julie Bergman

Sahar's Creation	0578323656 B09N9D4Z2X
Fatal Creation	B0B6LJ2NML B0B663Q9X4
The Fatal Family Affa	air
B0BTGFLC4M B0BRMPC1MV	

## Elinor Young

Running On Broken Legs: My Journey to Joy B09XFDWC4X 1646455746

#### **Sarah Vail**

Old Schoolhouse Road B09PMNPPMW 1490025583 1940025575 James Street B09V1SG5CR 1480844683 1940025648 Snow Country Lane B09YL18654 1480886378 1940025664 Lightning Ridge Road B0CK51PT4G 1960059084 1960059076 JUNE 2025

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Mary A. De Bord Violet Petals on My Heel

1667858688

Elena Smith Why Birches Are White

Truths and Lies

B004PLNL4M 1419627511 B0BXFSSGMP 1667891650

**Suzanne Holland** *Mermaid In A Fish Bowl* 

B073SCB5GS 1545555451

# FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

(We again have new reviews this month. If there are older reviews for the book in our files, we will indicate that this is a new review. If possible, we will continue our monthly rotation through the reviews we have on file.)



Reviewed by Kevin Hostbjor

A quick and wonderful read. I picked up this little gem after meeting the author at a craft fair and thoroughly enjoyed it. Each little story is introduced by giving the reader a genesis of the tale, how it came to be. The author's humor shines throughout. I'm sure you'll enjoy it too.



Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

*Resilient Silence* is a well-written book about the world of the Deaf, written by the author who is also Deaf. It's about two brothers, Julius and his older brother Jeremy, fifteen years older. When Julius was one, their father dies. And at the age of three, Julius loses his hearing due to meningitis. Jeremy can't deal with the loss of his father and now his brother's Deafness and leaves, joining the military. He does nothing to try to communicate with his brother who has learned sign language and to read lips. Years later, there is a chemical explosion that leaves Jeremy Deaf. He can't accept his new life and becomes very angry and depressed. Finally, after many years away, Jeremy returns home to his mother and brother. One thing both he and his brother have in common is running, but will that be enough to reunite them?

I liked this book, and it was never boring. One thing I learned was that if you are communicating with a Deaf person who reads lips, don't turn away from them so they can't tell what you are saying. Also, try to learn sign language. I recommend this book for one and all. It's a good read.



### Reviewed by Elena S. Smith

Joan Kop's The Spy from Beijing is a masterfully crafted espionage thriller, rich with suspense and unexpected turns. It immerses the reader in the frigid, perilous realm of international intelligence—a world inhabited by individuals who willingly embrace a life defined by secrecy, risk, and brain gamesmanship. Kop humanizes her spies, revealing them not as faceless operatives, but as complex individuals whose extraordinary choices set them apart. Through realistic dialogue and astute narrative insight, the novel invites contemporary reflection on geopolitical tensions, the looming challenges posed by biotechnology, and the resurgence of authoritarianism. The Spy from Beijing is not only a gripping read, but also a thoughtprovoking exploration of our modern world.

### Reviewed by E .J. Deuber

An only child, Jen Hae Chu, aka Jenny, the main protagonist, is a Chinese American flight attendant-turned FBI agent, who longs for a sibling.

On a flight, Dave Kamakar, an undercover FBI agent, watches her handle a difficult situation and admires her independent, confident, diligent work ethics. He thinks the young woman would make a good FBI agent. He convinces her to change careers. Later they meet in Seattle. During her FBI career, she falls in love with Dave. In her first assignment, she meets Yichen Zhang, her nemesis, who lives in Beijing and works for China's Secretive Ministry of State Security (MSS), which is China's civilian intelligence, security and secret police agency.

Currently, Yichen's father (*Bohai*) who also works for the MSS is caught spying. Unknown to Yichen, Bohai has been spying for the CIA for the past thirty years. MSS members force Yichen to watch them mutilate his father. After the mutilation, Yichen's boss tells him he can expect the same fate if they ever catch him spying. He must do as he is told, or they'll see to it that his mother gets the same treatment as Bohai. When the MSS asks him to become a double agent. He reluctantly agrees and ends up in Seattle.

Jenny and Yichen, working their respective tasks in Seattle, finally connect, and they become friends. Soon after, she becomes suspicious of Yichen activities and suspects he is responsible for the nefarious crimes that are happening in the vicinity. Through a DNA test, she discovers Yichen is her biological twin. She had no idea she had a sibling or a biological mother in the USA or China. On one hand, she wants to help her brother and her new-found mother, on the other, she wants to stay a loyal FBI agent. She is left with the burning question: What is more important family or patriotism?

The spy activity is well-researched from China to Seattle. The complicated twists of family, love and patriotism are compelling from start to finish. *The Spy from Beijing* awakened me to the complex web of undercover intelligence activity in Washington State.

(We now resume our rotation through those reviews already in our files.)

#### **SPOKANE AUTHORS LITERARY GAZETTE**



(Reviews continued from last month) Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

This story begins in the 1890s when Jakob Miller, a recent graduate of the Chicago College of Dental Surgery, and against the advice of his parents, arrives by stagecoach in the frontier town of Sheridan, Wyoming. He sets up his temporary office in a storeroom rented from the town's only doctor, Doc Kelly. A repaired barber chair becomes his dentist chair. After putting an ad in the local newspaper announcing that he is open for business, his career as a dentist begins.

Being the only dentist in town, he has lots of patients. He helps anyone who comes to his office needing dental care, including the Indians that live outside of town. Some of his patients can pay and some cannot. Zeke, one of his first patients, can't pay for the "storebought" teeth he wants, so he makes a deal with Jakob to take him elk hunting in the Big Horn Mountains in exchange for his teeth.

The hunting trip is successful until the end when Jakob is attacked by a grizzly bear and his career as a dentist almost comes to an end. However, one good thing comes out of this experience and that is that he meets Liz, the local schoolteacher, who helps nurse him back to health. They fall in love and get married. After a while they are blessed with a baby girl that they name Beth Ann.

The railroad comes to Sheridan and the town grows and becomes more prosperous. Jakob loves Sheridan and grows with the town, becoming more involved with its local government. When business slows down Jakob decides to go to Buffalo, a town about forty miles from Sheridan, to make some extra cash fixing teeth. They don't have a dentist there and he has many patients, but he waits too long to come back and gets caught in the first winter blizzard. Snow is everywhere and he barely makes it back home.

Doc Kelly is Jakob's best friend, and they help each other out, even doing complicated surgeries together! Liz spends much of her extra time teaching adult education to those who want to learn how to read and write. Eventually, Jakob and his family move into a larger house.

When Beth Ann is two years old, the family's happiness is shattered when Liz becomes very ill and dies. Jakob is heart-broken but determined, with the help of his housekeeper, Chucha, to raise his daughter by himself.

Five years go by. Then Jakob discovers love again with Geraldine, an English lady, currently running a ranch in Wyoming. Beth Ann loves her, too, especially after she gives Beth Ann a horse and teaches her how to ride. Jakob and Geraldine speak of marriage and go to England to meet her aristocratic family.

But things happen beyond Jakob and Geraldine's control, and Jakob comes back home to Sheridan alone. He doesn't hear from Geraldine and is left wondering if he will ever see her again.

I enjoyed reading *Jakob's Ladies* and was very impressed with all the work that went into it to make it the great story that it is. I liked that Parks told the history of dentistry at that time. It was very interesting and made me realize, being a person who has had lots of dental work done during her lifetime, that I am so thankful that I didn't have to go to the dentist in those days! Also, the characters were well written--very believable. And after reading this book, I really feel that I know what the town of Sheridan was like in the 1890s.

I recommend this book for anyone who likes a little history, a love story, adventure, and humor.

### Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

Jakob's Ladies is a delightful story about a young dentist trying to establish his dental practice in Wyoming in the 1800's. Mr. Parks has a way of describing the hardships of the early west that is very believable. The book if full of colorful characters both male and female.

Jakob's Ladies are as follows: Margaret, his mother. Alice, an old girlfriend, his mother won't give up on. The beautiful schoolteacher, Elizabeth, who nursed him back to health after a bear attack and later became his wife. Lillian Massey, better known as Diamond Lil, a patient. At her request, he put small diamonds in several of her front teeth. Beth Ann, the daughter that gave him a reason to live after his dear wife, Liz, passed away. Chucha, the Polish housekeeper, whom Jakob soon learns he can't manage without. Lady Geraldine, an English aristocrat and owner of a near-by ranch, steals the heart of Beth Ann and soon steals Jakob's heart also.

Jakob's Ladies is a fun read. As a modern-day dentist, I'm sure Stan enjoyed writing about dentistry in the early west.



Reviewed by Robert Hildahl

Jakob's Legacy is about Jakob's second marriage to Lady Geraldine, who owns a large cattle and horse ranch. Even though they love the ranch, they decide to live in Sheridan, where Jakob will continue his dental practice. Along with Jacob's daughter, Beth Ann, they have a son of their own named Randy.

Jacob is a very successful dentist. He not only tends to his own patients, he goes to the hospital to set broken jaws and perform other dental surgeries. He is an important part of the community and is also a blood brother to the Chief of the Crow Nation. And, he frequently goes to the Crow Indian Reservation to help those who are suffering with dental problems. Plus, when their ranch has problems with cattle rustlers, Jacob helps catch the thieves.

This book is full of other adventures and life in Sheridan, Wyoming. It's a good read and a good follow up to Stan Parks' first book, *Jakob's Ladies.* It's well written and I recommend this book for all.