

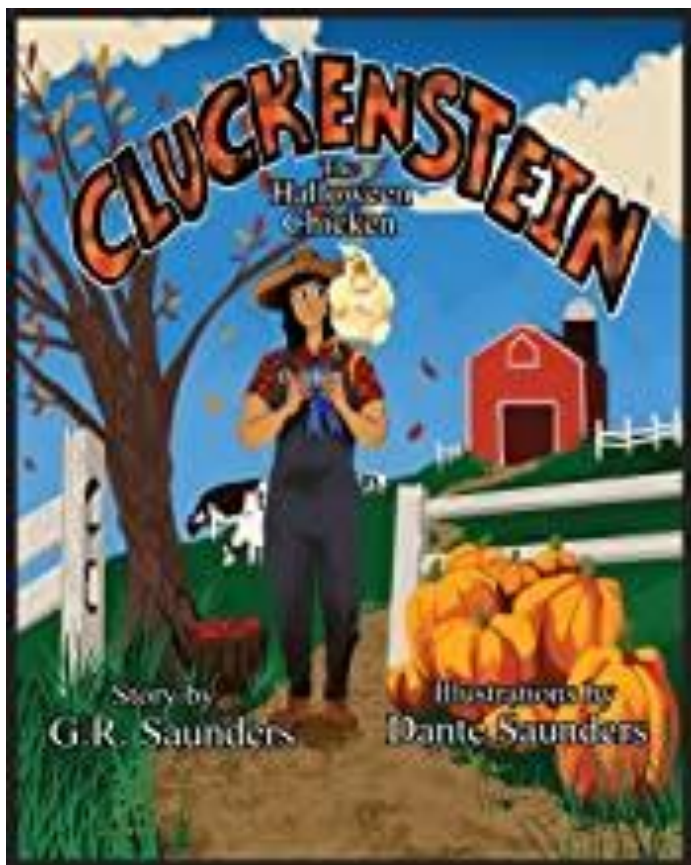


Literary

Gazette

March 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:  
March 25<sup>th</sup> for the April 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:** *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](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: Spokane Authors member Gail Saunders wrote Cluckenstein: the Halloween Chicken.*

## THE BOOK ON THE COVER...

Children of all ages will love this story of *Cluckenstein: The Halloween Chicken*, a brave little bird who tries to fit in and gets picked on because she's different

Spokane Authors member Gail Saunders currently lives in Arizona but stays in touch with the group here in Spokane. To visit her Member Web Page, go to [www.spokaneauthors.org](http://www.spokaneauthors.org) click on "MEMBERS," scroll down and click on her name.

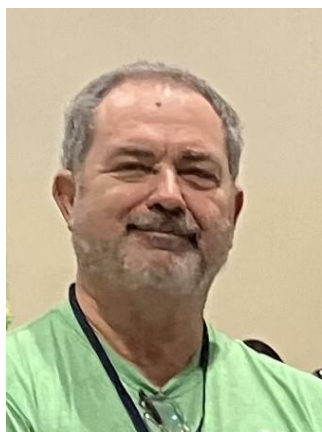
## OUR MARCH MEETINGS!

We will meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, March 14, 2025, or  $\pi$  day, at the San Souci West Club House, 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA. Local literary person Ben Van Voorhis will be our speaker.

We will meet at 2:00 pm on Saturday, March 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 last month causes our meetings to be on consecutive days. This will also happen in November.

## FROM THE PREZ



The year is **marching** on. Just around the corner we'll be eating corned beef and cabbage, pinching people that don't wear green, looking for mythical pots of gold, and getting sick eating lucky charms.

March is also a month of madness, basketball, amorous hares, melting snow, and mud. It's also the month planting our garden starts. (Those marching Hares need to eat

well.) If you have a green thumb, you're safe from all the pinching.

March is also a great month to start or finish a book, short story, or downhill ski lessons. It's time to tune up your bicycle, motorcycle, go cart, minibike, or boat. It's also time to buy a new pair of hiking boots so they are broken in for a summer in the great outdoors.

March is a great month any way you look at it.

## MARCH ON PEOPLE!

Your Prez.

*Carl/Nathan*

## FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Our March meeting takes place on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the clubhouse at Sans Souci West, located at 3231 West Boone Avenue.

Our guest speaker this month is 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 has 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.

Next month, Frank Scalise will join us and share his experience and expertise on audiobooks. Frank is a former police officer and has written both fiction and non-fiction books based on his knowledge of law enforcement procedures under more than one author name. Frank will be the speaker at our April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.



Last month at our Saturday meeting we did an exercise on writing a book review. This month, March 15<sup>th</sup>, I will be at the one-day Central Valley HS Band Boosters Spring Craft Fair. The Saturday meeting will still be going on at St. Francis of Assisi Social Hall at 1107 West Heroy Avenue.

The video of Erik Schubach's presentation at last month's meeting is now live on our YouTube channel. The link is:

[https://youtu.be/l\\_5pGx-hW\\_Q?si=I2BGNib1G6Tc20Hp](https://youtu.be/l_5pGx-hW_Q?si=I2BGNib1G6Tc20Hp)

See you on Pie Day!

*Sue Eller*

## FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

If you send your dues via USPS and don't hear from me in a reasonable amount of time, contact me. On occasion, things get lost in the mail. Recently we received dues that had been mailed nearly two months ago. I always send an email (or mail a receipt) to acknowledge receipt of your dues.

I send the latest roster to current and recent members with each issue of the newsletter. Use it to see if you are paid up and if we have your contact information listed correctly.



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.)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave McChesney".

## 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

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 it.

## OUR FEBRUARY 2025 MEETINGS

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors met on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at the Sans Souci West Club House. Members present included Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Carolyn Eller, Sue Eller, Mark Lee Golden, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, Marilee Hudon, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, and Elena Smith. Jeff Bryan attended as a guest.

President Carl Northrup introduced Vice-President Sue Eller, who in turn introduced our guest speaker, Erik Schubach. Erik spoke about his processes of writing and marketing as a self-published author. He noted that the hardest part is the marketing and indicated that creating the manuscript... writing book is only half of the job. During his presentation, Eik focused on two aspects of marketing, social media and vendor tools.

He mentioned that there are a lot of marketing scams and cautioned everyone to be aware of these and approach everything with caution. He suggested that one of the best ways to market one's books is to be a part of the writing community, saying, "Word of mouth is the most powerful tool you have." He



also indicated that one should spend equal amounts of time on writing as on marketing. Erik also noted he gets noticed on social media by creating a marketing persona, in his

case, Frank the imaginary platypus.

Further, he noted one should use vendor or website tools. These may be free or a part of a package deal. He mentioned that one should try to sell books on all platforms and in all formats. He said one could work around various restrictions by bundling books together. Each bundle would have a separate identity number and would appear unique to that platform. He pointed out that one can also add information and content to one's author page on most platforms, and that in turn that might increase sales. This would also include Goodreads.

Eric also mentioned [www.allauthor.com](http://www.allauthor.com) a marketing website. One can list up to four books free and they have a "Cover of the Month" contest. He suggested staying away from contests with an entry fee, and that doing a "Kickstarter" to finance publication of one's book would probably be a bad idea. It might cause one to be shunned by other writers. Erik also stated that all publishing platforms offer free ISBNs. He also talked about having a website, a blog, and a newsletter. He said his newsletter goes out on Mail Chimp. It's free if the number of recipients is below a certain level, such as 500.

Following a short break Sue Eller mentioned that she was close to publishing the next Emily Trace Mystery. Esther Hildahl

spoke about a short story she had written called The Purple House. Our guest, Jeff Bryan said he liked to write Fantasy but as of yet had not had anything published.

With our allotted time running out, we drew for door prizes, rearranged the from for the next event of the day and headed out to our individual endeavors.

Spokane Authors also met on Saturday February 15th in the social hall of St. Francis of Assisi. Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Sue Eller, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, and Shandra Tanner were there. Our guest was Christina Martin.

Bob Manion suggested that all writers should have a subscription to Writers Digest and perhaps Poets and Writers. He pointed out that the current issue of Writers Digest had articles about Beta Readers and a collection of common mistakes made by those writing children's books. He also suggested the possibility of Spokane Authors being associated with the Pacific Northwest Writers Association. It was also suggested that perhaps we could or should have a close relationship with other local writers groups.

At our previous Saturday meeting, Sue had asked us fill in a preference sheet for what we wanted to concentrate on at our meetings. According to her tabulations, the top three items were Audio Books, Marketing, and Critique Groups/Beta Readers. She also passed out a handout with information and hints for writing book reviews. Perhaps this will cause a sudden increase in the number of book reviews on the Spokane Authors website.

There was some discussion as to whether or not it was worth it for those going the self-published route to be involved with organizations focused on traditional publishing. While some might look forward to one day being published in the traditional sense, many self-publishing or independent authors have chosen and prefer to be self-published.

Bob also suggested writers carry a notebook so they could record ideas that come to mind, when they come to mind. He also suggested the idea of a blog for Spokane

Authors, and Dave McChesney said he would investigate the. Carl Northrup offered a writing prompt for those who would want to take advantage of it. "What is the most difficult decision you've ever had to make?"

By then our time was nearly up, so we gathered our stuff, left, and 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 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 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

### Central Valley High School Band Boosters Arts and Crafts Fair

Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup>  
Spokane Authors members will be participating.

### 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)

### Shadle Park High School Arts and Crafts Fair

Saturday March 29 & Sunday March 30.  
Spokane Authors members will be participating.

### Local Author Book Club

Wednesday April 2, 2:00 pm (ZOOM)

### Spokane Authors

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

### Inland Northwest Writers Guild Coffee with Linda

Saturday April 12, 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 March 19, 7:00 pm (ZOOM)  
Contact Linda at [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com)  
For link

### Spokane Authors

Saturday April 19, 2:00 pm

**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.

**Larry Danek**

*I'm the Ghost in this Body: The Nomadic Ghost*  
B0110Z500Q

*Jed's World* B00MWDJ1YY  
*Jed's World (New, Revised Edition)*  
B08HSPQPG6 B08HW4F323L

*Ghostly Reunion: A Nomadic Ghost Story*  
B077KHR33M

*The Runaway Ghost: Story of the Nomadic Ghost (Vol. 3)* 1986978605

*Ghost at the Border* B089S6TWXT B089M1D93T  
*Pioneer Ghost: A Story of the Nomadic Ghost*  
B0957397G1 B094TCDGZG

*The Psychic Ghost: A Story of the Nomadic Ghost*  
B0CW1FW81C B0CW3FP2Y2

**Esther J. Hildahl**

*Meadow Pond* B072FS1CLL 154244828X

*Mr. Inky: Spider with an Attitude*  
B07177PLGX 1542451248

*Marie's Marvelous Tomato*  
B073SFTS74 1548307653

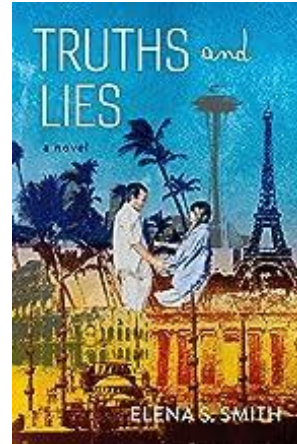
*Poopie the Fly and Friends*  
B07HNQLKMW 1724038427

*Winter Stories* B09BGF8TGL

**Russell H. Ford**

*Depop* B019NGA00Q 159849175X  
*Re-Ring* B011RW4XVY

This month we have several new reviews of books that we already have on the website. We will include those here before continuing with our regular rotation.



By Elena S. Smith

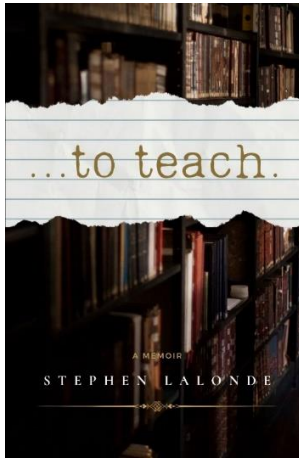
(NEW)

Reviewed by Larry Danek

*Truths and Lies*, a story by Elena Smith, is a serious look at today's give and take in modern romance. The Author put two people, Tom and Vicki, in contact during a football game and reintroduced them through a dating site. Tom wants to make a commitment, while Vicki isn't sure she's ready. They go through some troubles before finding they need each other.

The author did much research for the background of this story. *Truths and Lies* locked me in about how life treats us and how we may overcome the problems we encounter. I found the book hard to put down, sitting up late one night to finish it.





Stephen LaLonde

(NEW)

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

This memoir begins when LaLonde sent a letter to Glenwood Schools (in Washington State), stating his degree and writing the short sentence, “I want to teach.” Thus, began his career as a public-school teacher that spanned four decades. Since there wasn’t any housing available at that time for his family (wife and baby boy), they ended up in a mobile home he and his wife hurriedly purchased. The site they were to park the mobile home in didn’t work out at that time, so it was parked along the edge of the high school parking lot for the first week of school. Showers and meals had to be done in the school. Finally, it was moved to the site and after several weeks into the school year, it was ready for the winter and rest of the year. During the three years he taught at Glenwood, he was very involved with many things such as learning activity packets for his students, working on the school’s yearbook, coaching, and creating new classes.

After he left Glenwood, he worked for five years in the automotive business and four years with the Boy Scouts as a field executive. He learned a lot during these years that would help him in teaching in the future.

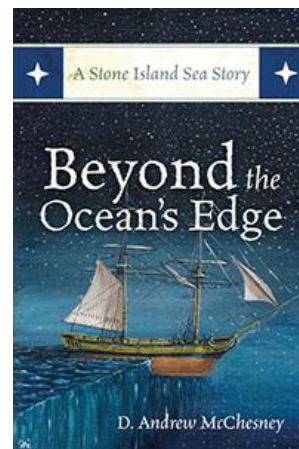
He never lost his love of teaching and eventually joined the staff at University High School in Spokane Valley, WA. Here, he created a class in Greek Mythology, which he loved. Also, he created a Radio and TV class

and later a Video Production class. All of this led to several awards for LaLonde.

Having assembled a large library on Greek Mythology, he was paid by NASA to produce a webpage on the goddess Athena. Throughout his book, he shared many letters from former students who were very much influenced by his teaching and values and thus, became very successful in their own lives, too.

As a former teacher, I really enjoyed reading this book. LaLonde is an exceptional, super, creative teacher who motivated his students to enjoy learning.

... **To Teach** is very well-written and interesting. I recommend this book for one and all and especially for those wanting to teach.

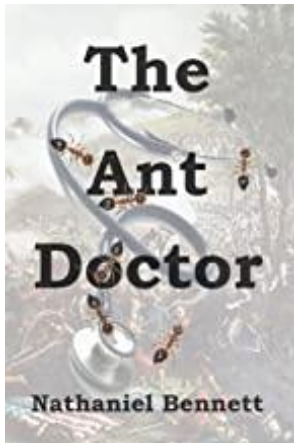


(NEW)

Reviewed by Stephen LaLonde

***Beyond the Ocean’s Edge*** takes a bit to settle into the language of the mariner events. The ships myriad of parts, and language and behavior of the characters of this book, but, boy is it worth taking the time to do so. The story is fascinating, and the adventure well described. I soon realized that I didn’t really have to know the meaning of all the terms and sailing mechanics to understand the course of events. The characters are well and consistently developed along with their growth through the challenges they face, and they do face challenges. I look forward to reading the next book in the series.



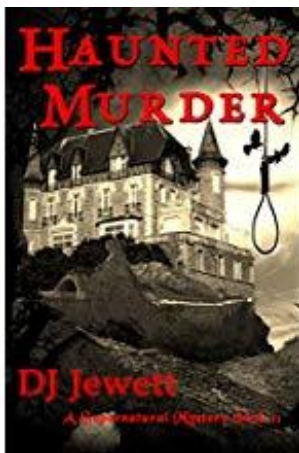


(NEW)

Reviewed by Sue Eller

*The Ant Doctor* spans an era that includes the pre- and post-Civil War years in the United States. Nathaniel Bennett has a unique way of telling the story in that he skips around in location and time. Follow the adventures of the young son who throws off the influences of his slave-owner father and finds his unique path to freedom.

(And now we resume our regular rotation.)

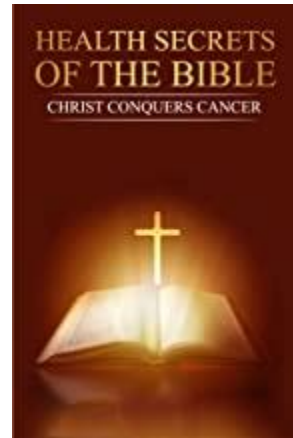


Reviewed (four stars) by Larry Danek

I normally don't read ghost stories although I wrote some. This story by Mr. Jewett contained a lot of the usual lines

associated with this genre, but I found the plot to be quite interesting

I had trouble putting the book down although I had a heavy schedule

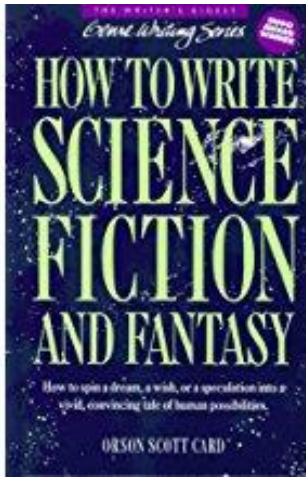


By Sidney Hemmings Moore

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

The author, Ms. Hemmings Moore, at one of our Authors' meetings, told us how she was healed of cancer as she lay dying. Being a cancer survivor myself, I was interested to see what she had to say, so I purchased her book. Needless to say, this is a fascinating story. After her miracle of being saved from certain death, the author began to study the Bible and shares some of the information she learned. She writes of the power of prayer and how it can help you overcome almost everything. One part I found very interesting was the part on superfoods as talked about in the Bible. Some of these foods were figs, greens, flax, grains, eggs, fish, yogurt, honey, garlic, and wine. There's a lot to this book that gives good advice on how to have a healthy heart, how to beat depression, how to relax, and how to forgive. The author is a true believer in Jesus and has experienced many miracles herself since cancer.

I enjoyed reading this book. It's well-written and tells you a lot of interesting things in the Bible that you can look up and see for yourself. I recommend this book for one and all, and especially for anyone who wants to learn how to pray and become closer to Jesus.



By Orson Scott Card

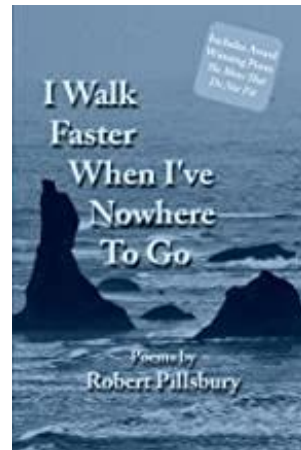
Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

I ended up with a copy of this relatively slim work because someone had donated it as a door prize at a recent Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers meeting. I read a lot of science fiction and fantasy and as well incorporate it in my own work. I thought it would be interesting to see what a well-known writer has to say about it.

Mr. Card begins by defining the genres, combining the two into *speculative fiction* while maintaining a sometimes-narrow difference between the two. He also looks at genre as a marketing tool, or as a means of classifying work and what shelf it will go on in the bookstore. He also looks at science fiction and fantasy standbys such as world building, possible scientific breakthroughs, and the creation of magic. I was a little miffed as he seemed to dismiss Star Trek's Warp Drive as being scientifically impossible.

Mr. Card also spends a little time offering advice on getting published. As the book was published in 1990, some of this might be a bit dated. He suggests that one seeking traditional publication need not look for a literary agent until offered a publishing contract. In more recent times one generally needs an agent in order to even approach a publisher.

On the whole, this is an informative and educational work. I feel that my time reading it was well-spent.



By Robert Pillsbury

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

***I Walk Faster When I've Nowhere To Go*** is a book of poems written by one of our former SASP members. It includes the award winning poem "The Shoes That Do Not Fit." I like to read poetry that rhymes and makes me happy, laugh, nostalgic, sad, and introspective. I like poems about the beauty of our seasons, our surroundings, and our planet. This book of poems has all that and more.

The following are some of my favorite poems in this book: "Brother Gone" tells of finding happiness in a dream. "Christmas Too" is about life as we age from youth to old age. Another poem I enjoyed is "Howling" which I can identify with, for it's about procrastinating when one should be writing their wonderful stories. "Spring" is a poem that expresses sadness at losing a loved one. I also liked "Last Leaf on the Tree, which Pillsbury wrote with Charles Semtner. And for humor with a surprise ending, read "Library."

Pillsbury has written an enjoyable book that is fun to read aloud. I recommend this book to one and all.