



Literary

Gazette

May 2026

**Spokane Authors**  
**2504 W. Walton Ave.**  
**Spokane, WA 99205-1569**



**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, Spokane Authors is an organization dedicated to anyone interested in any aspect of writing and art. Members include aspiring (and successful) authors, poets, 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.

The meeting room opens at **1:30 pm**. Presentations and discussions begin at **2:00 pm**.

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

The meeting room opens at **5:30 pm**. Presentations and discussions begin at **6:00 pm**.

We set up a collection jar for those who wish to help reimburse whoever might bring 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  
May 31<sup>st</sup> for the June 2026 issue.**

## 2026 Officers:

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**Vice-President:** **Sue Eller**  
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**Secretary:** **OPEN**

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**Member:** **Debby Putman**  
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**"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:** [spokaneauthors@gmail.com](mailto:spokaneauthors@gmail.com)

**Videos of many of our presentations are available at:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/@spokaneauthorsforyou>  
Links for newer videos are in the Vice-President's message and in accounts of our most recent meetings

**New Video Channel!**  
<https://www.youtube.com/@SpokaneAuthors-Org>  
(Eventually all videos of our meetings will be on this channel)

*On the cover: Cool Coincidence. Long time Spokane Authors member and one-time President Barbara Cagle wrote 16 Times Mom as a tribute to her mother, Rose.*

## OUR MAY MEETINGS!

We will meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, May 8, 2026, at the San Souci West Club House, 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA. The meeting room opens at 1:30 pm. Spokane Authors member Anna Goodwin will talk about writing her father's biography, *By Force and Fear: A Stolen Homeland*.

We will meet at 6:00 pm. on Wednesday May 20, 2026, at the Sans Souci West club house at 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA. The meeting room will be open at 5:30 pm. Ben Van Voorhis will lead a short story writing workshop.

## FROM THE PREZ

Good morning and May the 4<sup>th</sup> be with you.

The weather is great and the bugs aren't bad...yet.

It is now almost half way through 2026 and May 16<sup>th</sup> is coming fast. I am looking forward to being at the MAC and having the opportunity to let everyone know of Spokane Authors. Well, at least everyone that shows up. I hope y'all have it in your upcoming events pages of your websites.

Speaking of websites, mine is finally finished and I will start blogging again soon. Stop by Nathaniel Bennett Books .com and have a gander.

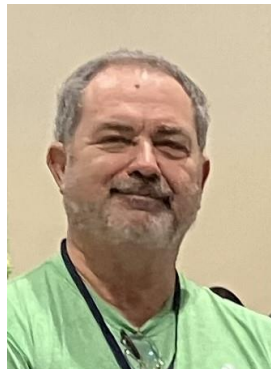
Speaking of ganders, the geese have been flocking by my place. Along with turkeys, Bald Eagles, Red Tailed Hawks and a few other birds that make my chickens nervous.

I waited till the 2<sup>nd</sup> to write this, because I didn't want to send out a MAY DAY. And for all of you that have forgotten, Mother's Day is the Sunday after our meeting. Hint Hint. Now get out there and write!

This discombobulated rendering was brought to you by:

Your Prez... (See you on the 8<sup>th</sup>)

*Carl Nathan*



## FROM THE VP



## May in the Lilac City

The month of May here in Spokane features a few events traditional to our lovely city. This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> running of Bloomsday, a community race that attracts participants and spectators from all over the world. The seven-mile race takes place on the West side of town on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and includes Spokane Falls Community College, Broadway Avenue, the dreaded "Doomsday Hill," and the downtown hub.

Another long-time Spokane event is the Lilac Festival, culminating with the crowning of the Lilac Queen and the Armed Forces Torchlight Parade wending its way through the downtown streets on May 16, beginning at 7:45 p.m.

Two more events, occurring each month, are our two Spokane Authors meetings at the Sans Souci West clubhouse at 3231 West Boone Ave. On the second Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, from 2-4 p.m., we will meet and listen to a presentation by Anna Goodwin, who will share her experiences writing about her father's journey in her book "By Force and Fear - a stolen homeland."

The second meeting of the month will be held on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, from 6-8 p.m. Ben Van Voorhis will present a workshop on writing a short story, which should be helpful to many of us in preparing our submissions to the planned 2026 Spokane



Authors anthology. Be sure to bring writing material, a laptop if you wish, and a sharpened creative brain cell or two.

Finally, for a very special event in conjunction with the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, Spokane Authors will conduct a four-hour educational program on May 16<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event, "Write Local, Publish Smart: a Spokane Authors Learning Showcase," is free and open to the public, and all our members are encouraged to attend and to let everyone know about this opportunity.

The Guy twins, Denise and D. J., have taken over the video recording of our guest speakers and learned how to upload them to the Spokane Authors YouTube channel. They have been working with Dave McChesney and me to make the transition.

Go to

<https://www.youtube.com/@SpokaneAuthors-Org> to access the videos (or click on the link). One more thing I just discovered. If you want subtitles, all you have to do is click the CC button in the bottom-right corner of the screen. One last tip on the videos. It will help us all if you like the video, to hit the thumbs-up icon and subscribe to the channel.

And don't forget to check and follow our Facebook page and our wonderfully informative website (SpokaneAuthors.org) for more information and the latest on current member activities. See you May 8<sup>th</sup>.

*Sue Eller*

## FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

### Changes Coming!

Recently a member expressed concern with the way we share contact information and more. The goal has always been for that information to be available to our members and no one else. Beginning with this issue of SPOKANE AUTHORS LITERARY GAZETTE, we will no longer include and email a copy of our roster and treasurer's report. Instead, we will include that information on our website, with a password required to see it. It will be



updated as usual. For those who receive a mailed copy of the newsletter, we will send an abbreviated, simplified version of the roster as needed. If nothing has changed, I won't mail it

I'm hoping to have this set up by the time the June issue of our newsletter is sent out. In the meantime, let me

know what information you want to have available to your fellow members so they can get it touch with you. Email, phone(s), street address or all three. The roster as it exists now will be my primary source of information but will normally not be sent to the entire group.

Please remember that many members have not yet paid dues for 2026. You should have received an email about that in the past couple of weeks. As always, if your circumstances are such that paying dues is a financial problem, please let an officer or board member know, and we'll work something out.

To pay your dues, bring cash or check to a meeting, or if I remember my "Square" card reader, you can use a credit or debit card. You can also send dues payments to:

**Spokane Authors**  
**2504 W. Walton Ave.**  
**Spokane, WA 99205-1569**

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

## OUR APRIL 2026 MEETINGS

Friday, April 10th

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> saw Spokane Authors meet at the Sans Souci West Club House on West Boone Avenue. Attending were: Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Joel Craig, Larry Danek, Mary De Bord, Sheri Decker, Gary Edwards, Sue Eller, Mark Lee Golden, Anna Goodwin, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, Keven Hostbjor, Amy Logan, Bob

Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Kathryn Robinson, Elena Smith, Mikel and Mrs. Stevenson, and Terry Stratton. Guests included Stan Smith and Rich Kellogg.

(Note: If you are listed as attending and didn't, or if you attended and aren't listed... my apologies... I try to account for all, but it doesn't always work out that way.)

Carl opened the meeting by asking for reports on any projects that members might have in work. Sarah Vail mentioned being 135 pages into her newest project. Terry Stratton said he was closer to finishing a short story collection. Kevin Hostbjoer introduced his newest book, *Thank Kevin for Little Tales: They Grow Up in the Most Novel Way*. Carl noted the kids at the private school he's been working with are getting closer to publishing their anthology.

Our speaker was Gary A. Edwards, who talked about writing screenplays and especially musicals. He reminded us to be aware of what either the camera or the audience sees. He also said that when a character makes his or her first appearance, their name should be in bold. Gary noted that with a regular film, one page of screen play was equal to a minute of presentation time. With musicals it could take longer to move ahead by a page. He offered a lot more information about the process.

Sue Eller announced that Larry Danek and her would be at University High School's Craft Fair on the following weekend, and at the Rummage Sale at Sans Souci West the weekend after.

Our upcoming Wednesday evening meeting will be an open forum regarding AI. Anna Goodwin will be our primary Speaker in May, while Ben Van Voorhis will host a short story writing workshop at May's evening get together.

As is our custom, we ended our day with drawings for door prizes.

Wednesday, April 15

Compiled by Genny La Morgan  
and Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors also met at Sans Souci West on Wednesday evening, the 15<sup>th</sup> of

April. Present were Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Cat Collins, Sue Eller, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Genny La Morgan, Dave McChesney, and Terry Stratton.

The topic of discussion was AI or Artificial Intelligence. In a brief introduction, Dave suggested that many aspects of AI could be useful. Spell Check and Grammar Check are helpful, allowing AI to do the house and yard work while we concentrate on creating. Sue noted that it is not real intelligence, but as the name implies, *artificial*. She suggested that a reader makes a good writer and said that using AI is a lot like owning a gun. It's up to the person in charge.

The group seemed to agree that certain aspects of the science were of help to writers, but that allowing AI to actually write one's story might pose moral and perhaps legal problems. We agreed that a lot of what was AI generated wasn't that good.

By 7:45 we agreed that all that could be said was said, we decided it was time to set the room back to normal and set out for home.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

(Note: INWG's First Wednesday and Third Wednesday events may be switching times to avoid time conflict with Spokane Author's Third Wednesday evening meeting.)

### INWG First Wednesday

Wednesday May 6, 2:00 pm (ZOOM) Contact [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) For link.  
(Possibly at 7:00 pm, instead)

### Spokane Authors

Friday, May 8, 2:00 pm  
Sans Souci West Clubhouse  
Speaker: Anna Goodwin: writing her father's story...*By Force and Fear: A Stolen Homeland*.

### INWG "Coffee With Linda"

Saturday May 9, 2:00 pm  
The Meeting House, 11th and Pittsburg  
[lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) for info, to RSVP

## Write Local, Publish Smart: A Spokane Authors Learning Showcase

## **An Educational Writing and Publishing Program in Cooperation with the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, Spokane**

**Location:** MAC Auditorium—E.A. Johnson, 2316 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., #100, Spokane, WA 99201

**Date:** Saturday, May 16, 2026

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

**Duration:** 4 Hours

**Cost:** Free

**Venue:** MAC Auditorium & Helen South Alexander Gallery

### **About the Program**

Join the **Museum of Arts and Culture (MAC)** and **Spokane Authors** for an engaging educational showcase designed for readers, writers, and aspiring authors of all experience levels. This free program highlights practical knowledge, creative insight, and real-world guidance from accomplished local authors.

#### **Morning 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**

10:00–10:15	Nathaniel Bennett—Getting Started in Creative Writing
10:20–10:35	Elena Smith—From Idea to Impact: Writing, Publishing, and Promoting Your Book, and the Role of AI in This Process
10:40–10:55	Sue Eller—Assembling Your Writing Team
11:00–11:15	Gail Bergan—Writing Memoir: Guidelines and Guardrails While Telling Our Truths
11:20–11:35	Sarah Vail—Adding Emotion, Body Language, and Inner Thoughts to Develop Empathetic and Relatable Characters.
11:35–12:00	Q&A

**Afternoon 12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.—Meet and mingle with your presenters and other members of Spokane Authors. Enjoy a rare opportunity to purchase signed copies of their books.**

Following the presentations and Q&A, the presenters will be available to:

- Demonstrate their work
- Discuss writing and publishing experiences
- Sell and sign their books

### **Who Should Attend**

If you enjoy reading, are curious about writing, or want to publish your own book but aren't sure where to start, **this event is for you.**

#### **Spokane Authors**

Wednesday May 20, 6:00 pm.

Sans Souci West Clubhouse

Ben Van Voorhis: Writing Work Shop...short stories

#### **Inland Northwest Writers Guild**

Wednesday May 20, 7:00 pm (ZOOM) Contact [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) for link  
(Possibly at 2:00 pm instead)

#### **INWG First Wednesday**

Wednesday June 3, 2:00 pm (ZOOM) Contact [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) For link  
(Possibly at 7:00 pm instead)

#### **Spokane Authors**

Friday, June 12, 2:00 pm

Sans Souci West Clubhouse

#### **INWG “Coffee With Linda”**

Saturday June 13, 2:00 pm

The Meeting House, 11th and Pittsburg

[lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) for info, to RSVP

#### **Spokane Authors**

Wednesday June 17, 6:00 pm.

Sans Souci West Clubhouse

#### **Inland Northwest Writers Guild**

Wednesday June 17, 7:00 pm (ZOOM) Contact [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) for link  
(Possibly at 2:00 pm instead)

#### **INWG First Wednesday**

Wednesday July 1, 2:00 pm (ZOOM) Contact [lindathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:lindathewriter@gmail.com) For link  
(Possibly at 7:00 pm instead)

### 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)

*The Hat Pin Murders*  
*The Hat Box Mystery*  
*A Hat to Die For*

1936178397  
1481959107  
1530028612

## 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, RECENTLY UPDATED, is available on the website, 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/)

### Sue Eller:

*Return from Armageddon*

**B0B1WB4C4L B0B1HXV2KS**

*Meadowlark Madness* **B0B2HZXVQD 1639445979**

*Taming of the T-Bird* **B0B2V4H1FN B0B2TVKRXS**

*Send in the Drones* **B0B#X7SJ2 B0B3JMF374**

*The Gluten Free Gourmand*

**B00TRBKT9U 150853134X**

*Short Trips to Alternate Universes*

**B08P342L5V B08P3QTJQL (pb)**

### 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**

*South American Journey*

**B0DKB5FTQF B005D2QDTC**

*Unleashed Pursuit*

**B0D4DVZJW1 1300943984**

### Kate Poitevin:

*Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part One)*

**1986153959**

*Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part Two)*

**1986179486**

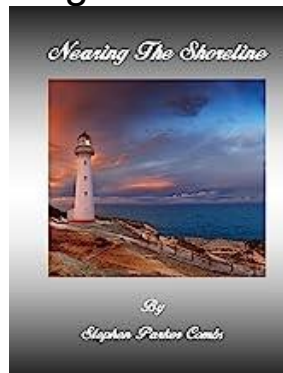
*Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part Three)*

**1986179923**

### Joyce Caudel:

## FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

### Nearing The Shoreline

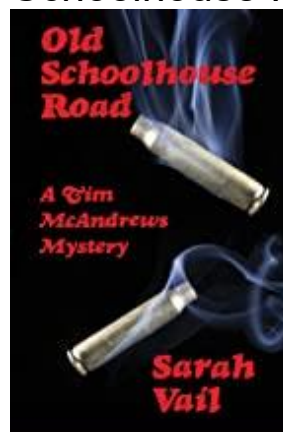


By Stephen Parker Combs

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Local author Stephen Parker Combs has put together a wonderful book of essays, poems, and stories of well-known heroes and not so well-known heroes. It's a very inspiring, feel-good book. There's a lot to learn in it. I loved this book and I think everyone should read it.

### Old Schoolhouse Road



By Sarah Vail

Reviewed by Kevin Hostbjor

This is a well-researched and written novel. Sarah Vail grabs the reader from the first sentence with a timely school shooting, capturing the fears and terrors of today's

unfortunate environment. The ongoing crime story contains twists and turns and surprised this astute (I thought I was anyway) reader right at the end with yet another twist. How wonderful. Highly recommended.

Reviewed by Larry Danek

I enjoyed reading this book. It has that turn your stomach feel when you realize the background is so authentic. The story builds tension and draws you in with every chapter.

It's one of those hard to put down books. I started it too late in the day to finish it and jumped back on it the first thing in the morning. Even skipped my paper's comic section till after I finished the book.

## Out of Hitler's Shadow

(Sorry, no cover image available)

By Roderick Stackelberg

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

This book is subtitled: *Childhood and Youth in Germany and the United States, 1935 – 1967*. It is the first volume of Stackelberg's autobiography and covers the earlier portions of his life.

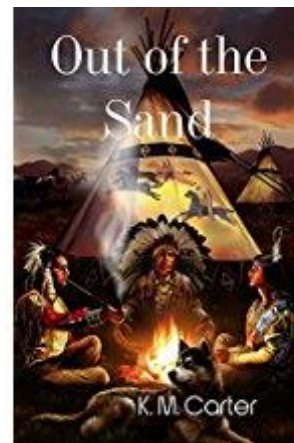
Those first years are unique. One of four children born to an American mother and German father, the book first details his parents' family histories and briefly describes how they met. As the Second World War begins, his mother elects to keep the family in Germany with her husband. Celebrating his tenth birthday on VE Day, young Stackelberg, his siblings, and his mother eventually return to the United States. His father, now separated from his mother, remains in Germany.

Based largely on journals the writer kept from an early age, the major portion of this book deals with life after having permanently returned to America. He describes life as a high school and college student in the 1950s. There is also a stint as a US Army draftee, in which Stackelberg is assigned to forces based in Germany. As the book nears the end, one finds the author searching for a meaningful career and becoming more and more curious about past events that have shaped his life.

The writer is a very well educated individual, and the quality of writing reflects this. It is very much in the academic style and at times proves to be dry and unexciting. Still, it is filled with facts, reflections, and admissions. It tells a very unique and personal story. If for any other reason, Stackelberg should be commended for baring his soul and making public his imperfections.

A professor emeritus of history at Spokane, Washington's Gonzaga University, Stackelberg has written several books on Germany and the history of National Socialism. This first part of his autobiography was self-published through *iUniverse*. The book has an ISBN of 978-1-4502-6033-6 and retails for \$16.95

## Out of the Sand



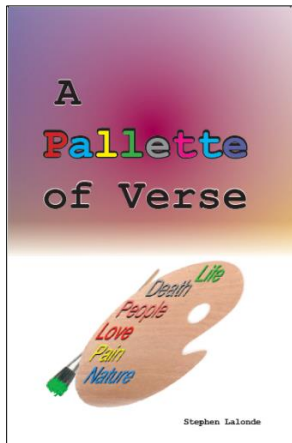
By K.M. Carter

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

*Out of the Sand* tells the story of Professor Ivan who faces a devastating loss when his wife dies, leaving him to care for their infant son. When he has to go on a long trip into Indian territory for the government, he leaves his son with his late wife's parents. Thus, Ivan begins his journey, not knowing his life will be changed forever when he meets and falls in love with Running Water, a beautiful young Indian Woman. After they are married, they travel back to Ivan's home to begin their new life. Everything is different now for Running Water as she learns to navigate the white man's world.

Ms. Carter has written a good story. If you like romance books, this book is for you.

## A Palette of Verse



By Stephen Lalonde

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

I like to read poetry so when I saw *A Palette of Verse* on the author's website, I ordered it. It has a colorful cover and is divided into ten parts of poetry: Life, Death, People, Love, Pain, Nature, Ocean Shores, Poetry, Teaching, and Classical Mythology. There are numerous poems in this book that are my favorites. One is "Advertising" which shows us that we are products from the day we are born until the day we die. Another is "Toe Tappin' Tune" about music and how it can make us happy. And "Dinosaurs" points out that even though long dead, they eventually become the air we breathe. "Sometimes I Cry" lets us know that as a male, it's okay to cry. "Time Was" is about a grandpa recalling a happy memory long ago. And "Helen" tells us the real reason men go to war.

These poems are creative and well-written. I enjoyed reading them and I will add this book to my small collection of poetry books. I recommend this book for any reader, and especially for those who like to read poetry.

## Pioneer Ghost



By Larry Danek

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

While this is the fifth book in Larry Danek's series about the Nomadic Ghost, it is also a tale of the beginning. In this slim volume of sixty-nine pages, we journey back to the American West and join a wagon train heading to Oregon. Thirteen-year-old John Vanderwick travels alone and appears likely to not survive the journey. With help from the Nomadic Ghost he continues on, aids others in the wagon train. Meanwhile the Ghost begins to understand his role in the afterlife and accomplishes a mission he has been chosen for.

The story is meticulously told as if by the ghost himself and is a quick yet compelling read. It is available on Amazon.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

*Pioneer Ghost* begins when The Nomadic Ghost enters the body of John Vanderwick, a small, sickly thirteen-year-old boy, who has died after being left behind by a wagon train heading for Oregon. The ghost is not sure what his mission is and finds the body very weak and needing rest. However, they eventually catch up to the wagon train that had abandoned John. After eating and getting some rest, they decide to leave the train because the body is still too weak. Before leaving, the ghost/John is able to get a gun from one of the trail hands named Tom Brown.

John already had a knife and a small bag with a flint in it.

As they rested and waited for a later wagon train, they killed six Indians and rescued an Indian woman named Ina and a little blond-haired girl around five years old named Patty. When more Indians attacked, Ina proved to be a very good shot. Afterwards, they ended up with twelve horses that had belonged to the dead Indians. Then they helped the wagon train they left, defend itself against an Indian attack, joining it, after a deal is made concerning the horses. Many things happen as the story progresses. When they reach Fort Henry, The Nomadic Ghost discovers the real reason for this adventure.

Once again, Larry Danek has written an exciting story with believable characters. It's well written and the story moves right along. I recommend this book to one and all, especially those that like ghost stories and/or pioneer stories.

Reviewed by Beth Camp

Larry Danek. *Pioneer Ghost*. Who doesn't love a ghost story, especially as we head closer to Halloween? How about a ghost story set in the Old West? *Pioneer Ghost* begins as a young boy is abandoned by a wagon train boss who figured he was too sick to make it to Oregon Country, even after he paid his way. If you've read any of Danek's other stories of the Nomadic Ghost, you know what follows: An intriguing tale that's hard to put down, well developed, believable, and endearing characters matched to a plot with surprising twists; and settings that bring those west-bound settlers in the path of attacking Native Americans, without relying on stereotypes. Engrossed, I enjoyed reading *Pioneer Ghost*, appreciating anew our history as well as this well-written tale.

Reviewed by Kevin Hostbjor

A wonderful ghost story set in the Old West. The *Pioneer Ghost* takes us on an incredible journey through the old west, where wagon trains and their accompanying passengers struggle to reach the Oregon

territories. Along the way, one boy's tale is interrupted by a ghost on a mission. I stumbled across this book at a craft fair and never regretted choosing it. The novel is short, but the story is fully fleshed out and engrossing. Enjoyable read. Recommended.

## MORE ABOUT AI

Last month at our Wednesday evening meeting, we talked about the advantages and disadvantages of AI or *artificial intelligence*. The day after, I realized another of the downsides to using it to create your work.

Using AI to write your stories or create your artwork takes you, the writer, the artist out of the process. You are no longer involved in the detailed creation of what is supposedly your work.

For those who do crosswords and other puzzles, you might as well just copy the answers into the puzzle and say, "Well, that's another puzzle I've completed." You will have eliminated the real challenge of doing the puzzle, to see if you can't put the clues together and solve it using your personal knowledge and abilities.

If you simply tell AI to write a story about... or ask it to paint a picture of... you are no longer involved, and I think that is just plain wrong.

