

OUR APRIL 2025 MEETINGS

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors met on Friday, April 11^h at the Sans Souci West Club House. Members present included Gena Bradford, Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Mary DeBord, Sheri Decker, Betty Deuber, Carolyn Eller, Sue Eller, Mark Lee Golden, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Tina Hammond, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, Kevin Hostbjor, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Kate Poitevin, Debby Putman, Elena Smith, Linda Sonntag, Terry Stratton, and Shandra Tanner. We welcomed new member Joel Craig and guests Lindsey Anderson, G. S. Jennsen, and Katie Hauritz.

President Carl Northrup introduced Vice-President Sue Eller, who in turn introduced our guest speaker, Frank Scalise, former member of the Spokane Police Department and author who writes as Frank Zafiro. His topic was audio books.

Frank began by talking a little about publishing in general and noted that in this day and age one can do everything that a publisher can do, or we can hire out to have it done. He noted that some feel it legitimizes our work to have it traditionally published, and there are still some who look down on the independent, self-published author. If one has a book out in print, as an e-book, or as an audio book, it does tend to validate it.

There are several ways to produce an audio book. One way is to go through Books In Motion, located here in the Spokane area. They are a traditional publisher, except that they produce audio books rather than print books. There is no cost to the author to have a book recorded, but the audio publisher has full control, and it may end up that the author receives smaller royalties.

Indie Authors can also work through Amazon, or ACX, Audio Gate, *Find Away Voices* (owned by Spotify) and *Chirp* (owned by Book Bub). One can hire a narrator/voice actor to record one's book or do it oneself. Paying the voice actor can be a matter of royalty sharing, a fixed fee based on the running time of the recording, or a combination of both. If an author decides to record the book, he should have a quiet room with no echoes, a good *podcast* quality microphone, and an audio editing system such as Audacity. There are several videos on You Tube to point one in the

right direction. One would record or have the book read and recorded and then upload, just as one does with an e-book or a print book for Kindle and other places.

Frank also mentioned that one would have to do some work for the cover, even if it is basically the same as the print version. That's because the cover for an audio book is square, while a print book is rectangular. At the end of his presentation, he shared a few samples of audio recordings of some of his books.

Once Frank had ended his presentation, we took a break and then came back to finish up our meeting. Elena Smith noted that her new website was completed and available at www.elenasmithbooks.com Carl Northrup announced he'd finished his WIP, and it had been sent out to Beta readers. He's hoping to have it published by the end of May. Finally, we drew for door prizes, said "goodbye" to one another and headed our separate ways.

(If I do not give you credit for being there, I apologize. It's possible I missed a few. We had a good crowd, and Carl noted that it was more than we had had in a long time.)

Spokane Authors also met on Saturday April 19, at vice-president Sue Eller's home. Because we had changed the location, and because it was over Easter weekend, only a few people attended. Present were, Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Sue Eller, and Dave McChesney

Sue had some handouts for everyone, and we took a little time to go over them. One was an intensive list of sound-alike words, such as *to*, *too*, and *too*. Another was a list of sentences and phrases in which we were asked to find the errors. We also discussed the possibility of finding another location for our Saturday meetings, so we don't end up with the doors being locked as happened last month.

