

OUR AUGUST 2023 MEETING

Compiled by Linda Sonntag-Noble and Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers met Friday August 11th at the Corbin Senior Activity Center. Present were: Beth Camp, Larry Danek, Jennifer Day, Sue Eller, Marilee Hudon, Fred Jessett, Bob Manion, Sandy Mason, Dave McChesney, Rich McKay, Carl Northrup, and Linda Sonntag-Noble. There were also a small number of guests present, but circumstances didn't allow us to get their names. (If you were at our August meeting, we are glad you could attend.)

Sue Eller opened the meeting and quickly moved into her role as one of our speakers. She spoke about writers molding their readers' attitudes toward diversity, using Gene Roddenberry, creator of *Star Trek* as an example. He conveyed the concept of diversity through the actions of crew members of the starship *Enterprise*. The various characters demonstrated tolerance to others very dissimilar to themselves, as exemplified by the Romulan captain in a particular episode. He was a leader who looked very different from those aboard the *Enterprise*, but told Captain Kirk that in many ways they are "not much different,"

Sue mentioned another episode in which Captain Kirk kissed Lieutenant Uhura, the first time a white male ever kissed a black woman on television!

Star Trek epitomized the I. D. I. C. concept, which stands for, "Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations."

Our other speaker for the day was Beth camp. She approached the topic of diversity in a unique way. She had us list the three most defining moments of our lives and try to see and understand how they influenced our

writing. In addition, we were to ascertain whether or not they contained or caused us to include any aspects of cultural diversity in our writing.

She also focused on the idea of cultural misappropriation and the fact that one might not always understand messages and signals of another culture.

To summarize both presentations, it might be said that Sue's was more on the entertainment side of things, as she focused on the Star Trek television series. Beth's was more intellectual and looked into the historical aspects of cultural diversity. (Contact the SASP web-master at: authors@spokaneauthors.org or at daveeva@comcast.net if you would like a copy of the hand out(s)/presentation guide(s) for either of our speakers.)

Following our break, we were all happy to welcome back SASP member Fred Jessett who had been absent for a few meetings because of an injury.

Carl Northrup stated he was very close to publishing his second book, hopefully by our September meeting, and was continuing to work on his third.

Marilee Hudon noted that the Rogers High School Arts and Craft Fair would be on October 28th and 29th. Central Valley's is slated for November 4th and 5th. She hinted that she might have and would send links for signing up for these events. A market event at Liberty Lake in early or mid-September has evidently been cancelled.

Sue again mentioned that the community center where she lives is interested in setting up a local author section in the common area and we are all encouraged to donate books. They are also looking for local authors to come speak to the residents.

Finally, we drew tickets for an assortment of door prizes and adjourned the meeting. Our next meeting will be on Friday September 8th.



Spokane Authors & Self-Publishers

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