

OUR AUGUST 2026 MEETINGS

Compiled by Genny La Morgan and Dave McChesney

On Friday, August 14, Spokane Authors met at the Sans Souci West Club House on West Boone Avenue. Attending were: Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Gary Edwards, Sue Eller, Mark Lee Golden, Anna Goodwin, D. J. Guy, Denise, guy, tina Hammond, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, Keven Hostbjor, Rich Kellogg, Joan Kopsczynski, Genny La Morgan, Amy Logan, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Elena Smith, Terry Stratton, and Sarah Vail. No visitors joined us for the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm., and fellow Spokane Authors member Joan Kopsczynski was introduced as our speaker. Her topic was “How to do a Book Club!” She told us about her Book Club Kit and shared a handout. She emphasized the importance of using standardized questions in your Book Club Kit. Benefits: You add readers and gain feedback; Increase interest through your local city and county libraries. Half your market may be your local library. Bring copies to the libraries but realize some libraries don’t take self-published books. Library discussion groups can total up to 30 people. You cannot sell books at the library, but you can give away free copies. Libraries are an inexpensive way of advertising and may have lists of local Book Clubs.

Book Club Kits can generate sales without amazon.com ads.

Craft Fairs: Balance your time with prospective sales.

Kit Page 1: Cover. Adobe has a Template to use.

Kit Page 2: Welcome letter: Introduction and “Welcome to my book club.” Call to action: Please leave a Review. Book Group Discussion. Please contact me at email or website.

Kit Page 3: About the author as it pertains to the book.

Kit Page 4: Six to ten Discussion questions. Google has standardized questions/universal book club questions: How well did the author explore the title? Were you inspired to...?

How did the story relate to your life?

Reviews/Advance Praise. Offer a playlist of songs with music notes.

Recommend other books. Offer swag: bookmarks and canvas bags.

Bookstores (and possibly libraries) have lists of book clubs. *Spokane Authors can create a list of local book clubs for its members.*

Children's Books: Libraries and stores, Schools and teachers, have Children's Reading Hour and Summertime fun with hands on activities. Donate your books to schools and libraries.

At 2:45 pm. we took a break and returned to our Door Prize giveaway drawing and notices of importance. Tina Hammond announced that Sans Souci West would hold its 2026 Craft Fair on October 2nd and 3rd. Cost is \$10.00 for Sans Souci West Residents and \$15.00 for non-residents. Indoor locations will have tables and chairs provided, but those requiring or desiring an outdoor location will need to bring their own booth set up, including chairs.

Next month's speaker will be Frank Scalise.

Gatherers Magazine is a new quarterly and one can submit short stories and articles. There are themes. It is for sale online.

A Spokane Authors member mentioned selling her second story to a Pacific Northwest Writers Association (PNWA) publication and receiving \$50.00 for it.

Spokane Authors President, Carl Northrup, writing as Nathaniel Bennett, announced he has finished the manuscript for *Yank*, and has started a sequel to *Caroline's Secret* called *Out of Time*, which is also the name of a chapter in *Caroline's Secret*

Vice President, Sue Eller is halfway through her new Emily Trace Mystery book. Thankfully, Sue's vision is improving, and she is excited to continue her editing work for fellow members of Spokane Authors.

Some members are slated to participate in an event on August 22 and 23 at Arbor Crest Winery in Spokane Valley.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm, with a lot of general visiting occurring as all packed up to head for home.

Spokane Authors also met on Wednesday August 19th at 6:00 pm at the Sans Souci West Club House on West Boone Ave. Present were Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Sue Eller, D. J. Guy, Denise Guy, Genny La Morgan, Dave McChesney, and Terry Stratton.

We talked about Character Creation and Development, with short presentations from both Dave McChesney and Sue Eller. Dave noted that characters are as important to a story as a plot or story line. He also mentioned that a character's name, as it appears on the page helps us identify and set that character apart from the rest. He also said the name should fit the individual's nationality, ethnicity, gender and so on. Character development refers to making characters unique from the others.

Sue noted the need for believable characters and an arc of development for them.

In September, our Wednesday evening meeting will feature Spokane Authors member Gary Edwards who will talk about screen writing.

Once we were done, we put the meeting room to rights and headed home.

