

OUR FEBRUARY 2024 MEETINGS

Compiled by Linda Sonntag-Noble and Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors met on Friday, February 9th at the Corbin Senior Activity Center. Members present included Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Mary De Bord, Sue Eller, Dennis Held, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, Marilee Hudon, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Elena Smith, Linda Sonntag-Noble, Mikel Stevenson, and Bob Weldin. We welcomed new member Kevin Hostbjor, author of *The Musher Man*. Visitors included: Mrs. Stevenson, D.J. and Denise Guy, authors of the children's' book *From Ragamuffin to Lovestuffin'*, Shane Murdoch, Jesed Haugen, & Wilbur Drafs, a friend of Bob Manion.

Our new president, Carl Northrup, opened the meeting. First, Bob Manion presented suggestions for book signings. He gave us several great tips, such as: a bookstand for each title you are signing, handing out copies of book reviews to potential buyers, engage with potential buyers by asking them their favorite reads, asking if they have ever thought of writing, and in general identifying with them.

Carl then introduced our speaker, Ben Van Voorhis, writer, editor, journalist, tech writer, and real estate writer. Ben suggested an interactive format, asking if we would each introduce ourselves, say what we're working on and what we would like to improve. Carl mentioned he writes historical fiction and fantasy and noted the difference between *plotters* and *planners*. Bob Manion talked about the importance of *readability*, using words in dialogue that fit the time period and context while not using unfamiliar words the reader must look up. Shane Murdock told us that because of a teacher's encouragement, he became a writer. Jesed Haugen, Sue Eller, Esther Hildahl, and Elena Smith shared a little of their writers' journeys as well. Bob Weldin emphasized how important life experience, and he has a lot, is in writing.

We had our usual raffle, and the meeting was adjourned.

(Our apologies if we have misspelt anyone's name. Sometimes it is difficult to interpret what is on the visitor sign-in sheet.)

Spokane Authors also met on Saturday February 17th in the social hall at St. Francis of Assisi Church. Joining us were Larry Danek, Sue Eller, Kevin Hostbjor, Marilee Hudon, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, and Carl Northrup. Guests

included Shane Murdock, Amy Cogan, Wilbur Drafs, D.J. and Denise Guy, and Pam Flowerday.

President Carl Northrup started the meeting at 2:00 pm and asked for folkd to share thoughts and ideas about writing. Shane Murdock talked briefly about his writing process and shared a small excerpt from a book he had just started. He received some constructive feedback. Bob Manion spoke about the importance of the back cover blurb. He also mentioned getting information about our group and our meetings into *The Inlander*.

Dave McChesney offered some thoughts on being a writer and looked at how a writer might read differently. Denise and D. J. Guy read a short excerpt from their children's book. Carl discussed writing prompts, and ways to introduce writing ideas. One included drawing character names from a hat. He also read a short story called, *I'm an Mouse!* Carl also volunteered to be our presenter at our Corbin Senior Activity Center meetings in March and April. He will delve deeper into the writing idea/writing prompt realm. The April meeting will allow those who have taken up a prompt to share what they've written.

Time passed quickly and before we knew it our time was up, and we had to leave.



Spokane Authors & Self-Publishers

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