

Our February 2020 Meeting

See a video of our meeting at: https://youtu.be/zs2G6_nMrXA



Our speaker, Tom Reppert signs a book for one of our members.

Because the Golden Corral on North Division was undergoing renovation, we held our February 6, 2020 meeting at Denny's, a bit farther to the south. President Jim Parry opened the meeting by thanking Tiffani for telling him the Golden Corral would be shut down till the end of this month. Sue Eller booked us into Denny's, and Dave McChesney ensured we all knew of the location change.

Jim then shared some "Tom Swifties." The *Tom Swift* adventure series, comparable to the *Hardy Boys* or *Nancy Drew* was noted for over using adverbs. Examples include, "the cops are working on finding who is stealing all the wheels...tirelessly," and "the thesaurus is great! There's just no other word for it."

Guests were introduced and asked to share their names, genre, & how they discovered our group. Sydney Hemming-Moore talked about her in-progress book, *Health Secrets of the Bible* and how her cancer was healed through miraculous prayer. Michael is self-publishing two fantasy books and discovered our group at a craft fair last October. Connie Wynecoop also has a new book, *Closer Than a Shadow*. Connie and Sydney are both now members of SASP

Our guest speaker was Tom Reppert, a retired veteran, teacher, and author with a Master's Degree in Creative Writing from Colorado State University, and a Master's Degree in Professional Writing from the University of Southern California. Over his career he taught English AP and literature classes. In addition he has taught overseas.

He told us if you really want to improve your writing you will read authors who create the kind of tension you want to create. He mentioned *The One*, a story about a scientist at Auschwitz. He also talked about his time travel books and how to create character & plot.

He mainly writes *time slip* books in which the characters doesn't know they have slipped back in time. In his book, *The Far Journey*, the main character, a defiant teenager finds herself on the Oregon Trail on a wagon train and is captured by the Northern Cheyenne. She doesn't recognize moving in time but only wants to return to her Pacific Palisades high school and her boyfriend.

His book, *Assassin 13*, is the story of a young female assassin, an Annie Oakley type of character, who grew up in the 22nd century, some WWI veterans, and Wyatt Earp, going after the mob in Hollywood in the 1920s.

When creating character it's important to create conflict out of a *psychic wound*. For example, a character in 1941 Lithuania escapes Nazi *herder squads* when her mother shoves her into a mass burial pit. Escaping a hail of bullets, she punches up out of that grave, avoiding the fate of hundreds of thousands of Jews, creating her psychic wound and establishing internal conflict.

Tom said creating *audible books* is a great marketing option and suggested non-fiction is easiest to record. Additionally, if you aren't writing from first-hand knowledge, it's important to do research for a believable setting. If you did not live in 1940s Brooklyn, it is difficult to write about it authentically without doing research.

He belongs to the Sandpoint Chapter of the Idaho's Writers League, the organization's largest group. They meet on the first & third Saturdays of the month. He also participates in critique meetings in Coeur d'Alene on Tuesdays at 4:00 pm

Tiffani Harvey mentioned that her participation at a craft fair on February 1st was a bit slow, but that she had received a scholarship to defray the costs of renting a booth or table. She also mentioned that on the 8th, she would be taking part in a vendor's fair at the Mirabeau Hotel on North Sullivan Road. Kari Barr told us her latest book was at the editor's and that she would be the guest speaker at a forth coming meeting of the Idaho Writers League, Coeur d'Alene Chapter. M. J. Hudon let us know she'd written a review for Bob Manion's *Santa's Heroes* and had posted it on Good Reads.

Larry Danek has another book in his *Nomadic Ghost* series which should be available in the near future. Jim Parry has finished writing a screenplay and is looking for someone to offer advice. There were suggestions of people to contact for this. Bob Manion announced his new book, *Vampire Genesis*, a prequel to *Vampire Justice*.

There was some discussion regarding our meeting location, brought on by the need to

relocate to Denny's this month due to renovation work at the Golden Corral. It was decided we would return to the Golden Corral for our March meeting, but we would then consider the possibility of going elsewhere in the future.

Door prize winners include: Kate Poitevin, Esther Hildahl, Samijo Tinsley, Tiffani Harvey, Dave McChesney, Linda Sonntag-Noble, LeAnn Aakre, and M. J. Hudon.

We are next scheduled to meet on Thursday, March 5th. ~~We'll be back at Golden Corral on North Division, and~~ Our speaker is slated to be Michael Murray, the incoming President of the Idaho Writers League, Coeur d'Alene Chapter.

Late note: we'll be at Perkins Restaurant and Bakery, 12 E. Olive Ave., Spokane, on Thursday March 5th with the meeting proper beginning at 2:30 pm.



Spokane Authors & Self-Publishers

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