

OUR JANUARY 2023 MEETING

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers met for the first time in 2023 on Thursday January 12th, at the Shadle Library. Those attending included Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Betty Deuber, Russ Ford, Dennis Held, Marilee Hudon, Joan Kopczynski, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Kate Poitevin, Pete Quint, Linda Sonntag-Noble, Mikel Stevenson, and Bob Weldin. Attending for the first time and joining the group was Thomas Benner. Welcome! A few other guests attended, but we did not get their names. If you were there, thank you for coming and we hope you enjoyed your time with us.

As President Sue Eller was out of town, Vice-President Marilee Hudon opened the meeting and introduced our guest speaker.

Our guest speaker was Laurie Buchanan, author of the Sean McPherson novels, fast-paced thrillers set in the Pacific Northwest, featuring a trifecta of malice and the pursuit and cost of justice. She began her presentation by saying the best thing an author can do is “show up, be consistent, and stay on brand. Establish and maintain brand recognition.” Laurie also noted the difference between mysteries and thrillers. Mysteries don’t reveal the solution until the end, while thrillers let the reader know what is going on but keep the characters in suspense.

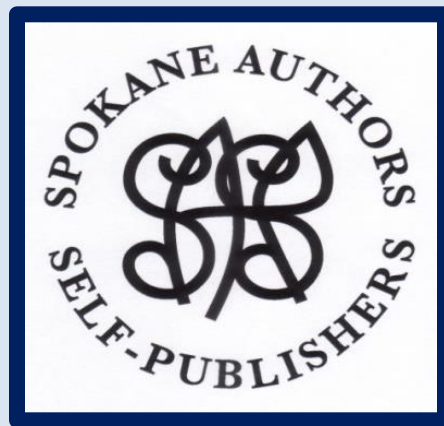
Laurie talked at length about her daily writing schedule and her planned use of social media to promote her books. Amongst other things, she reminded all to be good social media citizens and to help promote the work of others in the literary field. The key to it all, she said is, “visibility, visibility, visibility.” When asked about the hostility that sometimes exists on various social media platforms, she stated she “won’t be held hostage by the opinions of others.”

[View Laurie’s presentation.](#)

Following her presentation we took a short break, during which members had a chance to chat with Laurie and perhaps buy one or more of her books. Then we resumed our meeting with announcements from our members. Pete Quint said he was going to be attending the AWP Writers Conference in Seattle from March 8th to the 11th. Stephen Pitters was there and put in a plug for guests to appear on his Saturday morning radio show on KRYS. Marilee told us of a retired Los Angeles Firefighter now living in the area who would like to write his memoir and would like

a ghost writer to help him. Kate Poitevin announced completion of the book she has been working on and excitedly told us that she is now a great grandmother.

Marilee told us our speaker for February would be Alexander Manzoni, a local poet and writing enthusiast. Then we held a drawing for door prizes donated by various members, adjourned the meeting, and everyone went home.



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