

OUR JANUARY 2025 MEETINGS

Compiled by Dave McChesney

On Friday January 10, at 2:00 pm., Spokane Authors met at the Sans Souci West Club House at the far end of West Boone Avenue. Present were Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Sheri Decker, Mark Golden, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, T. Hammond, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, Kevin Hostbjor, Steve Lalonde, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Jon Miller, Carl Northrup, Elena Smith, Linda Sonntag, and Terry Stratton. Guests included Jerry Johnson and Steven Pitters.

When the meeting started, President Carl Northrup asked if anyone had any new projects or was working on any old ones. He mentioned that he is about one-third of the way done with one, and that it combines Science Fiction, Mystery, and Romance. With no other input from the floor, he introduced our speaker for the day.

Spokane Authors member Dave McChesney had volunteered to speak and attempted to take a step back and look at some of the more basic ideas of writing and being a writer. He mentioned that writers are unique and different, even amongst themselves. Dave illustrated this with a brief description of how the writing process works for him. He also talked a little about the choices writers make, often it would seem without even thinking of it. He suggested that what writers see or imagine as they write is not what the reader sees as they read. In closing he noted that a writer needed to establish a link or connection with the reader.

Guest Jerry Jones introduced himself, saying he had spent many years as a bush pilot in Alaska and was hoping to compile some stories about his experiences. Steven Pitters talked about his show on Clean Air Radio and invited those who would be interested to contact him if they wanted to be a guest. He passed out contact information for those who might decide they would like to do so.

Once all with something to say had been heard, we held our drawing for door prizes, straightened up the room and headed home.

Spokane Authors also met at St. Francis of Assisi Church at 2:00 pm. on Saturday, January 18th. In attendance were: Larry Danek, Sue Eller, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Cal Northrup, and Terry Stratton. Guests

joining us included: Gary A. Edwards, Christina Martin, and Titus May.

Gary Edwards told us of his writing project, a story of a couple happily married for fifty or so years. Near the end of our meeting, he read a short excerpt from the story, hoping to get some critique on it. After some discussion he revealed that this portion had been written via AI. That explained why many felt something was lacking.

The Guy Twins mentioned they are redoing their first book, *Bubby Books: From Ragamuffin to Lovestuffin!* before working on a second. Carl said he is up to twenty-seven thousand words on his new project, which he had mentioned at our Friday meeting the week prior.

Guest Titus May said he writes Science Fiction and Fantasy, and Bob Manion announced he completed his latest work in progress. *Honor the Treat* is a story about counterterrorism.

Sue Eller, following an idea via Writers Digest, had everyone write down ten writing goals for the year and seal them into an envelope. We are then to open it at the beginning of next year and see how much we have done. She also circulated a list of possible topics and ideas for future meetings and had us circle those we were most interested in. She collected these and will use them to plan future meetings.

Bob Manion talked a little about various writers conferences, including one put on by Spokane County Libraries, and the PNWA Conference in the Seattle area. He also suggested that everyone should have a writers book, in which one could record information about writing and publishing as it was received.

Finally, our time was up, so we said “goodbye” and went our separate ways.

