

## OUR MARCH 2024 MEETINGS

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors met at the Corbin Senior Activity Center at 2:00 pm. on Friday March 8<sup>th</sup>. Present were Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Mary De Bord, Sue Eller, Bob Hildahl, Esther Hildahl, Kevin Hostbjor, Marilee Hudon, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Jon Miller, Carl Northrup, Elena Smith, and Linda Sonntag-Noble. Visitors included Amy Logan, Terry Stratton, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy and Sheri Decker. (Since then, both Amy and Sheri have become members of Spokane Authors.)

Once the meeting began, Sue Eller noted that she and Larry Danek would be at the Central Valley High School Arts and Craft fair the next day. Bob Manion told us he and Dave McChesney would be signing books at the North Town Barnes and Noble the next day. (Frequent guests Denise and D. J. Guy are tentatively set to have a signing there on March 30). Esther Hildahl announced that she, Bob, and Dave McChesney would be at the Shadle High Craft Fair on the weekend of March 23 and 24. President Carl Northrup showed us some bookmarks he'd made to hand out to kids while craft fairs and the like. The book-marks tend to work better for younger people than business cards.

Carl then mentioned a few possibilities of places to meet for our weekday meeting each month. He had already told us of Canaan Buffet in the Northpointe area, but today he mentioned the possibility of meeting at Spokane Art Supply. They have a large classroom-like facility that we could use for the very reasonable price of \$12.50 per meeting. (If we switch to Canaan Buffet; we would probably meet on a Thursday. If we go to Spokane Art Supply, we would continue to meet on a Friday.) As our April meeting is the last one we are set for at the Corbin Senior Activity Center, we will need to decide where we want to meet in the future. If we do decide to continue at Corbin, remember it costs us \$50.00 per month to meet there and we sign a year's contract. Carl also asked anyone who had ideas for a meeting location to put those ideas forward. Sue Eller said she would check on the club house at the mobile home community she resides in.

Dave McChesney passed around a couple of variations of a new logo for our organization. This ties in with the move to lessen the use of Self-Publishers in our

name. Members present decided they liked the one with a border around it, and that logo will start appearing in our newsletter, on our website, and in other places as we move forward. (You will find it at the bottom of this report about our March meetings.) Marilee Hudon suggested doing something similar to a pub crawl at some point in the future, where book buyers could go from one location/one book seller to the next, similar to a pub crawl. Should we attempt this, there would still be a lot of details to work out, but it is something to keep in mind.

Sue Eller updated everyone on the progress of preparing for the April 27 Northwest Indie Bookfest to take place at Auntie's Bookstore. (Please note, participants from Spokane Authors and other local writing groups have already been determined. Auntie's is not involved in the event other than to provide a space for it to be held and to take and sell participants' books on consignment.) Sue also mentioned that the mobile home community she lives in is interested in having an author day there and that they are looking for books for the community library.

Bob Manion announced a new book and talked about the annual conference held by the Spokane County Library system. He noted these conferences don't cost anything, in contrast to most, which can set an attendee back by several hundred dollars. Larry Danek also announced publication of a new book, and Carl Northrup mentioned he was getting closer to publishing two of his projects.

As it turns out, Carl, or perhaps his alter-ego Nathaniel Bennett, was also our speaker or presenter. Besides once again reading his short piece titled "I am a Mouse," he talked about the motivation to write and the idea of what prompts us to write. As an exercise he had us all draw slips from each of five small paper bags. If we can, we are to use the information thus obtained to write a story. Random information on the slips included the time frame of the story, past, present, or future, character gender, character age, the POV it is to be written in, and the story's genre, such as adventure fantasy. Ideally, we'll be sharing some of what we come up with at our April meetings, and perhaps even farther into the future. He did not impose a length limit on what we might write but noted that we would limit what is shared to a couple of pages.

Finally, we drew numbers for door prizes, adjourned the meeting and went our separate ways.

We held our alternative monthly meeting on Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 2 pm in the social hall at St. Francis of Assisi. Spokane Authors present included

Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Sue Eller, Dennis Held, Kevin Hostbjor, Marilee Hudon, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, and Carl Northrup, Sandra Philbin and husband were there for a short while. Guests included Terry Stratton, Pat Moreno, Denise Guy, and D. J. Guy.

Carl got the meeting underway at 2:05 by asking if anyone had recently started a new story. (It wasn't clear if he meant anyone starting the story based on the writing prompts drawn at our meeting a week earlier.) Larry Danek mentioned he was writing another of his ghost stories. This particular tale is set in the Old West and features the town drunk. Sue Eller said she is working on a new Emily Trace Mystery, while Marilee Hudon has begun the third of the Luna Chronicles.

Marilee also mentioned that she had a couple of "how-to" books on writing that she would be glad to lend out to anyone who wanted them. She did emphasize that she wants them back. Bob Manion mentioned his book on terrorism, talked about a book with a cyber cat, and noted he was writing another vampire book. Guest Terry Stratton told us he had become hooked on books by local well-known author Patrick McManus and was attempting to set up a website and resource center for other McManus fans.

Dave McChesney announced he would be trying to include a more inclusive list of coming events in the newsletter. He also noted that if he doesn't have the information, he can't include it. So, if you have an event coming up, let Dave know as soon as you can so it can be included. Also, if you have an event, contact Marilee so she can get it onto social media. Ideally events should be able to be listed a month or even two months ahead.

Continuing from our meeting a week earlier, Carl talked about an alternate way of creating writing prompts. In this story ideas and specifications are listed on a black (or white) board, and the best ideas are chosen. Then everyone writes to the same set of specifications. The fun in that is seeing how different the resulting stories can be. He also let those who had not been at the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting draw from the five bags to see what sort of a story they could write.

There was also talk of reviving our Speakers Bureau. This was simply a listing of Spokane Authors who would be willing to speak to others on a variety of subjects, including writing, publishing, and more. At one time, participating members were noted on the website's member page and had information about what they would speak about, how to contact them, and any compensation desired included in their member webpages. We also once had a brochure about this small

group, but it is likely out of date.

Eventually our allotted time, as well as our list of discussion topics faded away. We turned out the lights, locked the doors and headed for our individual abodes.



Spokane Authors

*Page created 03/17/2024 dam*

©2023 [www.spokaneauthors.org](http://www.spokaneauthors.org)