

OUR MARCH 2025 MEETINGS

Compiled by Dave McChesney

On Friday March 14, at 2:00 pm., Spokane Authors met at the Sans Souci West Club House. Present were Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Sheri Decker, Betty Deuber, Carolyn Eller, Sue Eller, Mark Golden, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Bob Hildahl, Kevin Hostbjor, Marilee Hudon, Steve Lalonde, Joan, Kopczynski, Steve Lalonde, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Jon Miller, Carl Northrup, Elena Smith, Terry Stratton, and Shandra Tanner. Guests included Mr. Craig and Lynn Hanley.

When the meeting started, Vice-President Sue Eller introduced our speaker, Ben Van Voorhis. He primarily focused on submitting one's work to anthologies or literary magazines. He noted that an individual named Erika Krouse has an online list of as many as 500 literary magazines. Locally one can work with local author Sharma Shields at Spokane City Libraries, or with the folks at Spark Central.

Having one's work accepted by a literary magazine or an anthology is somewhat of a numbers game. As much as seventy-five percent that is submitted might be considered crap, and the remaining twenty-five percent is more than needed. Thus, one's work needs to be in the top one percent if it is to be considered. Ben strongly suggested one establish goals regarding where one submits, where one hopes to be published, and keep track of where one submits.

Work to be submitted should be as clean and refined as possible. Often this can be done by exchanging work with trusted fellow writers in the local area. Because these submissions are generally short, they should have a hook to catch the reader at or very near the beginning.

Ben also said it is good practice to submit as widely as possible, to have a number of them out there, rather than waiting to hear back from one before sending out another. He also mentioned an online platform called *Submittable* which many of the literary magazines and anthologies use to collect submissions.

After a break, Sue told us our speakers for the next three months. Frank Scalise, a former Spokane City Police Officer and Crime Novelist will speak in April. In May we will welcome The Spokesman-Review's Cindy Hval, and our own T. Hammond will speak in June. Sue also noted she is working on the fourth Emily

Trace Mystery, *Through Solid Rock*. Larry Danek indicated that his newest Nomadic Ghost Story, *Seven Down*, formerly *The Gunslinger*, was ready to go live on KDP. President Carl Northrup mentioned that he is getting close to finishing his current work-in progress, which combines Science-Fiction, Mystery, and Romance.

We held our usual drawing for door prizes and visited for a while, as we still had time in the room allotted to us.

Our meeting at St. Francis of Assisi Church at 2:00 pm on Saturday, March 15th did not go as planned. Four individuals, Carl Northrup, Dave McChesney, Bob Manion, and Terry Stratton, arrived and waited for any others to show up. When no one did, we didn't think too much about it as there had been previous meetings where no one else came. We decided to wait to ensure no one else was coming. After a while, one of us wandered by the door and noticed it had been locked. We could only conclude that people from the church had been there, and that when they left, they locked up, not knowing we were there and expecting others.

Contrary to our usual practice, we did not post signs directing folks to our exact location within the building. Had those been up, others in the building might have realized we were there. Going forward, we'll remember to bring and post the signs. We'll also include the phone number of someone already there so you can call if you arrive, and the doors are locked. (I have heard from some at the church that they want the doors locked, even if someone is there.)

