

## OUR MAY 2026 MEETINGS

Friday May 8, 2026

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors met at the Sans Souci West Club House, on Friday March 13, at 2:00 pm. Attending were: Gail Bergan, Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Sheri Decker, Sue Eller, Anna Goodwin, Mark Lee Golden, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Stephen Lalonde, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Elena Smith, Terry Stratton, and Sarah Vail.

D. J. and Denise Guy told us they are getting closer to republishing *Bubby Books: From Ragamuffin to Lovestuffin!* and that they are working on a second book. Kevin Hostbjor is close to releasing *The 2<sup>nd</sup> Cohort*, while Gail Bergan is working on a *serial* memoir. Carl Northrup (AKA Nathaniel Bennett is continuing to work with the students at a local private school as they get ready to publish a collection of their stories. He is also getting closer to publishing his next book.

As a group, we are working to publish a new anthology. (More recently the deadline for submissions was set at June 30. Submissions should be sent to Sue Eller. She has also suggested that if you haven't submitted anything for our anthologies, or if it has been a while since doing so, you might also send an up-to-date headshot and a brief bio.)

Our speaker was Anna Goodwin who talked about writing the story of her German/Russian father's escape from Revolutionary Russia in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Elena offered final advice for the upcoming event at the Museum of Arts and Culture. We drew tickets for door prizes and called it a day.

Wednesday May 20, 2026

Compiled by Genny La Morgan

Spokane Authors also met on Wednesday May 20, beginning at 6:00 pm. Those gathering at the Sans Souci West Club House included Sue Eller, Denise

Guy, D. J. Guy, Genny La Morgan, John R. Miller, and Terry Stratton.

Our speaker was Ben Van Voorhis, who announced a 4-week short story workshop, “From Start to Finish,” at the Shadle Park Library on May 24, 31, June 7 and 14, at 1:00 pm.

His goal at our meeting on 5/20 was to help us assemble the bones of a short story. SA members in attendance contributed to the discussion:

How to start – Theme, personal life experiences, renew old writings, synthesize bits and pieces collected into a short story. Example: job stories.

Prompts: write in second person.

What makes a good title? Sometimes, the title begins the story. Othertimes, the title comes later, or the title changes.

Hook – Something to grab the readers’ interest right away. It can be a jingle or phrase that makes a reader wonder “how come?” Or there can be missing information. Withhold enough information to make the readers curious. Establish the normal and then deviate, grounding the story by getting the reader into a time and place, or import sensory information: Somebody wants to \_\_\_\_\_, but so then \_\_\_\_\_.

How to get the information across? Action, details, showing and telling.

1<sup>st</sup> Writing Exercise: Write 2 versions of the same opening: Who is the story about and what do they want? The opening paragraph can be implied info.

Character with a goal.

Same info implied.

What’s Next: Situation, plot, events, time, change of plot direction, create questions for the reader, curiosity.

1<sup>st</sup> Person: I. 2<sup>nd</sup> Person: You. 3<sup>rd</sup> Person: They.

2<sup>nd</sup> Writing Exercise: Put the character under pressure.

Ending: Character had power, control, and accomplishment. A cliff hanger. The forbidden is won. Change for the better, opportunity for change, choice. Surprising but inevitable. Culmination of the plot. Love for each other.

3<sup>rd</sup> Writing Exercise: Character gets what they want and regrets it.

Attendees read their writings.

What can we “steal” from other writers to learn from?

Next Month: Dave McChesney Workshop: Bring your writing and get feedback.



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