

## Our March 2020 Meeting

Still waiting for renovations at Golden Corral to be completed, Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers met on March 5<sup>th</sup> at Perkins Restaurant near downtown Spokane. Our guest speaker for the day, Michael Murray, writes fiction, non-fiction, coaches high school drama students, and was a lead singer and guitarist for many years. (Here's a link to a video of his presentation: <https://youtu.be/GvD2bRQLwS4> )

He opened by asking what our frustrations as writers are and tied those answers to what readers, our audience, are looking for. If we find a way to meet our readers' needs, we will connect with them and keep them interested and invested in our story.

When we use *marketing thinking*, he said, we connect with people who expect certain things from us. It's important to get feedback from readers to help us grow. People who critique needs to be literate and have core values based on their life shaping experiences. Readers want to be connected to your story, and if they give constructive criticism, it's important not to be defensive but to get readers to elaborate and help us to improve our writing skills.

For most readers, characters are usually the favorite part of any story. One technique to develop characters is to imagine conversations with them. Picture yourself taking a character for coffee. Whenever a big event happens in the story, you can capture, even journal about, the feelings of those experiencing that event and incorporate their reaction into your story.

Sue Eller announced that Kate Poitevin, M. J. Hudon, and she would be at a craft fair at Spokane Community College on Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday March 14, she, along with Larry Danek are scheduled to participate in a craft fair at West Valley High School. Connie Wynecoop told us someone has asked to use her book in teaching a Bible class.

Our occasional guest, Morgan Walters, pointed out that there will be art shows at the Flour Mill every other Saturday, from 10 to 3, including the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> of April. Those exhibiting could possibly include potential cover and/or interior illustrators for authors. Tiffani Harvey plans to sell books at a band

booster craft fair March 14<sup>th</sup>. On April 11th she'll be in Airway Heights at the El Katif Shrine.

There's a new vendor group called Step It Up, which will provide an outdoor venue for vendors beginning June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We discussed meeting locations and the majority agreed that a return to Golden Corral would be best. The two other places we've recently met were a bit on the small side. Service was not always that good and many found that trying to order and be served during the meeting was a distraction to themselves and to others. It was suggested that if we needed an alternate location, the library on Hawthorne might be a good choice.

Door prizes were won by Connie Wynecoop, Larry Danek, Kate Poitevin, Morgan Walters, Wendy Spencer, Tiffani Harvey, Caryl Briscoe-Michas, and Dave McChesney.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 2<sup>nd</sup>, hopefully back at the Golden Corral. At this time we do not have word on a speaker or program. Additionally, in light of the current Corona Virus/Covid 19 situation, we may well decide to cancel our April meeting. If so, all members will be notified a week or so in advance.

**(Our April Meeting has been CANCELLED.)**



**Spokane Authors & Self-Publishers**

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