

AUGUST | SEPTEMBER 2025

ISSUE 39

ARIZONA

AUTHORS DIGEST

ARIZONAAUTHORS.ORG

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kathleen Cook

PRESIDENT
Arizona Authors Association



Hello, everyone! It's been a long summer, but the judging phase of the Arizona Authors Literary Contest will soon wrap up, and then we'll start tabulating and choosing finalists! Each entry will be judged by at least three judges, selected from the Arizona Authors Association membership and other professionals. If you have an entry in the contest, please don't get discouraged if you don't win. Two judges might love your work, but if the third doesn't, they might eliminate you from the running. The important part is to keep writing!

Scores are very, very close this year. I have no doubt that the grand prize winner will be decided by about a quarter of a percentage point. Competition was especially tough this year due to a 45 percent increase in entries over the previous year. Our judges have been working very hard; some of them have judged more than a dozen entries! I thank them sincerely, because we desperately needed the help. Once the finalists are chosen, I will notify each contestant of their status around mid-September. I will then begin working on the 2026 Arizona Authors Literary Magazine, which is expected to be available for purchase on Amazon in late October. This will be a busy few months for me, so please forgive me if I don't respond to emails or web pages as quickly as I usually do. Good luck, contestants!

This month, the Arizona Authors Association is sponsoring Part Two of Daniel Dickinson's workshop on In-Person Events. It will be held online on August 9 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. If you haven't registered yet, you can do so [here](#). Even if you missed the first part, the second will still be very helpful. You'll learn all the techniques to make your in-person book signings and festival appearances successful.

Part One is on our [website's resource page](#). Just scroll past the Digest archive into the videos section, and you'll see it at the top. You might want to watch Part 1 before registering for Part 2, but it's not required.

Last month, the Arizona Authors Association participated in the Payson Book Festival. We had so many authors interested in taking part that we ended up purchasing a second eight-foot table. This was the first recent time the Arizona Authors Association took part in the event, but Jane Ruby, our Vice President, has been attending for years. Fortunately, we managed to place our two tables right next to hers in a prime spot in the auditorium.

The Payson Festival is one of many events in which the Arizona Authors Association will participate. Last year was the first time we sponsored a table in Green Valley in November. A misunderstanding (on my part) prevented us from using that table last year, but you can bet we will do so this year! We already have four volunteers ready.

In 2026, we aim to expand into Prescott and Flagstaff. With the addition of both Southern and Northern Arizona Coordinators, we now have a presence statewide and plan to grow further. Let us know if you'd like us to attend a book event in a community near you, and the Board will consider the suggestion at the next meeting.

It's turning out to be a fantastic summer! Many thanks to our judges, Daniel for his workshops, and all the members who participated in the Payson event. Also, thanks to Kyle Patton for his wonderful work with the Digest.

The Arizona Authors Association is really going places, and I'm grateful to be part of the journey.

Peace,

Katy

Kathleen Cook retired from her career as an editor in 2017, but after retirement, she spent five years as editor of the Arizona Authors Association before becoming president in January 2024.



LEADERSHIP

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Contact Us

Editorial correspondence and newsletter submissions may be emailed to:

KylePatton.AZ@outlook.com

All other inquiries should be sent to:

ArizonaAuthorAssociation@gmail.com



The Arizona Authors Association, including its staff, neither endorses nor takes responsibility for the opinions expressed in this publication.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Arizona Authors Association offers several valuable benefits to our members. This Digest provides you with a bimonthly guide to workshops, events and activities—many of them free or low cost—designed to hone your skills as a writer. In addition, both our blog and our newsletter offer advice, suggestions and insight to reinforce your expertise. The yearly Literary Contest furnishes an opportunity to showcase your work and the possibility of earning prizes that will enhance your reputation as an author. Do you have an older book that never got the recognition it deserved? Our Oldie but Goldie category offers a chance to relaunch and renew interest in it. We also offer in-person book fairs and online events through our Zoom account.

Advertising under the Arizona Authors Association banner allows you to promote your work and increase your visibility with a minimum of expense and effort.

Take advantage of the Digest to report your accomplishments. Our Congratulations page is designed to applaud your efforts and inspire other members. We also welcome your input on anything author-related, such as your own literary news, useful tips, helpful websites, etc. Together, we will all benefit from the combined knowledge of our diverse membership.

Lastly, one of the biggest benefits of your membership is the ability to reach others with your book releases and advertisements. Members may submit a quarter-page ad for author-related services without cost.

Books released within the previous six months (or about to be released) can also receive one free, full-page ad.

See the Arizona Authors Association membership application on the following page for more info.

ARIZONA AUTHORS DIGEST SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submit by **September 10** for inclusion in the next issue.

Advertising

Ads are subject to editing to fit the page and/or for content. An ad may be refused if it violates Arizona Authors Association rules regarding pornography, racism, sexism or hate speech.

New Releases

Members can advertise in one issue at no cost any new book or short release published within the last six months. See New Releases front page for details.

Feature Articles

Inspire, motivate or help writers improve their craft or promote their work. We recommend getting your idea approved before submitting a final draft. Include a headshot and 50-word bio. Word count: 600–1,200 words.

Congratulations & Upcoming/Recent Events

Share your book events, signings, workshops, or sales (Arizona or nearby). Send a 50–100-word summary, photo, and link. (Photo and link are optional.)

What Are You Reading?

Tell us in 200–300 words what you're reading (not your own book!) and why you'd recommend or skip it.

Quotes and Photos

Share a joke or quote (100 words or less) about writing, editing, or publishing. We also love Arizona landscape photos. Please include your name and the location where the photo was taken.

Submission Guidelines

- Label your email subject line, e.g., "Recent Event for August/September."
- Send text in the body of the email or as a Word document.
- Submit images as GIF, PNG or JPEG (largest file possible). Submit only photos you've taken yourself; include proper photo credit.
- All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and space.

Send entries to: **KylePatton.AZ@outlook.com**





Application for Membership

Benefits of Membership

Literary Contest Awards Banquet Literary Magazine
Book Festivals Book Signings Facebook Page Critique Groups
Newsletter Speakers Workshops Website Page

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____

CELL _____

EMAIL _____

WEBSITE _____

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER? Yes ____ No ____ Maybe Later ____

We are in need of literary judges (during contest months), proofreaders, volunteers at events, etc.

Writers Published or Unpublished:

One year \$45

Two years \$80

Current Member's

Spouse/Partner/Child or any person living in the same household:

One year \$25

Two years \$40

Pay with Check, PayPal, Credit Card or Debit Card at:

www.arizonaauthors.org/join to either join or renew your membership.

Or print this form and send it with your payment to:

The Arizona Authors Association
Box 538
428 E. Thunderbird Rd.
Phoenix AZ 85022

Arizona Authors' Association is a Non-profit 501c3 organization. Its mission: To foster literary achievement, advance the art of writing and serve the writers, authors, editors, publishers and allied professionals of Arizona and the nation.

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS of the Arizona Authors Association



Mala Blomquist

Mala Blomquist, a Scottsdale native, has spent over 25 years writing and editing for niche Arizona publications. She began as a freelance writer and now serves as managing editor of the *Jewish News of Greater Phoenix*.

> LEARN MORE

Julie Hammonds

Julie Hammonds, founding board president of the Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival, is a lifelong Shakespeare enthusiast and Artistic Committee member. She's stage-managed productions and chased the full canon across North America and the UK.



> LEARN MORE

Don Doerres

Don Doerres spent 50 years in engineering, primarily in the space program writing and maintaining spacecraft software. Now retired, he writes across genres including science fiction, biography, and history.



> LEARN MORE

Jay Jones

Jay Jones, a 2025 Independent Author Award and Positive International Impact Award winner, wrote *A Bilagáana Boy among the Navajo*, a memoir of his years on the Navajo Reservation. A Marine Corps veteran and retired financial executive, he lives near Tucson.



> LEARN MORE

Dr. Dawn Filos

Dr. Dawn Filos has been a small animal veterinarian for over 31 years. She educates pet owners on care, training, insurance, and legal planning. Her blog and book, *Tales of a Pet Vet: Stories from the Clinic and House Calls*, share heartfelt stories and practical advice.



> LEARN MORE

Brian Lipkin

Brian Lipkin is a writer and musician from London who studied at the University of Oxford. Now based in Scottsdale, Arizona, he recently published the first in a series of books featuring original quotable sayings.



> LEARN MORE

Darold Graves

Darold Graves, a retired Air Force officer and educator, holds a doctorate in writing and has published 20 mystery novels. Now living in a resort community, he teaches, volunteers, and stays active in book clubs, the local symphony, and his church.



> LEARN MORE

George Moakley

George Moakley is a tech industry veteran, inventor, and science fiction writer with a background in biology and a passion for nature. Inspired by global travel and environmental concerns, he wrote *Kraken of Eden*. He lives in Arizona with his wife, Diana.



> LEARN MORE

NEW MEMBERS of the Arizona Authors Association



Kevin S. Moul

Kevin S. Moul writes psychological thrillers that blend speculative fiction, paranormal elements, and Buddhist themes. A Canadian living in Southern Arizona, he often returns to Vancouver for creative inspiration drawn from the ocean's pull.

> LEARN MORE

David Wight

David Wight is the author of *Crossing Nevada* and co-author of *Return to Ithaca: Surviving a Son's Suicide*. A longtime grant writer and mental health advocate, his work explores themes of loss and resilience. He lives in Goodyear, Az.



> LEARN MORE

Ted Parks

Ted Parks, a longtime Tucson resident and former Hollywood actor, has been a playwright, musician, teacher, and restaurateur. A founding member of Theatre of N.O.T.E., he now writes across genres and is seeking representation for his work.



> LEARN MORE

Brenda Revard

Brenda Revard is a writer with a background in homeschooling, tech writing, and education. Now in Tucson, she enjoys travel, nature, and grandparenting. Her debut book chronicles European motorhome adventures, with a follow-up in progress.



> LEARN MORE

Siona Talekar

Siona Talekar wrote and illustrated *I Know What You Do When I Go to School* at age 7, inspired by her pediatric oncologist mom. She has updated the story and artwork, and it is now being published by Story Monsters Press.



> LEARN MORE

A circular logo with the text "PROLIFIC WRITERS" around the top and "LIFE" at the bottom, with a stylized orange and yellow graphic in the center.

**FINISH your
BOOK**

Come write with us!

Connect with our community of writers and experts for online work sessions, book coaching, and more.

prolificwriters.life



> **JOIN NOW**

FROM THE EDITOR

W

elcome to the August–September 2025 edition of The Arizona Authors Digest!

INTRODUCTION

This issue of the Digest is packed with features, including 20 new book releases from our authors. We also welcome 13 new members to our community!

A big thank you to Jeanne Burrows-Johnson, Philip A. Clausen, Barbara Renner (and Larry), Mark Walker, and Karen Odden for their contributions to this issue. Your time, insights and efforts add tremendous value to the Digest. If you've ever thought about writing for the Digest, consider this your invitation! I welcome your article ideas, whether you'd like to contribute a full feature, have a recurring column, or simply share a small piece of content. I am sure you've learned a lot through years of writing and publishing. Now's the time to step up and share your knowledge. Your insights might be exactly what another writer needs.

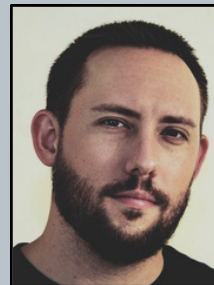
UPDATED SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We've updated our submission guidelines to reflect a new, more structured approach to planning, collecting and curating content for the Digest. This marks a shift from previous practices, but it's a positive change aimed at increasing consistency, improving quality and reducing errors. The more we collaborate to strengthen the Digest, the more it will grow in popularity and expand the reach of every piece we publish. With early discussions underway about a potential print edition, now is the perfect time to shape what the Digest can become. Please review the updated submission guidelines on page 5. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out. The last thing I want is to create any barriers to entry into the Digest.

A CHANCE TO WIN

In our last issue, I ran a little contest to add some fun to your reading: I hid tiny geckos throughout the

Kyle Patton
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Arizona Authors Digest



pages and challenged members to find them all. The first person to email me with the correct count would win a \$20 Amazon gift card. Congratulations to Shelley Watters for spotting every single gecko and being the first to respond! Shelley, I hope you picked out something fun with your prize. Thanks to everyone who participated.

This issue's contest is a little different. I invite you to share your honest and constructive feedback. Once you've read through the Digest, let me know your thoughts. What do you enjoy? What isn't working for you? What would you like to see more of? Your input matters, and the best way I can improve the publication is by listening to the people it's meant for. Be respectful and thoughtful, but don't worry about offending me. I'm here to support the community, and your voice helps shape the future of the Digest. Email me your feedback by September 10, and I'll randomly select three people to receive a \$10 gift card!

IN THIS ISSUE

Looking ahead, the deadline to submit content for the October–November issue is September 10. If you're interested in writing for the Digest, don't hesitate to reach out. I'm happy to work with you through the process, whether you're pitching an idea or polishing a draft. We're also looking for great photos taken in and around Arizona, so if you've captured a moment you'd like to share, send it in. Please include a caption and photo credit.

Email me at KylePatton.AZ@outlook.com.

Kyle Patton is an Arizona native and Phoenix-based editor, writer and journalist. He has worked for a variety of publications and is currently the editor of two national medical magazines. He is (finally) working on fiction projects of his own.



LITERARY TRIVIA

(answers on the back page)

1 Which book has been adapted into the most film adaptations?

- A. Frankenstein
- B. Dracula
- C. A Christmas Carol
- D. The Three Musketeers

2 Which author used the same typewriter for nearly 50 years?

- A. Sylvia Plath
- B. Ernest Hemingway
- C. Cormac McCarthy
- D. Agatha Christie

3 How many books does the average American read each year?

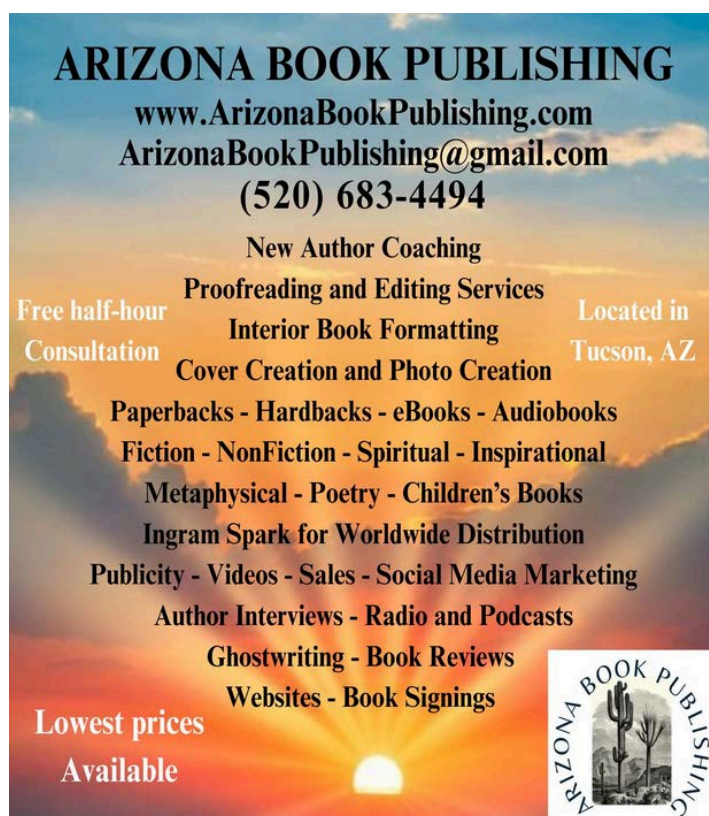
- A. 23
- B. 5
- C. 12
- D. 40

4 What is the most published fiction genre?

- A. Fantasy
- B. Mystery
- C. Thriller
- D. Romance

5 In what year did the United States begin producing the first audiobooks, originally known as "talking books" for the visually impaired?

- A. 1932
- B. 1920
- C. 1945
- D. 1957



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Author Interviews - Radio and Podcasts
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Websites - Book Signings

Lowest prices Available



IN SEARCH OF...

Opportunity Knocks: Two Openings in the Queen Creek Writers Critique Group!

We are a 12-year-old private group that meets weekly on Thursday mornings in Queen Creek to review and critique other members' fiction and non-fiction writings.

A critique group differs from most writers' groups. We don't teach people how to write. Our goal is to help skilled writers improve their skills and craft more effective work. If you are not already a published author, we will help you become one.

Our group currently has room for two new members. If you write novels or short stories and are interested in joining a creative writing group, contact Jack at jack@jackwulfen.com for more information.



IN-PERSON EVENTS PART 2

WITH DANIEL DICKINSON

Saturday, **August 9**, 2025 at **10a** (Arizona)



Missed last month's workshop with Daniel Dickinson? No problem!

Part Two is packed with fresh tips to help you succeed at in-person author events. Whether you're new to events or looking to improve your results, this session is for you.

The Arizona Authors Association is planning statewide events in 2026, and spots fill fast, so learn how to make the most of your time, table, and outreach.

Free for members and their guests. Register by clicking below to receive the Zoom link and details. See you there!



REGISTER NOW

Presented by the Arizona Authors Association

UPCOMING EVENTS

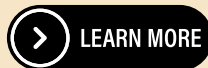


August 1

Arizona Mystery Writers Contest Deadline

Got a mystery story ready to share? Enter the Arizona Mystery Writers Contest by August 1. Full contest details and entry instructions are available at:

Arizonamysterywriters.com.



August 2–October 18

Anthony Garcia has upcoming events in support of his novel, *Crown of Spears*.

August 2: Bookmans East (unconfirmed), Speedway Blvd, Tucson

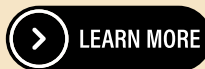
August 23: Mall Crawl Book Festival, 10 AM to 5 PM, Superstition Springs Center, 6555 E Southern Ave, Mesa, AZ

September 27: Barnes & Noble, 1 PM to 4 PM, Broadway Blvd, Tucson

October 18: Desert Foothills Book Festival, 10 AM to 3 PM, The Holland Center, 34250 N. 60th St., Scottsdale

August 20

Donis Casey's *Tell Me Your Story* features Jackie Sereno, retired educator and author of the *Circling Eagle Mystery Series*. Her work explores Native American themes inspired by her Yaqui husband and her Wisconsin roots. Read her story at doniscasey.com.



SUBMIT TO THIS SECTION

Send 50–100 words, a photo and a link (photo and link optional). You're an author. Show off that authorship! Write a sharp, engaging summary, and you might see yourself featured in an upcoming issue.

Email: KylePatton.AZ@outlook.com

EVENTS FOR AUTHORS

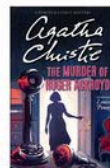
Find full event information including venue details at phxoasispress.com under 'event calendar.' On our website you'll also find blogs by local authors, free resource downloads, and more.

AUTHOR NETWORKING – FRI. AUG. 1, 10AM–12PM IN PHX



All networking, no presentation beforehand, no hard sells. Just you and a room full of Arizona authors. **Bring 2 things to this casual, in-person event: 1 area you need help with, 1 area you can help others.** Table topics, 1:1 connections, local groups. Free. For all skill levels. ASU Authorpreneurship & Arizona Business Collective co-host.

CRAFT BOOK CLUB – SAT. SEPT 6, 1–3PM IN MESA



Our in-person book club + writer's craft talk series is all about mystery in September. **Read the book in advance, then join us in-person to talk through craft elements key to the story.** Free. Ideal for authors of all skill levels. Comfortable group setting. Led by AZ author Eric Boyd.

POP IN & WRITE – WEDNESDAYS, 7–8:30 PM ONLINE



Most writers are procrastinators. Unfortunately, thinking about writing doesn't put words on your page. **Ready to hold yourself accountable to your writing goals? Join this virtual session to free write with us.** Free. For authors of all skill levels. If you join and we've already started, say hi in the chat, and jump in!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CONTINUED

September 7

Bilingual Storytime with the Authors,

12 to 12:30 PM Literally Bookshop at 397 S Gilbert Rd #140, Gilbert, AZ

Celebrate Grandparent's Day weekend with authors **Vicki Riske** and Sonia Elizabeth Urrutia de Soto as they read their book in both English and Spanish during this special bilingual storytime event.

October 18

Desert Foothills Book Festival, 10 AM to 3 PM

The 4th Annual Desert Foothills Book Festival will be held at The Holland Center. Support local authors and be one of the first 100 attendees to receive a free curated *Once Upon a Book* box (a \$60 value). Interested in helping behind the scenes? Volunteers also receive a free gift box! To sign up, contact Barb Renner at barb.renner@gmail.com.

FREE ADMISSION FOR EVERYONE

**DESERT FOOTHILLS
BOOK
FESTIVAL**

AT THE HOLLAND CENTER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH
10AM - 3PM | 34250 N 60TH ST SCOTTSDALE, AZ

MEET AUTHORS + GET SIGNED BOOKS + WIN PRIZES

November 29

Green Valley Writers Group Holiday Book Fair

The annual Holiday Book Fair returns Saturday, November 29. Past participants will receive registration info in August. New authors interested in joining should contact Bonnie Papenfuss at lbpapenfuss1260@gmail.com or text 520-576-6458 with their email address to receive details. Space is limited.



Marilyn June Janson M.S. Ed. CEO of Janson Literary Services, Inc. offers her literary expertise to both new and veteran authors.

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Text Editing and Manuscript Analyses
Book Proposal Writing
Manuscript Submissions and Tracking
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Have questions? Ask Marilyn @ arizona@aol.com, www.janwrite.com, or call her at 1-480-699-6389



You Have the Write to Heal 2025

You Have the Write to Heal 2025 Women's Retreat

This is your time.
THIS IS YOUR PLACE.

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YES! 5 DAYS CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

Be Ready.

Are you ready to release old stories, self-doubt, and shame that have stopped you from having a life that you love? Is your body holding secrets and pain from the past that is crippling your growth?

The You Have the Write to Heal retreat is the place you will re-discover what you are made of. Join **Author and Writing coach, Kim Green in the Sacred Sonoran Desert, to embark on a once-in-a-lifetime healing journey. Through daily writing exercises and other non-invasive healing modalities, you will re-discover the power and peace that are already within you.** All you have to do is be honest, face your fears and leave them on the page. With the mighty pen, as a community of women, we will slay the pain of the past and gracefully enter the future. Just bring an open heart and a serious intention to heal. This is a self-discovery experience that you will never forget. **This is your time. This is your place.**

No writing experience or expertise is required!

"This is a must for any woman who is confused, lost, in pain or in any kind of struggle to find her voice, her courage, and her strength."

— D. Jacobs

ABOUT THE WOODLAND WATER TOWER RANCH

Once the Sunstone Healing Center, the serene 12-acre Woodland Water Tower Ranch offers 14 private and semi-private rooms, all with ensuite bathrooms. This soothing natural habitat is the perfect place to ground yourself as you find yourself.

PRE-REGISTER AT: WWW.WORDSLLC.COM/WRITE-TO-HEAL/

Once your registration form is complete, room selected and deposit received, you will receive a call from Kim Green to finalize your registration. Thank you! I can't wait to heal with you.

4-Payment Plan, Available: To make payments, visit www.wordsllc.com

Questions: (678) 938-2777



This is what's included:

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- All in-town transportation
- A gift bag of healing tools
- Single or shared individual bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms
- Daily yoga and meditation
- Breathwork
- Sound healing
- Equine Therapy
- A Drum-to-Heal Experience
- Acupuncture Session
- A Sunset Blessing at the Sacred Signal Hill
- A Led Labyrinth introspective walk
- A Private Write-to-heal life coaching session with author and writing coach, Kim Green, founder of You Have the Write to Heal Retreat
- A 60-minute massage by Tammi Silva
- 3 delicious healing chef-prepared meals each day
- An authentic Southwestern Dinner at Tucson's legendary El Charro Ventana Cafe



LOOKING FOR ROUND ROBIN CRITIQUE GROUP LEADERS

by Kathleen Cook, President, Arizona Authors Association

We're seeking volunteers to lead round-robin critique groups, either by email or through group chats on our website. (With Wix transitioning from forums to groups in October, this is a great opportunity to kick off the new format!) All you need is an internet connection. (A round robin critique group is a small circle of writers who take turns sharing their work and providing feedback on each other's submissions in a set order.)

Each round-robin group will include up to six members, including the leader, to keep things manageable. If we have enough volunteers, we plan to launch the groups early next year and open them up for member sign-ups. As a leader, you'll guide up to five other authors. Your role will include introducing yourself, assigning numbers (1-6) based on last names in alphabetical order, and kicking off the first round the following week.

Each week, a different author will share a chapter or short story with the group. Everyone else will provide feedback on that submission, building on each other's comments so all members benefit. The cycle continues each week for six weeks, then starts over with Author #1.

Leaders are responsible for reminding members to submit their work, ensuring everyone receives each submission and critique, and helping maintain participation. If someone drops out or stops participating, you may recruit a replacement by posting in the Digest.

This role is perfect for someone willing to lead a small group and commit to weekly communication. Ready to help? Email me at **ArizonaAuthorsAssociation@gmail.com** and I'll add you to our volunteer list. If there's enough interest, we'll launch in 2026. Thank you!

RECENT EVENTS



May 26

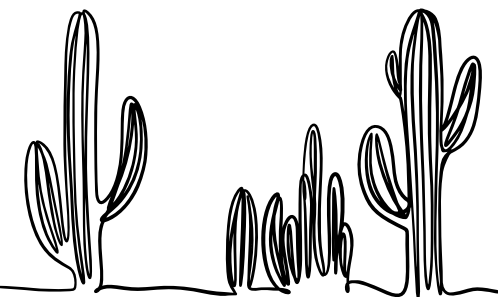
Over Memorial Day Weekend, **D.R. Ransdell** returned to Springfield, Illinois, to speak at the International Carillon Society. Her road trip novel *Carillon Chase*—winner of the 2022 Arizona Authors Fiction Award—follows protagonist Gina Campanello’s adventures around the city’s iconic Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, one of the largest bell towers in the U.S. This year’s festival featured carillonists from the Netherlands, Belgium, Chicago and Springfield, MO—but D.R. was the only author in attendance!

June 6

Author **Ram Halady** held two in-store events to present his novel *Last Bench*, first at Barnes & Noble in Tucson on May 17, and later at Stacks Book Club on June 6.

June 25

On June 25, the Scottsdale Society of Women Writers hosted journalist Sherry Sklar at Chompie’s in Scottsdale. Sklar shared her journey from high-profile editorial roles to community journalism, offering insights on writing with purpose and resilience. Attendees enjoyed a candid, inspiring talk on finding and reclaiming their creative voice.



SUBMIT TO THIS SECTION

Send 50–100 words, a photo and a link (photo and link optional). You’re an author. Show off that authorship! Write a sharp, engaging summary, and you might see yourself featured in an upcoming issue.

Email: KylePatton.AZ@outlook.com

June 28

On a sunny day in Chehalis, WA, over 80 vendors participated in the Chehalis Vendor Blendor Event at the Veterans Museum. Among them was Arizona snowbird and author **Steven J. Craig**, who represented his work and connected with readers in the vibrant local community.

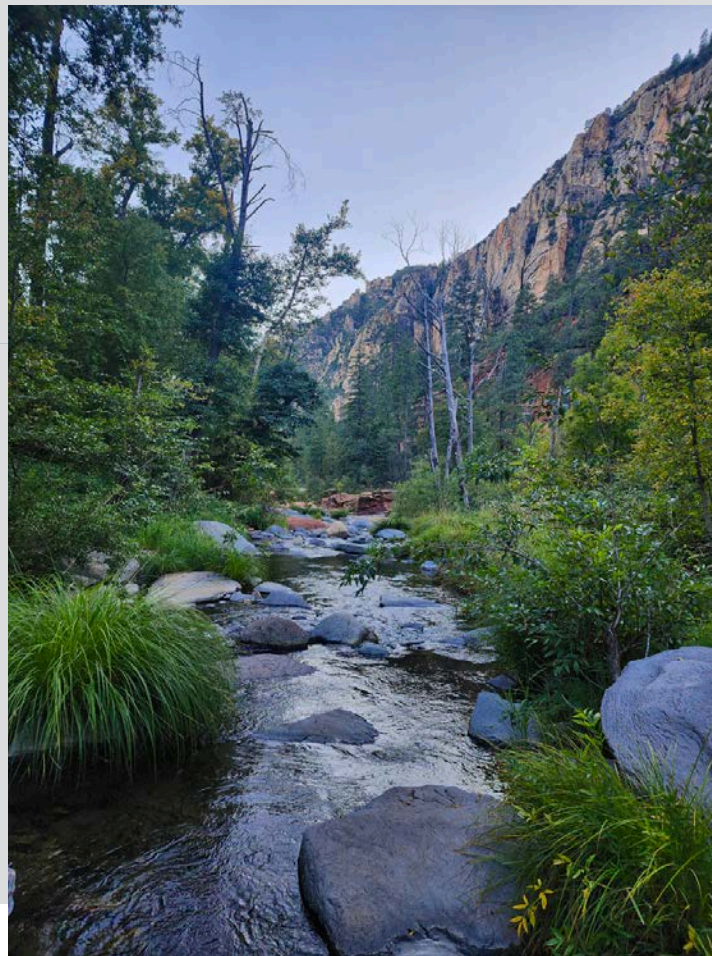


July 8

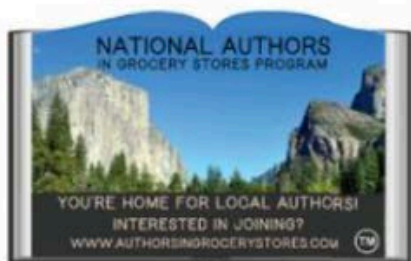
On July 8, *The Authors Show* featured *A Bilagáana Boy Among the Navajo* by **Jay Jones** on Channel One. This true story recounts the author's four years growing up as a white child on the Navajo Reservation in Window Rock, Arizona. The book has earned multiple 2025 literary honors.

July 20

In July, **Donis Casey's** *Tell Me Your Story* featured actress, writer, and filmmaker Penny Peyser, known for roles in *All the President's Men* and *Knots Landing*. Penny shared insights from her creative journey, including her *Sonnets from Suburbia* books and award-winning documentaries. Read the full interview at doniscasey.com.



West Fork Oak Creek Trailhead in Sedona, Arizona
photo by Kyle Patton



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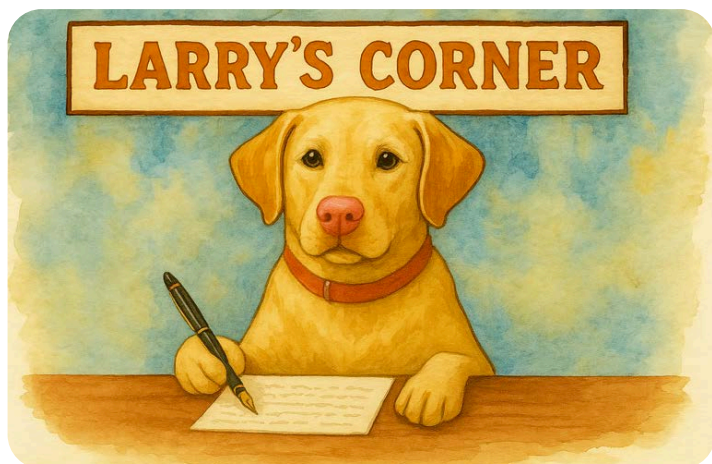
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MY MOM THE RESEARCHER

By Larry Renner

Edited by Barbara Renner (Mom)

I love to go on walks with my mom. There are always fragrant bushes to smell and white-tailed bunnies to stalk. My mom, however, doesn't seem to be interested in plants or rabbits. She asks me questions. Questions like: "I wonder what kind of animal lives in this hole?" or "I wonder what bird makes that call?" Questions I don't even understand, much less can answer. But she loves to be outside enjoying nature as much as I do, so I tolerate her babbling.

When we spent the hot months in the land of mosquitoes, Mom hammered on her black box a lot, especially after we returned from our walks. She told me she was researching the animals she saw, their habitats, and the calls they made. Then she wrote stories about them. For one of her projects, I had to listen to the haunting, loud sounds of some strange duck. They sounded like the calls we heard on our walks around the lake.

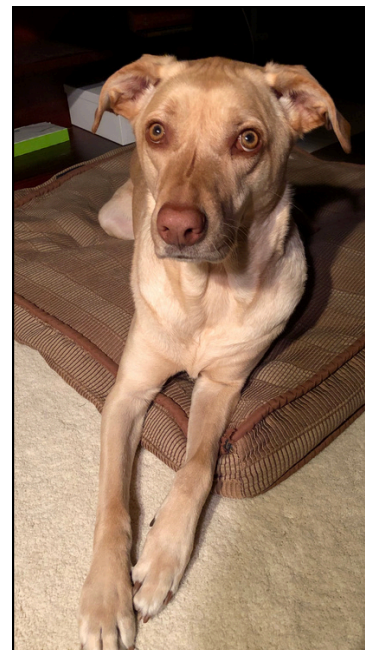
There was one time we were in the boat. Dad was fishing, and Mom was watching ducks floating in the water. They dove under the boat and popped up on the other side, almost like they were teasing us. Mom took pictures, and then, you guessed it, after Dad was done fishing, Mom ran to her black box and started pecking at it again.

Books. Mom brought home lots of books to look at instead of me. To tell you the truth, I would have loved to bury my teeth into some of those books. With books scattered around her desk and the black box open almost all night, I got tired and crawled into my bed next to her chair.

The best that I can surmise from our visits

to the land of many lakes is that Mom likes to walk so she can study nature and take notes. I like to walk so I can discover what critters were there before me. We do a lot of walking in the land of many cacti, too. That means more birds to research. I ask, "Can I chase them?"

Love, Larry



Author's note: The "ducks" Larry is referring to are Loons, Minnesota's state bird. I wrote four picture books about Lonnie the Loon after researching their habits, habitats, and calls.



Larry and his Mom, **Barbara Renner**, are the authors of the award-winning coffee table book *Larry's Words of Wisdom* and the world-famous *Larry's Words of Wisdom* desk calendar. Larry has continued his writing career by publishing monthly articles in the *Neighbors of Sun City West* magazine.



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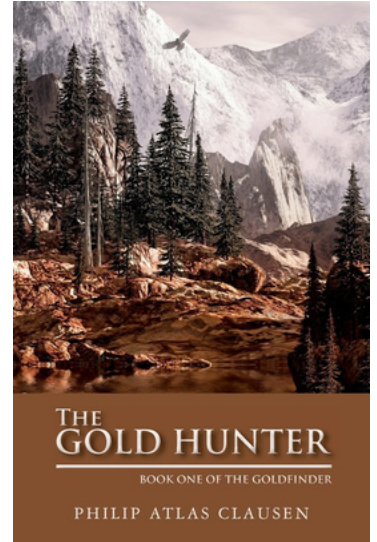
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: **PHILIP A. CLAUSEN**



As a new member of the Arizona Authors Association, having recently arrived in Tucson from Sioux City and formerly Ames, Iowa, I am working on a mystical historical novel. While exploring the Feather River region of the Sierra Nevada, I became enraptured by gold fever. Research included time with modern gold hunters dredging (vacuuming) the bottom of the Feather River for gold (I can now write about hypothermia), exploring Rich Bar discovery site, viewing ancient petroglyphs, getting lost often, visiting museums and musty bookstores and locating a rare copy of Fariss & Smiths *History of Plumas, Lassen, and Sierra Counties, California (1883)* the

historical version of the fruitless search for “Gold Lake” inspiring my novel, *The Gold Hunter*.

I also visited the Paiutes of Pyramid Lake in Nevada, who play a big role in this story and visited the Hall of Records in Carson City, Nevada, for Paiute names found only in early census records. *The Gold Hunter* will be published by Sunstone Press (Santa Fe, New Mexico). A young man



discovers that the entrance to the California Mother Lode has been kept secret for centuries by the Old Ones and is guarded by Indians. My short story, *The Return of Wyatt, Billy and Doc*, will appear this August in *Aces and Eights* and *Unmarked Graves*, internationally published by Saddlebag Dispatches, a full-color, high-quality magazine for Western fiction and nonfiction. In this short story, it appears the famous gunmen have returned in 1967 Los Angeles to make amends for their previous deeds.

I began writing on a black Royal typewriter that weighed fifty pounds when “copy and paste” meant using scissors and white glue to make editorial changes. I graduated from San Jose State College in 1971 with a degree in journalism and worked briefly for the Omaha World Herald before realizing I had no talent for news. Instead, I began working hard. Building bridges, houses and hospitals with a hunger for physical work to fuel imaginary work. Later, I became a Teamster and drove through blizzards and tornadoes. It taught me to deliver my payload no matter what.

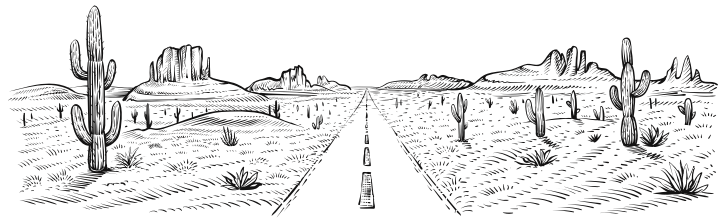
Every morning, I devoted the first three hours to writing before going to work. Writing. Then rewriting. Then more rewriting. Did I mention rewriting? Writing is a long road.

My very first story was about a caveman named Uk who comforts his wife during a solar eclipse. She is terrified. When the sun returns, she thinks he has restored the sun miraculously. The last line of the

story is her exclaiming, “Oh, Uk!” I was in the fifth grade. I’ve been trying to improve my writing ever since. In the eighth grade, I defeated the smartest girl in class in a spelling bee contest by correctly spelling “laryngitis.” Then I knew I wanted to be a novelist, but knowing how to spell is only the start. The great thing about writing is you never have to retire.

I am enjoying being a first-time judge in the AAA annual writing contest. The writing entries are amazing, and I am proud to be a part of this group.

My wife and I are new snowbirds, flying between Iowa, Montreal, and Tucson to visit our children and grandchildren in our first motorhome. I believe grandchildren keep you young and full of joy. And so does writing.



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TRAVEL WITH **PURPOSE**

Practical advice for
the traveling creative

By Jeanne Burrows-Johnson



Summer often calls authors and artists on the move. From planning multi-stop trips to prepping materials, managing transportation, and choosing where to stay, it's all about making your journey worthwhile and a little less stressful. With checklists, anecdotes, and gentle reminders, this article encourages creative travelers to be prepared, stay flexible and travel with purpose.

TIME TO TRAVEL

If you are a regular traveler (for personal pleasure or professional necessity), you may have a travel agent who assists you with scheduling and paying for your ventures beyond home. For authors, the financial restraints on literary agents and publishers have reduced the opportunities for our travel expenses to be covered.

Depending on where we live, there may be many opportunities to present ourselves (and our wares) close to home. When we need to travel beyond our own vehicle (or that of a friend or family member), planes, trains and/or the reliable bus might be the best way to reach our destination(s).

I pluralize that last point because I have found that the effort required to make more than one stop on a journey often proves to be the most productive and cost-effective choice.

YOUR VENUE DIRECTS YOUR PREPARATION FOR TRAVEL

When I visited my hometown of Portland, Oregon, just before COVID struck, I tried to make the most of the time, effort, and money I invested. At that time, my high school graduating class was celebrating its 50th reunion. With that as the unexpected impetus for my trip, I sought additional motives for my journey. The first stop I considered was a layover in California to meet the delightful artist who works with me on the *Natalie Seachrist Hawaiian Mysteries*. Unfortunately, that wasn't possible.

Next, when I was unable to arrange a speaking engagement at a Portland bookstore, I contacted my high school and scheduled two days of speaking engagements in English classes. I was also fortunate that my editor helped me connect with a book club affiliated with a professional women's organization. And, of course, I attended my graduation event and caught up with friends I hadn't seen in a while.

WHAT TO TAKE?

Regardless of gender or age, I recommend keeping the most important items on your person or in what is typically called "carry-on" luggage. You may need to check with your transportation provider about this... and another reason why a travel agent can be

helpful: Is there space for your carry-on items? Will they be stored in overhead compartments, or beneath a passenger in front of you? And will you have to pay an extra fee? Actually, is there a limit on the number of pieces of luggage or their weight that you can bring?

Another vital issue is the materials you might need for events. Will you need to create one or more displays? Will participants or audience members expect you to have handouts with an outline of a presentation and flyers about your books or other items for sale? Will you have a chance to collect contact information from those people?

What materials should you refer to when giving a public address or offering a seminar? If you are to be introduced by someone, send a short bio (including the topic of the day) ahead of your arrival. Keep in mind that things can always go wrong, so bring a couple of hard copies of handouts and a brief statement for introducing yourself.

There is always a possibility that printed materials may not arrive with you on time...even if you mailed or shipped them in advance. Therefore, I carry both master copies and thumb drives with carefully labeled files that will enable me to print anything I need once I arrive at my destination.

THE JOURNEY ITSELF

Perhaps the single most useful tip is to travel well before any event you're scheduled to attend, especially since, as I'm sure we've all experienced, travel today can be quite frustrating unless cost isn't a concern. Whether you're driving yourself or someone else is, there are issues like packing enough luggage (and presentation materials), checking the latest weather reports and road conditions (and restrictions), finding gas or charging stations, locating food, and handling restroom needs.

Since I easily suffer from motion sickness, I never consider taking a trip by bus or train. After some research, I found an airline that offered excellent departure and arrival times and a good rate for traveling in business class.

My next concern was ground transportation in Portland. With my editor's help for most

appointments, I decided not to rent a car or use a ride-share service. Instead, I opted for cabs for three trips during my week-long visit. This was simple because I booked my first night in a hotel near the airport, which provided transportation.

For the remaining days and nights of my trip, I booked a hotel for several reasons. Although it was too far to provide transportation back to the airport, they did offer local transport to nearby stores and restaurants. That meant I was able to purchase beverages and snacks to pass the time between meals, and I was able to meet friends for lunch. Another great benefit was that they offered “accessible rooms,” which, even if one doesn't need facilities meeting the Americans with Disabilities Act, can make the experience of being away from home more comfortable.

In the future, we can talk about displays and handouts, and how to best present yourself!

SUMMARY OF TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS

- Ship books and marketing materials in advance if possible—to a friend, organization, or your hotel—and make sure you visit with the recipient beforehand.
- Allow at least one full day for preparation and rest prior to each event.
- Purchase travel tickets that will permit you to change your schedule.
- Plan ground transportation that minimizes strain on you, as well as cost.



- Hotels often offer airport transportation, valets, safes and restaurants. Short-term rentals or home-sharing services (such as Airbnb) may offer less privacy than a hotel. A bed and breakfast might be a good choice when you're driving.

- Financially, notify credit card companies that you will be traveling. Obtain cash in different denominations for simple payments and tips. Find out if you need a tax or sales license for events you plan to participate in. Decide whether to accept credit cards, other electronic payments, or cash for sales. What type of receipts will you provide? Where will you store the cash you receive?

- Carry emergency clothing, accessories, medicines, vitamins, and toiletries in hand-held bags in case checked luggage does not arrive.

- Personally carry hard copies of masters and electronic files for reproducing printed materials that are important for any event in which you will participate.

- Dress to attract positive attention (and any needed assistance) while traveling—wear a name badge on your jacket, carry bookmarks, business cards, and tip money ready in your pocket!

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

In case you missed it, check out Jeanne’s Burrows-Johnson’s article, “The Author’s Visual Presentation,” in the June-July issue.

READ MORE



Jeanne Burrows-Johnson writes works of fiction and nonfiction. She is the author of the award-winning Natalie Seachrist Hawaiian Mysteries, featuring pan-Pacific multiculturalism and history in a classic literary form that is educational as well as entertaining. Drawing on her interdisciplinary experience in the performing arts, education, and marketing, her authored and co-authored articles have appeared in literary, professional, and general readership publications.



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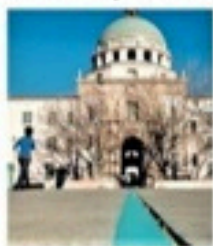


The Mainly Murals Walking Tour

The tour features many of the murals found in the downtown area, discussing the artists, history of the murals, and many of the artists' inspirations behind the pieces. Several new murals have been added. The tour begins and ends at the Presidio San Agustin del Tucson Museum located at 196 N. Court Avenue and includes murals north of Congress Street. It is approximately two miles and 2 hours long.

Public Art & Murals

Recent years have seen an explosion of public art throughout Tucson. The tour begins and ends at the Presidio San Agustin del Tucson Museum located at 196 N. Court Avenue and includes public art and murals south of Congress Street. It is approximately two miles and 2 hours long.



Turquoise Trail Tour

The tour begins and ends at the Presidio San Agustin del Tucson Museum located at 196 N. Court Avenue covering fascinating history and see some architectural gems through the heart of downtown. It is approximately two miles and 2 hours long.



4th Avenue District Murals

Explore the unique blend of art, culture, and history painted through the murals of the historic 4th Avenue District. The tour wanders through alleyways adorned with striking murals that showcase the city's diverse artistic influences, from traditional southwestern motifs to contemporary urban expressions.

Along the way, learn about the talented local artists who have contributed to Tucson's burgeoning mural scene, each piece telling a story that resonates with the community as we encounter hidden gems and lesser-known masterpieces that contribute to the unique character of Tucson's streets. The tour is approximately 90 minutes and 1 ½ mile of walking. **This tour begins and ends at Corbett's front door (7th St. & 5th Ave.) at 340 N. 6th Ave.



All tours are \$35 per person with 2 persons minimum



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CONGRATULATIONS

Philip A. Clausen's short story "The Return of Wyatt, Billy and Doc," in which legendary gunmen find themselves in 1967 Los Angeles seeking redemption, will appear in Saddlebag Dispatches' August 2025 anthology *Aces, Eights and Empty Graves*. Clausen has also signed with Sunstone Press (Santa Fe, NM) to publish *The Gold Hunter* later this year—the first in a four-book *Goldfinder Series* exploring a young man's discovery of a sacred entrance to the long-hidden California Motherlode during the Gold Rush.

Diana Grillo recently had a *First Look* play reading of her new work, *The Fortune Teller*, at the Theatre Artists Studio. She will also appear at the Desert Foothills Book Festival



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Send 50–100 words, a photo and a link (photo and link optional). You're an author. Show off that authorship! Write a sharp, engaging summary, and you might see yourself featured in an upcoming issue.

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Duke Southard's latest novel, *Retreat from the Precipice*, released in January 2025, has earned new acclaim with a recent award announcement. Southard, an award-winning author of *The Fallacy of Closure* and the *Detective Parker Havenot* series, was previously recognized as a Top Five Finalist in the 2023 Indie Publishers Next Generation Book Awards for *Tainted Justice* in the African-American Fiction category. His body of work also includes multiple literary awards for short stories and essays.

Mike Rothmiller was recently interviewed by TV One London about his book *Bombshell: The Night Bobby Kennedy Killed Marilyn Monroe*, with the segment set to air in June. He also appeared on the London-based podcast *Vetted* to discuss *Secrets, Lies and Deception*. In addition, his interview with TV1 London about *True Stories of the Paranormal and Unexplained* is now available on YouTube.

Ram Halady's first interview with *India Currents* was published this month, highlighting his debut novel, *Last Bench*.

Arthur Kerns' unpublished novel *Blood Moon Over Phoenix* has been nominated for the Clayborn Award in the "Best Investigator" category of the Killer Nashville International Writers Contest. Kerns is the author of *The Riviera Contract*, *The African Contract*, *The Yemen Contract*, and *Days of the Hunters*, with works available in print, eBook, and audiobook formats.

Choi Bi-Gyeol, a children's author and educator from South Korea, won First Place in the Fairy Tale category of the 2025 LGCBA Literary Global Children's Book Awards for her story *Shadow and Light*. Six additional works she submitted were named finalists across the Fairy Tale, Poetry, and Inspirational Story categories. A newcomer to writing but a seasoned educator with 17 years in early childhood music education, Choi creates heartfelt stories each week that nurture joy, wonder, and harmony with nature.

Janet Alcorn's award-winning short story *Proof Text* was published in *Kings River Life Magazine* in March 2025. The story originally won in the 2019 Arizona Authors Literary Contest and was featured in the 2020 issue of the *Arizona Authors Literary Magazine*. A former columnist for the *Arizona Authors Digest*, Janet continues to share her talent for mystery and suspense.



Valerie Hagenbush received a 5-star review from *Literary Titan* for her book *Talking White Owl*. The feature also includes an in-depth author interview, where she shares insights into her creative process.

Cactus Rain Publishing is proud to announce that *My Dear Grandfather* by Barsha Rai of Kathmandu, Nepal, has won the 2025 Bronze IPPY Award in the Asia, Australia, New Zealand-Aotearoa, and Pacific Rim in the Best Regional Fiction category. Now in its 29th year, the IPPY Awards honor excellence in independent publishing, recognizing books that offer originality, quality and cultural impact. The awards celebration took place on June 26, 2025.

Jay Jones' latest release, *A Bilagáana Boy among the Navajo*, has already garnered major acclaim, winning the 2025 Independent Author Award in both Southwest Non-Fiction and Young Adult Non-Fiction categories, as well as the 2025 Positive Impact Award for Non-Fiction.

Sally Bates' latest work has been named a finalist for the prestigious Will Rogers Medallion Awards, with winners to be announced in October. This national recognition celebrates excellence in Western literature and honors Bates' continued contributions to the genre.

John Stickler's third annual contribution to *Arizona Highways* appeared in the July issue. His latest piece chronicles the history and revival of Nogales favorite Zulas. Read the story here: arizonahighways.com/business/zulas. Published by the Arizona Department of Transportation, *Arizona Highways* reaches an audience of nearly 200,000 readers.

READ MORE





Mark D. Walker's latest book, *The Guatemala Reader*, has been nominated for the prestigious Eric Hoffer Award. He was also recently interviewed on *Global Connections Television* to discuss the dismantling of Guatemala's "soft power." The program features conversations with international leaders and professionals on pressing global issues.

D.R. Ransdell's *Mariachi Meddler* is now available on Audible, narrated by actor Philip Anthony-Rodriguez. In this lively first installment of the Andy Veracruz mystery series, a mariachi violinist stumbles into murder, mayhem, and musical mishaps when his boss leaves him in charge, and a fellow performer ends up dead.

Jane Ruby, Vice President of the Arizona Authors Association and author of two award-winning adventure novels, has earned yet another First Place award for her latest short story and essay compilation, *I Dream I Wake I Write*. Originally inspired by college writing assignments, the book blends vivid memories, dreamscapes, and speculative tales, enhanced by illustrations from Daniel Villanueva. This 2024 release has now won five honors, including the Royal Dragonfly Award (First Place), Readers' Favorite 5-Star, Runner-Up in the London Book Festival, and Finalist in the New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards. Ruby's books are available on Amazon, and she'll be signing copies at the upcoming Payson and Desert Foothills Book Festivals.

Penny Orloff's essay, "Survivor," won 2nd Place in the Phoenix Writers Club 2025 Formidable Women Essay Contest.

Ashley E. Sweeney's novel *The Irish Girl*, published in December 2024, has been named a finalist in two prestigious literary award contests: the Independent Press Association and the Independent Book Publishers Association, both in the Historical Fiction category.

June Reynolds' book *Sherwood History: A Sense of World War II and the Home Front* has been selected for display at the 2024 Chicago Book Fair. Released in late 2024, the book explores the contributions of the American home front during WWII and serves as a blueprint for documenting local history. It will also be featured at the Oregon State Fair on Aug. 24 from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. Reynolds, a member of the Arizona Authors Association, publishes with Reader's Magnet. Her books are available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and the Reader's Magnet website.



THE MILLION MILE WALKER **WHAT WE'RE READING AND WHY**

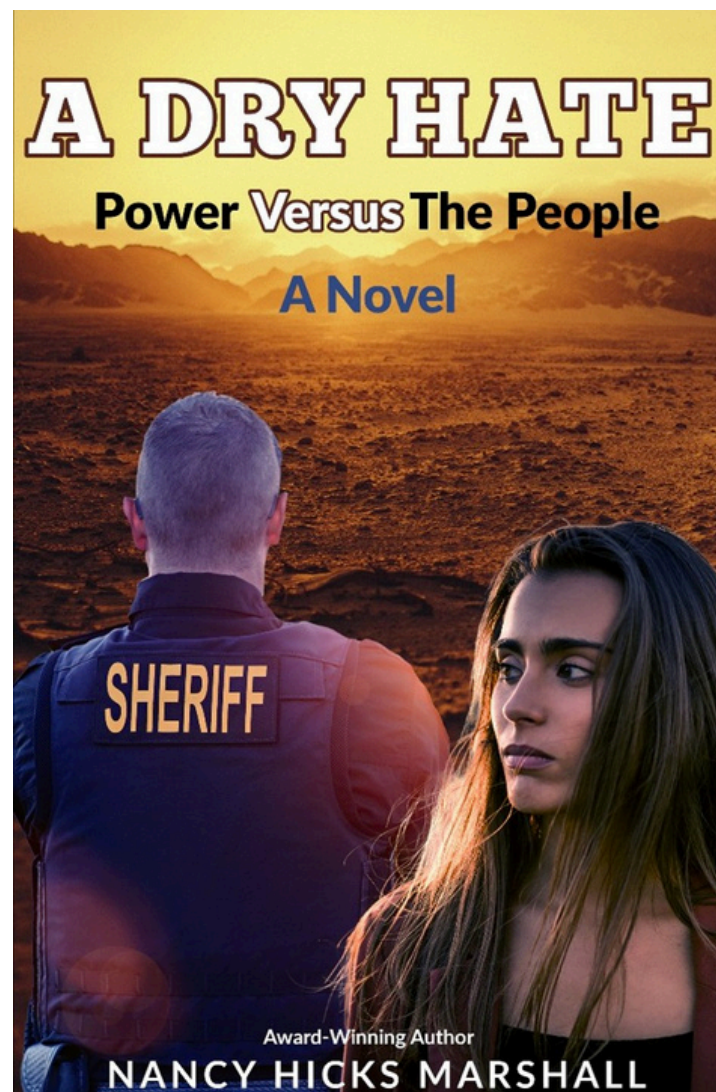
By Mark D. Walker

I met Nancy Hicks Marshall at a conference of Arizona Professional Writers, and over lunch, we recognized our common interest in immigration politics. My focus was on Guatemala, and hers was on Arizona. Although her book is fiction, it's based on the events surrounding "America's Toughest Sheriff," Sheriff Arpaio, who served as sheriff of Maricopa County from 1993 to 2016. I met Arpaio at a wedding where I was the best man, and he seemed like a jovial, personable guy. He gained national attention on a segment on *60 Minutes*, which highlighted Tent City, pink underwear, illegal immigration sweeps and traffic stops targeting Latinos. Behind this amiable façade was a darker reality, which Marshall unravels in her book, *A Dry Hate: Power Versus the People*.

The book offers a compelling examination of Arizona's immigration politics, viewed through the lens of civil liberties and constitutional rights while exploring the dynamics between institutional power and individual rights. It uses Arizona's immigration enforcement policies to understand how democratic institutions can be weaponized against vulnerable populations.

The author's story explores the consequences of Arizona's controversial immigration laws, examining how political opportunism intersects with public concerns about border security. Marshall's focus remains steadfast on the constitutional implications of these policies, particularly their impact on Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches and seizures, as well as Fourteenth Amendment guarantees of equal protection under the law.

Revered journalist and news anchor Walter Cronkite is often quoted, and the Cronkite Auditorium at Arizona State University is the backdrop for many scenes depicting the role of the media in shaping public understanding of political issues. The invocation of Cronkite's integrity serves as an inspiration and contrast to the current communications practices.



Marshall's motivation for writing the book stemmed from an incident in 2008 when she bailed out a young man from jail after he was arrested for applauding at a public meeting. When she watched a video of the arrest, she began to appreciate how one elected official (the Sheriff) with so many at his beck and call could abuse his power. The book represents a balance between readability and scholarly vigor. Her tenure as director of the Arizona Civil Liberties Union provided insight into the legal challenges arising from the State's immigration policies.

Towards the end of the book, the section on “Propaganda Techniques and Political Analysis” provides a framework for analyzing the impact of immigration policies on the distribution and exercise of political power. It highlights the rhetorical strategies employed by various political actors to advance their broader agendas. By examining how immigration became a tool for political mobilization, Marshall helps us understand how politicians can manipulate democratic institutions to serve narrow partisan interests rather than the broader public welfare.

Although published in 2012, the book was updated and republished in 2023, allowing the author to incorporate the results of ongoing political debates and the outcomes of various court cases. The real-life sheriff was convicted of criminal contempt of court, and although President Trump pardoned him, his actions cost Maricopa County taxpayers more than \$300 million in legal fees.

The author was able to include more details on how Arizona’s immigration policies became the testing ground for broader questions about civil liberties, due process, and the limitations of power, making it especially timely given today’s ongoing debate and civil strife around how to deal with immigration.

Marshall’s writing is highly readable and succeeds in making complex constitutional and political issues understandable to a general audience while maintaining sufficient analytical rigor to inform policy discussions. Her passion for justice and human rights drives a narrative that combines legal analysis with human interest-based storytelling. The book represents both historical documentation and contemporary analysis, contributing to the ongoing debate on the proper balance between security concerns and constitutional rights in our democracy.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nancy Marshall is the award-winning author of the children’s book *A Rattler’s Tale*, which earned a 2022 NFPW award for children’s fiction, and the novel *A Dry Hate*, winner of first place for fiction from both the NFPW and the Arizona Authors Association in 2024.

Marshall was born in New York and graduated from

Smith College in Massachusetts. She earned a master’s in teaching from Wesleyan University (CT) and a JD from Rutgers University (NJ). After teaching high school history and political science and working as a civil rights field officer in New York, she moved to Arizona to serve nearly five years as Executive Director of the Arizona Civil Liberties Union.



Find over 80 book reviews on my website under the “Library” tab. I’d love to hear your thoughts on the newsletter, my reviews, and what you’re reading—your insights could inspire future columns and may be featured in the next edition.

Reach me at **Mark@MillionMileWalker.com**,
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What Are You Reading?

Tell us in 200–300 words what you’re reading (not your own book!) and why you’d recommend or skip it.

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Members may advertise in one issue without cost any new book or short release published within the past six months.*

ADD YOUR BOOKS AND ARTICLES to the October-November issue of the Arizona Authors Digest no later than **September 10, 2025**

Email: **KylePatton.AZ@outlook.com**

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32–53

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NEW RELEASES



NEW BOOKS

ELEKTRA FAIRY MEETS SHAMED THE WIZARD
Children's Book | Independently published



A young fairy princess, Elektra, explores her home with her friend, Nasif, a hummingbird! One day, Elektra meets a wizard named Shaméd, who offers to take her on an adventure far from home. Elektra sees so many new sights! But danger awaits. Does Elektra escape? What new friends does she make?



Author team **TJ Boyer** and **Elizabeth Ajamie-Boyer** write across genres, including science fiction/fantasy, murder mystery, romance, literary fiction, and historical Christian fiction.

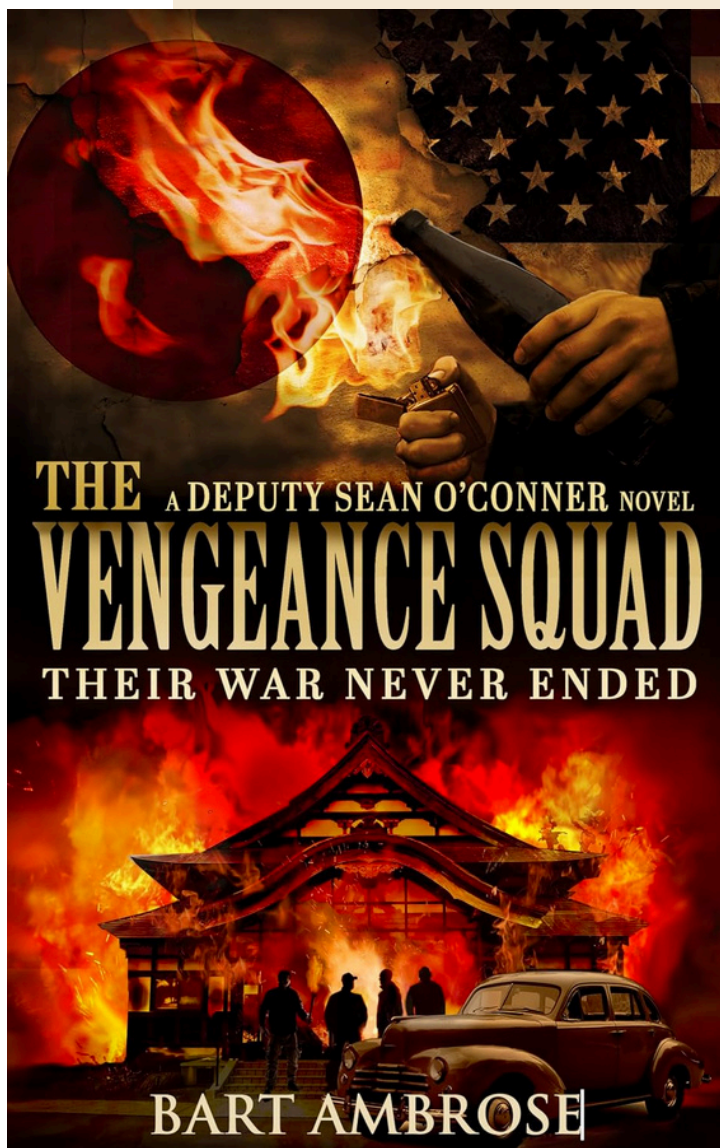
TJ has been writing and telling stories since his teens. Best known for The Mirror Gate Chronicles, he has authored several books in the sci-fantasy genre.

Elizabeth writes her own novels and also co-writes with her husband, TJ. As a Christian, she feels called to write gentle romance and historical fiction.



NEW BOOKS

THE VENGEANCE SQUAD: THEIR WAR NEVER ENDED
Novel | Reach For The Top Publishing

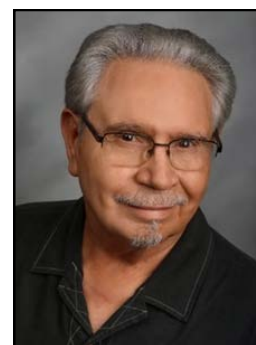


Book 3 of the *Deputy Sean O'Conner Series*

In 1946 Arizona, Japanese American families returning from internment camps face new terror from the Vengeance Squad, a group of war-scarred men bent on driving them out by any means. As violence escalates, Deputy Sheriff Sean O'Conner, haunted by his own wartime past, must confront these self-proclaimed patriots before their hatred destroys an entire community. In this gripping historical thriller, justice teeters between vengeance and redemption as a final, explosive showdown looms.



Arizona native **Bart Ambrose** grew up on an Arizona cotton farm where he spent his nights reading novels and teaching himself to play guitar. He graduated from ASU and worked as a natural resource conservationist throughout the West and the Pacific basin. A second career took him to Nashville, writing and teaching songwriting and guitar. He relocated back to Arizona to pursue his writing interests, with a focus on Arizona and the Southwest. His first two novels are historical fiction set in early to mid-twentieth-century Arizona. Both take readers on vivid journeys and adventures in a fascinating era of the state's history. Bart and his wife live near Tucson, Arizona. His hobbies include writing haiku, travel, and the pursuit of the perfect chili relleno.



NEW BOOKS

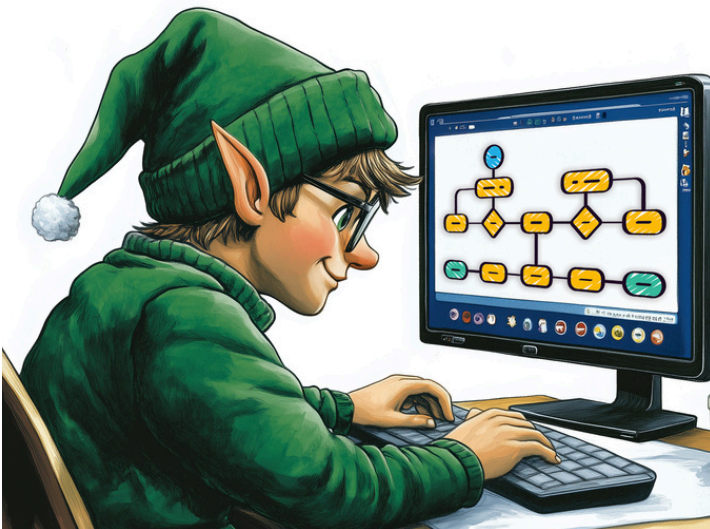
THE ROUTE LIST
Business | Angola Press

A Business Novel That Will Transform Your Office Efficiency

the Route List

by Richard Baron

Streamline Your Office Processes,
Accomplish More, and Go Home Happy



The story is set at the North Pole in December, where the elves are furiously making toys. Unfortunately, the route list, which gives Santa directions to each child's house and what presents to bring, is in danger of not being ready by December 24th. Without the route list, Santa would be unable to leave the North Pole, and Christmas would be delayed or canceled. The novel follows the hero's journey of the lead elf character, Martin, who must rise to the occasion. Martin has never performed Lean in an office and hesitates to become involved. However, over time, Martin builds his self-confidence and learns how to apply lean to ensure that the route list is ready on time.



Richard Baron is a Senior Manager, Operational Effectiveness for Avnet Integrated Solutions in Chandler, Arizona. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering, a Master of International Management, and a Master of Business Administration degree. Richard is also the author of *Streamline: Your Path to Government Efficiency Starts Here* and the accompanying *Streamline Instruction Manual*.



NEW BOOKS

HER CABIN ON CONGER CREEK
Novel | Independently published

HER CABIN ON CONGER CREEK



BY: SALLY HARPER BATES

The hard truth about the twists and turns of life. A true story, but not about one person. About several women and men, and what happens when life comes barreling at you, forcing decisions that don't always have a good turnout. But life seems to bring redemption, when we are looking for the right answers.

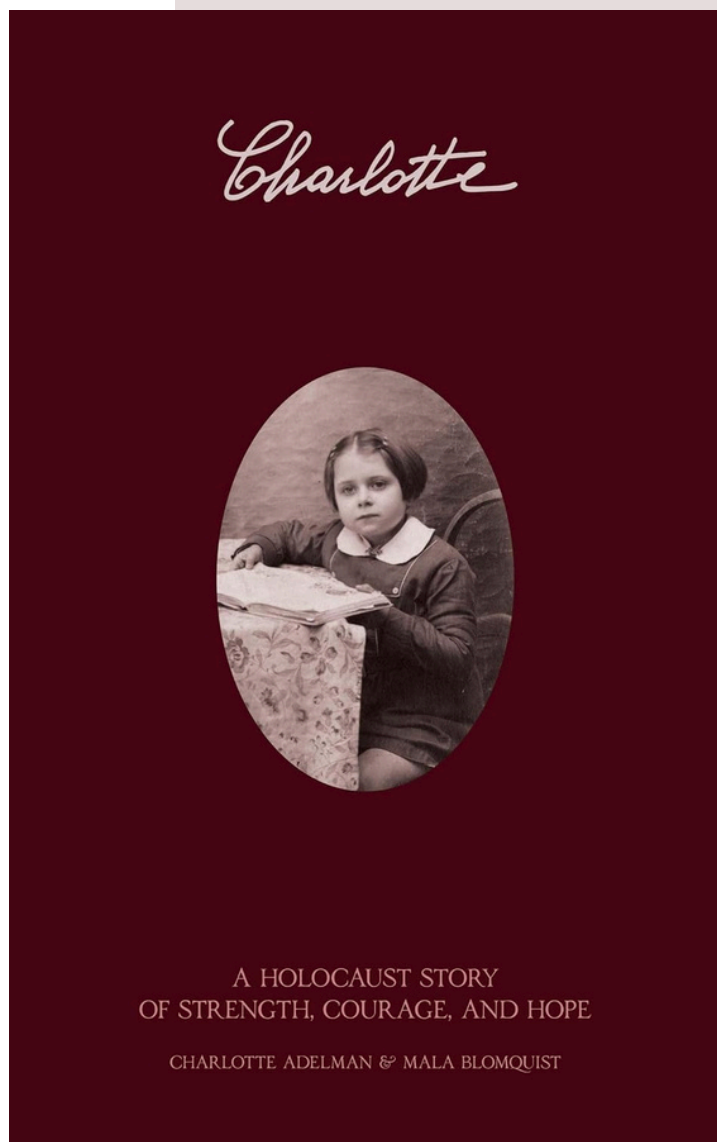


Sally Harper Bates was born in Prescott, Arizona, and has never lived far from her roots—seven generations deep in the state. Raised on ranches and active in the livestock industry, her life inspires much of her writing, poetry, and photography. Though she's written most of her life, she began publishing seriously in the past decade and started a small press to help friends share their work. Her efforts have earned multiple awards, including from Women Writing the West and the Will Rogers Medallion Awards. Sally lives in Chino Valley with her husband, Pat, and enjoys time with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.



NEW BOOKS

CHARLOTTE: A HOLOCAUST STORY OF STRENGTH, COURAGE, AND HOPE
Biography | Independently published



Charlotte: A Holocaust Story of Strength, Courage, and Hope is a captivating true story of survival during the Nazi occupation of France. Charlotte Rozencwajg had a picturesque childhood in Paris, but at the age of ten she is faced with the unimaginable terror of being separated from her family. Pursued relentlessly across France by the Nazis, she must rely on her own intuition and the kindness of others to evade capture. For nine harrowing months, Charlotte hid in the darkness of a cellar, dreaming of the day she would reunite with her family and finally find freedom. But before she could, she had to survive.

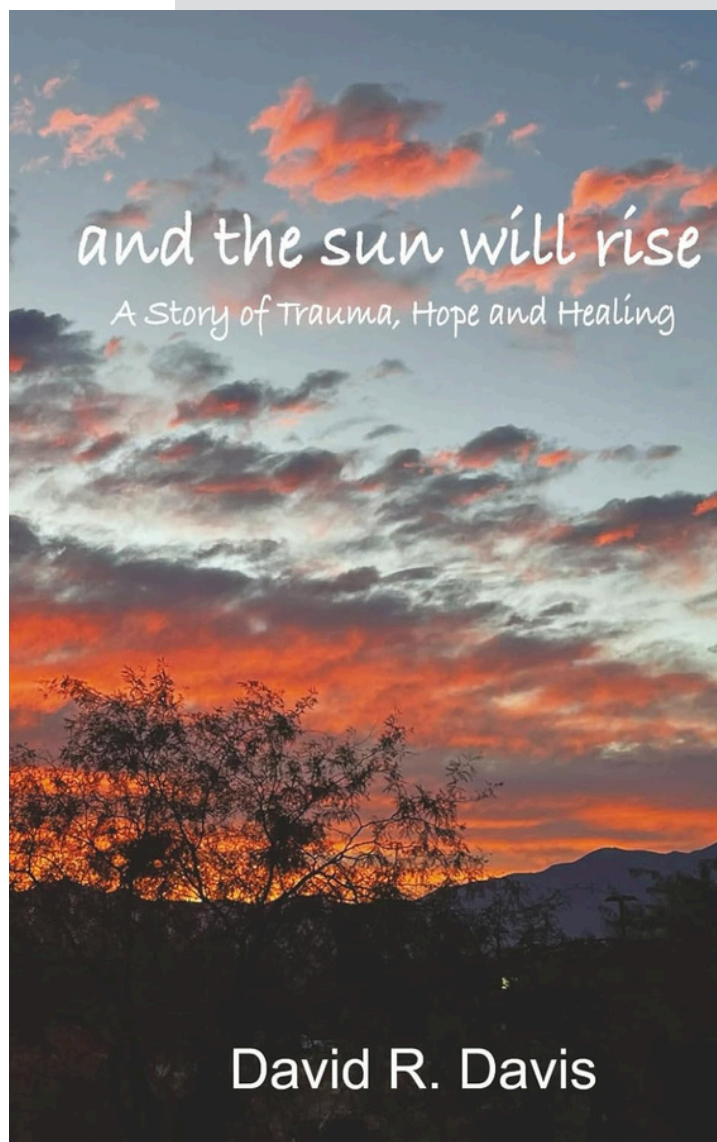


A native of Arizona, **Mala Blomquist** grew up in Scottsdale, where she gained an appreciation for the desert and a love of its breathtaking sunsets. As a young wife and mother, she began freelance writing, which spanned into a career as a writer and editor for niche publications in Arizona for more than 25 years. She is currently the managing editor of the Jewish News of Greater Phoenix.



NEW BOOKS

AND THE SUN WILL RISE: A STORY OF TRAUMA, HOPE, AND HEALING
Novel | Independently published



Brian, Grace, and Alejandro know pain in its most harrowing forms. Three military veterans, all having experienced deep trauma, are brought together in a PTSD group. Haunting memories of what they saw, did and experienced dwell deep in their minds, nightmares, and inside the hospital. Emily Dawes, a social worker at the Tucson VA Medical Center, helps guide them on their journeys. Each must overcome intense guilt and fear if they are to find any hope of redemption and peace. With the help of Emily, a bond of trust and friendship is slowly built. There may never be the cure they seek, but if they stick together, perhaps some morning they will awaken... and the sun will rise.

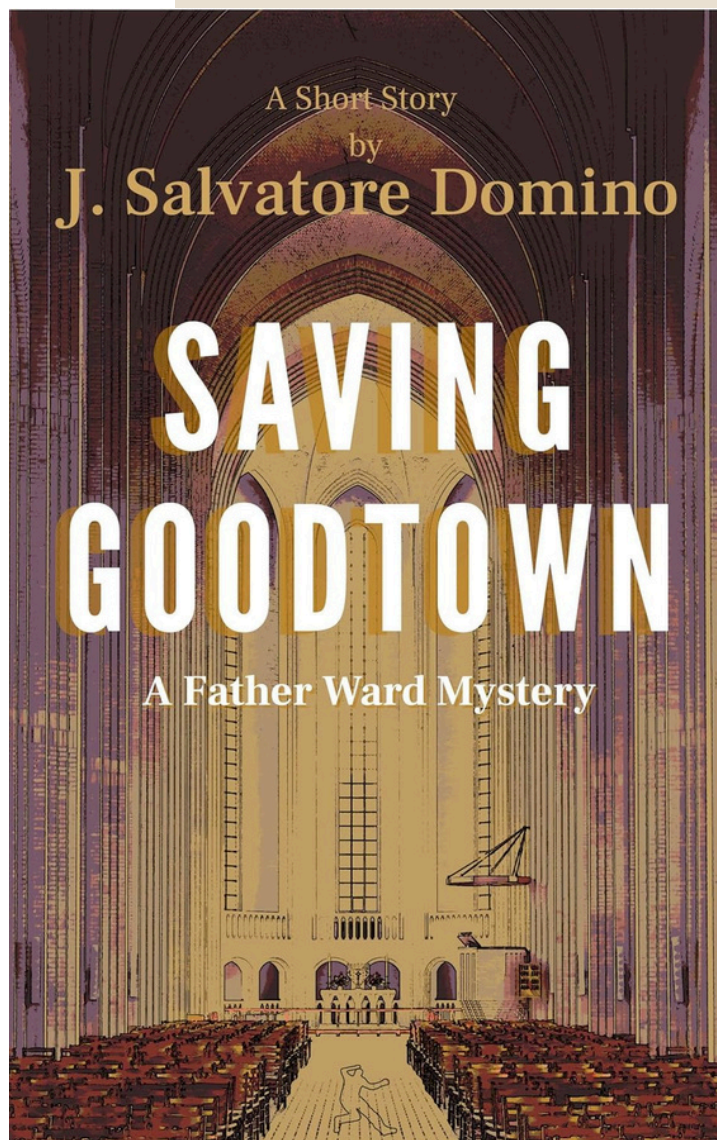


David R. Davis, a Texas native and Vietnam veteran who served as a combat medic with the 101st Airborne, spent 35 years as a social worker, therapist, and administrator. Now living in Green Valley, Arizona, he enjoys writing, hiking, and observing desert wildlife. He's the author of three books: *Running In*, *Walking Out*, *The Unusual Man*, and *Cardboard Heroes*, along with two poetry chapbooks. His work explores themes of redemption, human connection, and personal struggle. A member of several Arizona writing groups, David lives with his partner Suzanne and their spirited terrier, Denni.



NEW BOOKS

SAVING GOODTOWN: A FATHER WARD MYSTERY
Novel | Independently published



When Father James Ward is assigned to reopen St. Camille's parish after a five-year closure, he hopes to restore faith in a crime-ridden, impoverished neighborhood. But his mission takes a dark turn when the body of a wealthy real estate agent is found near the church, igniting suspicion and fear. Drawn into the case by Detective Lieutenant Spencer Roscoe, who values his connection to a wary community, Father Ward must navigate the shadows of Goodtown while confronting his own doubts. *Saving Goodtown* is a compelling mystery exploring justice, trust, and the enduring power of faith in the face of adversity.



For over 30 years, **J. Salvatore Domino** worked as a technical writer and trainer before turning to fiction in 2019. Inspired by a co-worker's encouragement, he created The Algorithm Man, America's Cyber Sleuth, a four-part eBook series. Since then, he's published hundreds of flash and short fiction pieces, often character-driven and filled with intrigue. His story collection *A Few Minutes Time* offers quick reads for busy people. His novels include *The DiMarco Incident*, *Saint Joseph*, and *Your Undercover Brother*, blending mystery, suspense, and humor. Originally from Chicago, he now lives in Scottsdale, Arizona, and draws inspiration from global travels.



NEW BOOKS

THE DOLL OF WRATH
Novel | Independently published



When Bea accepts a caretaker job at a secluded mansion in Dumaguete, she expects peace, not a haunting. Her discovery of a cursed mirror and eerie doll awakens Maria, a vengeful spirit bound to a centuries-old balete tree. Possessing Bea's body, Maria seeks retribution for a life filled with betrayal and abuse. As Bea struggles to resist the ghost's control, Celina, a young woman burdened by a family curse, and her grandmother, Lola Ina, uncover the mansion's dark history. With help from a reclusive witch and encounters with duendes, engkantos, and an aswang, they must confront Maria's wrath before it consumes them all.

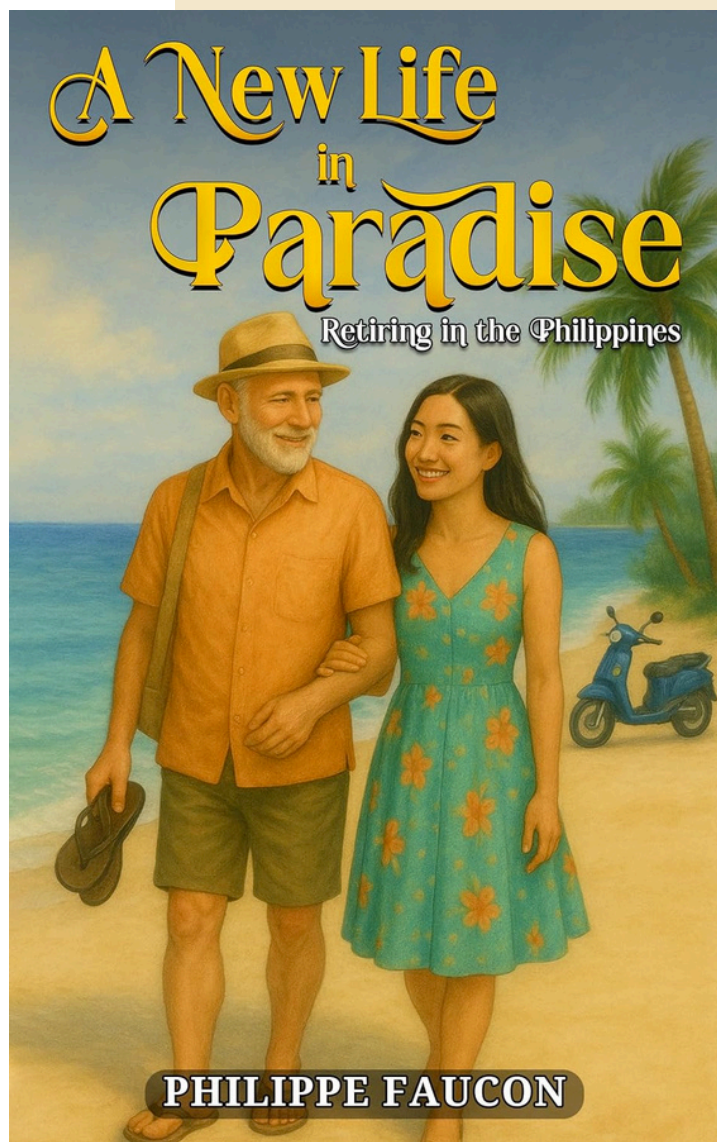


Philippe Faucon was born in France but has lived in Arizona and sometimes in Peru. With a family background in all kinds of military careers, including a brother who has worked as a real-life spy, Philippe brings a unique insight into the world of espionage and intrigue. Writing allows him to explore the difficult choices people face when confronted with only bad options, and he aims to keep his novels grounded in reality. While the characters and storylines are fictional, the background information is meticulously researched and real.



NEW BOOKS

A NEW LIFE IN PARADISE: RETIRING IN THE PHILIPPINES
Novel | Independently published



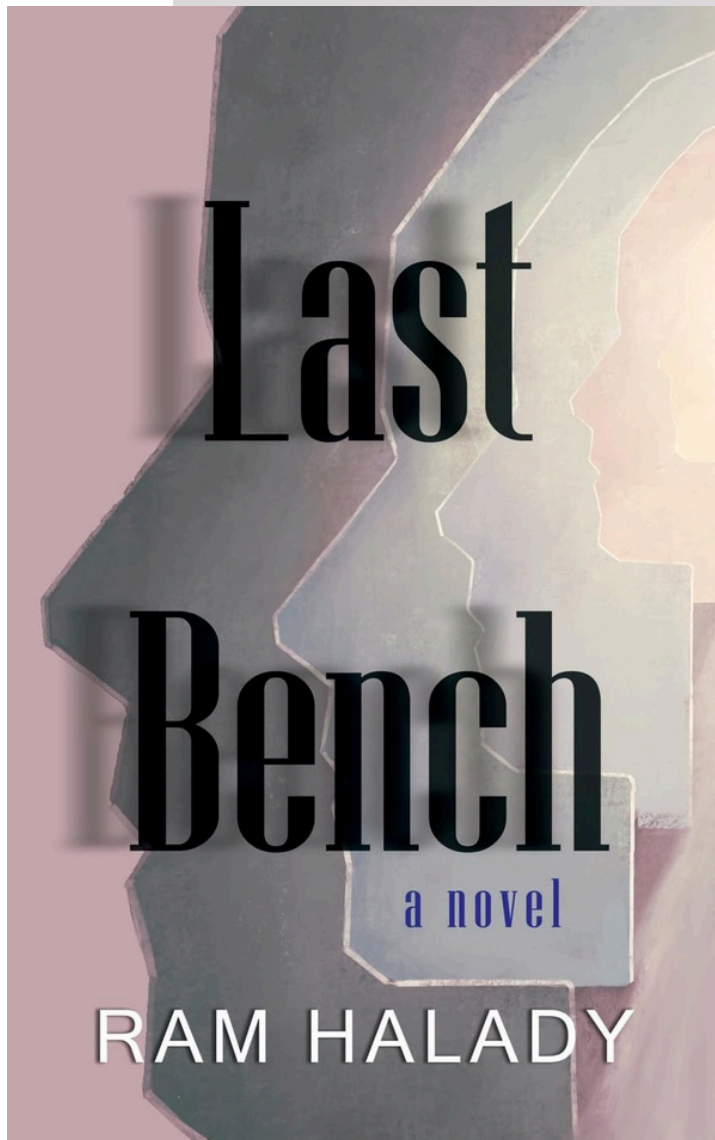
James Faulkner thought retirement meant slowing down. Instead, it became the start of everything. Leaving behind the familiar streets of home, James moves to Dumaguete, a sun-drenched city on the coast of the Philippines, seeking peace, purpose, and maybe a little adventure. What he finds is far more complicated: language mix-ups, sweltering heat, expat misfits, and two young women in his household who upend everything he thought he knew about connection, love, and belonging. From local fiestas to typhoons, quiet beach walks to community dinners under fairy lights, James begins to stitch together a new kind of life, imperfect, unexpected but deeply human.



Philippe Faucon was born in France but has lived in Arizona and sometimes in Peru. With a family background in all kinds of military careers, including a brother who has worked as a real-life spy, Philippe brings a unique insight into the world of espionage and intrigue. Writing allows him to explore the difficult choices people face when confronted with only bad options, and he aims to keep his novels grounded in reality. While the characters and storylines are fictional, the background information is meticulously researched and real.



NEW BOOKS



LAST BENCH
Novel | Vanguard Press

Sometimes, under the weight of other people's expectations from us, we forget who we truly are and what we want from our lives. Same was the case with this young boy, Vikki, who tries so hard to live up to his namesake. Vikki is a teenager with a brilliant mind and a kind heart. He is a foodie, a die-hard Bollywood fan and, most important of all, he is a great friend. So, what will he do when a friend in need comes to him for help? To what extent will he go to save him? Read the debut novel of Ram Halady to find out, and be ready to be moved by this endearing, coming-of-age story set against the backdrop of Bangalore in the '70s.

"A thoughtful novel that's moving and entertaining, by turns."

-Kirkus Reviews

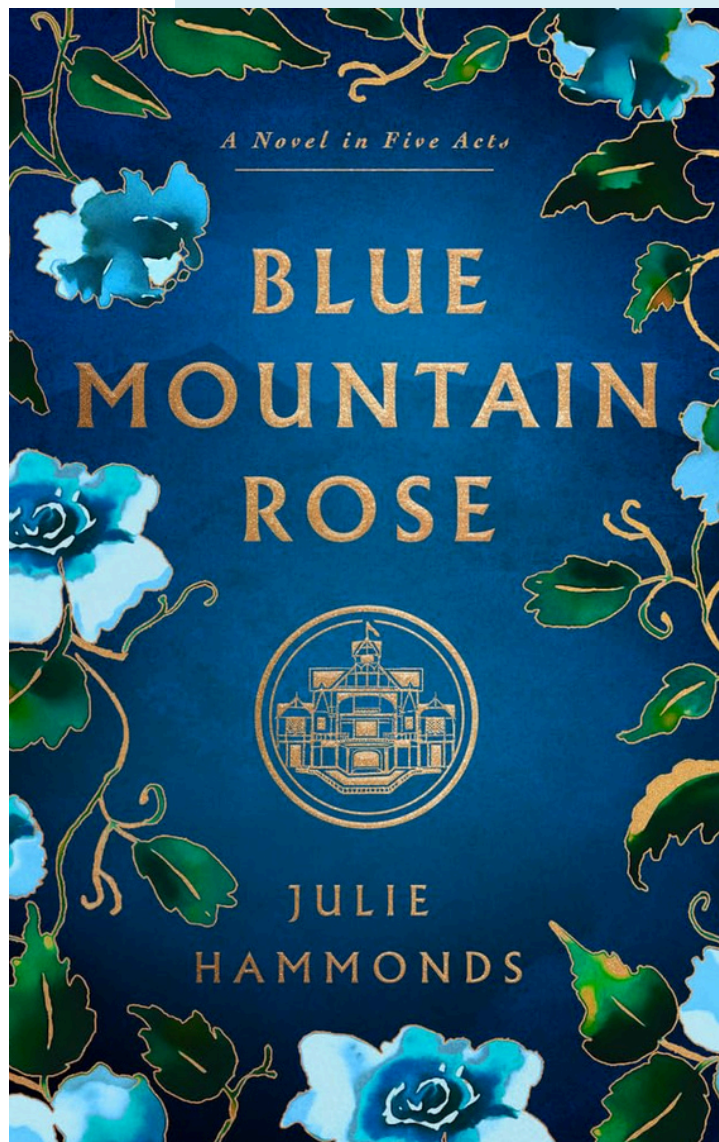


Ram Halady was born and raised in India and currently resides in Tucson, AZ. He loves writing stories for the children in his family. He is presently enjoying his retirement by creating protagonists with authentic voices to depict life experiences in India. His first novel, *Last Bench*, gives us an endearing, unforgettable character, Vikki, in a coming-of-age story set against the backdrop of Bangalore in the 70s.



NEW BOOKS

BLUE MOUNTAIN ROSE: A NOVEL IN FIVE ACTS
Novel | Soulstice Publishing



At the beloved but aging Blue Mountain Rose theater in the Arizona mountains, founder Richard Keane considers closing its doors after 40 years, just as the 2009 production of Hamlet begins. Loyal company manager Kate Morales believes in the Rose's future and wonders if she's ready to take the reins. When a gifted but troubled actor named Peter Dunmore auditions, he offers hope of revitalizing the theater if his hidden sorrow doesn't derail everything. As they fight to save the Rose, the trio confronts legacy, loss and the true cost of ambition.

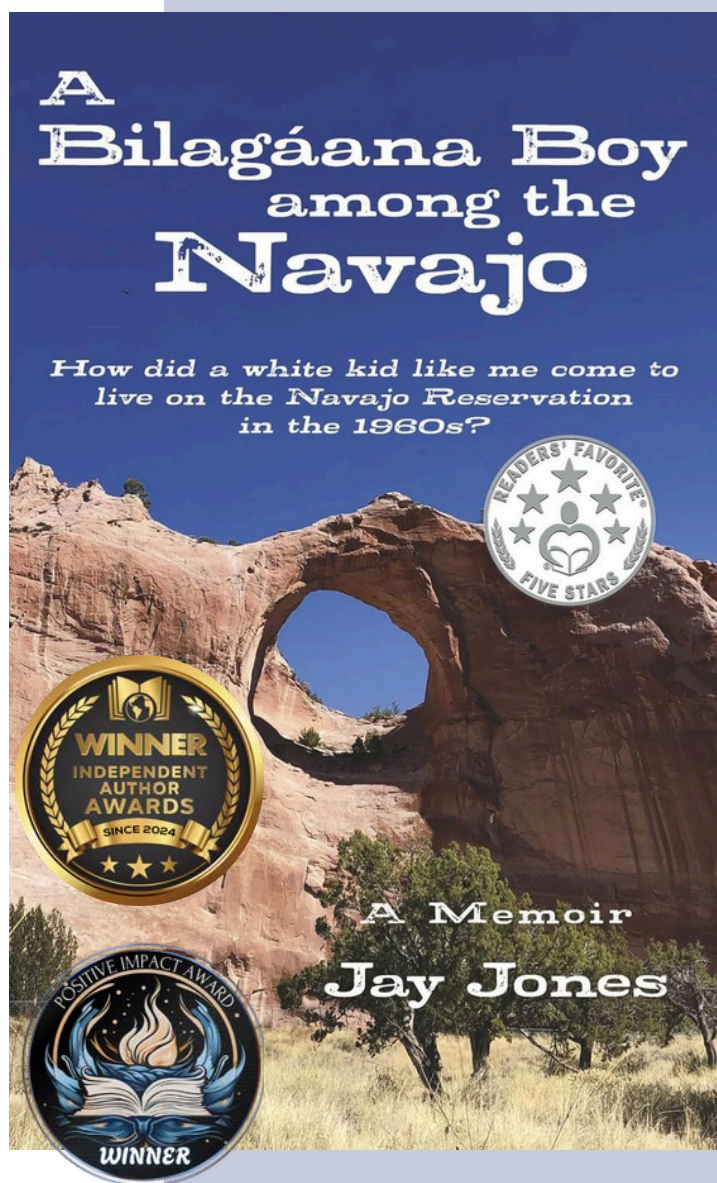


Julie Hammonds, author of *Blue Mountain Rose: A Novel in Five Acts*, fell in love with Hamlet during a high school trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and has nurtured her passion for Shakespeare ever since. She studied the plays in school, stage-managed *The Winter's Tale* and *Much Ado About Nothing*, and helped create the Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival. Her quest to complete the canon as an audience member has taken her from a community hall in Juneau, Alaska, to the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon. She has four plays to go.



NEW BOOKS

A BILAGÁANA BOY AMONG THE NAVAJO
Memoir | BookBaby



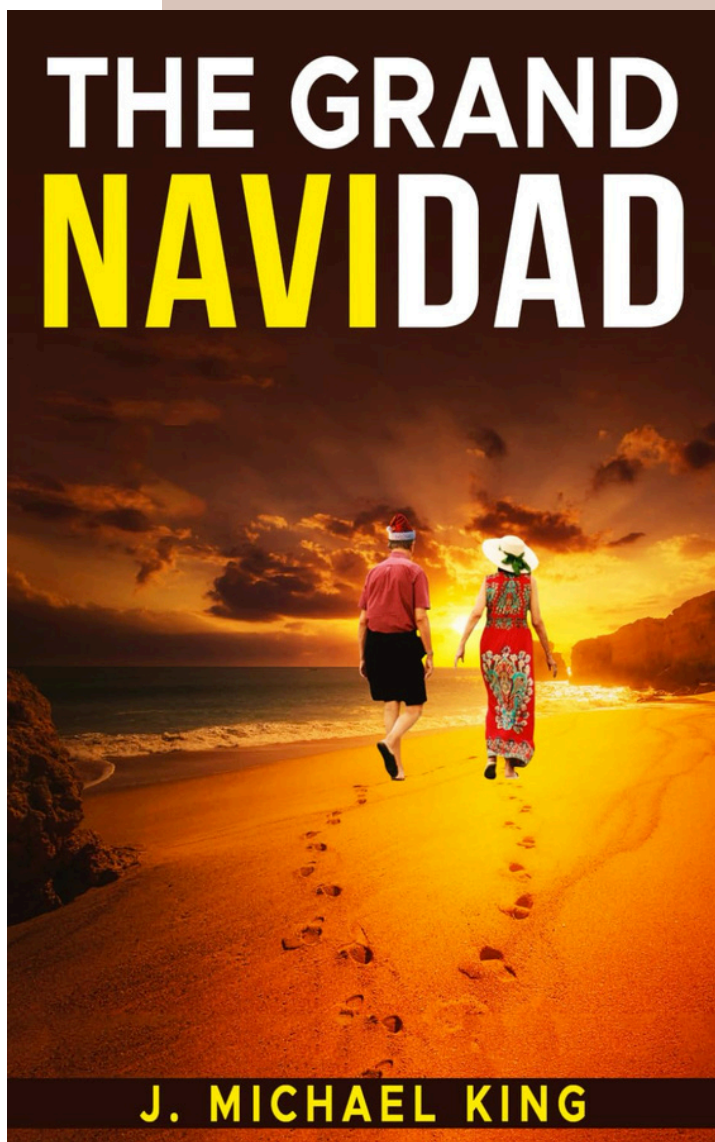
How did a white kid like me come to live on the Navajo Reservation in the 1960s? In 1965, six-year-old Jay's world is upended by his parents' divorce and his mother's breakdown. Forced to move with her and his abusive stepfather to the Navajo Reservation in Arizona, Jay becomes a "bilagáana"—a white boy outsider— navigating life between cultures from 1967 to 1971. While dreaming of reuniting with his father, he finds escape in the hills, Boy Scouts, and Little League. Embraced by Navajo families who teach him their ways and ranch life, Jay must grow up quickly as he searches for belonging, purpose, and a way back to the life he lost.



Jay Jones is the 2025 2x Independent Author Award recipient and 2025 Positive International Impact Award winner for the book, *A Bilagáana Boy among the Navajo*. In this true story, he chronicles his four years living as a white kid on the Navajo Indian Reservation in Window Rock, Arizona. As the son of two Air Force veterans, he was born in Tachikawa, Japan, and lived across the United States. After a turbulent childhood, Jay grew joined the Marine Corps at 17. He has worked as a pizza and short-order cook, professional photographer, security guard, fire alarm salesman, employment counselor, drugstore manager trainee, hotel front desk clerk, bar manager, restaurant manager, disc jockey, beauty pageant MC, financial advisor, investment wholesaler, volunteer and more. Jay obtained his degree in business management and retired after 33 years as a chartered financial consultant sales executive. He lives near Tucson, Arizona.



THE GRAND NAVIDAD
Novel | Independently published



When Bill Jordan answers a Christmas Eve call from a Mexican colleague, he and his wife Linda end up hosting the stranded Garcia family at their Arizona home. A brief act of kindness turns into a budding friendship, with shared meals, repairs, and cultural exchange. Months later, the Garcias return for a profitable visit—building grills and teaching tamale-making—until a prejudiced neighbor alerts immigration authorities. As tensions rise, both families must confront the consequences of goodwill challenged by bias and bureaucracy.

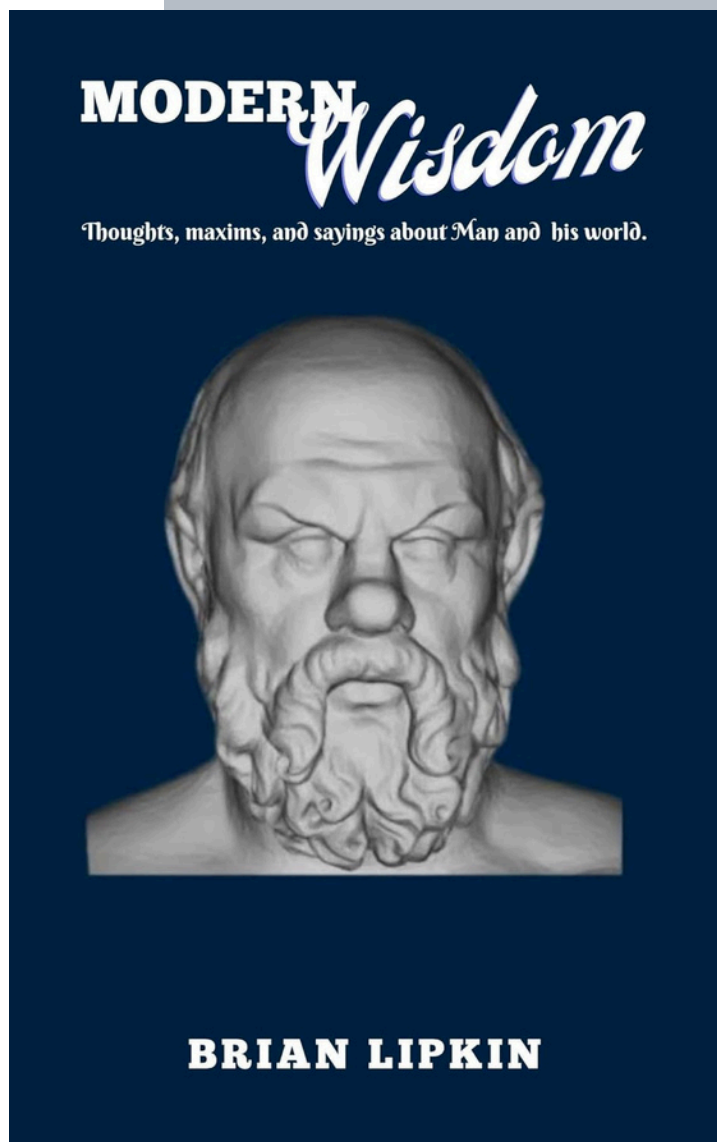


J. Michael King earned engineering degrees from North Dakota State University and the University of Texas at El Paso. He was employed by a large U.S. manufacturer of diesel engines. He worked and lived in Spain for eight years, traveling throughout western Europe. He also worked in numerous Latin American Spanish-speaking countries, including Mexico, Colombia, Panama, Chile, Peru, Argentina and the Dominican Republic. The author resides in southern Arizona and enjoys traveling, learning, hiking, practicing Spanish, wine tasting and attending concerts.



NEW BOOKS

MODERN WISDOM
Self-help | Independently published



This is a collection of original thoughts, observations, sayings and aphorisms about the human condition. It ranges from the general and philosophical to the topical and contemporary and its the author's aim is to guide, teach, enlighten and even inspire the reader. This is the first in what is planned as a series of similar books.

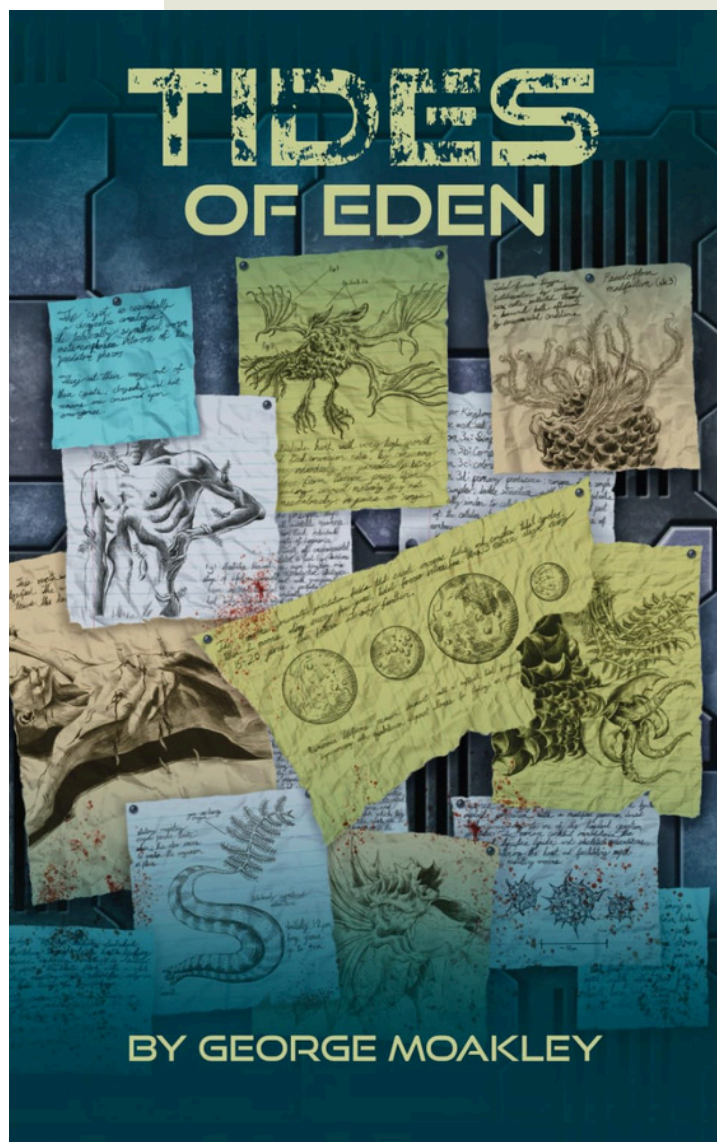


Brian Lipkin is a writer and musician who studied at the University of Oxford. Originally from London, England, Brian now makes his home in Scottsdale, Arizona. He has just published a book of original quotable sayings, the first in a series in the same genre.



NEW BOOKS

TIDES OF EDEN
Novel | Paperclip Publishing



Panalyzed, he watched them bury her, exposing only her face, knowing he would be next. Eden's colony grows rapidly as colonists flock to the only pristine wilderness in known space. Building the surface settlement leads to encounters with fascinating yet dangerous alien wildlife, triggering painful memories of the kraken that nearly destroyed their dreams all those years ago. Hard lessons were learned as they diligently prepare for whatever future threats they may face. But is it enough? Simple human greed exposes the colony to a seemingly innocuous threat as another predator lurks in the shadows. How can anything so deadly brood within something so beautiful? Will anyone survive?

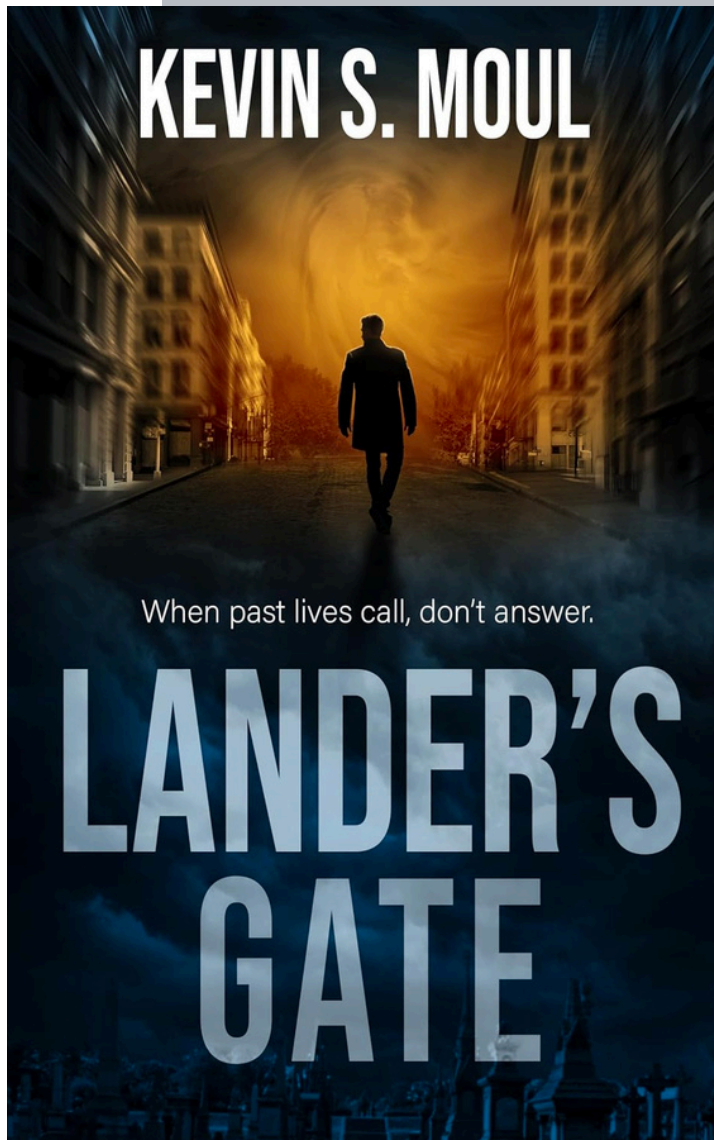


George Moakley began his career in biology with hopes of doing fieldwork, but a data entry job in the tech industry launched a decades-long path in science and business innovation. He holds several patents and serves in advisory roles with ASU's School of Business and UCI's Customer Experience Program. A lifelong fan of science fiction and the natural world, George combines travel, photography, hiking, and scuba diving to explore Earth's beauty—and its fragility. Firsthand encounters with climate change and environmental damage inspired his novel *Kraken of Eden*, a strategic thought experiment turned sobering sci-fi. He lives in Arizona with his partner Diana and enjoys visiting their seven children and many grandchildren.



NEW BOOKS

LANDER'S GATE: WHEN PAST LIVES CALL, DON'T ANSWER
Novel | Liminal Forge Press



Lander Gate possesses a terrifying and mysterious gift: with just a touch, he unearths the darkest secrets that souls carry across lifetimes, each memory a harrowing echo of suffering and death that should remain forgotten. Falsely declared dead, Lander becomes a test subject in a secret medical experiment that awakens a dangerous, latent ability. Escaped but amnesiac, he lives on the fringes of society, struggling to control his power before it destroys him and those around him. Hunted by Dr. Aradice, the man behind his transformation, Lander must confront buried memories and master his gift before his past swallows him for good. It's not *what you did last summer* that matters anymore.



Kevin S. Moul writes psychological thrillers in the speculative fiction genre, creating narratives that occupy the liminal space between what we perceive and what lies beyond understanding. His writing—infused with elements of paranormal and urban fantasy—explores the boundaries of human experience. Influenced by Buddhist practice, Moul weaves themes of karma, reincarnation, and the mind's potential throughout his work. Canadian by birth, Moul lives in Southern Arizona, though he makes frequent pilgrimages to Vancouver to reconnect with the ocean that grounds him and inspires his creative vision.



NEW BOOKS

JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR HIRED
Novel | The Wild Rose Press, Inc.



Book 2 of 2: Plus One

Nursing student Autumn Haze lives by one rule: no men until she earns her degree. After learning the hard way that romance is a costly distraction, she stays focused on her future while moonlighting as a Plus One companion to pay the bills. But her resolve is tested when her newest client, pediatric hospitalist Jensen Edwards, throws her off balance. Still stinging from a public breakup, Jensen just wants to survive the spotlight as he receives a prestigious award without sparking new gossip. But hiring a companion brings its own risks. As sparks fly between them, their fake relationship starts to feel real. Can they overcome past wounds and fears of judgment to find something lasting, or will their carefully constructed boundaries keep them apart?

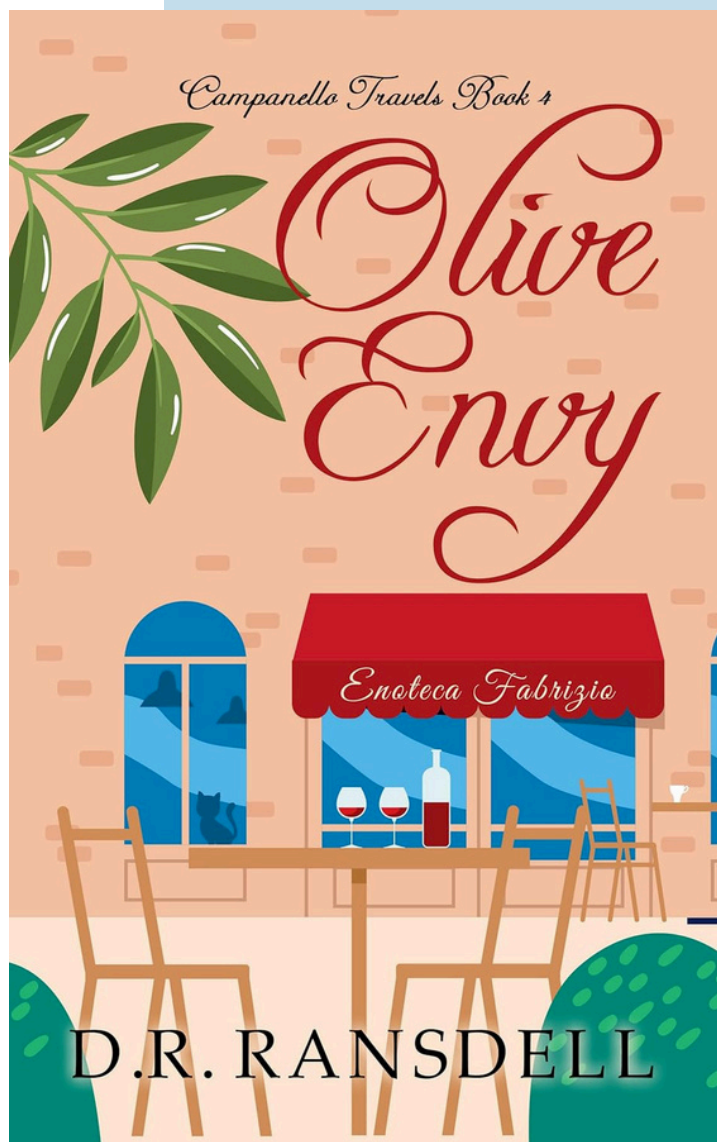


*Amanda and Lisa-Marie are an award-winning, co-writing team of best friends who share imaginary worlds, including Men In Books Aren't Better, Just What the Doctor Hired, and a short story, Shivers, published in Moments Between. **Lisa-Marie Potter** is a mom of four who grew up in Nottingham, England, and now resides in Alaska with her husband and golden retriever. **Amanda Nelson** grew up in Maryland and moved to Arizona, where she attended ASU and currently lives with her husband and four kids. Both women are hopeless romantics, but Lisa-Marie also enjoys suspense novels, while Amanda's second go-to genre is romancy. The duo review books on their socials, hike the Olympic National Park, and fight over the same fictional crushes.*



NEW BOOKS

OLIVE ENVY
Novel | Hodophile Books



Book 4 of 4: Campanello Travels

College student Gina Campanello jumps at the chance to study abroad in Orvieto, a charming Italian town near Rome. Determined to master Italian grammar in just three weeks, she quickly learns that sharing a tiny apartment with a nonstop talker might be her biggest challenge until she discovers a peaceful garden outside a local wine and cheese shop. There, she meets Tony, a friendly Italian American who introduces her to the town's hidden gems, history, and gossip. But when rivals threaten Tony's uncle's business, Gina gets pulled into the conflict, uncovering unexpected lessons in friendship, loyalty, and standing up for what's right.

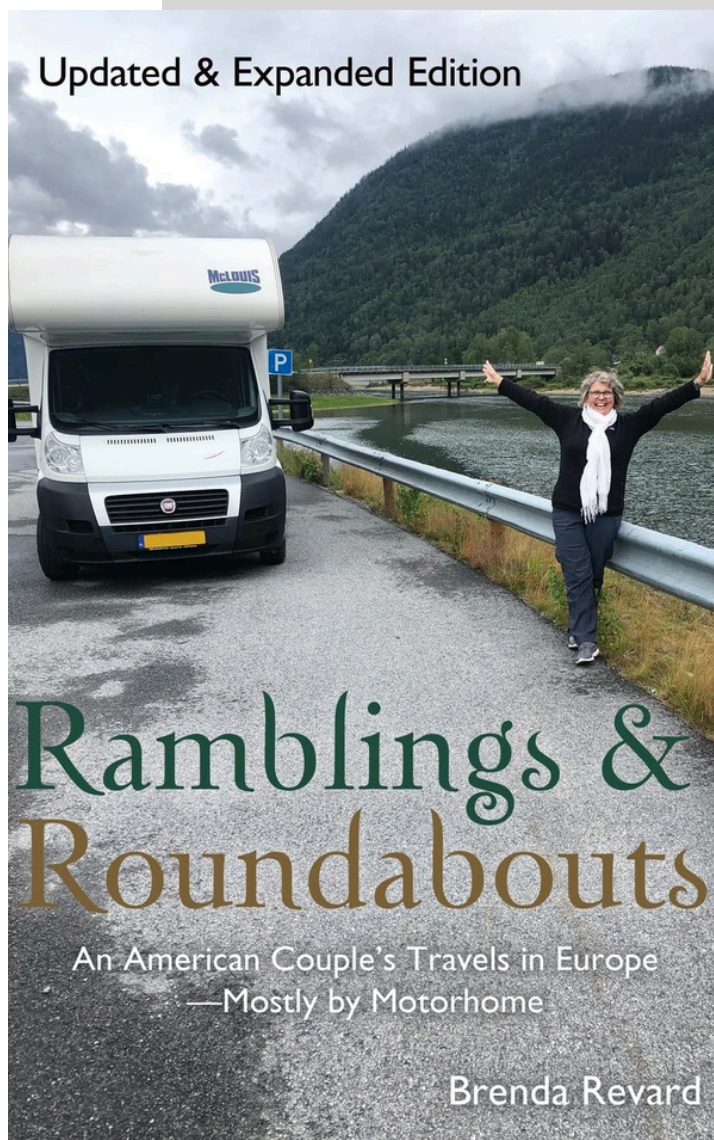


D.R. Ransdell lives in sunny Tucson but grew up in Springfield, Illinois, under the shadow of the third largest carillon in the U.S. This led to her travel novel, *Carillon Chase*. Her moonlighting in a mariachi group led to a series about violinist Andy Veracruz. In *Brotherly Love* he confronts his biggest challenge so far: teaching high school students! *D.R.'s* newest mystery, *Party Wine*, takes place in her cousins' small village in Northern Italy. The villagers make their own wine, but why do they store it instead of drinking it?



NEW BOOKS

RAMBLINGS & ROUNDABOUTS: AN AMERICAN COUPLE'S TRAVELS IN EUROPE—
MOSTLY BY MOTORHOME
Memoir | Wheatmark



After 35 years of road-tripping across the U.S., Brenda Revard and her husband Brian decided to take their adventures abroad. They sold their home, downsized their belongings, and bought a motorhome in Amsterdam. But exploring Europe proved more challenging than expected. From navigating visa rules to adapting to new cultures and finding daily essentials on the go, Brenda had to let go of her need to plan everything. Along the way, unexpected challenges turned into rewarding moments, bringing new friendships, stunning discoveries, and a deeper appreciation for life on the road.

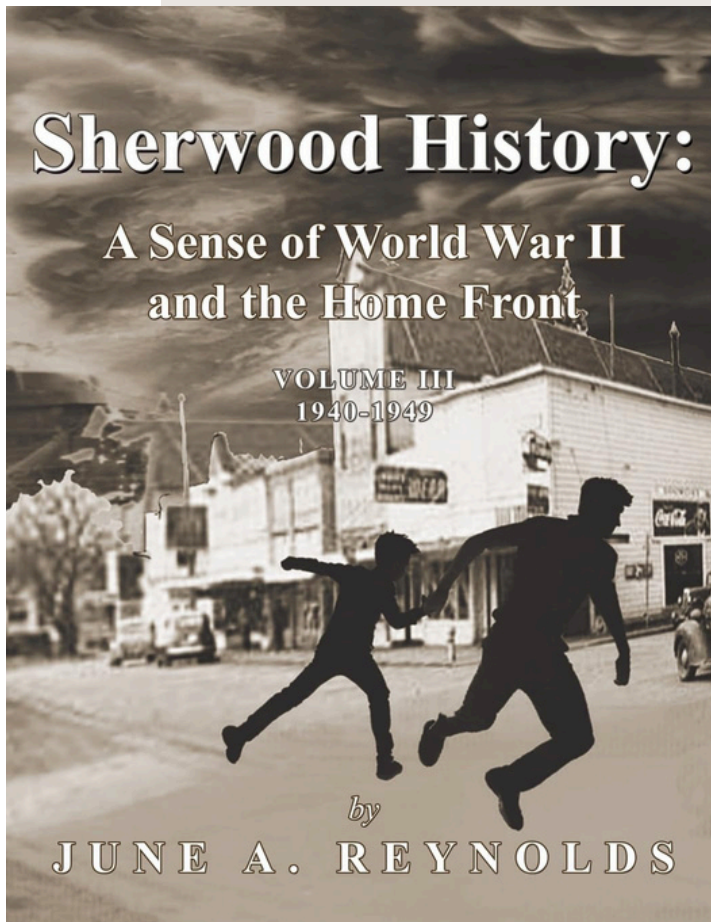


Brenda Revard has been writing since third grade and brings a rich background in homeschooling, technical writing, family businesses, and higher education to her work. After raising three children, she earned a bachelor's in English from the University of Kansas and a master's in liberal arts from Baker University. Now living in Tucson, Arizona, with her husband Brian, Brenda enjoys Bible study, hiking, birding, and admiring desert sunsets. The couple loves to travel—by ship, plane, train, or road—and recently became proud grandparents. Her first book, *Ramblings & Roundabouts: An American Couple's Travels in Europe—Mostly by Motorhome*, details one of their international adventures, with an updated edition on the way.

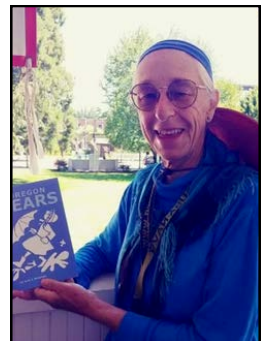


NEW BOOKS

SHERWOOD HISTORY: A SENSE OF WORLD WAR II AND THE HOME FRONT -
VOLUME III 1940-1949
History | Readersmagnet LLC



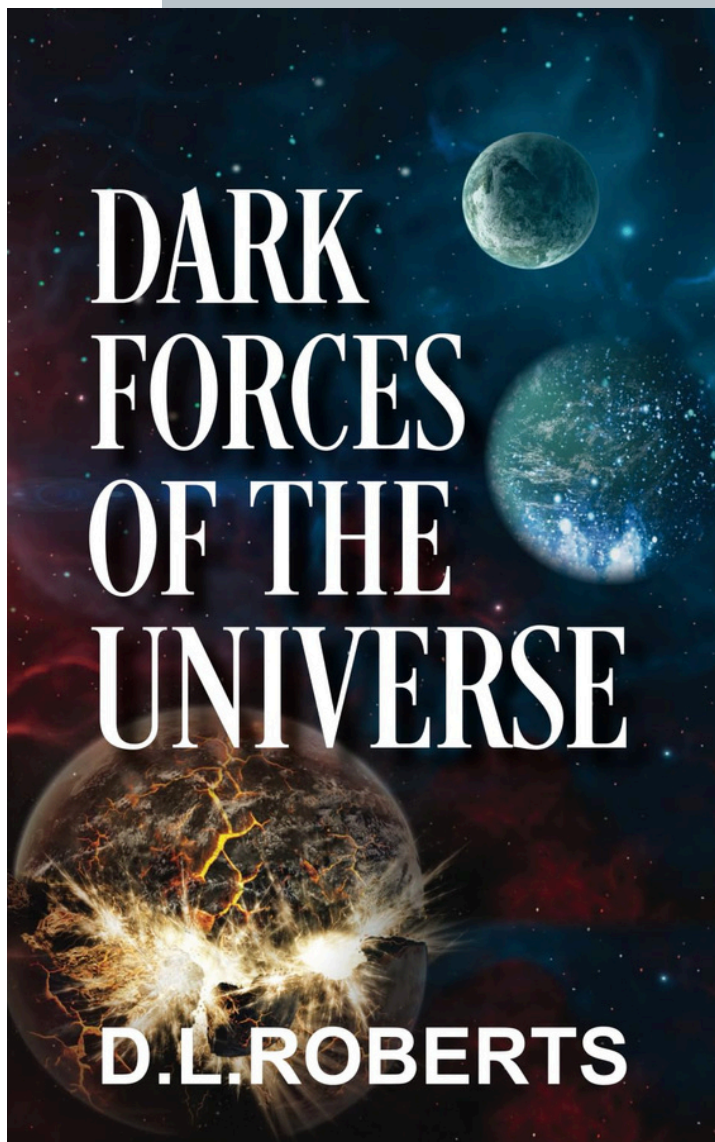
*Ever since **June A. Reynolds** was ten, she wanted to be a writer. So she wrote many many words, sentences, paragraphs and stories. Most of the stories are based on real things that have happened in her life. Now she is an author and she hopes that you enjoy these true things, both happy and sad, but part of life's adventure.*



What was World War II all about? For over 15 years, several strong men in other countries turned the entire world and the little farming town in Sherwood, Oregon upside down. All race of people were herded to camps, fear of bomb strikes was on everyone's mind, a very poor farming community was asked to give up food and money, even after a devastating ten year depression. Young men went to war and women took the jobs that the men performed. The courage of the people in small-town Oregon was amazing and gives us pause about our future. The loss of family members on the battlefield, the toll on the children and families, and the need for new courageous roles for everyone was a reaction to save democracy in America.

NEW BOOKS

DARK FORCES OF THE UNIVERSE
Novel | Bottle Brush Book AZ



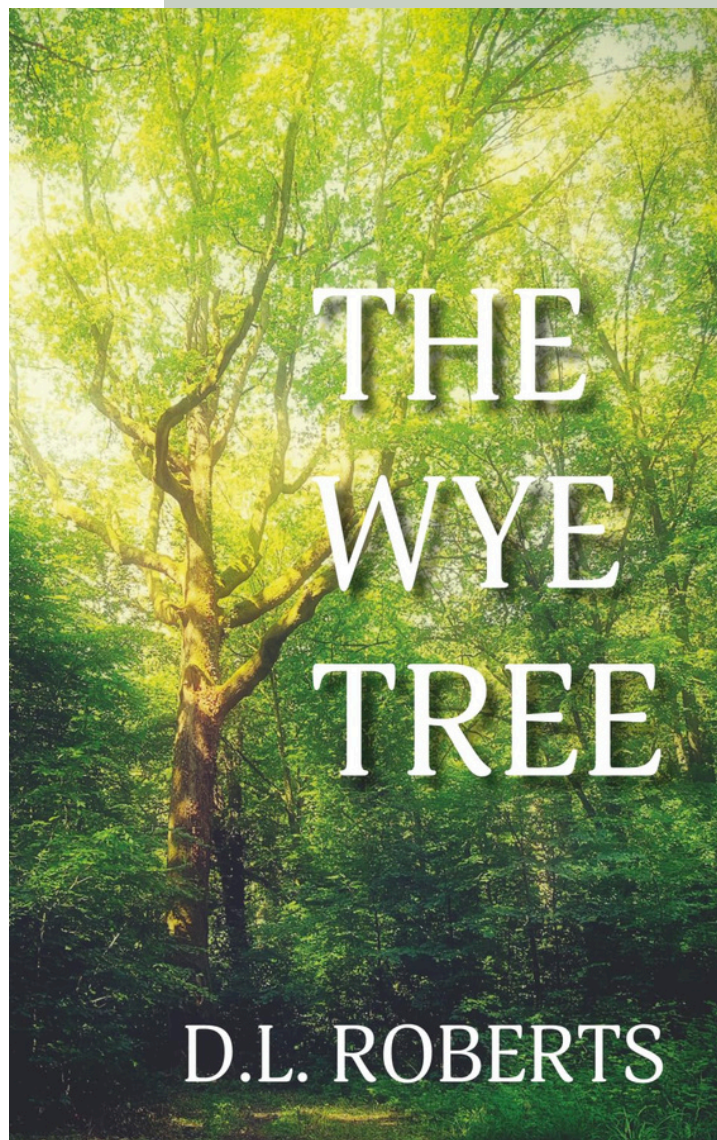
Pirates? Not the “Arg” or eye patch kind, but space pirates somewhere in the very distant future. A family’s travels are interrupted by pirates who kidnap a man and his wife but a young man avoids capture. This is his story of how he rescues his parents and becomes a high ranking officer in the Space Force. Our future hero is joined by a young couple. Together the three overcome obstacles to destroy slavery on a planet far from Earth. Many times, it would have been easier to quit fighting and return home. Living a quiet life is nice if you can pretend dark forces in the universe do not exist. Three adventurers destroy a kidnapping ring and help bring order to the universe. This is their story.



Writing as **D.L. Roberts**, Darold Graves, was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and served two tours in the U.S. Air Force, earning a master’s degree in management and teaching university-level courses. After retiring from the military, he supervised teachers and librarians at a women’s state prison before retiring from state service. During the COVID lockdowns, his wife passed away, and he earned a doctorate in writing. Now living in a resort community in Arizona, Darold enjoys an active life—playing cards, serving on the local symphony board, managing his church library, attending book clubs, and teaching writing at a nearby retirement community. He continues to write prolifically, with 20 mystery-themed novels in print.



THE WYE TREE Novel | Bottle Brush Book AZ



BUY NOW

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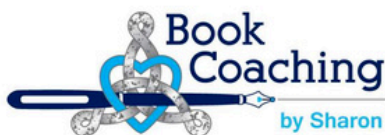
LEARN MORE

Great stories don't just happen.

They're crafted—with intention, structure, and emotional resonance.

As a certified book coach and experienced freelance editor, I help writers like you shape the stories of your heart and bring them to life on the page. Whether you're stuck in the messy middle, unsure how to revise, or just getting started, I'll meet you where you are—with support, clarity, and craft guidance that moves your writing forward. Together, we'll untangle your plot, deepen your characters, and polish your prose—without losing your voice or your passion.

Your story matters. Let's bring it to life!



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A WRITER'S TIP

FROM KAREN ODDEN

THE SEVEN KINDEST WORDS

Some years ago, my friend Donna (kudos coming, D) and I were sharing stories about parenting, and she told me how there was a day she was rushing her two boys to get out the door, and one of them began having a full-on meltdown, as children do.

She halted herself in her tracks and said, "Honey, take all the time you need." The meltdown drew down several notches, and they got out the door, shoes, backpacks, and all. (Yes, I totally poached her approach for my own kids.)

That little story stuck with me because I felt something tip inside my own chest at the moment Donna said those words. They stirred up an ache. Because they were words I needed to hear myself.

Here's a question. How many of us felt rushed as children? Hurry up and get your shoes on, hurry up and get out the door for school (or practice, or the dentist appointment, or whatever), hurry up and grow up. I'm not blaming parents. Good grief, parenting is a full-on, busy endeavor, involving multitasking, conflicting needs, and bad traffic at exactly the wrong time. But I think it's important to recognize when myths and messages imbibed in childhood are no longer relevant or helpful.

This old pattern of "hurry up!" with the concurrent feeling of Dire Urgency (those caps are intentional) does not work well when it comes to writing. It makes me want to have a meltdown and throw my shoes against the wall. Paradoxically, the more I try

to rush—the more attuned to some external clock and not the innermost feelings and thoughts of my characters—the less I get done and the blander and deader my prose becomes. I might as well go to the kitchen and start dinner.

All this said, I am in the middle of editing my sixth book, and when I received my editor's notes, I felt a moment of that Hurry Up Dire Urgency. (To be clear, it was not on her part; it was all in my head.) I took a breath.

I reminded myself: these are edits on a book, not a life-saving medical treatment. And in fact, I have time—plenty of time. Weeks. Just because I have a deadline doesn't mean it's an unreasonable one. And in fact ... I think my deadline is sometime in August, so ... I'm good.

Deadlines are a matter of life, because other people are depending on us to finish our part of the project so they can get to theirs.

But I guess my musing for today is this: the mentality of "Honey, take all the time you need," can help us push back at the personal myth that rushing is better and will get us wherever we're going faster, or that some external schedule necessarily strips us of our ability to create.

At any rate, wherever you are in your process, I wish you happy writing! As always, thank you for being part of my reading and writing community! I'm grateful to you all. Happy summer!



Karen Odden is a USA Today bestselling author; her latest book is *Under A Veiled Moon*, an Inspector Corravan mystery. For more writer's tips and other news, subscribe to Karen's newsletter or visit her website.

You may also visit her Arizona Authors Association page.



ODDS & ENDS

“Writing is not life, but I think that sometimes it can be a way back to life.”

Stephen King

On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft

Literary Trivia Answers (from page 10)

1. B. Dracula
2. C. Cormac McCarthy
3. C. 12
4. D. Romance
5. A. 1932

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BACK PAGE JOKES

I tried to start a procrastinators' support group.

But we keep pushing the first meeting.

I used to be a proofreader, but I couldn't live with the typos.

So I left ... on porpoise.

My friend's a librarian who moonlights as a DJ.

She really knows how to drop the volume.

I told my therapist I hear voices when I write.

She said that's fine, as long as they get character development.

I once dated a semicolon.

It was more than a pause, less than a commitment.

What's a writer's favorite pastry?

Synonym buns.

The thesaurus and I had a falling out.

We no longer speak ... or converse, chat or communicate.

I told my characters to start behaving how I wanted them to.

Now they're unionizing.

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The Arizona Authors Association Box 538 428 E. Thunderbird Rd. Phoenix AZ 85022

Contact

ArizonaAuthorsAssociation@gmail.com